

M.A.

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 11, 2010/Phalgun 20, 1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question Hour. Q. No. 201,
Dr. K.S. Rao.

...(Interruptions)

11.00¹/₄ hrs.

*At this stage Shri Dharmendra Yadav and
some other hon. Members came and stood
on the floor near the Table.*

11.00¹/₂ hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

RE: CONSTITUTION (ONE-HUNDRED AND EIGHTH)
AMENDMENT BILL, 2008

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, do you have
to say anything? Do you want to say something?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): I wish to
say something.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.
Mulayam Singh ji, please ask them to go to their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. Your
leader wants to say something. Your leader is asking
you to go back to your seats. Mulayam Singh ji, please
call them back. First, you ask them, then Laluji will speak.
Please call them back.

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

11.01 hrs.

*At this stage Shri Dharmendra Yadav and some other
hon. Members went back to their seats.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, I
always agree to whatever you say but please ask the
Leader of the House to accept our point too. International
Women's Day was observed recently, what did the women
get out of it? What this House has given, I would like to
ask the Leader of the House? What the Government and
the Leader of the House have given? You are already
Speaker and have been a Minister earlier. Today, we are
together and we shall make concerted efforts to unite
this society. That will strengthen Democracy which will
further empower our country and promote goodwill. Those
who are already ahead are being further pushed ahead.
Those who are lagging behind are being further pushed
backward. I am not saying it otherwise. On one side,
there are Dalits, backwards, Muslims, the Government
should provide for reservation for their women. I admit it
that this is required to strengthen the unity of the country
and we should remain united. It will not be possible to
strengthen democracy because of the inequality prevalent
in the society. Therefore, there is a need to take everyone
together. Did only the handful people fight during the war
of independence? All the people got united be it were
poor, rich, illiterate, peasant, or tiller. The Britishers left
without using any weapon. These people have played
more important role in the war of independence they
have further been pushed to the background. After
independence, the dalits, backwards and Muslims have
all been left behind. Does this Government want to push
them back further? This reservation is for which women?
We are not opposing the reservation for women but we
oppose to the kind of Bill being introduced here.
Amendment should be made in this Bill to the effect to
provide for reservation for Muslim, Dalit and backward
women separately. That is why, we are wighting this
struggle to unite the society and strengthen the country.
China is occupying our territory and they are carrying out
attack on us. We are not paying attention to what China
is doing or the constantly increasing prices. There have
been serveral families who have not been able to
celebrate the festival of joy and colour, Holi because of
price rise. That is why Madam Speaker, I was saying
that it was a matter of concern for the country. They talk
of patriotism. China is waging a war and we are calmly
sitting in the House?..*

*Not recorded.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not mention Rajya Sabha here.

[English]

That will not go on record. Any mention of Rajya Sabha will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV...*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not mention what is against the rule. This will not go on record.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam, I wish to say that reservation should be provided for Dalit, backward and Muslim women and House should be run smoothly. We are ready to extend full cooperation. If that is not done what we shall do here? There is another conspiracy behind such a move and which is to check the leadership of backward, Dalit and Muslim people. Such a provision would check Laluji, Mulayam Singhji, Sharad Yadavji and such people sitting on the back seat, come forward.

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): It will cover Advanji, as well.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: How will it affect Advanji, he is retiring. He has announced his retirement. How it will affect him?

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, thank you.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam, you may ask the Leader of the House not to accept our unjustified demands, we should rather strive to unite the country. There is danger on the border and the whole country is united to tackle this threat lurking on the border. The Government should make efforts to check price rise. Ironically, whenever, they give such an assurance, it is followed by price rise. That is why, I urged the Leader of the House not to give assurance to check price rise. A statement is given by them on measures to check price rise. A statement is given by them on measures to check price rise and that very day or the next day there is price rise...(Interruptions). Please do not argue, we shall discuss it on some other occasion.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Madam, today there is much anxiety on the issue of reservation for women. I met the Hon'ble Minister in this regard, he had called me yesterday. I requested him. I would like to tell the House that whenever this Bill was brought be it during the regime of Gujral ji, Chandra Shekhar ji or Narsimba Raoji.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): It was not during Narsimha Rao's Government. It was during Deve Gowda's Government in the year 1996.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Narsimha Raoji used to sit beside me, here.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He might have been sitting beside you, but it was not during his Government.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: During NDA Government Deve Gowdaji, Gujral Saheb were there. I was a Minister in Atalji's Government for 6 years. We all discussed this Bill. All were with us and we discussed our doubts, apprehensions in regard to this Bill for an hour. He categorically stated that this Bill would be introduced in the House only if a general consensus among all party men is reached. It is a Constitution Amendment Bill. When Members asked him in the House that why delay was being caused in bringing the Bill he replied from the floor of this House that he would introduce the Bill only after general consensus on this Bill was reached. Yesterday, I said that Heaven was not going to fall in a day and everyone should be consulted. I express my gratitude to you today for lending a patient ear on this issue for the first time. Members of all parties would sit together. They may or may not be able to take out a solution to this problem, however, I believe that solution is possible through discussion or dialogue. A solution would come out. He definitely told me this, but he did what he wanted, so I do not wish to raise that point. I wanted a meeting of all parties but that did not happen.

I agree that you are the patron of this House. However, I was told that yesterday when this Bill was passed in Rajya Sabha...(Interruptions)...*

MADAM SPEAKER: Sharadji, we cannot mention what transpired in the other House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): It is a very important issue...(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER: Shailendra ji, please take your seat. I am tied with Rule 354. That is why it is my earnest request not to mention Rajya Sabha.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: (Interruptions)...*

MADAM SPEAKER: Sharadji has understood it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam, please listen to my request. I will not say a word in your honour, I am only raising a question of propriety that *...(Interruptions)...** I will tell you and make a request. I would like to request you that no one is capable of understanding the country better than a political worker. I firmly believe that if there is a class that understands this country so much then that much comprehension of other worlds people from other walks of life have. If someone knows the country better they are journalists after us. It was a natural evolution. The issue of women reservation has been raised by certain women in Delhi. Deve Gowda ji attended a meeting in which 132 women participated and he announced it there. It is my request that the evolution of political worker does not take place in school and college. He joins politics by getting self motivated. I am an Engineer and spend life with rickshaw puller, tonga wallah, farmer, shopkeeper, intellectual, big and small by getting self inspired. *...(Interruptions)* Women are our mothers, we cannot think of our existence without them. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you on your legs, please sit down.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Please listen to me. I am concluding. *...(Interruptions)* I urge you if every other seat in Vidhan Sabha, every other seat in Lok Sabha is reserved for women then the discussion in the House would be throttled. This language and understanding are not acquired in a day. 13 per cent women have already joined the political scenario. I salute them because they are political workers. They are associated with the political scenario and have worked as political workers, then they have joined this field. I would like to say that this Bill should be withdrawn. The Government should be open to talks. We are opposing it, all the Members in this House are anxious...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let Laluji speak now.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: You are requested to *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Adhir Ranjan ji, why are you standing?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: What do you speak outside? Do not let me open my mouth what you say outside? *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Sharad ji, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nirupam ji, why are you standing? Sharad ji, please conclude now, let Laluji speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: What makes you stand every now and then?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Outside he tells me that you are our ray of hope *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, please sit down. Now, Laluji will speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I would like to request you that before introducing this Bill in this House all the allied parties. *...(Interruptions)* I asked the Trinamool Congress MPs who were standing outside that why they were not going inside? *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you making noise, please be silent.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I would like to request you that there is a need to create general consensus on this issue and the political leaders who have spent their life time in the political scenario, I would contest elections from somewhere, but the vote of every other Member of Parliament who have spent their life time, they are local leaders and have a right, the question is of their losing those votes, which would mean spoiling the discussion of Lok Sabha. So, the Government should convene all party meeting and seek general consensus and 80 per cent people of weaker sections, who are oppressed, be they Muslims, Dalits or belonging to backward classes, as it is Dalits are meek...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright. Thank you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: 40 persons have already been included, which means they have tried to put gag in their mouth...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright. You have spoken.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: As it is they have become slaves, so they will not be allowed to bring this Bill. I wish to say that it will not be allowed. I request them to bring it properly, conduct a thorough discussion. This is not proper. Do not bring a whip, and you will see to it if 70% do not vote against it I will tender my resignation from the House. It is my statement to all parties...(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER: You have spoken, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright. Shri Lalu Prasadji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: You cannot bring it by bulldozing in this way...(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER: Your speech is over, you may sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: You cannot get it passed by bulldozing. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Why do you stand? Please sit down

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: We are not going to agree on it. We are not going to agree in this way. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: You may get us removed by Marshals, but we are not going to agree on it. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You may sit down. Please conclude. Shri Lalu Prasadji, you may speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, first let him sit, then only I shall speak...(Interruptions).

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam Speaker, I would like to say that we are very disciplined people ...(Interruptions). We will not let constitution amendment carried out by using Marshals...(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER: All right. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: We will not let constitution amendment carried out by using police force. We would like to submit that democracy cannot be run by using Marshals...(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER: All right. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Democracy cannot be run by using Marshals...(Interruptions). The outside force should not be called in here. The outside force shall not come here...(Interruptions). These Marshals are enough, we are not going to fight with them. If they ask so, we will leave...(Interruptions).

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, this is not a final debate ...(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, this is not a debate. You have to express your views in only two minutes, do it.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, we would like to thank you for trying to know why we are interrupting the House. We don't have any fashion to throng near your seat. You are neither in ruling party nor in opposition party. You are here to listen everybody. Therefore to whom should we address. If somebody does not listen, one has to go near that person to make his point heard. Do not take it otherwise, this is my request to you. I am not new in politics, I am in politics since 1977. The new people who have entered politics today are tasting the new fruit, they will come to know the reality in future, when they will face difficulties in their way. All the MPs from BJP and Congress are saying that please save us...(Interruptions). We are being told to sign our death certificates. This is a reality. We are not against the women. 50 per cent reservation may be given to the red-card holder women, the creamy layer should be taken into account in this regard. But, we are being portrayed as three Yadavs. We are leaders of three parties, we are Supremes, we have been elected, we have social justice plank....(Interruptions).

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They are Supremo.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: All right, Supremo, you can say whatever you want. But your existence came to an end in the beginning itself. You are neither in India, nor in Pakistan...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu Prasadji, please address the chair.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I would like to thank Mamtaji for taking the lead and that left you behind. We have expectations from Mamtaji. Madam, we request you with folded hands, we have repeatedly said that everybody's opinion should be taken before turning a new chapter by carrying out constitutional amendment. Madam Soniaji is present here, she has also said it many times. We were also ready that all of us should sit together to evolve some way. The importance of the number of Muslim daughters, women is negligible in the country. You got the vote from whom? You have got 80 per cent votes of Muslim brethren. Now when their name is being taken by us to ensure that the faces of the daughters of the backward classes, the women carrying mud under NREGA, the women who cut grass, the women who harvest small grain pulses and create wealth be reflected in this mirror, people abhor the idea. I want to know, the country wants to know as to why you hate them? I do not want to make any derogatory remarks...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM SPEAKER: Lajuji, now please conclude.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam Speaker, I am concluding, I was not inclined to speak...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu Prasadji, now please conclude, please address the chair.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I am addressing you.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: This will not go in record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: This is not our culture. Our Indian heritage and culture is not like this. ...(*Interruptions*) We should refaith from it ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu Prasad ji, now please conclude.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The scope for dispute is three here ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu ji, now please conclude soon.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The more you listen to us, the more our frequency of going near your chair will decrease. Therefore, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavji, Shri Sharad Yadav ji and I asked you repeatedly to call an all party meeting and take everybody's opinion, listen to their opinion. Some solutions can be forced after eliciting everybody's opinion but nobody is ready to listen. It is being said repeatedly. We will not make any change not even it a full stop or coma. I called Rahul Gandhi ji also, he is young and progressive leader. We do not want to put any road blocks, progress should be made. He went to daughter Kalavati's house also. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu Prasadji, now please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam Speaker, please listen to me. The way Members of BJP were commenting after hearing Kalawati's name, we are saying in regard to the daughters of India that the soil of India has their fragrance, let there be provision of reservation for those daughters and the Muslim daughters. There will be rotation after every five years, it does not matter whosoever wins. Then they tell that lottery will be drawn. Who is going to see the lottery they will draw to put aside someone ...(*Interruptions*). You will suffer losses ...(*Interruptions*) We will manage to return through a safe passage ...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM SPEAKER: Lalu Prasad ji, now this debate is stretching too far.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Therefore, all these should be stopped ...(*Interruptions*)* But in this form, this Bill is not acceptable to us...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Speaker, most respectfully. ...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigarh): Madam, the people of all the parties have expressed their views. We may also be given opportunity to put forth our views...*(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: You please take your seat. Now, let the leader of the Opposition speak.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam, we may also be allowed to speak before the reply of the Government comes. The Government should put its views after listening to our views. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please extend that courtesy. You please sit down. When we have a proper debate, we will listen to everybody. Kindly sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you speaking? Your speech is not going on record.

[English]

Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I would just like to respond to what these three hon. Members have stated. It is not a full-fledged debate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Leader of the House is speaking. Please sit down. This is not a debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This is becoming really a very difficult situation. Anybody can get up at any point of time....*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat. Now you listen.

[English]

Do not disturb the House. Please sit down. Nothing is going into record. All your efforts are futile. It is not going into record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam Speaker, I sought your permission to respond to three hon. Members Shri Mulayam Singh Yadavji, Shri Sharad Yadavji and Shri Lalu Prasad Yadavji because they were permitted by the hon. Speaker to make their observations. This is the parliamentary practice which is being followed from day one. If Members want to make any special submission, they seek the permission of the Speaker and if the Speaker permits, they do so. They have raised certain issues.

My first observation is that all these issues can be raised, can be debated and can be decided upon by this House only, by 543 Members sitting here belonging to different political parties. They and they alone can decide all the contents of that. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, this is nothing and I am not going into the merit of it. The fact of the matter is, on this issue, there are divergences of views. Certain political parties also represented peoples' views. They came to certain conclusion that this piece of legislation will have to be brought in. There were debates. All of them are fully aware that there were discussions. We could not unfortunately reach at a consensus. I myself participated in several rounds of talks. The former Home Minister Shri Shivraj Patilji took a meeting; Dr. Manmohan Singh took a meeting. Before the UPA-1, during the NDA regime also, various attempts were made to arrive at a consensus. Various formulations are worked out. But certain political parties took a particular view; certain political parties took a different view. There was no convergence. Even when the Bill was debated and finally adopted in Rajya Sabha, on that morning also three of them met the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister requested them to come the previous night. They had some inconvenience. Thereafter they informed him that the next day morning at 9.30 they would be meeting. I was also having a meeting with the Leaders of the

*Not recorded.

Political Parties, representatives of all political parties represented in Rajya Sabha along with the Leader of the Opposition and all major political parties were present there. When we were discussing, the Prime Minister called me and reported what he informed. ...(*Interruptions*) Let me complete Shri Sharadji. Most respectfully, I would like to submit. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I would like to say just one thing that you do not call all party for discussions. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Just one minute. I will not take more than a minute.

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Sharad Yadav ji, take your seat. Let him conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I am coming to that point.

The Hon'ble Members stated that an all-party meeting should be called. There is no harm in calling an all-party meeting. Even this can be done because each House has to pass a Constitution Amendment with special majority. Thereafter, in this case it will have to be ratified by half of the States. There were instances when one House passed a Constitution Amendment and thereafter it was rejected by the other House and the Constitution Amendment could not be carried.

The Prime Minister pointed out that before the Bill is discussed in the Lok Sabha we can consult you, various ideas could be explored, various possibilities could be explored and it can be considered if it is possible to narrow down divergences and bring about convergences. These actions are being taken independently. Of course, if there would be an Amendment, the other House will also have to take it into account.

Therefore, most respectfully, I would like to submit that all the issues which the three hon. Members raised here could be discussed at the time of debate on the Reservations Bill as it has been debated earlier.

You have talked of the high prices. Again you discuss it, during the Budget you discuss it, you criticise the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Yogi ji, you listen to him

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: That is different thing that theree is a bit of hunger.

[*English*]

But nothing could be achieved by stalling the proceedings of the House.

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam, most respectfully, I would like to submit, let the House transact the normal business. Financial business has to be transacted. There is a time schedule and this time schedule has to be adhered to in order to comply with the rules which we ourselves made. Nobody made these rules for us. We have made these rules. Therefore, it is our sovereign right to make an amendment to the Constitution or not to make. My submission to you would be that please allow the normal business to be transacted, and we can tell you; before the Bill is introduced in the Lok Sabha, we will consult you.

Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to speak.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you so much, hon. Leader of the House.

Question No. 201—Dr. K.S. Rao.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Our main feeling was...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL (Jhanjharpur): No one is satisfied with the reply of the Minister ...(*Interruptions*)

11.33 hrs.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 201, Dr. K. S. Rao.

Passenger Inconvenience due to Fog

*201. DR. K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers faced a lot of hardships during the recent winter months on account of delay/cancellation of a large number of flights owing to fog;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the difficulties faced by the passengers was addressed thereto;

(c) the concrete measures taken by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to minimise hardships to the passengers;

(d) whether the DGCA has reviewed the comparative improvement in flight operations during winters in the light of the measures undertaken by them year after year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the further measures contemplated by the DGCA in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) A total number of 201 scheduled flights got diverted and 339 flights were cancelled at Delhi airport due to fog during the recent winter season which caused inconvenience to the passengers.

Following measures were taken to minimize passenger inconvenience:

- (i) Scheduled airlines were advised to rescheduled the flights after assessing the weather forecast on previous day and inform passengers accordingly to avoid any inconvenience.
- (ii) Airlines were asked to inform the passengers of the delay/rescheduling/cancellation of their flights in advance through mobile/SMS/other communication mean to avoid congestion at the airport and inconvenience to the passengers as well.

(iii) Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL) were also asked to ensure proper passenger facilitation and timely information for passengers.

(iv) DIAL was asked to assess the flight delays and accordingly display in the terminal building regarding delay and rescheduling of flights for passenger information.

(v) Airlines have to augment their ground staff and position them at the airport with proper briefing for handling various passenger facilitation process in coordination with the other airport agencies.

(vi) Airlines were also advised to provide facilitation in terms of tea/water/snacks to the passenger of their delayed flights.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. The review meetings were held by the DGCA regularly, as a result of which there has been a better compliance of instructions/regulations of DGCA in respect of fog management. The number of CAT-III complaint aircraft has increased from 162 in 2008 to 206 in 2009. Similarly, the number of pilots trained for CAT-III operations are now 1323 as on 17.11.2009. However, the duration of Low Visibility Procedure (LVP) in 2009-10 longer than in year 2008-09. This was due to natural conditions beyond human control. Due to longer LVP in present year the total number of flight affected were 900 as compared to 629 flights in 2009.

DR. K.S. RAO: Madam, I wish to know from the hon. Minister a similar situation ...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let the question hour run.

...*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Only the Supplementary will go on record. Nothing else will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**DR. K.S. RAO: A similar situation or even worse conditions exist in some of the developed countries' airports. ...*(Interruptions)* So, there must have been some kind of equipment which can control this. In spite of the fog there can be landing at the airports. ...*(Interruptions)* I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he is thinking in terms of getting some such equipment to this country also so that the aeroplanes can land even in such worse conditions. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Now let the question hour run.

...(*Interruptions*)

11.33 hrs.

At this stage Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the question hour run.

...(*Interruptions*)

11.34 hrs.

At this stage Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[*English*]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam Speaker, the equipment which the hon. Member is referring to is installed in our Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi which conforms with the standard equipment which is available in the bigger airports where there are low visibility conditions. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to inform the hon. Member that the CAT-III ...(*Interruptions*) We have all the technical equipment which is available. In the normal situation of course there is no issue. But if visibility due to fog goes below fifty metres, CAT-III instrument also would not be able to help in the operation of flights. This is something ...(*Interruptions*) of any machine to operate below the degree of visibility.

[*Translation*]

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the question hour run.

...(*Interruptions*)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Skilled Manpower in Steel Industry

*202. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Metals, Calcutta assessed the technical manpower requirement for production of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the projected target of steel production for the coming years is likely to be hampered due to the shortage of skilled manpower in the discipline of metallurgy and ceramic engineering;

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

(e) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) According to estimates of Ministry of Steel, steel production capacity in India is likely to touch 124 million tonnes by 2011-12 which is however under review. On a study commissioned by Ministry of Steel, the Indian Institute of Metals (IIM), Kolkata has assessed that steel production capacity by 2011-12 would be 117.3 million tonnes which is likely to increase to 168 million tonnes by 2015-16 and to 215 million tonnes by 2019-20. Based on these projections, IIM has assessed technical manpower requirement for the growing steel production for three terminal years namely, 2011-12, 2015-16 and 2019-20. The details are as follows:

Requirement of Technical Manpower	2011-12	2015-16	2019-20
Gross Requirement of Technical Manpower	114612	140577	167999
Net Additional Requirement of Technical Manpower (considering superannuation/attrition)	49814	84927	121497

(c) and (d) According to the Report, no shortage of technical manpower is envisaged in the availability of engineers except in Metallurgy and Ceramics Engineering. The shortages in respective terminal years in these disciplines are as under:

Discipline	2011-12	2015-16	2019-20
Metallurgy	1950	2726	3634
Ceramics Engg.	419	635	879

Similarly, some shortage has been envisaged in Diploma holders in Metallurgy. However, IIM has reported that these gap may be met from Diploma holders in other disciplines.

The Study Report has not concluded that the targeted steel production would be hampered due to the shortage of technical manpower in the disciplines of Metallurgy and Ceramics. On the other hand, the Report has recommended several measures to improve the availability position which *inter-alia* include increasing intake of students in disciplines in Metallurgy & Ceramics in existing institutes, introducing these courses in other private institutes, finding ways & means by steel companies to attract students in these disciplines and redeployment of engineers of other disciplines in metallurgy etc.

(e) Ministry of Steel has taken several actions to address the problems and issues relating to shortage of the technical manpower stated above which are as under:

- (i) Department of Higher Education and AICTE has been requested to address the problems relating to increasing number of seats in existing colleges or introducing metallurgy in private institutes. Department of Higher Education has intimated that they have advised AICTE to examine the report in consultation with Institute of Manpower Planning.
- (ii) CEOs of Steel Companies and Associations have been requested to find ways and means to attract Metallurgical and Ceramics Engineers by giving attractive Packages and improving working conditions of engineers.
- (iii) Ministry of Steel has created a Steel Technology Centre at IIT Kharagpur to promote higher study and research in the field of iron and steel making.

- (iv) Ministry of Steel has decided to create "Chair Professor" and give Scholarship to five undergraduate students in each institute where Metallurgy is taught, to address the problem of shortage of faculties in these institutes and also to attract students towards Metallurgy. The schemes have already been opted by 9 institutes for which fund from Steel Development Fund (SDF) has been released.

Acquisition of Land by Railways

203. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the land acquired by the Railways during the last three years, Zone-wise;
- (b) the purpose for which it was acquired;
- (c) the budget earmarked for the purpose; and
- (d) the status of utilization of these land during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Zone-wise details of land acquired for railway purpose for projects and other works during the last three years *i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is as under:

Zone	Area of land acquired (acre)
1	2
Central Railway	563.88
Eastern Railway	5695.28
East Coast Railway	760.51
East Central Railway	15850.76
Northern Railway	3694.16
North Central Railway	43.60
North Eastern Railway	236.30
North Frontier Railway	1319.28
North Western Railway	287.56
Southern Railway	72.64
South Central Railway	2162.66

1	2
South East Central Railway	876.21
South Eastern Railway	388.80
South Western Railway	312.38
Western Railway	57.55
West Central Railway	1745.92
Workshops and Production Units	2313.38
Total	36380.87

(c) Land acquisition is one of the important activities of the project. Recently, the land acquisition policy has been reviewed and new policy guidelines have been issued. As regards the requirement of funds for the land acquisition, the same is met through the budgetary allocations provided for the particular work. No separate budget is earmarked for this purpose.

(d) The land acquired is being utilized for various railway works for which the acquisition has been done.

Increase in Prices of Drugs

*204. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:
SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

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

(a) whether the prices of drugs have increased during the recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has set up/proposes to set up any high powered committee for the review of price control mechanism of drugs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to keep the prices of drugs under control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):
(a) and (b) As per the SSA (Stockist Secondary Audit) reports of ORG-IMS, on an average there has been price increase in about 2 per cent of the total number of packs on month to month basis. However, prices of about 98 per cent of the total packs have remained stable or declined. The position is shown below:

A comparative position of change in price in relation to % share of packs as per ORG-IMS-SSA report

Sl.No.	Price changes	Avg. % of total no. of packs 2006-07 (Oct.-Sept.)	Avg. % of total no. of packs 2007-08 (Oct.-Sept.)	Avg. % of total no. of packs 2008-09 (Oct.-Sept.)
1.	Price Increase	0.335%	1.437%	1.979%
2.	Price Decline	0.189%	0.953%	1.724%
3.	No Change in price	99.480%	97.610%	96.297%
4.	No change or decline (2+3)	99.669%	98.563%	98.021%

Further, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has also been fixing/revising prices of scheduled medicines/formulations in an effort to keep them at reasonable levels. During 2009-2010 (April-Feb.), NPPA

has reduced prices or kept unchanged in case of 90% of the packs considered by it. The details are given below:

Summary of Formulation price fixed During 2008-09 and 2009-2010

Particulars	2008-09		2009-10 (Up to Feb, 2010)	
	Nos.	%age	Nos.	%age
No. of Packs for which prices fixed/revised	1577	100	1822	100
Price Increased	190	12.5%	184	10.10%
Price Decreased	89	5.64%	450	24.70%
Price fixed for the first time	1256	79.64%	1154	63.34%
No change in the prices	42	2.66%	34	1.87%

The common reasons for rise in the prices of medicines, normally stated by the industry and trade are rise in the price of raw materials which, *inter alia*, includes increase in the raw material cost, packing material cost, conversion cost and packing charges cost, rise in the cost of production limport, rise in the cost of transport, freight rates, rise in the cost of utilities like fuel, power, diesel etc., for imported medicines, rise in the c.i.f. value and depreciation of the Rupee, changes in taxes and duties etc.

(c) and (d) No Madam, there is no proposal to set up a high powered committee in this regard. Already NPPA is empowered to enforce and implement the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. However, provision for review of the mechanism for price control of medicines is one among the proposals made in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006, which was referred to Group of Ministers (GOM) for consideration.

[Translation]

Allotment of Railway Stalls

205. SHRI KHILADI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy governing allotment of stalls/booths at railways stations;

(b) whether the policy envisages reservation/quota to any categories;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether complaints have been received in this regard during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken to streamline the system?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Railways have issued separate policies regarding allotment of catering stall (2005), miscellaneous stalls (2007), chemist stalls (2008), Book stalls (2004) and STD/PCO booths (2002). The policies lay down guidelines regarding allotment procedures, eligibility, reservation, licence fees, ceiling limits, tenures and other relevant matters specific to the working of the stalls/booths.

(b) Yes, Madam. There is a provision for reservation for a number of categories in the allotment of various kinds of stalls except chemist stalls, milk stalls and major units.

(c) The details of reservation provided are as under:-

Catering Stalls & Miscellaneous stalls	Reservation of 25% of minor units in A,B,C category stations as follows:-	Reservation of 49.5% of minor units in D, E & F category stations as follows:-
	Scheduled Castes -6%	(i) Scheduled Castes - 12%
	Schedules Tribes -4%	(ii) Schedule Tribes -8%
	People below Poverty line -3%	(iii) Other Backward classes -20%

Freedom Fighters/women including war widows & widows of railway employees	-4%	(iv)	Minorities*	-9.5%
			Total	-49.5%

Other Backward Classes	-3%
Minorities Physically/Mentally Challenged Persons-2%	-3%

*Out of this 49.5%, there will be sub quota of 10% for freedom fighters & women including war widows & widows of Railway employees and another sub quota of 2% will be for physically & mentally challenged people, and 2% sub quota will be provided to the persons who have been dislocated/displaced due to their land having been taken over by the railways for its own use.

Bookstalls

Reservation of 25% in B,C,D E & F category stations as follows:-

(i)	Scheduled Castes	—	6%
(ii)	Scheduled Tribes	—	4%
(iii)	People below poverty line	—	4%
(iv)	Women including war widows and widows of railway employees	—	3%
(v)	Other Backward classes	—	3%
(vi)	Minorities	—	3%
(vii)	Physically handicapped persons	—	2%
Total		—	25%

STD/PCO

Vertical and Horizontal reservation in allotment:

Booths

The booths have been divided into three broad categories i.e. educated unemployed youth, physically handicapped and women. There are quotas within these broad categories as under:

The vertical and horizontal reservation percentage in allotment of the STD/ISD/Local Call/Fax/Internet Booths at stations is as under:

Category	Total percentage	Percentage reserved for various categories			
		Scheduled castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other Backward	General (Unreserved)
Educated Unemployed Youth	50%	15% of 50% i.e. 7.5%	7.5% of 50% i.e. 3.75%	27% of 50% i.e. 13.5%	50.5% of 50% i.e. 25.25%
Physically Handicapped including Blind (disability 40% and above)	25%	15% of 25% i.e. 3.75%	7.5% of 25% i.e. 1.875%	27% of 25% i.e. 6.75%	50.5% of 25% i.e. 12.625%
Women including war widows and railway employees' windows	25%	15% of 25% i.e. 3.75%	7.5% of 25% i.e. 1.87%	27% of 25% i.e. 6.75%	50.5% of 25% i.e. 12.625%
Total	100%	15%	7.5%	27%	50.5%

The quotas specified above are maintained at divisional basis.

(d) Certain grievances regarding the tenure, renewal of licence and review of license fees of catering stalls have been received.

(e) Action on representations is taken in terms of extant policy guidelines. The Catering policy of Railway is under review to streamline the system.

[English]

Upgradation of Technical Institutes Under MSDP

206. SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade various technical institutes under Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) for the welfare of minorities;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such institutes identified and upgraded so far in the country including in Kerala;

(d) whether any time frame has been given to the State Governments for implementing the proposal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) The Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) for Minority Concentration Districts (MCD), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, has been designed to address the development deficits in such districts identified by a baseline survey. Based on the proposals contained in the district plans received from States/UTs, approvals and in-principle approvals have been given for construction and upgradation of 58 (fifty eight) Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) and Polytechnics. The details are given below:-

Sl.No.	Items	No. of units approved	No. of approved in-principle
1	(i) Construction of new ITI buildings	7	24
	(ii) Upgradation of existing ITI	1	18
2	(i) Construction of new Polytechnic buildings	-	2
	(ii) Upgradation of existing Polytechnics	-	6

No new or upgradation of existing ITI/Polytechnic has been approved for Wayanad, the only MCD in Kerala under this programme.

(d) and (e) Projects approved under MsDP are implemented on the basis of Detailed Project Reports and the time schedule contained therein for construction of new or upgradation of existing ITI/Polytechnic prepared by concerned State Governments/UT Administration, and appraised and cleared by the line Ministry in the Central Government.

Exploration of Oil Reserves

207. SHRI C.L. RUALA:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

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

(a) the details of the exploration work undertaken by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and other public and private sector companies in the the country particularly in Mizoram and Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of the surveys completed by the above companies in this regard;

(c) the total assessment in regard to the oil and gas potential from these areas; and

(d) the quantum of share of profit for the concerned States ensured by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) The details are enclosed as Statement.

(d) The Twelfth Finance Commission recommended the sharing of the non-tax revenue of 'Profit Petroleum' arising out of contractual provisions under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) with the States from where the mineral oil and natural gas are produced in the ratio of 50: 50.

The Government has accepted the above recommendation subject to the condition that this should be within the overall ceiling of the transfers recommended

by the Finance Commission (38% of the gross revenues).

Apart from this non-tax revenue of profit petroleum, the State Governments receive Royalty on crude oil and natural gas produced from onland blocks, Mining Lease, Fee and other applicable statutory levies. Presently, applicable royalty rates on crude oil from Nomination blocks of ONGC are 20% of wellhead price of crude oil and from Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, is 12.5%. The applicable royalty on natural gas is @10%.

Statement

Exploration of Oil Reserves

Name of State	Name of Company/Operator	No. of Blocks	2D Survey	3D	No. of wells drilled	No. of discoveries	In Place Quantum MMT of OEG	Status
			GLK	Sq.KM				
Tamil Nadu	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	6 (Nomination blocks) 4 (NELP)	40823	8371	473	36	131.92	Cumulative production as on 1.4.2009 is 7.03 MMT of oil and condensate and 7525.7 MMm ³ of gas.
	Jubilant Oil and Gas Private Limited (JOGPL)	1 (NELP PSC)	-	-	2	1	-	Under Evaluation
	Niko Resources (NELPV) Limited	1 (NELPV)	-	-	4	-	-	Exploration activities are in progress
	GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL)	1 (NELP)	-	-	-	-	-	Exploration activities are in progress
	Total	13 blocks						
Mizoram	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	1 (Nomination block)	36.05	-	2	-	-	No discoveries in Nomination Block.
		1 (NELP)	173	-	-	-	-	Exploration activities are in progress
	Oil India Limited (OIL)	1 (NELP)	851.7	-	-	-	-	Exploration activities are in progress
	Naftogaz	1 (NELP)	-	-	-	-	-	Exploration activities are in progress
Total	4 blocks							

GLK-Ground Line Kilometres

Sq. KM-Square Kilometres

MMT-Million Metric Tonne

O-OEG-Oil and Oil Equivalent of Gas

NELP-New Exploration and Licensing Policy

MMm³-Metric Million Standard Cubic Meter

[Translation]

Pending Court Cases

208. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
DR. NILESH NARAYAN RANE:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the actual strength of judges in each court is less than the sanctioned strength;

(b) if so, the break-up of the sanctioned and actual strength of judges in the Supreme Court, High Courts and Sub-ordinate courts, court-wise during the last two years and the current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to wipe out/minimize pendency of cases in the judiciary and also to increase the strength of judges in various courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) A statement showing the sanctioned strength of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts, number of Judges in position during the last two years and the current year is enclosed.

The strength of the Judges of the Supreme Court was increased in the year 2009 from 26 to 31 including the Chief Justice of India. The strength of the High Court Judges is also revised based on triennial reviews.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the subordinate courts in the States vests with the concerned High Court. As such, the information on the number of Judges in position and the vacancies of Judges in the Subordinate Courts is not maintained centrally.

The following steps have been taken to minimise pendency of cases in the courts:

- (1) The strength of Judges in Supreme Court and the High Courts has been increased.
- (2) Establishment of Fast Track Courts
- (3) Establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass root level.
- (4) Introduction of some legislative measures for improvement in judicial procedure and for expediting disposal of civil and criminal cases in courts. The Criminal Procedure Code has been amended and the concept of 'Plea-Bargaining' has been introduced.
- (5) Alternative modes of disposal including mediation and conciliation have been encouraged.
- (6) Other measures like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, setting up of special courts and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals have also been taken.
- (7) Steps have also been taken for modernization of the judicial infrastructure through computerization of courts.
- (8) Capacity building of judges through the National Judicial Academy has been given high priority.
- (9) Several reform measures for speeding up the disposal of cases such as operations of shift courts have been recommended by the 13th Finance Commission.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned strength of Judges	Number of Judges in Position	Sanctioned strength of Judges	Number of Judges in Position	Sanctioned strength of Judges	Number of Judges in Position
		Position as on 1.1.2010		Position as on 1.1.2009		Position as on 1.1.2008	
1	2	3		4		5	
A.	Supreme Court of India	31	27	26	24	26	22
B.	High Court						
1.	Allahabad	160	78	160	73	160	75

1	2	3	4	5			
2.	Andhra Pradesh	49	32	49	30	49	30
3.	Bombay	75	62	75	59	75	52
4.	Calcutta	58	39	58	40	58	41
5.	Chhattisgarh	18	11	18	6	18	6
6.	Delhi	48	42	48	39	48	32
7.	Gauhati	24	24	21	22	26	23
8.	Gujarat	42	26	42	30	42	30
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	9	11	10	11	9
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	10	14	12	14	9
11.	Jharkhand	20	14	20	10	20	9
12.	Karnataka	50	37	41	39	41	36
13.	Kerala	38	32	38	29	38	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	43	34	43	38	43	40
15.	Madras	60	53	60	43	49	45
16.	Orissa	22	17	22	17	22	17
17.	Patna	43	24	43	23	43	29
18.	Punjab and Haryana	68	48	68	48	68	42
19.	Rajasthan	40	30	40	32	40	36
20.	Sikkim	3	3	3	1	3	2
21.	Uttarakhand	9	8	9	9	9	9
Total		895	630	886	610	877	597

Powerloom Industry

209. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of traditional Powerloom and rapier powerloom units operating at present in the country;

(b) whether concrete measures have been taken by the Government for making available sufficient quantity of cotton and power required by these units;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed the programmes/schemes being implemented for the revival of powerloom industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) As on 31.12.2009, total number of

powerlooms registered in the country were 22, 56,320 with break-up as under:

Sl. No.	Types of Looms	Decentralised Powerloom Sector	Organised Mill Sector
1.	Plain Looms	19,05,713	37,494
2.	Semi-Automatic Looms	1,72,238	190
3.	Automatic Looms	23,195	14,476
4.	Shuttleless Looms (including Rapier Looms)	84,365	18,489
5.	Tape Narrow Width	—	160
Total		21,85,511	70,809

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. There is sufficient quantity of cotton available freely in the open market, to meet the requirement of textile industry. The Government has estimated total supply of 373.50 lakh bales against the total demand of 305 lakh bales during the cotton season 2009-10. In case of power, being the State subject, the Government of India has written to all the State Governments to ensure uninterrupted power supply to powerloom units in their respective States.

(d) and (e) The programmes/schemes have been reviewed by the Government from time to time for development of powerloom industry. The Group Workshed Scheme (GWSS) was modified during year 2007-08 and subsidy for construction of work shed was increased from Rs. 80/- per sq. ft. to Rs. 120/- per sq. ft. The Group Insurance Scheme (GIS) was launched with effect from 1st July 2003 and was modified on 1.1.2008. Before modification, the coverage of the benefits under the Scheme was Rs. 30,000/- for natural death, Rs. 75,000/- for accidental death, Rs. 75,000/- for total permanent disability and Rs. 37,500/- for partial permanent disability. The benefits have now been modified to the extent of Rs. 60,000/- for natural death, Rs. 1,50,000/- for accidental death, Rs. 1,50,000/- for total permanent disability and Rs. 75,000/- for partial permanent disability. As per the modified Scheme, the total premium is Rs. 330/-, out of which, Rs. 150/- is to be borne by the Government of India and Rs. 100/- is being paid by LIC from the social security fund of Government of India. Only a premium of Rs. 80/- is to be paid by powerloom weavers for getting benefits under the said scheme.

With a view to upgrade technology of the decentralised powerloom sector, the Government announced 20% Credit linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS) under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) on 16.11.2003. Under this scheme, a maximum subsidy of Rs. 12.00 lakh per beneficiary was provided on capital investment up to Rs. 60.00 lakh on machinery. The impact of TUFS on textile industry was evaluated and the capital ceiling on investment on machinery was increased from Rs. 60.00 lakh to Rs. 1.00 crore and the ceiling of subsidy per beneficiary was increased from Rs. 12.00 lakh to Rs. 20.00 lakh with effect from 13.01.2005. In a further review, the capital ceiling on investment on machinery under the scheme was increased from Rs. 1.00 crore to Rs. 2.00 crore and the Scheme was renamed as 20% Margin Money Subsidy (MMS) with effect from 1.4.2007.

[English]

Alleged Corruption in Judiciary

210. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the mechanism in place to address the problem of corruption in the judiciary;

(b) whether any structural changes are proposed to be brought to the aforesaid mechanism in view of the cases of alleged corruption in the recent past; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The issue of Judicial Accountability was discussed at the Conference of Chief Justices held in 1990 and on the basis of the broad consensus emerging out of the deliberations, the Chief Justice of India summed up the position as follows:

"The Chief Justice of the High Court has the competence to receive complaint against the conduct of the Judges of his Court and when he receives any, he would look into it for finding out if it deserves to be closely looked into. Where he is satisfied that the matter requires to be examined, he shall have facts ascertained-in such manner as he consider

appropriate keeping the nature of allegation in view and if he is of the opinion that the matter is such that it should be reported to the Chief Justice of India, he shall do so.

The Chief Justice of India shall act in a similar manner in regard to complaints relating to conduct of Judges of the Supreme Court and in regard to conduct of Chief Justice of the High Courts. On the basis of the facts ascertained, the Chief Justice of the High Court or the Supreme Court, as the case may-be, shall take such appropriate action as may be considered proper, keeping the interests of the judiciary as the paramount consideration."

The complaints received against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are, at present, dealt with in the manner indicated above.

The Government is considering to bring in a comprehensive legislation to set up a mechanism for enquiry into complaints made by members of the public against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

[*Translation*]

Criteria for Superfast Trains

211. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for assigning the status of 'superfast train' to trains;

(b) whether the said criteria was reviewed in the recent past;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of trains upgraded to the status of superfast trains from the general mail/express category during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) the surcharge being charged for superfast trains as against the tickets for the mail/express category trains; and

(e) the year-wise details of increase in the income of the railways as a result of such upgradation during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Trains whose average speed on the entire run in both UP & DN direction is minimum 55 kmph on the Broad Gauge and minimum 45 kmph on the Metre Gauge are designated as superfast trains.

(b) The criteria for declaring a train as Superfast was established in 1993 and has not been changed since then. However, the Tatkal Scheme and charging of passengers in that scheme has been reviewed and reduced.

(c) The year-wise details of trains upgraded to superfast category during the last 3 years and the current year are as under:-

Year	Number of trains upgraded to superfast category (in pairs)
01.04.2006 to 31.03.2007	87
01.04.2007 to 31.03.2008	2
01.04.2008 to 31.03.2009	3
01.04.2009 to 31.01.2010	1
Total	93

(d) The additional class-wise surcharge levied per journey for travel by all superfast trains is as under:

Class	Surcharge per passenger
Second	Rs. 8
Sleeper	Rs. 20
AC Chair Car, First, and AC 3-tier and AC 2-tier	Rs. 30
AC First	Rs. 50

For first and second class season ticket holders, charges for monthly and quarterly superfast surcharge ticket are equivalent to superfast surcharge for 15 and 45 single journeys in the concerned class respectively.

(e) The year-wise details of superfast surcharge collected in reserved classes from all superfast trains,

during the last 3 years and the current year are as under:-

Year	Superfast Surcharge (Rs. in crores)
01.04.2006 to 31.03.2007	47.30
01-04.2007 to 31.03.2008	71.49
01.04.2008 to 31.03.2009	81.78
01.04.2009 to 31.01.2010	78.36

Unfair Practice of Promoting Drugs

212. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
DR. BALIRAM:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to alleged collusion among doctors, medicine outlets and drug manufacturers for promoting drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the drug manufacturers to check this unfair practice for promoting their drugs;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) Reports had appeared in leading newspapers in the recent past regarding unethical practices through promotional expenses by the Pharma companies. Keeping in view the allegations made in the media reports, this Department took up the matter in the interest of consumers and patients since such promotional expenses had direct implications on prices of drugs and its affordability, thereby adversely affecting access to medicines, especially for the poor and disadvantaged. Many of the Pharmaceutical Associations have worked out a "Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices" (UCMP). This, however, seems to have generated some controversy between the Associations themselves, as is apparent from the Press statement

issued by SPIC, *inter-alia*, stating that they are not signatories to the UCMP. The Department of Pharmaceuticals has written to the concerned Associations for clarification.

Assistance for Mini Pulse Processing Units

213. SHRI RAJU SHETTI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether assistance was being provided for establishment of mini pulse processing units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scheme was withdrawn during the 11th Plan;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which the Government proposes to extend help to such processing units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Food Processing Industries was providing assistance for setting up of mini pulse processing units during the ninth and tenth plan periods. Implementing agencies desirous of setting up mini pulse processing units were eligible to get assistance up to 50% of the total cost of the equipment (for setting up mini pulse processing unit) subject to a maximum of Rs. 35,000/- per unit. The assistance was routed through CFTRI, Mysore who helped in identifying the eligible beneficiaries.

(c) and (d) Yes, as the progress of the implementation was slow due to poor response from the entrepreneurs/beneficiaries in spite of repeated and renewed efforts undertaken by the Ministry/CFTRI.

(e) In the 11th Plan Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid under the scheme of Technology Upgradation, Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries including pulse-processing units. Under this scheme, the Ministry extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant in aid @ 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas.

*[English]***Air Traffic Control Capacity**

214. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of air traffic controllers at various airports in the country *vis-a-vis* the manpower in position as on date;

(b) whether the traffic handling capacity of Air Traffic Control has been adversely affected particularly in some metro airports due to the increase in the number of flights in operation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which the issue is being addressed to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The sanctioned strength of Air Traffic Controllers (airport wise) in Airports Authority of India (AAI) as on 11.01.2010 was 2107 against which the manpower-in-position was 1605. Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) AAI has taken a number of measures to enhance the traffic handling capacity at various airports to meet the growing air traffic. Details are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I*ATCO Strength as on 11.1.2010**Northern Region 11.01.2010*

Station	Sanctioned									Actual									Vacant								
	GM	DGM	SM	MGR	AM	JET	SS and SA	JE+	TOTAL	GM	DGM	SM	MGR	AM	SS and JE	SA	JE+	TOTAL	GM	DGM	SM	MGR	AM	JE	SA	JE+	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Agra	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	4
Amritsar	0	1	5	2	3	5	0	5	16	0	1	3	3	2	2	0	2	11	0	0	2	-1	1	3	0	3	5
Bhuntar	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	-1	1	0	1	0	
CATC	1	5	31	12	2	1	0	1	52	0	18	15	3	0	1	0	1	37	1	-13	16	9	2	0	0	0	15
Chandigarh	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	3
Dehradun	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	-1	0	1	0	1	0	
DGCA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	-4	0	0	0	0	0	-4	
Gorakhpur	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Gwalior	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	3	
IGI	1	26	37	79	21	65	6	61	225	1	19	46	62	17	65	6	71	216	0	7	-9	17	4	-10	0	-10	9
IGI RHQ	1	1	3	1	4	2	0	2	12	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	-1	4	2	0	2	6	
IGI AS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JCAC	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Jaipur	0	1	1	2	3	9	1	10	17	0	1	2	2	2	8	1	9	16	0	0	-1	0	1	1	0	1	1
Jaisalmer	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Jammu	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jodhpur	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	3
Kangra	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Kanpur	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	3	6	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	4
Khajuraho	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	2	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	-2	1	2	0	2	2
Kota	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Leh	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Lucknow	0	1	3	4	3	9	0	9	20	0	0	2	6	1	11	0	11	20	0	1	1	-2	2	-2	0	-2	0
Ludhiana	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	4	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	-1	0	1	1	0	1	1	
CHQ OPS	7	13	18	4	8	4	0	4	65	7	13	9	4	0	3	1	4	37	0	0	9	0	8	1	-1	0	17
CHQ AS	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
CHQ PLG	1	2	4	3	0	0	0	0	10	2	3	3	0	0	1	0	1	9	-1	-1	1	3	0	-1	0	-1	1
CHQ IPC	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Airprot Security CHQ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CHQ CNS(P)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1
Pantnagar	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	-1	0	1	2	0	2	2	
Pathankot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	-1
Safdarjung	0	1	0	0	2	4	0	4	7	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	3	0	1	0	-2	2	3	0	3	4
Shimla	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	-1	0	1	0	1	0
Srinagar	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	4	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	-1	0	1	2	0	2	2
Udaipur	0	1	0	2	2	2	0	2	7	0	1	3	4	1	0	0	0	9	0	0	-3	-2	1	2	0	2	-2
Varanasi	0	7	13	21	10	7	1	8	59	0	2	11	23	3	7	1	8	47	0	5	2	-2	1	2	0	2	-2
									0	0																	
Total	13	67	119	143	75	117	11	128	545	12	63	105	124	33	99	12	111	448	1	4	14	19	42	18	-1	17	97

Western Region as on 11.01.2010

Station	Sanctioned									Actual									Vacant								
	GM	DGM	SM	MGR	AM	JET	SS and SA	JE+	TOTAL	GM	DGM	SM	MGR	AM	SS and JE	SA	JE+	TOTAL	GM	DGM	SM	MGR	AM	JE	SA	JE+	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Ahemdabad	0	7	11	22	7	11	3	14	61	0	2	23	13	1	13	3	16	65	0	5	-12	9	6	-2	0	-2	6
Aurangabad	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	2	6	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	1	5	0	0	1	-2	1	1	0	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Belgaum	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	4	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	-2	0	1	2	0	2	1	
Bhavnagar	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Bhopal	0	1	2	2	4	4	0	4	13	0	0	6	1	0	2	0	2	9	0	1	-4	1	4	2	0	2	4
Bhuj	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	-1	0	0	1	0	1	0	
Bilaspur	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Diu	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	-1	1	0	0	0
Goa	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	-1	-1	1	0	0	0	0	-1
Gondia	0	1	5	8	7	0	9	9	30	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	5	0	1	2	6	7	0	9	9	25	
Indore	0	0	2	2	4	4	0	4	12	0	0	3	4	0	4	0	4	11	0	0	-1	-2	4	0	0	0	1
Indore Cargo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jabalpur	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	3	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	-3	0	3	0	3	0	
Jamnagar	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	
Juhu	0	1	2	1	2	2	0	2	8	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	4	
Kandia	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	
Keshod	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	12
Latur														1				1								-1	
Kolhapur	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	-2	1	1	0	1	0	
Mumbai	1	26	44	87	24	53	7	60	242	1	19	27	26	24	110	7	117	214	0	7	17	61	0	-57	0	-57	28
Mumbai AS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mumbai RHQ	1	1	4	0	4	0	0	0	10	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	7	0	-1	2	-2	4	0	0	0	3	
Mumbai COM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagpur	0	7	11	18	9	13	0	13	58	0	3	13	12	2	15	0	15	45	0	4	-2	6	7	-2	0	-2	13
Nanded	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Porbander	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Pune	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	2	6	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	-1	0	3	1	0	1	4	
Rajkot	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	-1	1	1	0	0	1	
Sholapur	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surat	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	-2	
Vadodara	0	0	1	1	1	2	1	3	6	0	0	1	3	0	3	1	4	8	0	0	0	-2	1	-1	0	-1	-2
Total	2	46	86	150	78	104	21	125	487	2	28	89	81	34	149	12	161	395	0	18	-3	69	44	-45	9	-36	92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Vijaywada	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	5	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	
Vishakhapatnam	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-1	1	1	2	0	2	3	
Warrangal	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	4	73	188	174	144	162	5	167	750	4	49	184	80	8	148	5	153	478	0	24	4	94	136	14	0	14	272

North-Eastern Region as on 11.01.2010

Station	Sanctioned									Actual									Vacant								
	GM	DGM	SM	MGR	AM	JET	SS and SA	JE+	TOTAL	GM	DGM	SM	MGR	AM	SS and JE	SA	JE+	TOTAL	GM	DGM	SM	MGR	AM	JE	SA	JE+	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Aizwal	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2
Agartala	0	1	1	2	1	6	0	6	11	0	1	1	3	1	2	0	2	8	20	0	0	-1	0	4	0	4	3
Bagdogra	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2
Barapani	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	-1	1	0	1	0	1	1	
Balurghat	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Coochbehar	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
Daparizo	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Dimapur	0	1	1	1	1	3	0	3	7	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	-1	3	0	3	3	
Guwahati	0	6	4	14	3	15	2	17	44	0	2	10	21	0	8	2	10	43	0	4	-6	-7	3	7	0	7	1
Guwahati RHQ	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	5	1	0	2	-4	1	0	0	0	0	
Guwahati AS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Imphal	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	2	6	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	-2	1	2	0	2	1	
Jorhat	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	-1	1	0	0	0	0	
Kailasher	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	3
Lengpui	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Lilabari	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	-1	0	1	0	1	0	
Mohanbari (Dibrugarh)	0	0	2	2	1	3	0	3	8	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	3	4	
Passisghat	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rupsi	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Silchar	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Tezpur	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	-1	1	0	0	0	1	
Tezu	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Ziro	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Total	1	11	17	25	20	36	4	40	114	0	7	18	39	6	10	4	14	84	1	4	-1	-14	14	26	0	26	30

Statement II

Measures Taken by AAI to increase the Runway Traffic Handling Capacity/Airspace Capacity:

- (i) ATC Automation System at Delhi is being upgraded.
- (ii) Surface Movement Radar has been installed and is in operation at Delhi Airport.
- (iii) Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System [ASMGCS] has been installed at Delhi airport.
- (iv) There is an MOU with Federal Aviation Administration, USA for co-operation in the field of Civil Aviation.
- (v) Performance Based Navigation (PBN) Procedures have been Implemented at Deihl, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Channai airports and will be implemented at all other operational airports in phased manner.
- (vi) ATS Surveillance System at Delhi has been upgraded with latest automation capabilities thereby providing ATCOs with better tools to manage the traffic, like Arrival Manager.
- (vii) Sectorization of Area Control Centre at Nagpur has been implemented for smooth and efficient handling of air traffic.
- (viii) Flexible use of airspace between IAF and AAI has been implemented in Chennai FIR as a pilot project w.e.f 1st May, 2008.
- (ix) ILS CAT-II has been commissioned at Kolkata runway 19L.
- (x) ILS procedure has been designed for Bhavnagar, Dimapur, Mangalore, Vishakhapatnam and Fursatganj airports.
- (xi) Clearance Delivery System [CDS] on a dedicated Channel has been implemented at Delhi airport, to reduce RT congestion and avoid delays to the departing aircraft.
- (xii) The Automatic Dependent Surveillance/Controller Pilot Data-Link" Communication [ADS/CPDLS] system has been installed and put into operation at Delhi airport to enhance the area of surveillance, reduce RIT congestion and remove the drawbacks of HF voice communications. This will also provide direct controller-pilot communication link beyond the VHF coverage area.
- (xiii) Restriction imposed by the Khola Committee to climb aircraft upto 5 NM on runway heading has been withdrawn to increase the runway handling capacity at Delhi airport.
- (xiv) Additional rapid taxi-ways have been constructed to reduce the runway occupancy time which consequently has increased the air traffic handling capacity of Delhi and Mumbai Airports. At Delhi, a parallel taxiway has been constructed.
- (xv) Additional parking stands are also being constructed at all major airports.
- (xvi) Some specific developments planned for Delhi that will improve the capacity, efficiency and thereby reduce conquesuon and minimize delays.
 - (a) A new parallel runway is already commissioned.
 - (b) Additional ATC working positions in control tower and procedures for independent parallel runway operations have been implemented.

RoBs in the East Coast Zone

215. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of construction of Rail Over Bridges (ROBs) in the East Coast Railway Zone is behind the schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work particularly on ROB at Baudpur and Bhadrak stations of East Coast Railway has been delayed considerably;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a), (b) and (e)

Sl.No.	State	Name of Work and Location.	Progress		Reason for Delay and Likely Target Date of Completion (TDC) of Railway Portion
			Bridge proper	Approach portion	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Orissa	Bhadrak-Baudpur Road over bridge in lieu of level crossing no 121 at km 293/16-17	93%	90%	Reasons for delay are as under: 1. Slow progress of earlier contractor which led to termination of the contract. 2. Excessive rain during the monsoon of 2009 after award of the contract i.e. on 28.04.2009. 3. Thereafter, the work is in progress. However, the work of central span could not be executed due to certain complication in execution of the work-in-situ for which CRS sanction was required to be obtained. The same has been obtained on 29.11.2009. The execution of work has to be carried out in sequential manner in approaches and central span due to insufficient working space available at the location. This resulted into longer time for completion. Original Target: 03/10 & Revised target: 06/10
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Pendurthi-Simhachalam North ROB between in lieu of level crossing No 439 at Km 463/13	85%	90%	Contract awarded in June, 2007. CRS Sanction to staging drawing for central span received on 28.11.2008. The work is in progress. the stressing of PSC girder in the central span is to be done. Original Target: March'10

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Kantakapa-LLI-Kottavalas a ROB in lieu of level crossing No 481at Km. 85/10-1	66%	0%	Land acquisition problem for State Govt. Tender for approach yet to be floated by the State Govt.. Original Target: 02/10 Revised Target: 07/10
4.	Andhra Pradesh	Chipurupalli-Garividi ROB at Km. 792/12-13 in lieu of LC No 449	92%	100%	Earlier contract terminated. Fresh Contract for PSC superstructure awarded in Feb. 2009. Structural work completed and only finishing work is in progress. Original Target: 12/09 and Revised Target: 03/10
5.	Andhra Pradesh	Gumada-Parbathipuram ROB in lieu of level crossing No: RV-281 at Km 387/7-8	70%	0%	Earlier Contract for construction of ROB has been closed under clause-61(1) of G.C.C. due to delay in shifting of interlocking arrangements for the level crossing. Further, contract awarded on 25.07.2008. Work is in progress. Original Target: 03/10 and Revised Target: 07/10
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Kantakapa LLI-Almanda ROB in lieu of level crossing No:ML-475 at Km 483/3-5	40%	76%	Combined Estimate under finance vetting-Reply for finance observation from R&B Department of State Government is awaited which resulted into delay. Contract awarded on 13.01.2009. The work is in progress. Original Target: 03/10 and Revised Target: 08/10

(c) and (d) Completion of the ROB between Baudpur and Bhadrak stations is delayed due to slow progress of the contractor in execution of the work and excessive rains during 2009. Contract for the work had to be terminated due to slow progress of the work. New contract has now been awarded and the work is progressing well. Construction of this ROB will be completed by 30.06.2010.

Availability of UREA

216. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:

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

(a) the import price of urea since 2004-05 till date;

(b) the quantum and value of various fertilizers imported and exported, the subsidy outgo for the import and the revenue earned from exporting the fertilizers during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, year wise and fertilizer wise;

(c) the name of the companies which imported/exported the fertilizers; and:

(d) the projected consumption of urea in the country during the next plan period and the steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous availability of urea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) The weighted average C&F price of urea imported since 2004-05 till 2009-10 (upto February 2010) is as under:-

Year	Weighted Average C&F price of imported urea In US \$ per MT	
	From Oman	Through STEs*
2004-05	No import	237.88
2005-06	155.23	258.56
2006-07	168.66	248.85
2007-08	180.10	344.00
2008-09	232.79	528.03
2009-10 (upto Feb. 10)	166.56	276.96

*State Trading Enterprises

(b) Urea is the only fertilizer under statutory price control and it is imported for direct agriculture use on Government account through State Trading Enterprises (STEs) *i.e.* MMTC, STC and IPL to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production. Government is also importing approximately 19 LMT urea from Oman India Fertiliser Company (OMIFCO) under Long Term Urea Off Take Agreement (UOTA) between GOI & OMIFCO. The import of urea from OMIFCO is made through M/s IFFCO & M/s KRIBHCO. The year-wise quantity and value of urea imported during the eleventh five year plan *i.e.* 2007-08 to 2009-10 (upto Feb 10) is given below:-

Year	Quantity of urea imported (in lakh MIT)			Value (Million US \$)
	From Oman	Through STEs	Total	
2007-08	18.91	50.37	69.28	2074.30
2008-09	19.06	37.61	56.67	2429.62
2009-10 (upto 28.2.10)	18.93	31.25	50.18	1180.80

Fertilizers other than Urea are imported under Open General Licence (OGL). Companies import these fertilizers as per their commercial judgment. However, Government is paying subsidy on these fertilizers under Concession Scheme. The year-wise quantity and value of DAP & MOP imported during the eleventh plan *i.e.* 2007-08 to 2009-10 (upto 30.11.2009) is given below:-

(Quantity in lakh MT and Value in million US\$)

Year	DAP		MOP	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2007-08	26.93	1317.27	42.57	1087.73
2008-09	62.41	6814.38	53.46**	2954.79
2009-10 (upto 30.11.09)	50.09	1832.79	39.16	1888.58

**Against 53.46 LMT of MOP Imported during 2008-09, about 10 lakh MT Imported for non agricultural purposes for which no subsidy was given.

Export of fertilizers from the country is restricted. However complex fertilizer manufacturers and SSP manufacturers are free to export their own manufactured complex fertilizers/SSP after intimating & furnishing a certificate from their Statutory Auditors to Department of Fertilizers and Custom Authorities. Small quantities of fertilizers have been exported during the eleventh plan period *i.e.* from 2007-08 to 2009-10 (upto September 2009). The fertilizer-wise and year-wise details are as under:-

(Quantity in lakh MT)

Product	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10*
1	2	3	4
NPK fertilizers	0.28	0.01	0.05
Ammonium Sulphate	0.07	0.26	0.15

1	2	3	4
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate		0.03	
Urea		0.03	
SSP		0.03	
Total	0.35	0.36	0.35

*upto September 2009

The subsidy paid on imported fertilizers during the year 2007-08 to 2009-10 (upto February 2010) is as under:-

(Amount Rupees in crore)

Year	Imported urea (Net)	Imported P&K Fertilizers	Total
2007-08	6606.11	6600.00**	13206.11
2008-09	10078.86	32597.69**	42676.55
2009-10 (upto Feb. 10)	4350.69	18948.67	23299.36

**includes bound of Rs. 1500 crore in 2007-08 and Rs. 8750 crore in 2008-09.

(c) The name of the companies who imported/exported the fertilizers (except urea on Government account) are Coromandel Fertilizers Limited, Chambal Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Deepak Fertilizers & Petrochemicals Ltd., Godavari Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Company Ltd., Indian Potash Limited, Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Ltd., Gujarat State Fertilizer & Chemicals Ltd., Mosaic India (P) Ltd., Mangalore Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited, MMTc Limited, Paradip Phosphate Ltd., Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd., Tata Chemicals Ltd., Tungabhadra Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd., Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd., Zuari Industries Limited, and Rama Phosphate Ltd.

(d) Urea demand Projection during the twelfth five year plan is yet to be finalised. The demand forecast of urea for the year 2011-12 in the eleventh five year plan will be 287.55 lakh MT. If the same trend continues, the likely demand of urea in the last year of twelfth five year plan *i.e.* 2017-2018 will be around 343.35 lakh MT (taking 3% growth projection per year). The Government has announced a new policy on 4th September 2008 to attract new investments in urea sector. The policy is

based on Import Parity Price (IPP) benchmark with suitable floor & ceiling prices aiming to revamp, expansion, revival of existing urea units and setting up of Greenfield projects. The policy aims to substantially bridge the gap between consumption and domestic production of urea in next five years subject to adequate availability of gas at reasonable prices.

Import of Gas

217. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to appoint Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and South Asia Gas Enterprises Pvt. Ltd. (SAGE) as the nodal and the executive agencies respectively to pursue sub-sea pipeline projects to import gas from Iran and Qatar;

(b) if so, whether the Government has examined the viability of similar projects executed by Russia, Turkey, Libya and Italy respectively;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has decided to shelve the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline project;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is any indication that Iran may be exploring the possibility of partnering with China rather than India on this project;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the reaction of the Government on the reported statement of the Chinese Foreign Minister regarding Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) In recent years, there have been significant technological advancements in the field of Deep Sea Gas transportation technology. Accordingly, for the last few years, interest has been revived in deep sea gas pipeline route from Middle-East to India. Gas supplies from several gas rich countries of Middle East through Gas Gathering pipeline with hub in Oman (or its proximity) have been proposed, so as to supply gas to Indian Coast through the said Deep Sea Pipeline. GAIL (India) Ltd. has entered into a Principles

of Cooperation in the month of July 2009 for developing the pipeline Project and the proposal is at an initial stage.

(d) and (e) No Madam. 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, security of supplies, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(f) to (h) Government is only aware of press reports quoting Iranian officials as stating that Iran would welcome participation of China in the gas pipeline Project.

Launching of Translucent LPG Gas Cylinders

218. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch, translucent cylinder which are made up of fibre glass, for marketing LPG in the country including Bihar, as a pilot project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely difference in the cost of LPG cylinder presently being used as against the proposed fibre glass LPG cylinders;

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued to the Government and the common man as a result thereof;

(e) whether these types of cylinders are also likely to be made available for commercial purpose; and

(f) if so, the details with the cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Government has conveyed "in principle" approval to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for expanding the product line by way of introduction of composite (translucent fiber glass) cylinders for marketing domestic LPG, subject to there being no subsidy element in the LPG to be marketed through these composite cylinders. Initially, it is planned to be launched as a pilot in

Bangalore, Chennai, Mumbai & Pune. At present, there is no plan for launching the composite cylinder in the State of Bihar. However, if successful, translucent LPG cylinders will be launched throughout the country.

(c) and (d) Global tender for procurement of translucent LPG cylinders has been invited by OMCs which is under evaluation. Only after finalization of the tender and placement of purchase order, the cost of the proposed translucent fiber glass cylinders will be known. However, these cylinders are being introduced in selected markets as a separate package and not as replacement of existing cylinders. The composite cylinders are translucent and will show the level of LPG present in the cylinder. Handling of these cylinders would be easier as they are lighter in weight than steel cylinders.

(e) and (f) At present, there is no proposal for introducing composite cylinders for marketing LPG for commercial purposes.

Report of SFIO on Satyam SCAM

219. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) investigating Satyam Scam has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the SFIO has not been given powers to trail money slashed abroad by the corporates;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the further steps contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has submitted a report and subsequently, supplementary report in the matter of investigation of Satyam Scam to this Ministry in regard to violation of provisions of Companies Act. The Ministry

has issued instructions to SFIO to file prosecutions in these matters and the same have been filed by the SFIO in the appropriate court.

(c) to (e) SFIO has no such powers to trail money stashed abroad. Other investigating agencies like CBI and Enforcement Directorate have got these powers. Wherever required, like in the case of Satyam scam, the matter of international ramifications are referred to CBI and/or Enforcement Directorate and both these agencies are looking into the issue of diversion of funds abroad.

National Gas GRID

220. SHRI C. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to lay gas Pipelines in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Gas Grid was shifted from the Southern States;

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

(e) whether the project connecting Kakinada with Tuticorin via Chennai has been put on hold;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to ensure balanced supply of natural gas to various parts of the country including Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) In order to expand natural gas transportation infrastructure in the country, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has authorized nine new trunk pipelines with total length of 5523 km, namely, (i) Dadri-Bawana-Nangal (ii) Chainsa-Jhajjar-Hissar (iii) Dabhol-Bangalore (iv) Kochi-Kanjirrakod-Bangalore-Mangalore (v) Jagdishpur-Haldia (vi) Vijaywada-Nellore-Chennai (vii) Kakinada-Basudevpur-Howrah (viii) Chennai- Tuticorin and (ix) Chennai-Bangalore-Mangalore pipelines.

(c) and (d) Of the pipelines mentioned above, five pipelines, namely, Dabhol-Bangalore, Kochi-Kanjirrakod-Bangalore/Mangalore, Vijaywada-Nellore-Chennai, Chennai-Tuticorin and Chennai-Bangalore-Mangalore pipelines, would be providing gas connectivity to southern states.

(e) and (f) No, Madam. Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Limited (RGTEL) has been given authorization to lay 445 km Vijaywada-Nellore-Chennai pipeline and 670 km Chennai-Tuticorin pipeline. The pipelines are targeted to be completed by 2012.

(g) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 has been notified to provide a regulatory and developmental framework for developing pipeline infrastructure and to ensure adequate supply of natural gas in all parts of the country including Tamil Nadu.

Rail E-Ticket for Armed Forces

2269. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have introduced rail e-ticket for armed forces; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) representative of Controller General of Defence Accounts(CGDA) has signed an agreement as an agent of Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation(IRCTC) for issuing e-tickets to defence service personnel. A pilot project has been launched by CGDA on 30.12.2009 covering twenty locations.

Import of Chinese Silk

2270. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government would consider initiating anti-dumping measures against rampant import of cheap Chinese silk into India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government had imposed anti-dumping duty with effect, from January, 2003 on the cheap imports of raw

silk of Grade 2A and below (with reference price of US\$ 27.27 per Kg.) and the same was in force till January, 2008. Subsequently, anti-dumping duty has been further continued with an enhanced reference price of US\$ 37.32 per Kg. and the same will be effective till January, 2014.

Similarly, during November, 2006, the Government has imposed anti-dumping duty on silk fabrics (with reference to price range of US\$ 1.662 to US\$ 4.526 per Mtr. on the fabric weight ranging from 20-100 gms per Mtr.) imported from China and the same will be in force till April, 2011. Any silk fabric imported from China P.R. below the reference price will attract imposition of anti-dumping duty.

Change of Brand Names of Same Pharmaceutical Ingredients

2271. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of pharmaceutical companies are marketing different brands based on the same active pharmaceutical ingredients to escape the provisions of drug price control order;

(b) if so, the names of the companies which have changed the brand names of the same active pharmaceutical ingredients in order to avoid monitoring of their sales by National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority during each of the last three years and the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Under the provision of DPCO, 1995, the prices of scheduled formulations marketed in different brands based on same active pharmaceutical ingredients by the company are fixed and as such there is no provision in the said order for marketing the scheduled formulation without price approval unless they are specifically exempted from price fixations. It has come to the notice of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) that some companies have shifted manufacturing of their product from drugs to food and nutrition supplements under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and this has enabled them to remain out of price control. Examples observed in this regard are Evion 400mg of Mis Merck, Revital of Mis Ranbaxy, Recharge Plus of

Mis Trikio, Soft Z gold of M/s Indochem etc. NPPA has taken up the matter with M/o Health & Family Welfare for appropriate action as the matter relating to composition of drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act as well as adulteration of drugs is under the Drug Controller General of India under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

[Translation]

Kidnapping of Children

2272. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is an unprecedented spurt in the cases of kidnapping of the children in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to assign such cases to fast track courts and to make a provision of strict punishment in the Indian Penal Code in order to check such incidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) As per the information received from the National Crime Records Bureau, a total of 5102, 6377 and 7650 cases of Kidnapping & Abduction of children were registered in the country during 2006-2008 respectively, thereby showing an increasing trend.

(b) and (c) Assigning a case or category of cases to a Fast Track Court is done by the State Governments concerned in consultation with the respective High Courts. There are provisions in Indian Penal Code, 1860 under Sections 363 A (Kidnapping or maiming a minor for purposes of begging), 364A (Kidnapping for ransom, etc.) and 369 (Kidnapping or abducting child under ten years with intent to steal from its person) for kidnapping including kidnapping of children. There is no proposal before the Government to amend these provisions.

[English]

Performance of Automobile Sector

2273. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the overall performance of the automobile sector during the current financial year in the country;

(b) the total turnover of this sector in each of the various product range both in value and quantity;

(c) the individual performance of the leading industries of automobile during the current financial year;

(d) the main reasons for the slump in the sector; and

(e) the measures are being considered to improve this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The performance of automobile sector during the current financial year and the total turnover of this sector in each of the various

product ranges (upto February, 2010) as obtained from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) is given in the enclosed Statements-I and II.

(c) The individual performance of the leading industries of automobile during the period is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) and (e) The slump in the auto industry witnessed earlier was due to factors like inadequate availability of credit at reasonable interest rates, fluctuating and high commodity prices, impact of global recession and the slowdown of the economy etc. The various stimulus measures taken by the Government have resulted in the turnaround and substantial improvement in the performance of the sector.

Statement I

Comparative Production, Domestic Sales and Exports Data for: April-February 2010

Category	Production			Domestic Sales			Exports		
	Apr.-Feb. 2009	Apr.-Feb. 2010	% change	Apr-Feb 2009	Apr-Feb 2010	% change	Apr-Feb 2009	Apr-Feb 2010	% change
Segment/ Subsegment	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I. Passenger Vehicles (PVs)									
Passeneer Cars	1,359,612	1,717,760	26.34	1090,890	1,370,659	25.65	298,058	401,999	34.87
UVs	194,742	243,931	25.26	198,959	244,465	22.87	2,857	2,403	-15.89
MPVs	93,225	136,462	46.38	97,6%	135,015	38.20	1,027	1,463	42.45
Total Passenger Vehicles (PVs)	1,647,579	2,098,153	27.35	1,387,545	1,750,139	26.13	301,942	405,865	34.42
II. Commercial Vehicles (CVs) M&HCVs									
Passenger Carriers	36278	41,235	13.66	30,642	37,675	22.95	6,695	5257	-21.48
Goods Carriers	138,977	174,101	25.27	133,568	172,803	29.37	8,691	12,786	47.12
Total M&HCVs	175,255	215,336	22.87	164,210	210,478	28.18	15,386	18,043	17.27
LCVs									
Passenger Carriers	25,782	31,053	20.44	23,803	30,491	28.10	4,918	2,502	-49.13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Goods Carriers	175,474	24,8213	41.45	154,384	223,064	44.49	19,473	18,696	-3.99
Total LCVs	201,256	279,266	38.76	178,187	253,555	42.30	24,391	21,198	-13.09
Total II Commercial Vehicles (CVs)	376,511	494,602	31.36	342,397	464,033	35.52	39,777	39,241	-1.35
III Three Wheelers									
Passenger Carrier	383,719	476,986	24.31	242,125	319,200	31.83	139,262	156197	12.16
Goods Carrier	72,628	79,811	9.89	74,488	80,828	8.51	1,094	574	-47.53
Total Three Wheelers	456,347	556,797	22.01	316,613	400,028	26.35	140,356	156,771	11.70
IV Two wheelers									
Scooter/Scooterettee	1,073,343	1,331,407	24.04	1,061,263	1,303,773	22.85	22,664	27,319	20.54
Motor cycles/Step- Throughs	6,183,557	7,623,507	23.29	5,309,960	6,632,790	24.91	904,814	1,009,617	11.58
Mopeds	392,779	516,549	31.51	388,120	511,574	31.81	7,135	5,803	-18.67
Electric Two Wheelers	22,147	2,558	-88.45	24,266	3,001	-87.63	40	50	25.00
Total Two wheelers	7,671,826	9,474,021	23.49	6,783,609	8,451,138	24.58	934,653	1,042,789	11.57
Grand Total	10,152,263	12,623,573	24.34	8,830,164	11,065,338	25.31	1,416,728	1,644,666	16.09

Statement II*Estimated Turnover of Automobile Sector during April-February 2010*

Category	Est. Value Rs. in Lakh	
	Apr.-Feb. 2009	Apr.-Feb. 2010
1	2	3
I Passenger Vehicles (PVs)		
Passenger Cars	4,610,949	5,866,624
Uvs	1,126,341	1,379,241
MPVs	295,676	408,732
Total Passenger Vehicles (PVs)	6,032,967	7,654,596

1	2	3
II Commercial Vehicles (CVs)		
M&HCVs		
Passenger Carriers	362,658	420,909
Goods Carriers	1,408,684	1,835,432
Total M&HCVs	1,771,342	2,256,341
LCVs		
Passenger Carriers	167,605	195,556
Goods Carriers	1,024,448	1,432,612
Total LCVs	1,192,053	1,628,168
Total II Commercial Vehicles (CVs)	2,963,395	3,884,509
III Three Wheelers		
Passenger Carriers	267,936	336,242
Goods Carrier	56,544	60,977
Total Three Wheelers	324,480	397,219
IV Two wheelers		
Scooter/Scooterette	378,015	464,243
Motor cycles/Step-Throughs	3,035,002	3,740,434
Mopeds	98,528	129,112
Electric Two Wheelers	6,067	763
Total Two wheelers	3,517,611	4,334,552
Grand Total	12,838,453	16,270,877

Statement III*Each company's performance during April-February 2010*

Category	Production			Domestic Sales			Exports		
	Cumulative April-February			Cumulative April-February			Cumulative April-February		
Segment/Sub-segment manufacture	08-09	09-10	YoY Growth	08-09	09-10	YoY Growth	08-09	09-10	YoY Growth
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Passenger Vehicles (PVs)									
A: Passenger Cars									
BMW India Pvt. Ltd.	2,162	2,437	12.72	2,302	2,902	26.06	0	0	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fiat India Automobiles Pvt. Ltd.	6,959	23,457	237.07	6,272	22,645	261.05	601	914	52.08
Ford India Pvt. Ltd.	21,045	28,748	36.60	22,345	25,227	12.90	608	1,383	127.47
General Motors India Pvt. Ltd.	41,173	56,362	36.89	42,193	61,172	44.98	91	453	397.80
Hindustan Motors Ltd.	6,250	8,066	29.06	6383	7,976	24.96	0	1	-
Honda Siel Cars India Ltd.	41,244	59,395	44.01	43,087	55,467	28.73	60	87	45.00
Hyundai Motor India Ltd.	454,743	535,761	17.82	219,279	283,466	29.27	231,938	262,124	13.01
Mahindra Renault Pvt. Ltd.	13,260	5,611	-57.68	12,461	4,981	-60.03	1,460	1,000	-31.5
Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.	613,487	836,069	36.28	570,267	697,548	22.32	57,156	130,713	128.70
Mercedes-Benz India Pvt. Ltd.	2,783	2,969	6.68	2,768	3,192	15.32	0	0	-
Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd**	0	0	-	29	105	262.07	0	0	-
Skoda Auto India Pvt. Ltd.	14,617	8,812	-39.71	12,584	15,678	24.59	0	16	-
Tata Motors Ltd.	133,553	141,238	5.75	142,189	177,534	24.86	6,144	5308	-13.61
Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd.	8,336	8,835	5.99	7,927	9,020	13.79	0	0	-
Volkswagen-Audi*	0	0	-	804	1,379	71.52	0	0	-
Volkswagen India Pvt. Ltd.*		0	-		2,367	-		0	-
Total A: Passenger Cars	1,359,612	1,717,760	26.34	1,090,890	1,370,659	25.65	298,058	401,999	34.87
B: Utility Vehicles(UVs)									
BMW India Pvt. Ltd.	0	0	-	258	434	68.22	0	0	-
Force Motors Ltd.	4,431	5,191	17.15	4,500	5,199	15.53	61	19	-68.85
Ford India Pvt. Ltd.	2,419	2,198	-9.14	2,504	2,182	-12.86	0	0	-
General Motors India Pvt. Ltd.	12,160	13,265	909	14,360	14,624	1.84	0	7	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hindustan Motors Ltd.	1,820	1,363	-25.11	1,905	1,398	-26.61	0	0	-
Honda Siel Cars India Ltd.	0	0	-	1,964	408	-79.23	0	0	-
Hyundai Motor India Ltd.	0	0	-	47	14	-70.21	0	0	-
International Cars & Motors Ltd.	3,468	741	-78.63	3,344	941	-71.86	18	38	111.11
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	93,131	139,164	49.43	92,038	136,380	48.18	2,079	1,730	-16.79
Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.	6,754	3,739	-44.64	6,095	3,255	-46.60	74	57	-22.97
Mercedes-Benz India Pvt. Ltd.	0	0	-	91	128	40.66	0	0	-
Nissan Motor India Pvt. Ltd.**	0	0	-	91	128	40.66	0	0	-
Tata Motors Ltd.	35,339	30,475	-13.76	36484	31,478	-13.72	625	552	-11.68
Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt. Ltd.	35,220	47,795	35.70	35,331	47,912	35.61	0	0	-
Total B: Utility Vehicles(UVs)	194,742	243,931	25.26	198,959	244,465	22.87	2,857	2,403	-15.89
C: Multi Purpose Vehicles (MPVs),Van type									
Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.	69,059	91,916	33.10	71,927	90,450	25.75	979	1,212	23.80
Tata Motors Ltd.	24,166	44,546	84.33	25,769	44,565	72.94	48	251	422.92
Total C: Multi Purpose Vehicles (MPVs),Van type	93,225	136,462	46.38	97,696	135,015	38.20	1,027	1,463	42.45
Total Passenger Vehicles (PVs)	1,647,579	2,098,153	27.35	1,387,545	1,750,139	26.13	301,942	405,865	34.42

*Cumulative data is only for July-Feb-10;

**Data is only for Sep-Feb

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
II. Commercial Vehicles (CVs)									
M&HCVs									
A: Passenger									
Carriers									
Ashok Leyland Ltd.	17,602	17,497	-0.60	14,017	14,142	0.89	3,436	1799	-47.64
JCBL Ltd.*	0	158	-	0	158	-	0	0	-
Swaraj Mazda Ltd.	1,798	1,944	8.12	1,398	1,522	8.87	4	85	2,025.00
Tata Motors Ltd.	14,810	19,174	29.47	13,523	19,619	45.08	3,057	3,235	5.82
VE CVs - Eicher	1,613	1,915	18.72	1,254	1,691	34.85	198	138	-30.30
Volvo Buses India Pvt. Ltd.	455	547	20.22	450	543	20.67	0	0	-
Total A: Passenger Carriers	36,278	41,235	13.66	30,642	37,675	22.95	6,695	5,257	-21.48
B: Goods Carriers									
Ashok Leyland Ltd.	31,948	36,723	14.95	28,723	33,775	17.59	2180	3,139	43.99
Asia Motor Works Ltd.	2644	3196	20.88	3322	3,363	1.23	0	0	-
Force Motors Ltd.	0	1	-	0	0	-	0	0	-
Kamaz Vectra Motors Ltd.	10	0	-	6	0	-	0	0	-
Mercedes-Benz India Pvt. Ltd.	280	141	-49.64	201	208	3.48	0	0	-
Swaraj Mazda Ltd.	2,111	3,786	79.35	1,864	3,380	81.33	169	161	-4.73
Tata Motors Ltd.	89,683	111,562	24.40	87,818	114,671	30.58	5,276	8,123	53.96
VE CVs - Eicher	10,956	17,915	63.52	10,790	16,517	53.08	710	1,363	91.97
VE CVs - Volvo	1,345	777	-42.23	844	889	5.33	356	0	-100.00
Total B: Goods Carriers	138,977	174,101	25.27	133,568	172,803	29.37	8,691	12,786	47.12
Total M&HCVs	175,255	215,336	22.87	164,210	210,478	28.18	15,386	18,043	17.27
*JCBL data is only for Oct-Feb-2010 LCVs									
A: Passenger Carriers									
Ashok Leyland Ltd.	941	1006	6.91	448	735	64.06	525	273	-48.00
Force Motors Ltd.	3,411	5,183	51.95	3,471	5,041	45.23	146	157	7.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hindustan Motors Ltd.	0	2	-	9	10	11.11	0	0	-
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	4,497	4,825	7.29	4,651	4,567	-1.81	153	247	61.44
Swaraj Mazda Ltd.	1,935	1725	-10.85	1582	1,589	0.44	38	28	-26.32
Tata Motors Ltd.	13,571	16283	19.98	12,444	17,019	36.76	3,674	1,391	-62.14
VE CVs - Eicher	1,427	2,029	42.19	1 198	1,530	27.71	382	406	6.28
Total A: Passenger Carriers	25,782	31,053	20.44	23,803	30,491	28.10	4,918	2,502	-49.13
B: Goods Carriers									
Ashok Leyland Ltd.	0	0	-	3	0	-	0	0	-
Force Motors Ltd.	3,419	4,948	44.72	3,579	4,884	36.46	112	56	-50.00
Hindustan Motors Ltd.	43	228	430.23	21	229	990.48	0	0	-
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	49,506	77,460	56.47	44,827	70,249	56.71	5,571	6,250	12.19
Piaggio Vehicles Pvt. Ltd.	8,488	10,191	20.06	8,345	10,167	21.83	73	40	-45.21
Swaraj Mazda Ltd.	1,600	1,760	10.00	1,364	1,523	11.66	348	468	34.48
Tata Motors Ltd.	109,389	149,317	36.50	94,081	132,613	40.96	12740	11298	-11.32
VE CVs - Eicher	3,029	4,309	42.26	2164	3,399	57.07	629	584	-7.15
Total B: Goods Carriers	175,474	248,213	41.45	154,384	223,064	44.49	19,473	18,696	-3.99
Total LCVs	201,256	279,266	38.76	178,187	253,555	42.30	24,391	21,198	-13.09
Total Commercial Vehicles	376,511	494,602	31.36	342,397	464,033	35.52	39,777	39,241	-1.35

Each company's performance during April-February 2010

Category	Production Cumulative April-February			Domestic Sales Cumulative April-February			Exports Cumulative April-February		
	08-09	09-10	YoY Growth	08-09	09-10	YoY Growth	08-09	09-10	YoY Growth
Segment/Sub-segment manufacture	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
III Three Wheelers									
A: Passenger Carrier									
Atul Auto Limited	7,026	4,337	-38.27	2,490	4,201	68.71	4,528	29	-99.36
Bajaj Auto Ltd.	245,751	303,094	23.33	112,173	151,923	35.44	131,445	149,839	13.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Force Motors Ltd.	825	1,066	29.21	533	443	-16.89	418	560	33.97
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	25,337	28,834	13.80	24,794	27,605	11.34	130	466	258.46
Piaggio Vehicles Pvt. Ltd.	95,638	122,164	27.74	92,809	118,634	27.83	2,719	4,105	50.97
Scoters India Ltd.	4,731	5,083	7.44	5,379	5,054	-6.04	6	0	100.00
TVS Motor Company Ltd.	4,411	12,408	181.30	3,947	11,340	187.31	16	1,198	7,387.50
Total A: Passenger Carrier	383,719	476,986	24.31	242,125	319,200	31.83	139,262	156,197	12.16
B: Goods Carrier									
Atul Auto Limited	3,951	6,611	67.32	3,954	6,585	66.54	9	28	211.11
Bajaj Auto Ltd.	8,783	8,709	-0.84	9,455	9,830	3.97	0	0	-
Force Motors Ltd.	1,356	1,131	-16.59	1,745	1,104	-36.73	18	9	-50.00
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	14,113	12,414	-12.04	15,696	12,461	-20.61	106	188	77.36
Piaggio Vehicles Pvt. Ltd.	39,779	45,523	14.44	38,629	45,578	17.99	961	349	-63.68
Scoters India Ltd.	4,646	5,423	16.72	5,009	5,270	5.21	0	0	-
Total B: Goods Carrier	72,628	79,811	9.89	74,488	80,828	8.51	1,094	574	-47.53
Total Three Wheelers	456,347	556,797	22.01	316,613	400,028	26.35	140,356	156,771	11.70
IV Two wheelers									
A: Scooter/Scooterettee									
Bajaj Auto Ltd.	11,161	4,460	-60.04	9,262	3,698	-60.07	2,080	1,092	-47.50
Hero Honda Motors Ltd.	138,622	189,811	36.93	135,561	184,890	36.39	2,793	5,048	80.74
Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (Pvt) Ltd.	627,018	675,058	7.66	615,691	662,329	7.57	9,189	10,615	15.52
Kinetic Motor Company Ltd.	3,104	0	-	5,552	0	-	334	0	-
LML Limited	NA	NA	-	NA	NA	-	NA	NA	-
Mahindra Two Wheelers Ltd.	0	56,097	-	0	57,295	-	0	1,480	-
Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd.	78,164	124,103	58.77	78,096	123,567	58.22	60	146	143.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TVS Motor Company Ltd.	215,274	281,878	30.94	217,101	271,994	25.28	8,208	8,938	8.89
Total A:	1,073,343	1,331,407	24.04	1,061,263	1,303,773	22.85	22,664	27,319	20.54
Scooter/Scooterette									
B: Motor cycles/Step-Through									
Bajaj Auto Ltd.	1,750,924	2,256,032	28.85	1,183,480	1,586,984	34.09	592,120	675,033	14.00
Hero Honda Motors Ltd.	3,224,766	3,989,441	23.71	3,157,728	3,912,301	23.90	72,126	83,253	15.43
Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (Pvt) Ltd.	363,776	456,030	25.36	324,599	392,850	21.03	38,425	61,338	59.63
India Yamaha Motor Pvt. Ltd.	191,366	259,072	35.38	147,783	205,441	39.02	37,370	55,527	48.59
Kinetic Motor Company Ltd.	84	0	-	238	0	-	866	0	-
LML Limited	NA	NA	-	NA	NA	-	NA	NA	-
Royal Enfield (Unit of Eicher Ltd.)	39,995	48,078	20.21	38,773	45,729	17.94	1,846	1,969	6.66
Suzuki Motorcycle India Pvt. Ltd.	39,650	44,678	12.68	39,121	43,410	10.96	164	1,891	1,053.05
TVS Motor Company Ltd.	572,996	570,176	-0.49	418,238	446,075	6.66	161,897	130,606	-19.33
Total B: Motor cycles/Step-Through	6,183,557	7,623,507	23.29	5,309,960	6,632,790	24.91	904,814	1,009,617	11.58
C: Mopeds									
Kinetic Motor Company Ltd.	581	0	-	1,487	0	-	260	0	-
TVS Motor Company Ltd.	392,198	516,549	31.71	386,633	511,574	32.32	6,815	5,803	-15.59
Total C: Mopeds	392,779	516,549	31.51	388,120	511,574	31.81	7,135	5,803	-18.67
D: Electric Two Wheelers									
Electrotherm (India) Ltd.*	13,952	2,549	-81.13	15,112	2,482	-83.58	40	50	25.00
TVS Motor Company Ltd.	8,195	9	-99.89	9,154	519	-94.33	0	0	-
Total Others	22,147	2,558	-88.45	24,266	3,001	-87.63	40	50	25.00
Total Two wheelers	7,671,826	9,474,021	23.49	6,783,609	8,451,138	24.58	934,653	1,042,789	11.57
Grand Total of All Categories	10,152,263	12,623,573	24.34	8,830,164	11,065,338	25.31	1,416,728	1,644,666	16.09

Bangalore and Hyderabad Airport

2274. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether old airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad have become redundant or are underutilized;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rationale of making viable airports put to such underutilization;

(d) whether Government has worked out the cost and impact analysis of underutilization of these airports;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which the Government proposes to use these airports to their full capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Due to heavy increase in traffic, the existing airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore had reached at saturation point and therefore Government had decided to set up Greenfield airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore. Consequent upon the opening of the Greenfield airports at Shamshabad near Hyderabad and Devanahalli near Bangalore for commercial operations on 23.03.2008 and 24.05.2008 respectively, the existing Begumpet airport at Hyderabad and HAL airport at Bangalore were closed for commercial civil aviation operations as under the Concession Agreement signed between the Government of India and the airport developers, closure of the existing airports was one of the obligations of Government of India. The existing HAL airport at Bangalore and the Begumpet airport at Hyderabad are operational and are being utilized for General Aviation, VIP flights, Defence and Training purposes.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The infrastructure available at Begumpet airport in Hyderabad is proposed to be utilized for the following purposes:

(i) Integrated Aviation Academy; (ii) MRO facilities; (iii) Aviation Expo & Convention centre; (iv) General Aviation aircraft; (v) As city check in facility for HIAL; (vi) Other services and miscellaneous purposes.

The existing infrastructure at the Civil Enclave at Bangalore HAL airport is proposed to be utilized for the following purposes:

(i) General Aviation aircraft operation; (ii) Establishment of Convention Centre; (iii) Other services and miscellaneous purposes.

Pollution by Steel Plants

2275. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic steel plants which are under construction have resolved the problem of plant affected people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some operational steel plants are causing severe pollution in the surrounding areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from Ministry of Environment and Forests, the respective State Governments and major steel investors and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Fixation of Prices of Steel

2276. SHRI P. BALRAM:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has no role in fixing the prices of steel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the views of the experts and steel industry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Steel sector in India is completely deregulated and therefore steel prices are determined by market forces like demand and supply, cost of raw materials, landed cost of imports etc. The role of the government in a liberalised

environment is that of a facilitator and government intervenes through fiscal and other administrative measures, in order to provide a level playing field to the steel producers and consumers, as well as to boost the steel industry in the country.

(c) The Government embarked upon the process of economic reforms in 1991 and brought in the New Industrial Policy in 1991. The steel sector was also deregulated under the new economic regime.

[Translation]

Technology for Preventing Accidents

2277. SHRI LALJI TANDON: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has sent a report to the Railways for approval regarding development of technology for preventing train collisions;

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

(c) the reasons for not approving the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The concept note for trial of a proposed system of IIT/Kanpur was examined by Research, Designs & Standards Organization (RDSO) and certain technical clarifications and technical details have been asked from IIT, Kanpur.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Passenger Train No. 607

2278. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received representations for providing an additional trip of passenger train no. 607 running between Coimbatore and Salem (to and fro) via Tiruppur and Erode; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Presently, Train No. 607 is running between Coimbatore

and Erode. Introduction of MEMU train between Coimbatore and Erode has been announced in the Railway Budget for 2010-11.

[Translation]

Stoppage at Sultanpur Railway Station

2279. DR. SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to make provision for stoppage of Delhi-Guwahati 2435/2436 train at Sultanpur (Uttar Pradesh);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Stoppage of 2435/2436 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani train at Sultanpur is not commercially justified at present.

[English]

Powerloom Units

2280. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of powerloom units functioning in the country particularly in the rural areas and backward areas like Telangana region in Andhra Pradesh, Statewise;

(b) the funds released and utilised by these units during the last three years and the current year, year-wise; and

(c) the incentives given during the period to those units functioning in the backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Details of Powerloom units, State-wise, functioning in the country is given in the enclosed as Statement. The details of powerloom units functioning in the rural and backward area of Telangana region in the State of Andhra Pradesh are as follows:

Sl.No.	Rural and Backward Districts in the Telangana Region of Andhra Pradesh	No. of Powerloom Units	No. of Powerlooms
1.	Karimnagar	3781	30256
2.	Nalgonda	812	6500
3.	Warngal	188	1500
Total		4781	38256

(b) and (c) The subsidy released to the units in Andhra Pradesh including Telangana region under 20% Margin Money Subsidy (MMS) under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) is as under:

Year	Fund Released and Utilised (Rs. in lakh)
2006-07	Nil
2007-08	15.75
2008-09	59.68
2009-10 (upto Feb. 2010)	67.42
Total	142.85

Statement

State-wise registration of powerlooms as on 31.12.2009

States/Union Territories	No. of Powerlooms	No. of units
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	53882	13471
Assam	499	125
Bihar	17380	4345
Chhattisgarh	200	50
Gujarat	323380	80845
Dadra Nagar Haveli	962	241
Haryana	23500	5875
Himachal Pradesh	98	25

1	2	3
Jammu and Kashmir	65	16
Jharkhand	12	3
Karnataka	81008	20252
Kerala	5539	1385
Madhya Pradesh	41404	10351
Maharashtra	1021000	255250
Meghalaya	2	1
Orissa	1438	360
Punjab	12592	3148
Rajasthan	21800	5450
Tamil Nadu	471690	117923
Tripura	4	1
Uttar Pradesh	92356	23089
Uttarakhand	6000	1500
West Bengal	10500	2625
Pondicherry	200	50
Total	2185511	546378

Medical Facilities during Air Travel

2281. SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are adequate arrangements to meet the medical emergencies during air travel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to deploy doctors as crew members in aircraft during air travel; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Aircraft Rules, 1937 require that there should be First Aid Kit, Physicians Kit on the aircraft. The Cabin Crew is also trained adequately to handle Medical Emergencies upto a limited extent during air travel.

Aircraft is diverted to nearest available Medical facility in case of Medical Emergency.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. The provisions mentioned in the Aircraft Rules, 1937, as stated above are adequate.

[Translation]

New Airport at Jaisalmer

2282. SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop a new airport at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No new airport has been planned at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. However, at the existing defence airport at Jaisalmer, establishment of a new Civil Air Terminal Complex has been taken up by Airports Authority of India to cater for 250 passengers with a link taxi track, an apron to park three A-321 type of aircraft at a time and a car park.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Introduction of Red Ribbon Express Trains

2283. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have introduced/proposed to introduce Red Ribbon Express trains to connect all those places in the country which were not covered earlier; and

(b) if so, the details and its theme thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, on the request of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, an exhibition train namely "Red Ribbon Express" has been started for a one year period, from 1st December, 2009, as a project of National Aids

Control Organisation (NACO). The itinerary of the train, which is decided by NACO, covers some locations which were also covered during the earlier run.

[Translation]

Air Cargo Movement

2284. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air cargo handled by the State-owned airlines during the last three years;

(b) whether the commercial organization the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India has carried out any study regarding increase in air cargo as compare to railway and sea cargo during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the airlines to make air cargo handling more attractive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The total uplift of cargo by erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines during the year 2006-07 was 76643 tonnes and 95623 tonnes respectively. After merger of Erstwhile Air India and Indian Airlines with National Aviation Company of India Limited (Air India), the uplift of cargo was 1,63,759 tonnes in 2007-08 and 1,41,164 tonnes in 2008-09.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. ASSOCHAM had conducted a study titled 'Changing Pattern of Cargo Traffic in India' in September, 2007. As per the said study the average cargo traffic growth rate of Civil Aviation sector for 2005-07 was 19% as against 10.3% of Ports & Shipping and 9.2% of Railways.

(d) In June 2007, Air India had started its dedicated Freighter Service connecting Chennai/Bangalore/Mumbai to Europe. This opened up larger volumes of international cargo to the Indian stations. These freighters have been temporarily suspended from September 2009 due to economic downturn but they are being reinstated in April 2010 to enable Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai offer more cargo capacity out of India. To offer more capacity for import cargo, Air India has a bonded trucking service to connect Mumbai to various cities in India.

*[English]***Brand Promotion of Indian Textiles**

2285. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps being taken by the Government for brand promotion of Indian textile and global market penetration;

(b) whether the Government proposes to take steps to develop a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach for creating globally acceptable Indian apparel brands;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken steps to encourage the Indian apparel industry to create a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the purpose of brand creation and promotion;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government is providing support to the Textiles Export Promotion Councils in various segments of the textiles and clothing sector, through administrative and facilitation support by the Embassies of India and by funding support through Market Development Assistance Scheme, to deepen penetration of India's textiles and clothing products in foreign markets, globally, and also towards promotion of the "Brand India" image in global markets.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to develop a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach for creating globally acceptable Indian apparel brands.

(d) and (e) the Government is not considering any steps towards creation of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), for the purpose of brand creation and promotion.

(f) The Textiles Export Promotion Councils concerned are the agencies working in close cooperation and direction of the Government for the purpose of brand creation and promotion, and hence, no SPV for the purpose is contemplated.

Work Assigned to BHEL

2286. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has been assigned with a job to expand the Amarkantak Thermal Power Plant in Madhya Pradesh and Ukai in Surat District;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time when it was assigned to BHEL, the deadline fixed to accomplish it and the present progress thereof;

(d) whether the job is under progress in accordance within the stipulated timeframe; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) was assigned the work for design, engineering, manufacture, supply, erection and commissioning of boiler and turbo-generator along with their auxiliaries and Balance of Plant (BoP) including civil works on turnkey basis for:-

- 1x210MW Amarkantak Thermal Power Plant Unit-5 of Madhya Pradesh Power Generating Company Ltd. for which, the civil works were on cost plus basis requiring customer approvals before initiation of the work at site; and
- 1x500MW Ukai Thermal Power Plant Unit of Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd. on Engineering, Procurement and Construction basis.

(c) to (e) The work for Amarkantak Unit-5 was assigned to BHEL on 30.09.2004 with scheduled commissioning by June, 2007. The thermal power plant was synchronized in June, 2008 and achieved full load on 15.07.2009. There was an initial delay of 13 months for civil works due to late receipt of approvals from the customer. In addition, there were delays in approval on the part of customer in respect of civil cost of Balance of Plants (DM Plant, PT Plant, Chimney & Cooling Tower packages) affecting ordering of these BOPs by 12 months; delay of 8 months in approval/freezing location of Raw Water Pump House; and delay of 12-15 months in approval for ordering of coal handling plant on cost plus basis. Some of the jobs relating to coal and ash handling plants are in progress. The unit is presently running on priority path and generating power.

The work for Ukai Unit-6 was assigned to BHEL on 06.10.2007 with scheduled commissioning by February, 2011. The work on this project is presently in progress and as per joint action plan agreed in a meeting held in January, 2010 in Central Electricity Authority, the project has been planned for commissioning by July, 2011 keeping in view certain delays in removal/diversion of underground drains/structures/nallah etc. from the plant area by the project developer/customer.

Maulana Azad Education Foundation

2287. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to double the corpus fund of the Maulana Azad Education foundation (MAEF) to expand its coverage and effectiveness in implementing educational schemes for the benefit of the educationally backward minorities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN

KHURSEED): (a) and (b) Plan outlay of Rs. 500 crore has been approved during the 11th Five Year Plan period to augment the corpus fund of Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) from Rs. 200 crore to Rs. 700 crore by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan Period. As on date, the corpus fund of MAEF is Rs. 425 crore.

Duties/Taxes on Petrol

2288. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the rates of duties and taxes in the price per litre of petrol in four metropolitan cities;

(b) whether there is any proposal to rationalize or reduce the duties and taxes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The rates of the duties and Taxes in the retail selling price of Petrol in the four metropolitan cities are given below:

Sl.No.	Particulars	Delhi	Kolkata	Mumbai	Chennai
1.	Price without Customs Duty, Excise Duty and Sales Tax components	23.02	23.84	23.95	23.44
2.	Custom Duty (Based on 1st Fortnight of March 2010)	1.73 (3.65%)	1.73 (3.38%)	1.73 (3.35%)	1.73 (3.35%)
3.	Excise Duty (Presently levied at Rs. 14.35 per litre plus 3% Education Cess)	14.78 (31.16%)	14.78 (28.90%)	14.78 (28.60%)	14.78 (28.65%)
4.	Sales Tax/VAT	7.90 (16.66%)	10.80 (21.11%)	11.22 (21.71%)	11.64 (22.56%)
5.	Total of Customs Duty, Excise Duty and Sales Tax components	24.41 (51.47%)	27.31 (53.39%)	27.73 (53.66%)	28.15 (54.56%)
6.	Retail Selling Price (1+5)	47.43	51.15	51.68	51.59

Figures in the parenthesis give the components of Customs Duty, Excise Duty and VAT as a percentage of RSP.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Finance has informed that at present, there is no proposal under consideration to rationalize or reduce the tax rates on Petrol.

Operations at Hyderabad and Bangalore Airports

2289. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commercial operations at the Hyderabad and Bangalore airports were suspended;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the dates from which these operations were stopped;

(c) the reasons therefor and the financial loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof; and

(d) the time by which these airports are likely to be made fully operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Due to heavy increase in traffic, the existing airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore had reached saturation point and therefore Government decided to set up Greenfield airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore. Consequent upon the opening of the Greenfield airports at Shamshabad near Hyderabad and Devanahalli near Bangalore for commercial operations on 23.03.2008 and 24.05.2008 respectively, the existing Begumpet airport at Hyderabad and HAL airport at Bangalore were closed for commercial civil aviation operations as under the Concession Agreement between the Government of India and the airport developers, closure of the existing airports was one of the obligations of Government of India. The revenue loss suffered by AAI during 2008-09 on account of closure of Bangalore and Hyderabad airports were Rs. 124.13 crores and Rs. 169.26 crores respectively.

(d) The existing HAL airport at Bangalore and the Begumpet airport at Hyderabad are operational and are being utilized for General Aviation, VIP flights, Defence and Training purposes.

[*Translation*]

Railway Land in Bihar and Jharkhand

2290. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway land leased out, occupied illegally and lying unutilised in Bihar and Jharkhand alongwith the revenue generated through lease; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to get this land under its utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[*English*]

Incentive for Tribal Community

2291. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing any incentive to encourage tribal people associated with the textile sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the current Five Year Plan for these scheduled areas; and

(c) the funds allocated to create awareness among the tribals of these scheduled areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b): Yes, Madam. Incentives are being provided to all workers engaged in the textile industry such as weavers, artisans including tribal people. A statement showing the names of various schemes/programmes in the textile sector being implemented by the Union Government during the current Five Year Plan in the country including the scheduled areas is given as Statement.

(c) There is no specific fund allocation for creation of awareness among the tribals of these scheduled areas as all the schemes are being implemented through out the country.

Statement

Statement of ongoing schemes/programme

Name of Ministry/Department: Ministry of Textiles

Sl.No.	Sector/Schemes and Programme
1	2
VSE Sector	
A	Handloom
1.	Integrated Handloom Development Scheme
2.	Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme

1	2
---	---

3. Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

4. Mill gate Price Scheme

5. Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

B Wool & Woolen

1. Integrated Wool Improvement & Development Programme

2. Quality Processing of Wool & Woollen

3. Social Security Scheme

C Sericulture

1. R&D/Transfer of Technology/Training & IT Initiative

2. Seed Support & Technology Assistance/HRD

3. Catalytic Development Programme

4. Quality Certification-systems

D Handicraft

1. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana

2. Design & Technical Development

3. Marketing Support & Services

4. Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

5. Research & Development

6. Human Resource Development

7. Integrated Development Package for J&K

8. Infrastructure (Capital)

E Powerloom

1. Group Insurance Scheme

2. Group Workshed Scheme & integrated Powerloom Cluster Development

Industry Sector

1. Cotton Technology Mission (CTM)

2. Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP)

3. Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)

Payment to CISF Personnel

2292. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether under the contractual norms 65 per cent of the revenue derived from collections of passenger security fund from travellers is mandated to be spent on security related areas, comprising of payment of salaries and allowances to CISF personnel deployed at airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has found that the Delhi International Airport Ltd. is deviating from the above norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and corrective steps taken to enforce stricter compliance of norms by DIAL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Madam. According to Rule 88 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 the licencees/Airport Operators are entitled to collect fees termed as "Passenger Service Fees(PSF)" from the embarking passengers at such rate as the Central Government may specify. They are liable to pay for the security component to any security agency designated by the Central Govt. for providing airport security services.

(b) As on date, this Ministry has fixed the PSF amount as Rs. 200/- from each embarking Passenger and of this Rs. 130/-(65%) is the Security Component.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. There has been no such observation from the Govt.

Revival of Parvati Mills

2293. SHRI N. PEETHAMBARA KURUP: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to revive the Parvati Mills functioning under National Textile Corporation (NTC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the alternative measures adopted for revival of this mills and rehabilitate the employees of the said mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per revival scheme of National Textile Corporation (NTC) approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial reconstruction (BIFR), Parvathy Mills is slated for revival through joint venture route with private partnership where 51% equity will be with NTC. However, no final decision has been taken in the matter.

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

[Translation]

Passenger Trains for Bulandshahr

2294. SHRI KAMLESH BALMIKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to increase the speed of passenger trains running between Delhi and Bulandshahr;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of new trains likely to be introduced for Bulandshahr-New Delhi route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to introduce new train between Bulandshahr and New Delhi.

[English]

Opening of LPG Dealerships and Diesel/Petroleum Outlets

2295. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG dealerships and diesel and petroleum products outlets opened in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the details of such dealerships and outlets proposed to be opened during the current financial year; and

(c) the measures being taken to ensure adequate availability of these products in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) During the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have commissioned 10 LPG distributors and 174 Retail Outlets (ROs) including 84 Kisan Seva Kendras (KSKs) in the States of Gujarat.

OMCs have proposed to open 10 LPG distributors and 35 ROs including 6 KSKs in the States of Gujarat during the current financial year (2009-10).

(c) As per the "Vision 2015" adopted in 2009 for LPG sector, a target has been given to the OMCs to raise the over-all LPG population coverage to 75% in the country by releasing 5.5 crore new LPG connections by 2015 especially in rural areas and uncovered areas and also examine the possibility of providing more RO/ KSK.

In order to increase rural penetration and to cover remote as well as low potential areas, a new scheme namely, "Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana" (RGGLVY) for establishing small size LPG distribution agencies for locations having potential of 600 or more refill sales per month has been formulated.

The scheme has been launched on 16.10.2009 and subsequently advertisement inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been released by OMCs in 8 States where the reach of LPG is very low namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal covering 1266 locations.

The scheme has so far not been implemented in other States/UTs including Gujarat. The setting up of LPG distributors under this scheme will now be a continuous process till all parts of the country deficient in LPG including in the State of Gujarat was covered by LPG network.

Study on Costs Involved in Manufacturing of Drugs

2296. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:
SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct a study to estimate the costs being incurred by the drug manufacturers on manufacturing of drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said study is being undertaken in respect of drugs under the control of the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not including the private drug manufacturers in the said study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) and (b) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has a regular system of conducting Cost-Price studies of the scheduled bulk drugs for fixation/revision of their prices. However, for the purpose of fixation/revision of prices of formulations, as required under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995), a study has been initiated by the NPPA recently to estimate the norms of Conversion Cost (CC), Packing Charges (PC), Packing Material Cost (PM) and Process Loss (PL) involved in manufacturing of medicines in the country.

(c) and (d) As per the provisions under Para 7 of DPCO, 1995 it is mandatory to notify these norms every year. As per formula given under the said paragraph, these norms are applied in price fixation/revision of scheduled formulations notified under paragraphs 8, 9 and 11 of DPCO, 1995. There is no such requirement for non-scheduled drugs, *i.e.* medicines out of price control.

Availability of Essential/Life Saving Drugs

2297. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey or study throughout the country regarding easy availability of essential and life saving drugs to the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 50 to 80 percent of people do not have access to these drugs; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available drugs easily to common people in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) to (d) Essential and Life saving medicines have not been defined in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95). National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has no information regarding any surveyor study conducted throughout the country regarding easy availability of essential and life saving medicines to the people. However, NPPA monitors the shortage and availability of the medicines in the country through State Drugs Control Administration. Wherever required, NPPA takes remedial steps for ensuring availability of medicines by impressing upon manufacturers to rush the stocks to the places of shortage.

There are 74 bulk drugs included in the First Schedule of DPCO, 1995 and prices of these drugs and formulations based on them are fixed with an objective to make these drugs affordable. No one can sell any scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government.

As a part of its price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations (which are out of price control). Wherever a price increase of more than 10% per annum is noticed, the concerned manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of formulation in public interest.

Separate Kerosene Quota for Fishermen

2298. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no separate kerosene quota for fishermen in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Governments especially Kerala Government have requested for allocation of separate kerosene quota for fishermen; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Allocation of

kerosene distributed under Public Distribution System (PDS) is made by the Government of India to different States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for cooking and illumination only. Further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs. However, as per clause 3(1) of PDS SKO Control Order, 1993 the State Governments may by specific order permit any person to use kerosene other than cooking and illumination including fishing purposes.

[Translation]

Integrated Security System

2299. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to set up an integrated security system for raising security at sensitive and vulnerable railway stations;

(b) if so, the number of stations that have been identified for this purpose, Zone-wise;

(c) whether the Railway Protection Force personnels are being sent abroad for special security training in the Railways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes Madam.

(b) 202 stations have been identified for this purpose. Zone-wise number is as under—Central Railway-18, Eastern Railway-11, Kolkata Metro-23, East Central Railway-07, East Coast Railway-04, Northern Railway-38, North Central Railway-05, North Eastern Railway-03, Northeast Frontier Railway-16, North Western Railway-04, Southern Railway-14, South Central Railway-03, South Eastern Railway-11, South East Central Railway-03, South Western Railway-03, Western Railway-37, West Central Railway-02.

(c) and (d) Railway Protection Force personnel are sent abroad through the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Bureau of Police Research and Development for various kinds of training related to security. The expertise so gained is utilized for railway security and for further training of Railway Protection Force/Railway Protection Special Force personnel. Recently, six Railway Protection Force officers have been sent to the United States of America through the Ministry of Home Affairs for attending a workshop on railway security from 23.01.2010 to 05.02.2010.

Law for Minimum Fuel Consumption

2300. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to enact law to fix the norms for minimum fuel consumption (mileage) for all type of vehicles by 2011; and

(b) if so, the outlines of the said law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) No, Madam. As per information furnished by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the government has not yet fixed any target date for notifying the fuel efficiency norms.

(b) Question does not arise.

[English]

Robbery in Trains

2301. SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an incident had occurred in Delhi-Ghaziabad Section recently in which one passenger died in the hospital after scuffling with the robbers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps which the Railways propose to take for stopping large number of robbery incidents in trains throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) On 3.2.2010, one passenger of EMU local train succumbed to injuries in Hospital following scuffle with robbers while traveling in between Sahibabad and Vivek Vihar stations. In this connection, GRP/Ghaziabad registered a case vide crime no. 25/10 under sections 392, 394, 302, 34, 120/8 IPC dated 4.2.2010 and arrested three criminals.

Policing on Railways' is a State subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore the statutory responsibility of the State Police. The State Police has a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all

matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Railways bear 500/0 cost of expenditure on the Government Railway Police.

However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) is also deployed by Railways to supplement the efforts of the State Governments.

A co-ordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, officials 01 Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 20.1.2010 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi in which 7-point joint resolution was discussed and agreed to. The details of resolution are given below:—

1. In respect of crimes on Railways, there should be well defined system of regular co-ordination between the Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Intelligence Bureau & State Home Secretaries to review the position.
2. Keeping above in view, there will be quarterly co-ordination meetings at the following levels:
 - (i) Railway Board & Ministry of Home Affairs Intelligence Bureau.
 - (ii) General Managers of Zonal Railways and State Home Secretaries.
 - (iii) Chief Security Commissioners of Zonal Railways & Government Railway Police Chiefs of respective States.
3. As a train passes through more than one State, one of the States with maximum run will be designated as the coordinating State of that train.
4. An inter-state Police Team will be nominated for a group of trains running over the concerned States so that crimes get investigated in a better coordinated manner.
5. There will be a special drive to bust the organized gangs operating in trains and at Stations.
6. A better system will be evolved for rail crimes through networking for sharing passenger crime intelligence and special intelligence.
7. Special arrangements will be made for security of Rail Construction Projects through mutual agreements between the Railways and the State Government.

[Translation]

Allotment of Petrol Pumps/Gas Agencies

2302. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding corruption in the allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has monitored the functioning of various dealer selection boards keeping in mind the allegation of corruption;

(d) if so, the details of selection boards against whom the complaints were received by the Government during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) Based on the broad policy guidelines issued by the Ministry, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs.), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have framed their own detailed guidelines for selection of dealership/ distributorship of petroleum products. As per the guidelines framed by OMCs, selection of the candidates for dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products is done by independent selection committees consisting of senior officers of the Corporation. Out of 100 marks, approximate 90% marks are awarded on verifiable objective criteria, based on production of documents by the candidate, such as capability to provide land, infrastructure, finance, educational qualification, age, etc. Approximate 10% of marks are awarded on subjective criteria such as personality, knowledge of the petroleum trade, communication skill, etc. The selection is done in a transparent manner and the results including parameter-wise marks obtained by all the candidates are displayed on the notice board and are also put on the website of the concerned OMCs.

Further, the selection guidelines contain provisions for grievance redressal system where each and every complaint is registered and examined by a senior officer appointed by the competent authority. The complaints having prima-facie merit are investigated and complainants are advised to furnish material, if any, to substantiate their allegations. Complaints are disposed off by way of a speaking order and a copy of the same is given to all concerned. In case of established complaints action is taken by the OMCs which includes re-advertisement, re-interview, cancellation of selection process, initiation of disciplinary action against erring officials of the Corporation, etc. The State-wise details of the complaints against selection process received by OMCs during the last three years are available with the Director (Marketing) of the OMCs.

Revival of Jute Mills

2303. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of those jute mills whose revival and restructuring proposals have been referred to Board of Industrial and Financial Restructure (BIFR); and

(b) the recommendation of BIFR in regard to those mills and the current status of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Restructuring and revival proposals in respect of 19 Jute Mills including 16 in the private sector and 3 in the public sector have been referred to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(b) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Details of Mills referred to BIFR

Sl.No.	Name of Mill	Recommendation of BIFR	Status of mill Running/ not running
1	2	3	4
Private Sector			
1.	Agarpara	Scheme sanctioned by BIFR	Running
2.	Angus	Scheme under consideration of BIFR	Running
3.	Baranagore	Scheme under consideration of BIFR	Running
4.	Calcutta	Scheme sanctioned by BIFR	Running
5.	Caledonian	Scheme sanctioned by BIFR	Running
6.	Ganges	Scheme sanctioned by BIFR	Running
7.	Delta	Scheme under consideration of BIFR	Running
8.	Meghna	Not available	Running
9.	Vijay Shree	Scheme sanctioned by BIFR	Running
10.	New Central	Scheme sanctioned by BIFR	Running

1	2	3	4
11.	Shree Gourisankar	Scheme sanctioned by BIFR	Running
12.	Empire	Not available	Running
13.	Kanknarrah	Scheme sanctioned by BIFR	Running
14.	Konark	Not available	Running
15.	Nellimarla	Scheme sanctioned by BIFR	Running
16.	JK	Scheme under consideration of BIFR	Running
Public Sector			
17.	National	Winding up order of BIFR was set aside by AAIFR	Not operational
18.	Kinnison	Winding up order of BIFR was set aside by AAIFR	Not operational
19.	Khardah	Winding up order of BIFR was set aside by AAIFR	Not operational
20.	Alexandra	Winding up order of BIFR was set aside by AAIFR	Not operational
21.	Union	Winding up order of BIFR was set aside by AAIFR	Not operational
22.	RBHM	Winding up order of BIFR was set aside by AAIFR	Not operational

[English]

Trade Fair for Handicraft Item

2304. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:
SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:
SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to provide impetus to exports of handicraft items, the State Government of Orissa has requested the Union Government for organizing International Trade Fair annually; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal, *inter-alia* indicating the time-frame within it would be agreed to and a decision conveyed to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Madam.

(b) Ministry of Commerce has reported that a proposal of Government of Orissa for organizing International Trade Fairs at Bhubaneswar, Orissa and participation in International Fairs abroad under Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme for 3 years was considered by the Department of Commerce. The proposal for organizing International Trade Fair at Bhubaneswar and participation in two international trade fairs abroad during the 1st year (2009-10) has been approved with MAI assistance of 63.80 lakhs. The 1st installment of Rs. 25.52 lakhs being 40% of the approved

grant has already been released to the Government of Orissa.

Opening of Cotton Procurement Centres

2305. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:
SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has made a request for opening additional procurement centres at Nuapada, Parlakhemundi of Gajapati district and Digapahandi of Ganjam district, to provide more cotton procurement centres and help the local farmers; and

(b) if so, the action plan devised by the Union Government to intensify procurement of cotton by opening additional procurement centres and help the beleaguered farmers of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) With a view to intensify procurement of cotton in the State to help the cotton farmers and avoid distress sales, the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) open the procurement centres in a strategic manner, as and when required, which cover kapas arrivals of almost 90%. During current cotton season 2009-10, since the kapas prices at most of the places are ruling MSP, the intensity of MSP operations has been less as compared to last year. However, with a view to help the cotton farmers in avoiding distress sales, the cel shall remain in the market till the last day of arrivals.

[*Translation*]

Import of Fertilizers

2306. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued the instructions to the State Governments for importing DAP fertilizers directly by the States;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to provide the sufficient amount to the State Governments for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Governments are facing inconvenience in importing the phosphatic fertilizers on time;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Union Government proposes to provide DAP and other phosphatic fertilizers to States in adequate quantity in consistent with prior arrangement; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (g) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/ de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilizers at State level. State Governments are responsible for distribution of fertilizers within the State.

State Governments were advised as far back as May, 2007 to nominate a State Institutional Agency to place firm orders with payment equivalent to MRP minus dealers' margin, with Importers of DAP like M/s IFFCO, IPL etc. for import of de-controlled fertilizers, particularly DAP to meet the assessed requirement in each state. The advance payment made by State Marketing Federation would be realized through its sales. Department of Fertilizers has been facilitating the State Governments in ensuring availability of DAP. As a result, the availability in the states has been adequate. The State-wise cumulative availability and sales of DAP during 2009-10 (April, 2009 to February, 2010) is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Cumulative availability and sales of DAP during the year 2009-10 (April'09 to February'10)

State	DAP (Qty. in '000 MTs)	
	Availability	Sales
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	840.21	838.27
Karnataka	749.30	741.91

1	2	3
Kerala	28.79	28.78
Tamil Nadu	267.41	267.12
Gujarat	705.77	729.30
Madhya Pradesh	921.87	912.41
Chhattisgarh	205.62	205.69
Maharashtra	1258.30	1248.69
Rajasthan	582.50	576.16
Haryana	650.31	649.87
Punjab	795.00	793.59
Himachal Pradesh	2.65	2.65
Jammu and Kashmir	43.00	42.25
Uttar Pradesh	1540.82	1537.80
Uttarakhand	37.24	37.21
Bihar	387.40	386.91
Jharkhand	77.98	77.97
Odisha	217.17	210.45
West Bengal	437.76	434.65
Assam	22.32	22.31
All India	9799.47	9729.36

Complaints Regarding Sale of Spurious Fertilizers and Insecticides

2307. SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI:
SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAHAN:

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

(a) whether a large number of complaints were received from farmers and others regarding sale of spurious fertilizers and insecticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any policy for compensating the farmers in the event of losses due to use of such inputs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):
(a) to (e) The sale, manufacturing etc. of fertilizers are regulated under the provisions of Fertiliser (Control) Order, (FCO) 1985, an order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The specifications of various fertilizers have been laid down in Schedule of FCO, 1985. The Order prohibits manufacture and sale of fertilizers, which are not of prescribed standard.

The inspection of quality is a continuous process. There are 68 fertiliser quality control laboratories in the country to test the quality of fertilizers including the four laboratories of the Government of India namely Central Fertiliser Quality Control and Training Institute at Faridabad and three regional laboratories at Bomaby, Kalyani and Chennai. The State Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offenders in terms of provisions contained in FCO, 1985 including for violation, if any in the quality of fertilizers.

FDI in Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector

2308. SHRI IYARAJ SINGH:
DR. SANJAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has permitted 100 per cent FDI in the Petroleum and Natural Gas sector;

(b) if so, the details of those companies with 100 per cent FDI in this sector;

(c) whether this move is likely to adversely affect companies in the domestic sector; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of companies in the domestic sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to

hundred percent for all activities, other than refining, and including market study and formulation, investment/financing, setting up infrastructure for marketing in Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector is permissible through automatic route, subject to sectoral regulations. For the refining sector, FDI up to 49% in case of Public Sector Undertakings is permissible through Foreign Investment Promotion Board. However, FDI up to hundred percent in the refining sector is permitted through the automatic route in case of private companies.

(b) to (d) The Government of India is encouraging participation of the private sector, including foreign companies, in exploration, production and transportation net work for petroleum and natural gas in order to supplement the efforts of the National Oil Companies in meeting the rising demand of oil and gas. Exploration and production are capital intensive and high risk activities, requiring use of expensive state-of-the-art technologies and best management practices. Domestic companies have been operating in collaboration with foreign companies with desired success.

[English]

Rajdhani Express Train

2309. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to run Secunderabad Rajdhani Express train tri-weekly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Introduction of 2493/2494 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express (Tri-weekly) via Secunderabad has been announced in Rail Budget 2009-10. This train will provide additional tri-weekly Rajdhani Service for Delhi-Secunderabad passengers also.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Shivganga Express

2310. SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposes to provide halt at Gyanpur Road, Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh to Shivganga Express, which runs from Varanasi to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposed stoppage is likely to be provided; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The stoppage is not operationally feasible, at present.

[English]

Setting up of Sugar, Ethanol, Power Plant by HPCL

2311. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has taken over sick sugar mill at Sugauli, East Champaran in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company is in the process of establishing sugar, ethanol and power plant at these location; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has acquired two (2) sugar units at Sugauli in District - East Champaran and at Lauria in District - West Champaran, in Bihar, from the Government of Bihar.

(c) and (d) HPCL is establishing an integrated sugar, ethanol and co-gen power plant at Sugauli, which will have a crushing capacity of 3500 tonnes crushing per day along with 60 KLPD Distilliary unit and 20 MW Co-gen power plant.

Vacant Posts Under SC/ST Category

2312. SHRI SOMEN MITRA:
SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN:
SHRI RAMESH RATHOD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of group 'C' and 'D' posts are lying vacant in the reserved category (SC/ST/OBC/and Physically Handicapped) in Railways;

(b) whether the Railways propose to fill-up these vacancies through special drive; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) A Special Recruitment Drive has been launched for the backlog reserved vacancies of SCs/STs/OBCs existing as on 01.11.2008, as per the instructions received from Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (DOP&T). The details of backlog reserved Group 'C' and 'D' posts as on 01.11.2008 is as under:

Group	SC	ST	OBC
'C'	1762	1864	2679
D'	2241	2279	4043

Regarding backlog vacancies of Physically handicapped, a Special Recruitment Drive has been launched to fill up the backlog vacancies of 2377 in Group 'C' and 1811 in Group 'D' accruing since 1.1.1996 to 31.10.2008.

[*Translation*]

New Airport for Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor

2313. SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need of private airport of international level at Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a private company (Rajasthan Aviation Infrastructure) propose to build an airport of international level in Shahpura, Jaipur district;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the work of this airport is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) As

part of the Early Bird Projects under Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), prepared in consultation with respective State Governments, it was envisaged to develop an international airport between Amdavad and Dholera in Gujarat; Aerotropolis near Jaipur in Rajasthan; and an international airport in Uttar Pradesh. Government of India has received proposals from the State Government of Gujarat and State Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up of new Greenfield airports at Dholera, Gujarat and Jewar/Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh respectively. Further, Government of India has accorded 'in-principle' approval for setting up of new Greenfield airport at Viratnagar, Jaipur in Rajasthan to MIs Rajasthan Aviation Infrastructure (India) Limited under public use category for domestic operations. The Promoter has informed that the construction of airport at Viratnagar, Jaipur in Rajasthan will be started on completion of the necessary formalities with the State Government of Rajasthan.

Railway Stations

2314. DR. NIRMAL KHATRI:

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN:

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Railway Budget 2009-10 some railway stations were proposed to be developed as world class and model railway stations;

(b) if so, the work done so far in this direction; and

(c) the steps taken to develop the medical colleges and multi-functional complexes as announced in the aforesaid budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Railway Budget 2009-10 envisages development of about 50 world class stations and 375 Adarsh Stations.

With respect to world class stations, Master Plan has been prepared for New Delhi Railway Station. For Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal Mumbai and Patna, development of Master Plan and Feasibility Report has been taken up. Action has also been taken up for appointment of Consultants for *Secunderabad, Howrah, Anand Vihar (Phase-II) and Chennai Central.*

As regards Adarsh Stations, work of development has been taken up and 145 stations have already been developed as Adarsh Stations up to Feb. 2010.

(c) The process of setting up of Medical Colleges on railway land as announced in Railway Budget 2009-10 has already started including the appointment of a consultant and completion of various formalities in this regard.

67 stations were identified for development of Multi-functional Complexes. Whereas preliminary works have been taken up at all locations, construction has been taken up at 7 stations.

[English]

Ticket Checking in Trains

2315. SHRI S.D. SHARIQ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ticket checking exercise in running trains has decreased considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the number of passengers booked for travelling without ticket during each of the last three years; and

(d) the further efforts being made to intensify the ticket checking in running trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The number of checks against ticketless/irregular travel has increased. In the current year 2009-10 (upto January, 2010), 13.86 lakh checks were conducted as against 13.21 lakh checks during the corresponding period of the last year.

(c) The number of passengers booked for ticketless/irregular travel during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of passengers booked (in lakhs)
2007-08	67.20
2008-09	76.71
2009-10 (upto January, 2010)	74.22

(d) Regular and surprise checks are conducted in association with Railway Magistrates and the Police against ticketless travelling. These checks are intensified during peak rush/festival periods. This is an ongoing process. The persons so apprehended for ticketless/irregular travel are taken up under the provisions of the Railways Act. Campaigns are also launched through media to educate the public about the consequences of travelling without tickets. To deter ticketless/irregular travel, the minimum penalty has also been enhanced from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 250/- with effect from 01.07.2004.

Allotment of Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies

2316. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:
SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

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

(a) the details of petrol pumps and gas agencies opened in various parts of the country during the last two years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the details of those proposed to be allotted during the current year;

(c) the areas where the demand for opening more petrol pumps and gas agencies in the country;

(d) whether the Government propose to allot gas agency to the people living below poverty line; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) During the last two year *i.e.* 2007-08, 2008-09 and the current year *i.e.* April, 2009 to Jan, 2010, public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs.), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have allotted 3960 Retail Outlets (ROs) and 341 LPG distributorships.

(b) 739 ROs and 79 LPG Distributorships are proposed to be commissioned by OMCs during the current year *i.e.* February, 2010 to March, 2010.

(c) New retail outlets/LPG distributorships are set up by OMCs at identified locations based on surveys and feasibility studies. Locations found to be having

sufficient potential and which are economically viable are rostered in the State-wise Marketing Plans for setting up retail outlets/LPG distributorships.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal to allot gas agency to the people living below poverty line.

Shortage of Working Capital in FACT

2317. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

SHRI P.T. THOMAS:

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

(a) whether the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) is facing acute shortage of working capital;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken any steps to help FACT in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the FACT has requested to interest free loan of Rs. 450 crores;

(e) if so, the action taken by the government thereon;

(f) whether the FACT has submitted proposals for taking up joint venture projects with M/s Indian Oil Corporation;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether there is any proposal for setting up of new urea plant of Udyog mandal and the capacity expansion of complex fertilizers in Cochin division; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) to (e) FACT had accumulated losses of Rs. 506.28 Cr. as on 31.03.2005. During 2005.06, the Government approved a financial restructuring package to support the FACT involving the following measures:-

1. Waiver of all outstanding interests as on 31.03.2005 amounting to Rs. 85.77 crore and penal interest there on.

2. Conversion 50% of the outstanding GOI loan of Rs. 584.60 crore as on 31.03.2005, (*i.e.* Rs. 292.30 crore) in to equity capital.

3. Write off of the non-plan loan of Rs. 60 crore given for Voluntary Retirement scheme.

4. Write off of the balance outstanding GOI loan of Rs. 232.30 crore as on 31.03.2005 (Rs. 584.60-292.30-60 crore).

These measures assisted FACT to come out of the purview of Bureau of Financial Reconstruction. However, during the year 2006-07 the financial performance of FACT was seriously affected by an unprecedented increase in raw material prices. Therefore, the Government gave a one time grant of Rs. 200 Cr. to FACT in March 2008 to enable it to sustain its operations.

FACT had been seeking amendments to the concession policy for complex fertilizers to address to issue of under recoveries, besides requesting for an interest free loan of Rs. 450 Cr. towards working capital requirements. In this regard, the government has made necessary policy amendments regarding concession on complex fertilizers, inclusion of ammonium sulphate under subsidy regime, recognition of Sulphur as a nutrient under the subsidy regime and recognition of price of Nitrogen as per the cost incurred by the FACT. These measures are having a positive impact on the profitability and viability of FACT.

(f) and (g) A business model has been proposed by FACT for the formation of a Joint Venture between FACT and IOCL with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) holding majority share, for running the business of FEDO, an engineering and design consultation unit of FACT. FACT has been asked to consider the Joint Venture, without alienation of the FEDO assets, with approval of its Board of Directors.

(h) and (i) The Vision Plan prepared by FACT envisages setting up of a urea plant at Udyogamandal and capacity expansion of complex fertilizers. The Company is examining techno-economic viability and feasibility of the proposed projects.

Rail Link Between Amritsar and Rohtak

2318. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce a direct rail link between Amritsar and Rohtak;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no proposal to start a direct train between Amritsar and Rohtak due to operational and resource constraints.

Surat Airport

2319. SHRI C.R. PATIL:
SHRIMATI DARSHANA JARDOSH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an International Airport is being developed at Surat;

(b) if so, the progress made so far;

(c) the time by which it is likely to become functional;

(d) whether there is any plan to increase the number of flights from Surat airport to important places; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Madam. However, Surat airport has been upgraded to accommodate A-321 type of aircraft and is functional for domestic operations. These upgradation works include extension of runway from 1525 meters to 2250 meters, installation of Instrument Landing System (ILS), construction of new terminal building and new apron (to accommodate four A-321 type of aircraft).

(d) and (e) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-East region. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. At present, Alliance Air operates from this airport.

Closing of Main Runway of IGIA

2320. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main runway of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) would be closed for operation for about 6 months;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make this runway available for operation before Commonwealth Games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) M/s Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL) has proposed to undertake the upgradation of runway 28/10 at IGI Airport for which runway 28/10 is required to be closed for about 6 months. The last re-carpeting of runway was done by Airports Authority of India in year 1999-2000. Generally, resurfacing of runways is required every 6-8 years depending on traffic load and usage. Directorate General of Civil Aviation carried out inspection of the runway to assess the runway condition and it was concluded that runway needs major repairs. DIAL has also carried out assessment through experts and has also reported that sub-layer of the runway also need repairs.

(c) As per the plan, work will be completed by 20th September, 2010 *i.e.* before the Commonwealth Games.

Passenger Facilities at Airports

2321. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA:
SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is sharp decline in the standard of passenger facilities at the airports;

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

(c) the total number of complaints received by the Government in this regard particularly for quality of food served in the flights of State-owned airlines during the last six months; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon and also to improve the quality of food being served during flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) General complaints from passengers regarding passenger services like quality of food served, missing/lost baggage, refund of tickets etc. in airlines including State owned airlines are received from time to time which are examined and acted upon by the Government/airlines on case to case basis. 149 complaints in the year 2009 and 31 in 2010 (upto 16.02.2010) regarding various passenger facilities have been received. The minimum standard is ensured through local municipalities/health authority's regulations.

Safety Audits by DGCA

2322. SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL:
SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has increased the frequency of air safety checks in the country in the recent past;

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

(c) whether the cases of safety lapses have been noticed during 2009-10;

(d) If so, the details thereof, airline-wise;

(e) the action taken by the DGCA against each of such airlines during the said period for air safety lapses; and

(f) the mechanism in place with the DGCA to monitor air safety checks undertaken by various airlines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) makes annual programme for surveillance/safety checks and the same is displayed on the DGCA's website. The deficiencies observed are categorized depending upon the level of severity as Class I and Class II deficiencies. All the findings are discussed for appropriateness of the action taken.

(c) and (d) During the period from January 2009 to February 2010, 1414 inspections were carried out by DGCA in which 14 observations were classified as Class I deficiencies. Besides the surveillance checks, DGCA also carried out the safety audits during 2009. The number of cases of safety lapses noticed during the period from January to December 2009 airline wise are: NACIL (A) -101 level II deficiencies, NACIL (I)-3 level I deficiencies and 445 level II deficiencies, Alliance Air - 35 level II deficiencies, Air India Express - 82 level II deficiencies, Kingfisher Airlines - 190 level II deficiencies, Jet Airways - 225 level II deficiencies/Jet Lite - 58 level II deficiencies, Spice Jet-62 level II deficiencies, Indigo Airlines- 48 level II deficiencies, Go Airlines - 122 level II deficiencies, Paramount Airways - 48 level II deficiencies and 355 level II deficiencies, MDLR Airlines- 15 level II deficiencies, Blue Dart Aviation Ltd. - 1 level I deficiency and 152 level II deficiencies, Jagson Airlines - 6 level II deficiencies, Deccan Cargo. 11 level II deficiencies.

(e) The deficiencies observed by DGCA during the audit were forwarded to the concerned organisations for appropriate action.

(f) All the airlines carry out Internal Safety Audit and monthly surveillance checks. Report of such audit and surveillance checks are submitted to DGCA along with action taken by the organisations. The safety inspections by the operator are also examined during the safety checks by the DGCA officers.

Kharagpur and Gokulpur Railway Line

2323. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to double the Kharagpur-Gokulpur via Girimaidan railway line under Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Vacant Posts in AAI

2324. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no recruitment of technical staff in Airports Authority of India since 2007 and several posts are lying vacant which has caused increase of workload manifold with airports across the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Government to place adequate technical staff in airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Recruitment to various technical posts have taken place since 2007. Year-wise recruitments are as under:

2007	—	986
2008	—	200
2009	—	664

(c) Recruitment is a continuous process and is undertaken depending upon the staff requirements for various departments including technical department.

Loan for Freight Corridor Loan

2325. SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Japan has offered a soft loan of Rs. 26,124 crore (\$5.4 billion) for the dedicated railway freight corridor from Navi Mumbai to the National Capital; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Funding of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, near Mumbai to Dadri is being sought from Government of Japan through their Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP) Scheme of which assistance for Phase-1 (Rewari-Vadodara) is estimated at 405 billion Japanese Yen (about Rs. 21,000 Crores).

[*Translation*]

Increase in Bogies

2326. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether quite a fewer number of general bogies are attached to the trains on the North-Eastern railway route in proportion to the railway traffic; and

(b) if so, the steps likely to be taken by the Railways to increase the number of general bogies on this route for the convenience of the travellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Attachment of general class coaches in train services is done keeping in view the traffic pattern of different class of passengers and operational feasibility. Efforts have been made to provide adequate number of general class bogies in trains on the North Eastern Railway system.

(b) Some of the steps taken are:-

1. The number of general class coaches has been increased from four to six in the newly introduced trains except in special type trains like Rajdhani, Shatabdi trains etc.
2. New trains like Jan Sadharan, Janseva, Jannayak and Intercity trains with only general second class accommodation, meant for the travel by second class general passengers, have been introduced.
3. Existing train services have been augmented by more general class coaches.
4. Special trains are run and extra coaches are attached to clear extra rush of passengers during festivals, melas etc.

Allotment of LPG Agencies in U.P.

2327. SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh tenders have been invited by the Government for the allotment of additional LPG agencies in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these agencies are likely to be allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have issued notice inviting applications for selection of LPG distributors for establishing 331 LPG distributors in the State of Uttar Pradesh under the scheme Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) during current financial year.

The selection of LPG distributorships is made by OMCs themselves, in terms of laid down guidelines. Commissioning/opening of distributors involves Field Verification of Credentials of the selected candidate, construction of godown/sowroom and obtaining statutory clearances. It is therefore, not possible to indicate any time frame for commissioning/opening of LPG distributors, but every effort is made to do so as quickly as possible.

Alleged Irregularities in Trains

2328. SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO:
SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases brought to the notice of the Railways in which Train Ticket Examiners (TTEs) allowed the passengers to travel without tickets after allegedly taking bribe during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the measures taken to nab such officers alongwith the action taken against the guilty TTEs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Number of such cases brought to the notice of the Railways are as follows:

Year	No. of cases
2007	94
2008	86
2009	131
2010 (Upto January)	13

(b) Officers and Vigilance branch conduct regular checks. Guilty and delinquent officials are taken up under Railways Discipline & Appeal Rules.

[English]

Retirement Age of Heads of Tribunals

2329. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to bring uniformity in retirement age status, terms of office of Chairpersons/ Presidents and Members of Tribunals and other statutory;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VERRAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The proposal is under consideration.

Contact Zone at IGIA

2330. SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 'contact zone' has been set up at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi for passengers with special needs;

(b) if so, the details of such facilities; and

(c) the steps taken to set up such 'contact zone' at other airports in the country especially in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) To enhance travel experience of people with Restricted Mobility (PRM), Indira Gandhi International Airport is having Contact Zone at Terminal-1 and Terminal-2. These zones are areas manned by 'Customer Services Staff' and provides Wheel Chair free of charge. Through these contact zones, free baggage porters are provided to the PRM passengers.

(c) Contact zone is available at Bengalurur International Airport, Devenhalli. At all other operational airports, including small airports in Karnataka managed by Airports Authority of India, the office of the Terminal Manager provides facilities like wheel chair for PRM and assistance for unaccompanied minors.

Critical Care Ambulance Compartment in Trains

2331. SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN:
DR. K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have a proposal to attach a critical care ambulance compartment in long distance trains running to cater to the needs of sick passengers particularly the senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether some railway stations are being selected for providing dispensaries and medical facilities; and

(d) if so, the basis on which the railway stations are being selected for providing dispensaries and medical facilities on railway land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in which Ministry of Health & Family Welfare will develop health care infrastructural facilities along with Ministry of Railways on railway land which are not required by railways for operational purposes taking into account various relevant factors.

[Translation]

MRTP

2332. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI:
SHRI JAYARAM PANGI:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practice Commission (MRTPC) during the last three years;

(b) the number of cases disposed of during the said period;

(c) whether the MRTPC has received a number of complaints about malpractices by drug companies during the period; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission has since been dissolved with effect from 14.10.2009. By that time, during the last three years, it had received 1112 cases, out of which 835 cases were disposed of. Thereafter, 63 more cases have been disposed of by the Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) by December, 2009.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) A total number of 17 such complaints were received by the MRTP Commission out of which 3 complaints have already been disposed of. Remaining cases have been transferred to Competition Appellate Tribunal.

[English]

Corporate Scam

2333. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes the early warning system for detecting corporate scams to put into the backburner,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether listed public sector undertakings are kept out of purview of early warning system; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSEED): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Appointment of LPG/SKO/LDO Distributors

2334. SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointment process of distributors is pending for more than last one year in spite of the selection examination conducted by various oil companies for appointing LPG, petrol/ diesel/SKO/LDO distributors in the country including Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of places where the appointments are still pending, area-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to provide distributorship to second selected candidate in place of first selected candidate due to pendency of appointment process for more than one year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that as on 01.01.2010, 309, 1963 and 8 Letters of Intent (LoI) for LPG distributors, Retail Outlets (ROs) and SKO-LDO dealers respectively are pending for commissioning in the country including 17, 74 and 1 LoI for LPG distributors, ROs and SKO-LDO dealers respectively in the State of Bihar due to various reasons such as non-availability of land, construction of godown, court cases/complaints, statutory clearances from various authorities, etc.

The State-wise/location-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of the OMCs concerned.

(d) and (e) OMCs have reported that the allotment of distributors/dealers to 2nd empanelled candidate is being done in the following cases:-

(i) 1st LoI holder is not showing any progress as per conditions stipulated in the LoI.

(ii) 1st LoI holder surrenders the LoI issued to him/her.

(iii) Cancellation of candidature of 1st LoI holder on establishing suppression of facts/wrong information submitted by him/her.

(iv) The death of 1st LoI holder.

[*English*]

Yatri Niwas at Kottayam

2335. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether considering the large number of pilgrims visiting Sabarimala every year, the Railways proposes to construct Yatri Niwas at Kottayam in Kerala;

(b) if so, the time by which these Yatri Niwas are likely to be constructed;

(c) whether the Railways have any plan to construct the Yatri Niwas under Public Private Partnership (PPP) scheme in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of Fertilizers

2336. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the required quantity of chemical fertilizers are not being supplied to various States of the country;

(b) if so, the total requirement of States pending with the Union Government for supply of chemical fertilizers;

(c) whether there is lack of coordination with other Ministries like Railways and Shipping for timely transportation of fertilizers to States; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) and (b) Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government. All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, SSP and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilisers at State level. State Governments are responsible for distribution of fertilizers within the State.

The State-wise cumulative requirement (demand), availability and sales of major fertilizers like Urea, DAP

MOP and Complex fertilizers during 2009-10 (April' 09 to February' 10) is given in the Statement enclosed. As can be seen, the availability of urea, DAP and MOP has been adequate. There has been a little tightness in availability of complex (NPK) fertilizers because of low level of indigenous production and also as these can not be imported as of now.

(c) and (d) Fertilizers are being dispatched from ports and plants in close coordination with the Ministry of Railways. Ministry of Shipping is providing berthing priority/ousting priority to vessels carrying imported fertilizers, as and when required.

Statement

Cumulative Availability of Fertilisers During the Year 2009-10 (April'09 to February'10)

8.3.10

QTY IN (000) MTs

State	Urea			DAP			MOP			COMPLEX		
	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales	Requirement	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	2650.00	2368.53	2360.17	950.00	840.21	838.27	610.00	606.51	555.95	2015.00	1732.61	1678.26
Karnataka	1308.00	1283.59	1267.57	785.00	749.30	741.91	485.00	606.79	556.39	1065.00	969.16	941.91
Kerala	157.20	148.78	147.27	33.88	28.79	28.78	148.00	156.91	146.92	179.75	201.83	193.66
Tamil Nadu	1050.00	921.08	920.01	406.00	267.41	267.12	545.00	515.58	474.97	372.00	585.84	579.60
Gujarat	1790.00	1699.26	1688.21	775.00	729.30	705.77	219.00	274.45	254.39	441.00	386.51	366.39
Madhya Pradesh	1524.39	1542.77	1521.40	850.00	921.87	912.41	120.00	158.85	131.21	355.00	213.78	208.02
Chhattisgarh	522.50	479.00	472.08	174.30	205.69	205.62	83.15	96.09	76.26	136.50	97.19	89.57
Maharashtra	2355.00	2172.37	2163.49	1174.20	1258.30	1248.369	521.90	685.41	635.03	1310.00	1001.44	978.65
Rajasthan	1457.00	1276.51	1258.16	635.00	582.50	576.16	34.00	55.10	39.41	133.80	77.82	77.19
Haryana	1915.00	1694.22	1689.26	692.00	650.31	649.87	50.00	90.08	89.99	44.00	43.11	41.12
Punjab	2450.00	2265.83	2264.28	825.00	795.00	793.59	89.00	107.93	106.03	55.00	53.65	51.02
Himachal Pradesh	65.00	53.99	51.48	0.00	2.65	2.65	6.00	5.24	5.24	47.50	35.05	34.22
Jammu and Kashmir	125.31	74.75	74.30	75.11	43.00	42.25	24.41	18.11	18.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	5075.00	4940.38	4902.36	1640.00	1540.82	1537.80	280.00	327.42	318.17	800.00	833.17	708.36
Uttarakhand	200.00	218.03	216.52	37.00	37.24	37.21	12.50	3.53	3.52	45.00	29.40	29.21
Bihar	1790.00	1591.59	1584.75	445.00	387.40	386.91	205.00	226.27	223.57	305.00	251.68	249.87

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jharkhand	205.00	147.90	144.01	115.00	77.98	77.97	15.00	17.27	17.26	50.00	68.30	65.26
Orissa	525.00	442.23	424.36	216.00	217.17	210.45	162.79	131.20	111.40	284.55	215.76	206.42
West Bengal	1189.13	1041.88	1015.32	465.10	437.76	434.65	392.10	496.97	473.76	732.50	805.73	798.75
Assam	241.80	213.17	206.93	32.40	22.32	22.31	116.90	37.63	88.91	5.50	6.47	6.47
All India	26726.94	24661.42	24453.50	10367.01	9799.47	9729.36	4150332	4685.54	4343.52	8124.26	7631.86	7330.62

Laying of Gas Pipelines

2337. SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) has a proposal to lay gas pipelines to supply gas to major cities in Southern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also considering to provide LPG to industrial units in those cities through the proposed gas pipelines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The details of the pipelines are as below:

1. Dabhol - Bangaluru pipeline would have a capacity of 16 million metric standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd), This pipeline would pass through Ratnagiri & Kolhapur districts of Maharashtra, and Belgaum, Dharwad, Haveri, Davanagere, Chitradurga, Tumkur & Bangalore districts of Karnataka. This pipeline is planned in phases synchronizing with availability of gas and is targeted to be completed during 2011-12. Revalidation, Survey and Right of Use (ROU) acquisition work is under progress.
2. Kochi - Kanjirikkod - Bangaluru/Mangalore pipeline: The pipeline would have a carrying capacity of 16 mmscmd. This pipeline would

pass through Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Mallapuram, Kozhikode, Kannur & Kasaragod districts of Kerala, Coimbatore, Erode, Salem & Dharmapuri districts of Tamil Nadu and Dakshina Kannada, Chamarajnagar, Mandya & Bangaluru districts of Karnataka. The source of this pipeline is Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal at Kochi, which is expected to be ready by March 2012; the pipeline completion will be synchronized accordingly. Revalidation, Survey and ROU acquisition work is under progress.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. However, it is intended to provide natural gas to industrial units through the proposed pipelines.

[Translation]

Overcharging Passenger Fare

2338. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are charging higher fare from passengers heading towards Haridwar for 'Mahakumbh'

(b) if so, whether extra facilities are being provided to the passengers on account of charging higher fare;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for charging higher fare?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. A nominal Mela surcharge of Rs. 3/- for Second Class, Rs. 5/- for Sleeper Class, Rs. 7/- for AC Chair Car/AC 3-Tier, Rs. 10/- for First Class/AC 2-Tier and Rs. 15/- for 182

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Rs. 38.61 Crores have been spent in providing the following extra facilities:-

- construction of new Booking Office at Haridwar, Motichur and Rishikesh
- construction of roads and pathways in Jhanda ground
- construction of enquiry counters and security towers
- closed circuit television cameras at Haridwar and Rishikesh
- Yard re-modelling at Haridwar, Jwalapur, Pathri and Aithal
- increase in length of existing Platforms and provision of new Platforms
- extension of Foot Over Bridge at Haridwar
- construction of Railway Over Bridge at Laksar
- proper illumination and adequate water facilities in the station area

In addition, for the Haridwar Mahakumbh, Railways have arranged for 13 additional PRS counters and 58 additional UTS counters at Haridwar, Rishikesh, Jwalapur and Motichur. 33 special trains are also running to and from Haridwar, and about 500 berths/seats are being provided by augmenting trains to facilitate Kumbh Mela Passengers.

(d) Does not arise.

Agreement between SAIL and KEIC

2339. KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Korea Export Insurance Corporation (KEIC);

(b) if so, whether this MoU has been approved by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether KEIC has been trading with SAIL prior to this agreement;

(e) if so, the areas and the products thereof;

(f) the trade policy of SAIL and KEIC in future; and

(g) the benefits likely to be accrued through this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. An MoU has been signed between the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Korea Export Insurance Corporation (KEIC) on 25th January, 2010. The MoU has been approved in the company as per the delegated powers.

(d) and (e) KEIC is not a trading organization, but it is a Governmental agency of Republic of Korea that promotes Korean Business entities, exports, overseas investments and other overseas businesses through its diverse programmes including its insurance and guarantee products. KEIC functions along the lines of the Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) in India.

Prior to signing of MoU, SAIL had approached KEIC to provide guarantee for arranging buyer's credit at competitive interest rates from international banks for financing Blast Furnace Project of IISCO Steel Plant, SAIL under their expansion programme. The technology & equipment for Blast Furnace Project are being supplied by pasco, Korea.

(f) and (g) SAIL and KEIC, under the MIOU have expressed their willingness to promote trade and/or investment and other forms of economic cooperation among themselves in their respective activities. For import of technology and equipment from Korea, SAIL will be able to get buyers' credit at competitive interest rates through the guarantee offered by KEIC to international banks.

[English]

Ship Breaking Industry

2340. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:
SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:
SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by the Government to improve scientifically the ship breaking facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to train the labourers involved in ship breaking keeping in view the environmental and occupational hazards;

(d) whether the Government is considering levying fee from the ship owners for the welfare of labourers and their families; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of 17-02-2006, a Central Technical Committee (CTC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests was set up to regulate various activities of ship breaking industries. The CTC gave its recommendations touching all aspects of ship breaking. The recommendations are operative by virtue of the Supreme Court Order dated 6-9-2007. Pursuant to the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, a series of measures have been taken for attenuating the hazards of ship breaking and for improving the working conditions at ship-breaking yards. Consequently, detailed protocols and procedures have been put in place for scrutinizing ships arriving for breaking and for handling and disposing of hazardous materials and wastes. The provisions of existing rules take adequate care of the hazards of ship breaking. Further, as and when any shortcoming are noticed, remedial steps are taken.

(d) and (e) Gujarat Maritime Board is running the Safety training and labour welfare institute at Alang. A total of 54,277 workers have been trained into the aspects of environment, safety and occupational hazards. It is mandatory to engage trained labours by the ship recyclers. As such, there is no proposal under consideration for levying fee from the ship owners.

Revenue Earned Through Advertisement

2341. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of revenue generated through advertising by the Railways during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to develop structures through public private partnership to generate additional funds through advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Earnings generated through advertisement during the last three years are as under:

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Amount (Crores of Rs.)	101	153	157

(b) The prevalent system of earning through commercial advertising is through the first cum first serve basis in innovative areas and through the tender process in established areas. The Railways has been able to attract private partnership on certain passenger amenity items *e.g.* display boards, water vending machines, on board infotainment system, battery operated vehicles for disabled and aged passengers etc, wherein the party providing these amenities has the rights of advertising on them. This is a continuous process and the Railways is making all efforts to substantially increase earnings through Public Private Partnership.

Entrance Test for Law Graduates

2342. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for law graduates to clear an entry-level test to get a licence to practice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) final decision likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) (a) to (c) The Bar Council of India, a statutory body, has a proposal to conduct Bar Entry test. This matter is before the Supreme Court of India vide SLP (Civil) No. 22337 of 2008-Bar Council of India Vs. Bonnie Foi Law college. Final decision in this regard depends upon the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter.

[Translation]

Difference in Prices of Urea and DAP

2343. SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production and consumption of urea and DAP in the country have been estimated;

(b) if so, the difference in the prices of urea and DAP during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether there has been shortfall in the production of fertilizers during the last year;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) The details of production and consumption of Urea and DAP in the country for the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given below:-

(Lakh MT)

Product	Production		Consumption	
	Year			
	2007-08	2008-09	2007-08	2008-09
Urea	198.58	199.22	261.67	266.47
DAP	42.11	29.93	75.55	99.04

(b) The weighted average C&F price of imported Urea and DAP in US\$ per MT during 2007-08 to 2009-10 (upto Feb. 2010) are given below:

(Lakh MT)

Year	weighted average C&F price of imported urea in US\$ per MT		weighted average C&F price of imported DAP in US\$ per MT
	From Oman	Through STE	
2007-08	180.10	344.00	489.15
2008-09	232.79	528.03	1091.87
2009-10	166.56	276.96	365.90

The MRP of DAP has been Rs. 9350/MT and that of Urea Rs. 4830/MT since 2002. This price is upto

31.3.2010. The MRP of urea has been revised to Rs. 5310/MT w.e.f. 1.4.2010.

(c) to (e) The production of fertilizers during 2008-09 was 108.70 Lakh MT of Nitrogen & 34.65 Lakh MT of Phosphate as against the target of 118.98 Lakh MT of Nitrogen & 44.34 Lakh MT of Phosphate respectively. The production of both nitrogen & phosphatic fertilizers during 2008-09 was less than target mainly due to constraints in supply of natural gas, unscheduled shutdowns and shortage of imported phosphoric acid and ammonia.

Government has been encouraging production of urea in the country to achieve self-sufficiency. The Government has announced a new policy on 4th September 2008 to attract new investments. The policy is based on Import Parity Price (IPP) benchmark with suitable floor & ceiling prices aiming to revamp, expansion and revival of existing urea units and setting up of Greenfield projects. The policy aims to substantially bridge the gap between consumption and domestic production of urea in next five years subject to adequate availability of gas at reasonable prices. Government has taken initiatives to encourage indigenous production in P&K sector by allowing import parity price to the indigenous manufacturers of DAP. Government has also reduced the custom duty on phosphoric acid from 5% to 2% to enable indigenous manufacturers of P&K fertilizers to procure this important input at reasonable price. Government is also encouraging private sector and public sector companies to explore possibilities for joint ventures abroad to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertilizer inputs to P&K sector.

RoBs in Madhya Pradesh

2344. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details in regard to construction of road over bridges, rail under bridges and level crossings in various parts of Madhya Pradesh during the last three years alongwith the stipulated time for their completion;

(b) the details of proposals regarding which construction work is yet to be started alongwith the reasons for delay in starting the work;

(c) the details of new proposals pertaining to the said State which are under the consideration of the Railways;

(d) whether cost sharing mechanism for the said projects are likely to be simplified; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) and (e) The cost sharing mechanism has been working satisfactorily till now.

Doubling of Gorakhpur and Darbhanga Railway Line

2345. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for doubling of Gorakhpur- Darbhanga *via* Muzaffarpur railway line during the current five year plan; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There is no such proposal for doubling of Gorakhpur-Darbhanga via Muzaffarpur.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Shortage of Racks

2346. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are facing shortage of racks;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total number of racks provided to various States, particularly to salt industry of Gujarat during the last three years, month-wise;

(c) whether the Railways propose to provide a larger number of racks per month to Gujarat for loading salt; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) There were 18728 outstanding indents for rakes on Indian Railways as on 1.3.10. In the months of January 2010 and February 2010, total 24242 and 22540 rakes respectively (provisionally) were loaded on Indian Railways.

State-wise information for rake loading is not maintained. During January 2010 and February 2010, 128 and 141 rakes (provisionally) were loaded respectively with salt on Indian Railways. This includes salt loading from Gujarat and Rajasthan States. Monthwise details of salt loading from Western Railway, covering Gujarat state, for last three years are as under:

Month	Edible Salt			Industrial Salt			Total		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
January	108	64	67	14	24	21	122	88	88
February	92	69	140	15	18	14	107	87	154
March	149	112	111	26	26	19	175	138	130
April	147	135	110	13	25	25	160	160	135
May	93	74	71	21	25	25	114	99	96

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
June	101	38	84	21	30	20	122	68	104
July	88	75	94	24	26	15	112	101	109
August	61	118	140	23	22	21	84	140	161
September	93	89	58	18	27	25	111	116	83
October	90	90	80	36	24	18	126	114	98
November	68	71	54	21	20	18	89	91	72
December	40	117	81	21	13	20	61	130	101
Total	1130	1052	1090	253	280	241	1383	1332	1331

(c) and (d) Supply of rakes for loading is a continuous process. During the current financial year upto January 2010, Railways incremental freight loading was 7.29% more than corresponding period of last year. Depending upon the availability of rakes, operational feasibility, demand for traffic moving in higher priority and also demand for essential commodities, rakes are supplied for loading of various commodities, including salt.

Investment in Airport Infrastructure

2347. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the outlay earmarked for investment in airport infrastructure and utilised during 2009-10;

(b) whether any additional allocation has been made during the middle part of the year to augment and develop small airports of the tier-II metropolitan cities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) Estimates 2009-10 for airport infrastructure. An amount of Rs. 2018 crores has been utilized upto January 2010 in the financial year 2009-10.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

Allotment of LPG Distributorship

2348. SHRI BAL KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG distributorship allotment stood stagnated for the years ending 31st March, 2007 and 31st March, 2008;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether LPG customers increased in millions during the last three years;

(d) if so, whether LPG distributorship have not been allotted as per with increase of LPG customers in the country;

(e) whether the Government allot more LPG distributorships in rural areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have commissioned 114 and 77 LPG distributors respectively in the country during the years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

(c) and (d) As on 01.02.2010, OMCs were operating 9557 LPG distributors in the country. Through these

distributors, OMCs are serving about 1141.5 lakh LPG customers in the country. OMCs have released 239.82 lakh new LPG connections in the country during the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and between April, 2009 to January 2010.

Release of new LPG connections follows the setting up of LPG distributors. New distributors are planned in an existing market based on the availability of slack with existing distributor and in new locations based on the assessment of refill sale potential which should be sufficient to sustain operation of an independent LPG distributor.

(e) and (f) As per the "Vision 2015" adopted for LPG sector in 2009, a target has been given to the OMCs to raise the over-all LPG population coverage to 75% in the country by releasing 5.5 crore new LPG connections by 2015 especially in rural areas and uncovered areas.

In order to increase rural penetration and to cover remote as well as low potential areas, a new scheme namely, "Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana" (RGGLVY) for establishing small size LPG distribution agencies for locations having potential of 600 or more refill sales per month has been formulated.

The scheme has been launched on 16.10.2009 and subsequently advertisement inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been released by OMCs in 8 States where the reach of LPG is very low namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal covering 1266 locations.

The setting up of LPG distributors under this scheme will now be a continuous process till all parts of the country deficient in LPG were covered by LPG network.

[Translation]

Hawkers at New Delhi Railway Station

2349. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that hawkers have illegally encroached upon the footpaths near New Delhi Railway Station and Paharganj Reservation Centre premises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to remove such encroachment;

(d) whether any time frame has been fixed by the Railways to remove this encroachment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Encroachments by hawkers on the footpaths near New Delhi Railway Station and Paharganj reservation centre premises, are located outside railway land and removal thereof is the responsibility of the State Government.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Dadri-Bawana-Nangal Gas Pipeline Project

2350. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Dadri-Bawana-Nangal Gas pipeline project;

(b) whether the pipeline would adversely affect thousand of acres of fertile cultivable land and threat of thickly populated areas that it will pass through; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Dadri-Bawana Section length 94.5 km of Dadri-Bawana-Nangal Gas Pipeline Project has been commissioned and gas has been charged in the system on 05.01.2010. As regards Bawana-Nangal Section (length 510 km) of the pipeline, its status is as follows:-

Around 43% physical progress has been achieved. All tendering packages have been awarded. Delivery of line pipe has been started. Pipes and other materials are progressively being made available at the site. Construction work in this section has been started. 3 km of Right of Use grading, 1 km of pipe stringing and 0.7 km of welding has been completed.

(b) and (c) Laying of the pipeline will not affect the fertile cultivable land, because the land is restored to its original state for cultivation. There is no threat to the populated area through which the pipeline is passing, as the same is pressure tested at 1.4 times the maximum

allowable operating pressure and, further, higher thickness pipes are laid where the pipeline passes through populated areas complying to American Standard of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) 31.8 requirement.

Uniformity for Retirement Age of Judges

2351. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no any uniformity for retirement age of Supreme Court and High Court Judges;

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

(c) the steps taken to bring uniformity for the retirement age of aforesaid Judges?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The age of retirement of the Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts is governed by the provisions of articles 124 and 217 of the constitution of India respectively. Clause (2) of article 124 provides that every Judge of the Supreme Court shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-five years. Similarly, Clause (1) of article 217 provides that every Judge of a High Court shall hold office until he attains the age of sixty-two years. At present there is no proposal under consideration of the government to bring uniformity in the age of retirement of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court.

Amendment in Sexual Violence Law

2352. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some women's groups, organizations and individuals have urged the Union Government to amend the sexual violence law;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Paradeep-Haldia Pipeline Project

2353. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pipeline project from Paradeep to Haldia has been completed;

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

(c) the details of the projected time by which Paradeep Oil Refinery is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The pipeline project of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) from Paradip to Haldia has been completed in December, 2008, and currently, the pipeline is in operation.

The project consists of installation of crude oil handling facilities at Paradip Port including laying 48" diameter, 20 kms offshore pipeline, development of tank farm at Paradip consisting of 15x60,000 kL crude oil storage tanks and laying 30" diameter, 330 km long crude oil pipeline from Paradip to HBCPL Haldia.

The pipeline is facilitating transportation of crude oil to Haldia and Barauni refineries in an efficient and cost-effective manner compared to the earlier system of receipt of crude oil through the Haldia Dock Complex.

(c) Board of Directors of IOCL have accorded investment approval to the 15 MMTPA Paradip Refinery project in February, 2009 with a progressive completion and stabilization schedule from March, 2012 to November, 2012.

[Translation]

Incidents of Misbehaviour in Trains

2354. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents involving physical assaults on ordinary passengers, commuters and throwing away of their luggage etc. are being perpetrated by some mischievous elements particularly Kanwariyas in moving trains across the country have come to the notice of the Railways;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the current year, zone-wise;

(c) whether even RPF/GRP find it difficult to deal with such incidents; and

(d) if so, the further steps taken by the Railways to deal prevent reoccurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No incident of physical assault on passengers and throwing away of their luggage by Kanwariyas has been reported.

(d) Maintenance of law and order is a State subject and powers to investigate in IPC crimes are vested with Police. The State Police has a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Railways bear 50% cost of expenditure on the Government Railway Police.

However, Railway is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways by deploying its Railway Protection Force (RPF).

A co-ordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 20.1.2010 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi in which 7-point joint resolution was discussed and agreed to.

The details of resolution are given below:-

1. In respect of crimes on Railways, there should be well defined system of regular co-ordination between the Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Intelligence Bureau & State Home Secretaries to review the position.
2. Keeping above in view, there will be quarterly co-ordination meetings at the following levels:
 - (i) Railway Board & Ministry of Home Affairs' Intelligence Bureau.
 - (ii) General Managers of Zonal Railways and State Home Secretaries.
 - (iii) Chief Security Commissioners of Zonal Railways & Government Railway Police Chiefs of respective States.

3. As a train passes through more than one State, one of the States with maximum run will be designated as the coordinating State of that train.
4. An inter-state Police Team will be nominated for a group of trains running over the concerned States so that crimes get investigated in a better coordinated manner.
5. There will be a special drive to bust the organized gangs operating in trains and at Stations.
6. A better system will be evolved for rail crimes through networking for sharing passenger crime intelligence and special intelligence.
7. Special arrangements will be made for security of Rail Construction Projects through mutual agreements between the Railways and the State Government.

[English]

Purchase of Medicines

2355. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory under the purchase preference policy for Central Government Institutions and for Centrally funded schemes of the State Governments to give first preference to the Central Pharma Public Sector Undertakings and their subsidiaries for purchasing medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Pharma PSUs are not getting the desired purchase preference;

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the policy of exclusive purchase of 102 medicines from Pharma Central Pharma PSUs has not been fully implemented;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the action taken by the Government to implement the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A Statement containing the salient features of Purchase Preference Policy is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Central Pharma PSUs are generally getting the desired purchase preference.

(e) to (g) The policy of exclusive purchase of 102 medicines from Pharma CPSEs has been implemented.

Statement

Salient Features of Purchase Preference Policy (PPP)

- (i) Purchase Preference Policy (PPP) in respect of a maximum of 102 medicines would be applicable to purchases made by Ministries/ Departments, PSUs, Autonomous Bodies, etc. of the Central Government. It would be valid for a period of five years from 07.08.2006 to 06.08.2011.
- (ii) This would also be applicable to purchase of 102 drugs made by State Government under health programmes which are funded by Government of India. (e.g. purchases under National Rural Health Mission etc.)
- (iii) PPP will extend only to Pharma CPSEs and their subsidiaries (*i.e.* where Pharma CPSEs own 51% or above shareholding).
- (iv) It would be applicable to a maximum of 102 medicines. The list of 102 medicines would be reviewed and revised by Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals as and when required taking care not to include any item reserved for SSI units.
- (v) The purchasing Departments/PSUs/autonomous bodies etc. of the Central Government may invite limited tenders from Pharma CPSEs and their subsidiaries or purchase directly from them at NPPA certified/notified price with a discount upto 35%.
- (vi) The purchasing departments would purchase from Pharma CPSEs and their subsidiaries subject to their meeting Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) norms as per Schedule 'M' of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules. If no Pharma CPSE is forthcoming to supply these 102 medicines, the purchasing departments would be at liberty to purchase from other manufacturers.

(vii) If the Pharma CPSEs or their subsidiaries which have the benefit of PPP, fail to perform as per the purchase order, they would be subject to payment of liquidated damages or any other penalty included in the contract.

(viii) The medicines covered under Drug & Price Control Order (DPCO) would be supplied at the rates fixed by National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) rates minus discount up to 35 per cent.

(ix) In case of medicines not covered under DPCO, prices would be got certified from NPPA, only for the limited purpose of supply to Central Government Departments and their Public Sector Undertakings, autonomous bodies etc. On the certified price, Pharma CPSEs and their subsidiaries would provide discount up to 35%.

(x) The Purchase Preference Policy (PPP) as contained in Department of Public Enterprises O.M. No. DPE13(12)/2003-Fin.Vol.II dated 18.07.05 would not be applicable to Pharma CPSEs.

Seepage of Crude Oil from the Oil Wells

2356. SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether seepage of crude oil from the oil wells run by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) cause damage to many hectares of agriculture land in the Sivasagar district of Assam;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken by the ONGC in this regard;

(c) whether Government has any plan to provide financial assistance to those farmers whose agriculture land damaged due to the seepage do crude oil; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No major seepage of crude oil from the wells of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in the Sivasagar district of Assam has been reported. However, due to old condition of the pipelines installations

and miscreant activities some leakage do occur which are promptly attended to and the spillage over land surface is cleaned. During the current year 2009-10, around 6.5 hectares of paddy and other crops affected due to leakage of pipelines.

ONGC has already undertaken to revamp Lakwa-Lakhmani installations under Assam Renewal Plan-Group-A at an awarded cost of Rs.2378.86 Crores on 17.03.2009. The EDC of the project is 16.03.2013. Group-B&C for Geleki and Rudrasagar/Jorhat are under planning stage.

Further, GCS-I&II of Rudrasagar has also been revamped. Replacements of old pipelines are regularly done as per requirement.

(c) and (d) ONGC pays compensation to the affected farmers through District Pollution Cell. Sivasagar. In some cases, payment of damage compensation directly made by in-house committee of ONGC as per approved Govt.rates.

During the current financial year, an amount of Rs. 7,37,9501-was paid to 140 affected farmers.

Production of Oil in Assam

2357. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total investment and production of Oil India Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in Assam Oil fields during the last three years; and

(b) the details of allotment of new blocks in the North Eastern Region to these companies during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The investment by ONGC and OIL in Assam during last three years is as under: However, the details of ONGC's and OIL's actual crude oil and natural gas production during the last three years from Assam is as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2006-2007	1665.77
2007-2008	2213.90
2008-2009	2429.03

Year	Oil Production (MMT)	Gas Production (MMSCM)
2006-07	4.438	2509.18
2007-08	4.391	2575.55
2008-09	4.691	2513.62

(b) During last three years three blocks have been awarded to OIL and one Block has been awarded to ONGC in the North Eastern Region.

RoB in Jabalpur Rail Division

2358. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rail over bridges under Jabalpur Rail Division of West Central Railways which have been declared dangerous by Railway Security and Review Committee since the year 2005-06 and till date;

(b) the number of rail over bridges which have been repaired so far based on such recommendation;

(c) whether the Railways have formulated any plan to replace said bridges with new rail over bridges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. There is no bridge in Jabalpur Division of West Central Railway, which has been declared dangerous by Railways.

(b) to (d) not arise.

[Translation]

Privatization of Airports

2359. SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has privatized the functioning of Patna (Bihar) and Delhi Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are some proposals for privatization of some more airports in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the employees of Airports Authority of India recently went on an indefinite strike; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The operation, management and development of IGI Airport, New Delhi has been given to Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL). It is a Joint Venture company with Airports Authority of India holding 26% equity and the balance 74% equity is held by the strategic Joint Venture Partner namely M/s GMR Consortium. The Airport at Patna is managed by Airports Authority of India.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

15 Point Programme

2360. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of 15 point programme formulated for the welfare of minorities;

(b) whether any district level committee related to this programme is functioning in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any review has been conducted regarding the working of district level committee under 15 point programme; 651

(d) if so, whether the Government has initiated any further measures to make these committees more effective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities was

launched in June, 2006. It envisages location of certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration areas. It provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for minorities. State-wise targets for schemes included in the programme which are amenable to earmarking for minorities are fixed every year. As provided in the programme, 24 State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have constituted State and District Level Committees under the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities and the progress of implementation is reviewed by the Committees. At the Central level, the progress of implementation is reviewed on half-yearly basis by a Committee of Secretaries and then reported to the Union Cabinet.

(d) and (e) To make the State and District Level Committees more effective, the Government has now amended the guidelines of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities to include Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) in these Committees. The amended guidelines are available on the Ministry's website: www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

[English]

Passenger Facilities at Bahraich Railway Station

2361. SHRI KAMAL KISHOR COMMANDO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the Bahraich Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh is lacking basic passenger amenities and is also in shabby condition;

(b) if so, the action being contemplated by the Railways in this regard; and

(c) the details of basis passenger amenities likely to be provided at this station and other stations pertaining to Bahraich district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Bahraich is a 'B' category station which has already been developed under Modern and Model station schemes. All passenger amenities as per norms have been provided at the station.

(c) Railways do not maintain information district-wise.

Acquisition of Urea Fertilizer Units by KRIBHCO

2362. DR. ANUP KUMAR SAHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Krishak Bharti Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO) had acquired the urea producing fertilizer units at Shahjahanpur, from a private company, through a Joint Venture;

(b) if so, the year in which the said company acquired and cost of acquisition.

(c) the net profit earned after acquisition by the JV company, year-wise;

(d) the share of the profit accrued to KRIBHCO during these years;

(e) whether the acquisition price has already been recovered; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) Yes, Madam. The urea-ammonia plant of *M/s.* Oswal Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (OCFL) at Shahjahanpur was acquired by *M/s.* KRIBHCO Shyam Fertilizer Limited (KSFL), a Joint Venture Company, in which KRIBHCO holds majority share.

(b) KSFL took over Shahjahanpur Plant of OCFL w.e.f. 18th January 2006. The fixed assets of the said plant were acquired at a consideration of Rs. 1900 Crore which was financed with a debt equity ratio of 2:1.

(c) The net profit earned (after payment of tax) after acquisition by the JV company year-wise is given as under:-

Description	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Net Profit (after payment of Tax)	3.41	3.76	0.57	(-39.87)

(d) to (f) It was envisaged at the time of acquisition that profits to KRIBHCO/dividends will accrue only after the first few years of operations. Accordingly, neither any profit has accrued to KRIBHCO during these years nor recovery of acquisition price has taken place.

Exploration in Cauvery Offshore Basin by ONGC

2363. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and other private companies have been resorting to exploration activities in Cauvery offshore basin for the past four decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these companies have resorted to deep water drilling;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total production of crude oil/natural gas achieved from this basin so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes Madam, ONGC's exploration activities in Cauvery Offshore commenced in 1964-66 when reconnaissance seismic surveys were carried out for the first time.

As on 1.1.2010, ONGC has acquired 93116 Line Kilo Metres (LKM) of 2D (32671 LKM in Shallow and 60445 LKM in Deep Water) and 3901 Square Kilo Metres of 3D (1822 SKM in Shallow and 2079 SKM in Deep Water) seismic data.

Under the PSC regime, 16 blocks have so far been awarded in Cauvery Offshore area, including 11 deep water blocks. The five (5) shallow water blocks have now been relinquished. Exploration activities are under progress in eleven deep water blocks (7 Blocks are operated by ONGC and 4 blocks are operated by RIL).

(c) and (d) The Companies ONGC and RIL have been carrying out deep water drilling in the deep water areas operated by them. ONGC has drilled four (4) deep water wells, till 1.1.2010 and RIL has also drilled four (4) deep water wells in the Block CY-DWN-2001/2.

(e) Under the PSC regime, crude oil is being produced from PY-3 field and gas is being produced from PY-1 field in Cauvery offshore. About 23 Million Barrels of Oil has been produced from PY-3 field and about 69 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter (MMSCM) gas has been produced from PY-1 field till 10th January, 2010.

Quality of Food at Railway Stations

2364. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received complaints regarding unhygienic/unbranded food items being sold at various Railway stations by flouting laid down norms of IRCTC and Railways particularly at Bhushawal Railway Station of Central Railways in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the number and nature of complaints receive by the Railways during the year 2009;

(c) whether the Railways have conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. Complaints have been received regarding sale of unhygienic/unbranded food at Railway Stations. Two complaints have been received regarding catering services at Bhusawal Railway station, pertaining to unauthorized hawking and over charging, both were investigated and fine of Rs. 5,000/- was imposed. Taking cognizance of Hon'ble MPs observations at Bhusawal station, a fine of Rs. 25,000/- was imposed on the licensee of the Food Plaza on account of deficiencies in services.

(b) 41 complaints have been received in the year 2009 by IRCTC regarding unhygienic/unbranded food at railway stations.

(c) Yes, Madam, all complaints are inquired into.

(d) and (e) Fines totaling Rs. 92,000/- have been imposed in 13 cases, warning have been issued in 16 cases in one case contract has been terminated and counseling have been done in 2 cases. Action is pending in the remaining 9 cases.

Runway Damage at IGIA

2365. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the potholes on the runway at IGI Airport, Delhi causing bumpy ride;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has conducted any survey in this regard and suggested repair of the runway;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether with the renovation work, the flight operations will be greatly affected at the airports;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which work on runway is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Directorate General of Civil Aviation has carried out inspection of runway 28/10 of IGI Airport on 19.2.2010 to assess the runway condition and it was concluded that runway needs major repair. M/s Delhi International Airport Private Limited (DIAL) has submitted proposal for re-construction of the runway.

(e) and (f) The work on runway 28/10 will not affect the operation as two runways *i.e.* 27/09 and 29/11 will be available for operation.

(g) The runway re-construction is planned to be completed by DIAL before the Commonwealth Games.

[Translation]

Screening of Baggage

2366. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the X-BIS security checking of registered baggage of passengers at the International Airport in Delhi is not done by any Government agency but by employees of the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL);

(b) if so, whether entrusting such a sensitive responsibility to the said company is justified from the security point of view;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes,

Madam. In-line Baggage Screening System has been installed at Terminal 10 and Terminal-2 where the X-BIS security screening of registered baggage is being carried out by Delhi International Airport Ltd. (DIAL) Security Staff. At Terminal 1-A, Baggage Screening is done by Air India Staff on Stand alone X-BIS upon the directions of BCAS as per prescribed specifications. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has approved that in-line screening of hold baggage to be transported by an aircraft operator from the airports in India, shall be carried out by trained and SeAS certified screeners of respective airport operator or NACIL or their Joint Venture at airports having in-line baggage Inspection System.

(d) In order to meet the increased requirement of the screeners Ministry of Civil Aviation has delegated powers to impart training and certifying screeners to National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL), adhering to the norms and standards prescribed by BCAS.

[English]

Rail Line between Kalyan to Puri

2367. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land acquisition process for the entire railways track from Kalyan-Ahmednagar and Ahmednagar-Pune has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. The new lines are not yet sanctioned.

Training to Safety Related Staffs

2368. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Western Railways have developed a special interactive teaching tool for the railways gangmen and women responsible for track maintenance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of railway accidents took place in which illiteracy and ignorance of gangmen noticed during each of the last three years, zone-wise; and

(d) the extent to which such teaching tool will be helpful to bring awareness among such illiterate railways gangmen and women?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. South Western Railways have developed interactive teaching tools for imparting training to the trackmen. These training tools include visual aid posters, handbooks, filed training kits and video CDs.

(c) Nil.

(d) The experience of South Western Railways has been circulated to all Zonal Railways to make use of the same as needed of their systems.

Increase in Frequency of 1050 UP/1049 DN

2369. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request to increase in frequency of 1050 UP/1049 DN, Kolhapur-Ahmedabad Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways thereon and also to extend this train upto Palanpur or Abu Road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Efficacy of Safety Devices

2370. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have assessed the efficacy of various technological gadgets including anti-collision devices installed for safety and prevention of accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of such gadgets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Technological gadgets such as Anti-Collision Device (ACD), Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) are under trials. Vigilance Control Device (VCD) are under fitment in locomotives, in a phased manner.

The Anti-Collision Device (ACD), developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) has been tried as a pilot project on 1736 Route kilometers of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR). Based on experience on NFR, specifications for ACD have been revised to improve efficacy, reliability and availability of ACD.

Pilot project of Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) on Chennai Central-Gummidipundi section on Southern Railway has been in use since May, 2008 on 38 rakes in the suburban section.

Vigilance Control Device (VCD) for eliminating unsafe situations when driver has become incapacitated or loses alertness have been installed in 315 three phase electric locomotives and 160 conventional electric locomotives after conducting trials and evaluation of its efficacy by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) of Indian Railways. VCDs have also been installed in 1500- diesel locomotives. It is proposed to install this device on the remaining fleet of diesel and electric locomotives in a phased manner.

An improved version of the ACD system to the revised specifications is now to be developed by KRCL for in-service trials on three zones viz. Southern, South Central and South Western Railways, covering 1600 Route kilometers.

A second pilot project of TPWS for electric loco hauled trains is under installation on Delhi-Agra section of Northern/North Central Railway on nominated locomotives. Trials have been conducted on locomotives and also on empty service rakes, before Introduction on trains.

Auditing of Companies

2371. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strict the existing norms for auditing of the big companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and the Companies Bill, 2009 do not provide for separate norms for auditing of big companies.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Funds to Meet Security Threats

2372. SHRI P. BALRAM:
SHRI RAMESH RATHOD:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided some financial help to the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) for the Eleventh Five Year Plan following increased security threats to aviation installations and airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the funds are being utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Since the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is a Policy and Regulatory Authority, no fund has been provided to it for meeting security threats to aviation installations and airlines. The cost of security infrastructure and security force at a particular airport is met by the airport operators partially funded from the Passenger Service Fee (Security Component) [PSF(SC)] collections.

ROB in Maharashtra

2373. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey in regards to construction of rail over bridges at level crossings in various cities of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the location where these Rail over bridges are proposed to be constructed near future; and

(c) the steps initiated by the Railways to remove the inconvenience of the people due to the closure of level crossings for longer period of time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) At present 103 Level Crossings qualify for construction of Road Over Bridges in Maharashtra on cost sharing basis.

The information pertaining to the locations where rail over bridges are proposed to be constructed, is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Railway is progressively constructing Road Over/ Under Bridges and Limited Height Subways in lieu of level crossings for unhindered and safe movement of road users.

Global Pharma Firms in Generic Market

2374. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the entry of global pharma firms in the generic market is likely to create much competition for the Indian drug companies;

(b) if so, the reaction of Pharmaceutical industry and the Government thereto; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to provide necessary support to Indian drug companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Government and the industry is closely interacting to meet the impact of entry of global pharma firms in the generic market.

[Translation]

Allotment of Dealership of Petrol/Diesel/Domestic Gas

2375. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons allotted dealership of petrol/diesel/domestic gas and kerosene oil and the list

of war widows and decorated soldiers selected for allotting these dealership in Rajasthan as per reservation rules during last three years and current year; and

(b) the policy for constitution of Dealers Selection Board for giving final approval in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) During the last three years public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs.), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (EPC) have allotted 487 Retail Outlets (ROs) and 38 LPG distributorships in the state of Rajasthan. During this period, 4 ROs and 8 LPG distributorship were allotted to War Widows/Operation Vijay (Kargil) Special Scheme/Discretionary Quota Scheme/Defence category in the state of Rajasthan. The details of dealerships/distributorship are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs.

(b) After dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) w.e.f. 1.04.2002, based on the broad policy guidelines issued by the Ministry, OMCs have framed their own detailed guidelines for selection of dealership/distributorship of petroleum products.

[English]

Stoppage at Uthukuli Railway Station

2376. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are taking necessary steps to have a regular stoppage of West Coast Express (6627 UP) at Uthukuli Railway Station in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Uthukuli station is presently served by 3 Express and 5 Passenger trains. Stoppage of additional trains at this station has not been found commercially justified for the present.

Textile Research Association

2377. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps for upgradation of laboratories and other research facilities at Textiles Research Associations (TRAs) in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take steps to modernize textile engineering units;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There are eight TRAs which are being supported through plan allocation for Research and Development activities, including upgradation of laboratory and equipment facilities.

(c) and (d) The Department of Heavy Industry is proposing a "Scheme for Enhancement of Competitiveness in Capital Goods Sector in India" with initial budget support of Rs. 300 crore as Grant. The Scheme includes five sectors - (1) Machine Tools (2) Textile Machinery (3) Heavy Electrical Equipment (4) Mining & Construction Equipment (5) Process Plant Equipment.

(e) Does not arise.

Operation on Flights at Rajkot and Surat Airports

2378. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scheduled flights are operating from Rajkot and Surat airport to major air-routes as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal is under consideration to operate regular flights from Rajkot to Surat-Delhi-Raipur-Nagpur-Calcutta and Ahmedabad to enhance connectivity; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present, the details of scheduled air services to/from

Rajkot and Surat are as follows:

Rajkot

NACIL

Mumbai-Rajkot-Mumbai

Daily

Jet Airways

Mumbai-Rajkot-Mumbai

Twice daily

Surat

Alliance Air

Delhi-Surat-Delhi

06 Flights/week

(c) and (d) No Madam. However, Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

Setting up of Airport at Gandhinagar

2379. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up domestic airport at Gandhinagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the infrastructure connected therewith and the estimated cost thereof; and

(d) the time by which the said airport is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is no proposal for an airport at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. However, there is already an airstrip namely Gandhinagar airstrip (Maharashtra) known as Nasik Road airfield which belongs to Army. There is no proposal under consideration for setting up a domestic airport at Nasik, Maharashtra.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Payment of Royalty

2380. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has significant liabilities on account of royalty and cess payments on behalf of its partners in about 7 oil exploration blocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether royalty payments by ONGC on behalf of its partner Cairn Energy for the Barmer block in Rajasthan alone stands at more than Rs. 10,000 crores;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether private players in the joint ventures on oil exploration were exempted from payment of royalty under production sharing contract as contained in the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP); and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) As per provisions of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) under pre-New Exploration licensing Policy (pre-NELP) blocks, viz. PY-3, RJ-ON-90/1, CB-OS/2, CB-ON/7, CB-ON/3, CB-ON/2 and RJ-ON/6, it is provided that the Licensee *i.e.* Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) shall bear the cost of royalty and cess. Further, as per provisions in PSCs of RJ-ON-90/1 and RJ-ON/6 blocks, it is stated that Licensee *i.e.* ONGC shall bear the cost of royalty.

The Licensee (ONGC) has 40% Participating Interest in PY-3, 50% in CB-OS/2 and 30% Participating Interest each in RJ-ON-90/1, CB-ON/7, CB-ON/2 & RJ-ON/6 PSCs.

In case of RJ-ON-90/1 block operated by Cairn Energy, where the PSC provides for payment of royalty by the Licensee, the liability of ONGC for payment of royalty is expected to be in the range of RS.120 crore to Rs.2216 crore per annum for production profile expected during 2009 to 2020.

(e) and (f) No, Madam. The Private players in joint ventures on oil exploration under NELP are liable to pay royalty to the Government at the rate(s) specified in the PSC.

Eco-Friendly Textile Products

2381. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is focusing on promoting eco-friendly textile products;

(b) if so, the details of such initiatives taken/proposed to be taken in the current five year plan; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose and utilized so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) In order to promote eco-friendly textile products manufactured from natural fibres like cotton, jute, silk and wool, apart from providing exemption from excise duty, Government has introduced schemes such as Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC), Jute Technology Mission (JTM), Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) for Silk and Integrated Wool Improvement and Development Programme (IWIDP).

The TMC aims to address the issues of raising productivity, improving quality, reducing cost of production, improvement in market infrastructure, revival of dormant market yards, improvement in existing market yards, setting up of new market yards, modernization of ginning and pressing factories and thereby improving the quality of cotton by reducing contamination etc.

The JTM aims at improving yield and quality of jute fibre, strengthening existing infrastructure for development and supply of quality seeds, improving quality of fibre through better methods of retting and extraction technologies, modernization & technology upgradation of jute industry, developing innovative technology for diversified use of jute and allied fibers etc.

The CDP aims at increasing productivity and quality besides providing market support.

The IWIDP provides support to the industry and wool growers to qualitatively upgrade eco-friendly wool products and technology to enable them to get better returns for their products and get a larger share of the domestic and global market.

(c) The funds allocated under the above Schemes in the 11th Plan and utilized during the first three years are as follows:

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

TMC		JTM		CDP		IWIDP	
Funds allocated	Funds utilized	Funds allocated	Funds utilized	Funds allocated	Funds utilized	Funds allocated	Funds utilized
241.35	150	301.30	107.12	1947.92	887.6	41.00	23.70

The above Schemes being Central Sector, funds are not released state-wise.

Bedrolls in Trains

2382. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to replace cotton bedrolls with polyester ones;

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

(c) the present status of this initiative particularly in Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains as compared to normal trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The matter is under review.

Independent Regulatory Framework for Petroleum Sector

2383. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to revamp and strengthening the independent regulatory framework for the petroleum sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act 2006, Government has set up PNGRB on 01.10.2007 to regulate refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products & natural gas, excluding production of crude oil & natural gas, so as to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products & natural gas and to ensure

uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products & natural gas in all parts of the country and to promote competitive markets and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Central Government has brought into force the provisions of the PNGRB Act, 2006, except Section 16, with effect from 1st October 2007.

PNGRB has notified regulations, primarily pertaining to the natural gas sector. Further, PNGRB has commenced the task of tariff fixation for natural gas pipelines and city or local natural gas distribution networks under the provisions of the relevant Regulations. The process of authorization and declaration of existing natural gas pipelines as common and contract carrier pipelines has also been started. PNGRB is laying down standards, including safety norms, for the sector starting with City Gas Distribution.

[Translation]

Oil Tanker found filled with Water

2384. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether diesel storage tank of Indian Oil Corporation Depot situated in Bharatpur (Rajasthan) have been found filled with water recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No diesel storage tank at Indian Oil Corporation's Bharatpur was found to be filled with water.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Export Duty on Iron Ores

2385. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export duty on iron ores has been increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether increase in export duty on iron ores has affected its export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Yes Madam, export duty on iron ore has been revised w.e.f. 24.12.2009 to 10% on lumps and pellets and 5% on iron ore fines.

(b) Ministry of Steel has recommended for export duty on iron ore with a view to conserve this precious raw material for long term utilization of the domestic steel industry and for continued availability of iron ore to domestic steel units at an affordable price.

(c) and (d) The table below shows that export of iron ore between April-January 2009-10 has grown by 10.5% on y-o-y basis, compared to 2008-09.

Trend of Export of Indian Iron Ore

(Quantity in million tonnes)

Month	2008-09	2009-10	% Change
1	2	3	4
April	11.54	9.44	-18.2
May	8.99	9.86	9.7
June	5.62	5.2	-7.5
July	5.83	6.86	17.7
August	4.49	6.81	51.7
September	3.33	5.68	70.6
October	4.26	9.41	120.9

	1	2	3	4
November		8.56	10.55	23.2
December		13.85	12.27	-11.4
January		14.34	13.19	-8.0
February		13.38	-	-
March		11.67	-	-
Total		105.86	89.27	10.5%

Source: MMTC

Financial Package for Weavers

2386. SHRI IJYARAJ SINGH:
SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial package for the weaving sector is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the current status package;

(c) the reasons for neglecting weaving sector in spite of its being an important sector in many aspects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A high committee headed by Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was formed by this Ministry to look into the problems of high cost of working capital and choking of credit lines in the handloom sector. The committee prepared a Financial Package in this regard whose proposals inter-alia include Waiver of overdue interest and overdue loans of Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies. The proposal is under examination.

(c) and (d) Government of India is implementing five schemes during the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the development and welfare of handloom weavers such as (i) Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, (ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme,

(iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme,
(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme and (v) Diversified Handloom
Development Scheme.

[English]

Smart Card Based Ticketing System

2387. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY:
SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have introduced the
contactless smart card based ticketing system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been drawn to
implement the said system across all the stations of the
country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Contactless Smart cards are used in case of
Automatic Ticket Vending Machines where the passenger
can undertake journey by flashing the Smart Card in
front of the machine for deduction of fare amount.

Contactless Smart Card based ticketing system
named 'Go Mumbai' usable both in suburban Railway
System and BEST buses in Mumbai has been launched
on Mumbai suburban Section as a pilot project.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) 5000 Automatic Ticket Vending Machines
(ATVMs) are proposed to be installed at all major stations
of Indian Railways.

Advertisement Policy in Railways

2388. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister
of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives underlying in releasing
advertisements in print and electronic media;

(b) the number of advertisements brought out by
the Railways in the print media, during the last two
years and current year;

(c) the expenditure incurred during the period for
different vernacular print media; and

(d) the steps taken by the Railways to ensure that
the projects undertaken are completed with the schedule
time frame fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Advertisements
are placed for tender notices and notifications for
recruitment by Railway Recruitment Boards, and also
serve the purpose of informing the public about the new
facilities planned/proposed to be introduced to ensure
their optimum utilization. In addition, the purpose of
advertisements is to create public awareness about
safety, security and other areas of public concern.

(b) and (c) The total number of advertisements
(including tender notices) brought out by the Railways
had been 27902 and 27525 during the financial years
2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. The expenditure
incurred on vernacular languages during the same
period had been approximately Rs. 35.39 crore and
Rs. 54.64 core respectively. The information for the
current financial year is being collected and will be laid
on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) Railways have a very large throw forward of
ongoing projects for want of adequate resources and
necessary clearances. Efforts are being made to generate
additional resources, to complete these projects, by
exploiting railway assets, through PPP initiatives, by
leveraging railway property for advertisements revenues
and through cost sharing with State Governments.
Meetings are held with State Governments and other
agencies for resolving pending matters and expediting
clearances. Each project is closely monitored to ensure
progress and timely completion.

[Translation]

Recovery of Licence Fees

2389. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) had given licences for setting up of various Food Plazas, running the pantry cars in various Mail and Express trains, Auto-vending machines and Stalls in A, B and C category stations during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof with a list of the companies that were given the licences;

(c) whether a large number of those licensees have not paid the required license fees to the Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

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

[English]

Social Commitments of Corporate Sector

2390. SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the statutory provisions in place to ensure social commitments of corporate sector;

(b) whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation to enforce the social commitments of the corporate sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Presently there are no statutory provisions under the Ministry of corporate Affairs to ensure social commitments of the corporate sector.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has issued voluntary Guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility in December, 2009 to encourage the corporate sector to contribute in the social and economic development of the communities.

[Translation]

Construction of Terminal at Akola Airport

2391. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an integrated terminal is being constructed at the Akola airport in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the construction work at the airport has been completed and ready for operation of flight;

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

(d) the funds earmarked and utilised so far on the construction of said airport; and

(e) the time limit set for making Akola airport operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Madam. However, various works have been taken up and completed to make Akola airport suitable for ATR type of aircraft operations which are as under:

(i) Runway has been extended and strengthened from 1219 meters to 1400 meters; (ii) expansion of apron from 90 meters x 60 meters to 106 meters x 90 meters; (iii) modification of existing terminal building and other allied buildings; and (iv) construction of control tower cum technical block and boundary wall etc.

(d) Entire earmarked funds amounting to Rs. 16.38 crore is utilised.

(e) This airport is fit for operation in fair weather condition.

[English]

Introduction of Flights

2392. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) proposes to introduce flights on the sectors, not covered as yet and also increase the frequency of the existing routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the NACIL has received requests to introduce more flights between Vijaywada-Hyderabad-Triupati-Chennai; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the NACIL thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India routinely monitors market developments including with the objective of starting operations to new destinations. Whenever required, changes to the schedule are made, changes in the number of flights, as long as they are commercially and operationally viable.

Effective 28th March, 2010, Alliance Air will introduce flights on the Delhi-Coimbatore-Delhi, Delhi-Kozhikode-Mangalore-Delhi, Delhi-Mangalore Kozhikode-Delhi, Delhi-Amritsar-Delhi and Delhi-Dehradun-Delhi sectors.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Recruitment in RPF

2393. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaint has been reported in regard to appointment of drivers in Railway Protection Force (RPF) in South East Central Railway;

(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 K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Food Poisoning in Rajdhani Express

2394. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:
SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent incident in a Rajdhani Express passengers suffered from food poisoning after consuming the food served in the train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of passengers suffered from food poisoning;

(d) whether no medical assistance could be provided to the passengers who suffered from food poisoning;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the action taken by the Railways against the erring officials including vendor/central supplying State food to the passenger; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Railways to ensure provision of good quality food in Rajdhani Express trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) No, Madam. However, one passenger travelling from New Delhi on 2302 Howrah Rajdhani on 08.02.10 did complain that he was feeling unwell after dinner. He was attended by a doctor travelling on board as a passenger and by a Railway doctor at Allahabad. The passenger was unwell even before he had dinner. No other passenger made any complaint regarding quality of food or food poisoning.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Regular inspections and audits are conducted to ensure quality of food. The Catering Policy is under review to bring about further improvements.

Garbage Management System in Railways

2395. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the waste and garbage generated in trains, railway tracks, in and around the Railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate arrangements in place to remove the garbage on a regular basis; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken to strengthen the garbage management system to keep the trains, tracks and stations absolutely clean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No aggregate assessment has been made of the quantity of waste and garbage generated in trains, railway tracks, in and around the Railway stations.

(c) and (d) Arrangements are in place to regularly clear garbage from different areas viz. station premises, platforms, yards & tracks etc. Instructions already exist with the Zonal Railways to ensure garbage disposal as per arising and requirement.

Up-gradation of garbage management and of steps being taken to keep trains, tracks and stations clean is a continuous process. Initiatives taken by the Railways in this direction are:

- Progressive adoption of mechanized Cleaning of coaches/trains and coaching depot premises.
- Mechanized en-route cleaning of nominated trains "Clean Train Stations".
- On Board Housekeeping Services during run in identified trains.
- Mechanized high pressure jet cleaning of platforms, Track, Drains etc. in station area.
- Provision of adequate nos. of dust bins, Garbage dumps and large sized bags for ease of disposal.
- Educational publicity campaigns and announcements at stations and special cleanliness drives.
- Zonal Railways have been instructed for developing satisfactory garbage disposal mechanism.

Repealing of Obsolete Laws

2396. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central and State laws/statutes which are in force in the country;

(b) whether any- study has been carried out by the Government to determine as to which of these laws are archaic and obsolete and need to be repealed;

(c) if so, the details of such archaic laws repealed from 1st January, 2000 to 31st December, 2009;

(d) whether the recommendations for Review of Administrative Laws 1998 renewed some of the laws/Act and made certain recommendations;

(e) if so, the salient features of the recommendations;

(f) the details of the recommendations which have been implemented so far; and

(g) the other steps taken by the Government to repeal the laws which have lost their relevance?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Presently, there are about 1186 Central Acts in the country. Review/repeal of all laws, including those archaic laws enacted during the British era, with a view to bringing them in harmony with the current economic, social and political situation in the country is a continuous process. This task is undertaken by concerned nodal Ministries/Departments of the Central Government administering the respective laws and generally by the Law Commission of India. The concerned Ministry/Department examines the recommendations of the Law Commission of India in respect of laws being administered by them as to its feasibility of reviewing or repealing them. As regards State Laws, it is for the concerned State Government to identify such laws prevalent in the respective State and to take a policy decision as to their repeal/review.

(c) Since 1st January, 2000 to 31st December, 2009, 49 repealing laws have been enacted enclosed as Statement-I and by the Repealing and Amending Act, 2001 (30 of 2001), 305 dysfunctional laws have been repealed.

(d) to (g) In May, 1998, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances of the Central Government constituted a Committee on Review of Administrative Laws under the chairmanship of Shri P.C. Jain with the objective of examining the need of amendments in and repeal of laws, among others. The salient features of the recommendations of the said Committee included, among others, amendment of laws/rules, review of Acts of critical importance and repeal of

dysfunctional/irrelevant laws. The Committee submitted its report to the Central Government on 30th September, 1998. The implementation of the said report is being monitored by the Department of Administrative Reforms

and Public Grievances. The status of repeal and review of Statutes recommended by the Committee is enclosed as Statement-II.

Statement I

Repealing Acts Since 1st January, 2000 to 31st December, 2009

Sl.No.	Short Title	Act No.
1	2	3
1.	The Sugarcane Control (Additional Powers) Repeal Act,	13 of 2000
2.	The Cotton Textiles Cess (Repeal) Act, 2000	19 of 2000
3.	The Direct-Tax Laws (Miscellaneous) Repeal Act, 2000	20 of 2000
4.	The Indian Companies (Foreign Interests) and the Companies (Temporary Restrictions on Dividends) Repeal Act, 2000	24 of 2000
5.	The Cotton Cloth (Repeal) Act, 2000	25 of 2000
6.	The Indian Power Alcohol (Repeal) Act, 2000	32 of 2000
7.	The Forfeiture (Repeal) Act, 2000	48 of 2000
8.	The Insurance Laws (Transfer of Business and Emergency Provisions) Repeal Act, 2001	11 of 2001
9.	The Colonial Prisoners Removal (Repeal) Act, 2001	12 of 2001
10.	The Vaccination (Repeal) Act, 2001	16 of 2001
11.	The U.P. Sugarcane Cess (Validation) Repeal Act, 2001	17 of 2001
12.	The Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Decision (Repeal) Act, 2001	19 of 2001
13.	The Banking Companies (Legal Practitioners' Clients' Accounts) Repeal Act, 2001	20 of 2001
14.	The Judicial Administration Laws (Repeal) Act, 2001	22 of 2001
15.	The Indian Railway Companies (Repeal) Act, 2001	24 of 2001
16.	The Railway Companies (Substitution of Parties in Civil Proceedings) Repeal Act, 2001	25 of 2001
17.	The Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Repeal Act, 2001	26 of 2001
18.	The Repealing and Amending Act, 2001	30 of 2001
19.	The Influx from Pakistan (Control) Repealing (Repeal) Act, 2001	33 of 2001
20.	The Sugarcane Cess (Validation) Repeal Act, 2001	35 of 2001
21.	The Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Repeal Act, 2001	37 of 2001

1	2	3
22.	The Two Member Constituencies (Abolition) and other Laws Repeal Act, 2001	47 of 2001
23.	The Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance Repeal Act, 2001	1 of 2002
24.	The St. John Ambulance Association (India) Transfer of Funds (Repeal) Act, 2002	21 of 2002
25.	The Tea Districts Emigrant Labour (Repeal) Repealing Act, 2002	27 of 2002
26.	The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Validation of Electricity Tax) Act and other Laws (Repeal) Act, 2002	41 of 2002
27.	The Petroleum (Berar Extension) Repeal Act, 2002	50 of 2002
28.	The Imperial Library (Indentures Validation) Repeal Act, 2002	53 of 2002
29.	The Mysore State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Repeal Act, 2002	57 of 2002
30.	The Unit Trust of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Act, 2002	58 of 2002
31.	The Counters of Dufferins' Fund (Repeal) Act, 2002	65 of 2002
32.	The Prevention of Food Adulteration (Extension to Kohima and Mokokchung Districts) Repeal Act, 2002	66 of 2002
33.	The Refugee Relief Taxes (Abolition) Repeal Act, 2002	70 of 2002
34.	The Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Act, 2002	290 of 2003
35.	The Industrial Development Bank (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Act, 2003	53 of 2003
36.	The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Act, 2003	1 of 2004
37.	The British Statutes (Repeal) Act, 2004	17 of 2004
38.	The Customs and Central Excise Laws (Repeal) Act, 2004	25 of 20
39.	The Prevention of Terrorism (Repeal) Act, 2004	26 of 2004
40.	The Special Tribunals (Supplementary Provisions) Repeal Act, 2004	28 of 2004
41.	The Parle Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Repeal Act, 2005	14 of 2005
42.	The Hire-Purchase (Repeal) Act, 2005	31 of 2005
43.	The Displaced Persons Claims and Other Laws Repeal Act, 2005	38 of 2005
44.	The Punjab General Sales Tax (As in force in the Union-territory of Chandigarh) Repeal Act, 2005	48 of 2005
45.	The Cess Laws (Repealing and Amending) Act, 2006	24 of 2006
46.	The Union Duties of Excise (Electricity) Distribution Repeal Act, 2006.	30 of 2006
47.	The Spirituous Preparations (Inter-State Trade and Commerce) Control (Repeal) Act, 2006	32 of 2006

1	2	3
48.	The Indian Rifles (Repeal) Act, 2006	49 of 2006
49.	The State Bank of Saurashtra (Repeal) and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Amendment Act, 2009	48 of 2009

Statement II

Sl.No.	Acts	Total number of Acts	Number of Acts decided to be repealed and at various stages of repeal	Number of Acts decided to be retained	Number of Acts under examination (Excluding col. 4&5)	Acts repealed (Action completed)	Remarks
1.	Central Acts (including 11 Pre-Nationalisation Acts and 20 Validation Acts)	166	13	72	03	68	10 (Out of 166 Central Acts, 6 Acts pertains to State List and 4 Acts repealed in the list)
2.	Amendment Acts	315	0	0	0	315	
3.	British Statutes	11	3	0	0	8	
4.	War-time permanent ordinances	17	1	6	5	5	
5.	Central Acts relating State List	114	0	0	0	5	109 (Action is to be taken by State Govts.)
6.	Appropriation Acts	700	0	700	0	0	
7.	Reorganisation Acts	35	0	27	1	7	
8.	Laws applicable to High Courts	12	0	5	0	7	
9.	Personal Laws	12	0	12	0	0	
	Total	1382	17	822	09	415	119

Statistics of balance action pending for repeal

1.	Acts recommended for repeal	1382
2.	Acts repealed so far (col.7)	415 (-)
3.	Acts decided not to be repealed (Col.5) (-)	822
4.	Action to be taken by State Govt. (109+6 out of 166 Central Acts)	115
5.	Acts repealed in the list of 166 Central Acts	(-) 4
	Balance action pending	26

*[Translation]***Dehradun-Kalsi Rail Line**

2397. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to make budgetary provision for Dehradun-Kalsi rail line in Railway Budget 2010-11; and

(b) if so, the estimated budget for laying this rail line alongwith the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Updating survey for Dehradun-Kalsi new line has been included in Railway Budget 2010-11. Further decision on the project can be taken once the survey is completed and examined in the Ministry.

*[English]***Railway Schools**

2398. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway schools functioning in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Railway Board has received representations for upgradation of E.C. Railway Boys High School, Danapur (Bihar);

(c) if so, the present status thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of Sabha.

Security Threats in Railways

2399. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attacks on railway property by Naxals and crimes in trains are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year, Zone-wise;

(c) whether the Railways have chalked out any plan to check the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There is a marginal increase. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Policing on Railways' is a State subject and prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are, therefore the statutory responsibility of the State Police, which they discharge through the Government Railway Police (GRP) of the State concerned. The State Police has a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Railways bear 50% cost of expenditure on the Government Railway Police.

However, Railway Protection Force (RPF) is also deployed to supplement the efforts of the State Governments.

A co-ordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 20.1.2010 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi in which 7-point joint resolution was discussed and agreed to. The details of resolution are given below:-

1. In respect of crimes on Railways, there should be well defined system of regular co-ordination between the Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Intelligence Bureau & State Home Secretaries to review the position.
2. Keeping above in view, there will be quarterly co-ordination meetings at the following levels:
 - (i) Railway Board & Ministry of Home Affairs' Intelligence Bureau.
 - (ii) General Managers of Zonal Railways and State Home Secretaries.
 - (iii) Chief Security Commissioners of Zonal Railways & Government Railway Police Chiefs of respective States.
3. As a train passes through more than one State, one of the States with maximum run will be designated as the coordinating State of that train.

4. An inter-state Police Team will be nominated for a group of trains running over the concerned States so that crimes get investigated in a better coordinated manner.
5. There will be a special drive to bust the organized gangs operating in trains and at Stations.
6. A better system will be evolved for rail crimes through networking for sharing passenger crime intelligence and special intelligence.
7. Special arrangements will be made for security of Rail Construction Projects through mutual agreements between the Railways and the State Government.

Statement

Incidents of attacks on railway property by Naxals and Crimes in trains reported over Zonal Railways during the years 2007, 2008, 2009 & 2010

(Upto February).

Railways	Incidents of attack on Railway property by Naxals				Cases of crime reported in trains			
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2007	2008	2009	2010
CR	-	-	-	-	924	1437	1312	17
ER	6	5	2	1	565	567	464	13
ECR	17	11	18	3	675	894	962	67
ECoR	24	10	8	1	190	160	405	32
NR	-	-	-	-	1088	892	1031	63
NCR	-	-	-	-	467	365	591	5
NER	1	-	-	-	128	80	79	12
NFR	-	-	-	-	216	330	284	6
NWR	-	-	-	-	364	235	394	8
SR	-	-	-	-	327	172	550	49
SCR	-	-	-	-	596	627	929	15
SER	8	4	30	1	202	185	273	18
SECR	-	-	-	-	170	274	365	2
SWR	-	-	-	-	166	165	265	24
WR	-	-	-	-	1677	1253	1546	16
WCR	-	-	-	-	886	849	1031	13
Total	56	30	58	6	8641	8485	10481	360

Judicial Pay Commission

2400. SHRI C. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Judicial Pay Commission appointed by the Supreme Court has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not the reasons for delay; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India appointed Shri Justice E. Padmanabhan, retired High Court Judge, as a one member Committee to go into the question of determining the pay scales of the judicial officers on the basis of Justice Sherry Commission report. The Committee submitted its report to the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 17.7.2009 which is under consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Withdrawal of Nutrient Based Subsidy

2401. SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to withdraw the nutrient based subsidy on fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private sector industries are contemplating to increase the prices of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) No, Madam.

(c) and (d) The Government has introduced Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy in respect of Phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers w.e.f. 1.4.2010, whereby the MRP of DAP, MOP, NPK Complexes, MAP, TSP, Ammonium Sulphate (AS) and Single Super Phosphate (SSP) has been left open. However, the Government has decided that under the Nutrient Based Subsidy for 2010-11, subsidy for the nutrients 'N', 'P', 'K' & 'S' will be fixed

in such a manner that the farm gate prices of non-urea fertilizers are as far as possible, near the current prices so that the farmers are not adversely affected.

Rajgeer-Nateshar Railway Line

2402. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Rajgeer-Nateshar railway line under East Central Railway has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Rajgir-Natesar-Tilaiya new line has been fully completed. The new line will be commissioned shortly.

[English]

Setting Up of Plastic Parks

2403. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:
SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up plastic parks across the country alongwith the State-of-the-art infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified the places/States where these parks are likely to be set up;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds allocated for this scheme and sources from where the funds are likely to be mobilized; and

(f) the time by which the plastic parks are likely to be set up in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (f) Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals through Plastics Export Promotion Council, conducted a feasibility study for setting up of dedicated plastics parks to promote cluster approach in the area of development

of plastic applications & plastics recycling. Stake holder consultation with State Governments and industry associations have been completed as part of the process for formation of a suitable scheme, which has been submitted to Planning Commission

Printing Press, Kharagpur

2404. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway printing press situated at Kharagpur under South Eastern Railways is in a dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to modernize and upgrade the said printing press;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the press is likely to be modernize?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, the building is 43 years old and therefore needs regular repairs and maintenance.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. The need for repairs and maintenance of building and machinery is of regular nature and is attended to by the Railway as and when required.

(e) Does not arise.

Bullet Train Technology to Indian Railways

2405. SHRI P. KUMAR:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce Japanese bullet train technology in the country;

(b) if so, whether India and Japan have also decided to work out all logistical and funding issues in this regard, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Computerised Reservation Facility in NE Railways

2406. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of requests have been received to the Railways for providing computerized reservation/ticketing facility in North East Railways (NER) during the last six months;

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

(c) the names of railway stations pertaining to NE Railways likely to be computerized in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Four requests have been received namely:

Gauri Bazar: Gorakhpur-Chhapra Section
Barhaz Bazar: Salempur-Barhas Bazar Section
Govind Ballabh Pant University (Non-Rail Head location)
Peppeganj: Gorakhpur-Anandnagar Section

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

List of stations due for commissioning of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) under Unreserved Ticketing System-cum Passenger Reservation System (UTS-cum-PRS) unification:

Sl.No.	Station Name	Section	District
1	2	3	4
1.	Bichia	Gonda-Mailani	Bahraich

1	2	3	4
2.	Hargaon	Mailani-Lueknow	Sitapur
3.	Mihinpurwa	Gonda-Mailani	Bahraich
4.	Mohibullapur	Aishbagh-Sitapur	Lucknow
5.	Nepalganj Road	Nanpara-Nepalganj Road	Bahraich
6.	Sidhauli	Aishbagh-Sitapur	Sitapur
7.	Pepeganj	Gorakhpur-Anandnagar	Gorakhpur
8.	Tikuniya	Gonda-Mailani	Lakhimpur Khiri
9.	Maghar	Gorakhpur-Lucknow	Sant Kabeer Nagar
10.	Moradabad-Ramnagar	Roshanpur	Moradabad
11.	Shahjahanpur	Pilibhit-Shahjahanpur	Shahjahanpur
12.	Sikandra Rao	Kasganj-Mathura	Mahamaya Nagar
13.	Soron	Mailani-Kasganj	Kansiram Nagar
14.	Kiehha	Bhojipura-Lalkua	Udhamsingh Nagar
15.	Banbasa	Pilibhit-Tanakupur	Chhapra
16.	Bilaspur Road	Rampur-Kathgodam	Rampur
17.	Ghughuli	Gorakhpur-Paniyahawa	Maharajganj
18.	Bisalpur	Pilibhit-Shahjahanpur	Pilibhit
19.	Maharajganj (Bihar)	Duraundha-Maharajganj	Chhapra
20.	Masrakh	Thawe-Chhapra	Chhapra
21.	Padrauna	Thawe-Kaptanganj	Kushinagar
22.	Tamkuhi Road	Kaptanganj-Thawe	Khushinagar
23.	Pipraich	Gorakhpur-Paniyahawe	Gorakhpur
24.	Sadat	Bhatni-Varanasi	Gazipur
25.	Sahatwar	Chhapra-Phephna	Ballill
26.	Dudahi	Kaptanganj-Thawe	Kushinagar
27.	Sathiaon	Mau-Shahganj	Azamgarh
28.	Saraimir	Mau-Shahganj	Azamgarh
29.	Madhosingh	Varanasi-Allahabad City	Bhadohi
30.	Chhapra Collectorate Compound	Non-Rail Head	Chhapra
31.	Richha Road	Bhojipura-Lalkua	Bareillya
32.	Sahjanwa	Gorakhpur-Lucknow	Gorakhpur

*[English]***Production of Crude Oil**

2407. SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

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

(a) the total production of Crude Oil and Natural gas by the private sector during the last three years, year-wise and industry-wise;

(b) the total percentage of this production of the country as compared to the public sector oil companies; and

(c) the time by which the country is likely to become self-reliant in the production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The crude oil and gas production by Pvt./ JV under the Production Sharing Contract regime during the last three years is as follows:

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Oil (MMT)	4.83	5.08	4.67
Gas (BCM)	7.04	7.72	8.09

(b) During the last three years the percentage of oil and natural gas production of the Pvt./JVs against the total oil and gas production in the country is given below:

(in % of total production of country)

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Oil	14%	15%	14%
Gas	22%	24%	25%

(c) The process of discovery and production of oil and gas has uncertainties and therefore no time limit has been set.

Pending Cases of Direct and Indirect Taxes

2408. DR. SANJAY SINGH:
SHRI S.ALAGIRI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tribunals set for the disposal of direct and indirect taxes taking long time to clear the pending cases;

(b) if so, the number of cases pending before each such tribunals as on date; and

(c) the steps taken-by the Government for speedy disposal of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) 47069 cases relating to direct taxes are pending with the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) upto 1.3.2010 and 47373 cases relating to indirect taxes are pending with Customs, Excise & Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) upto 31.1.2010.

(c) As regards direct taxes cases, the benches of ITAT have been instructed to scrutinize and identify cases which are covered by the decisions of ITAT, High Courts and the Supreme Court and post them on priority basis. The Bar is also requested to bring to the notice of ITAT all such covered cases for out of turn posting. Search and Seizure and Appeals under Section 263 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 are also given priority in their disposal by the ITAT. The limit for appeals heard by a Member sitting singly has been raised from Rs. 1 Lakh to Rs. 5 Lakhs. A special drive has also been started some time ago to dispose off Single Member Cases. As regards indirect taxes cases, all pending appeals have been grouped by CESTAT subject-wise and are taken up for hearing as separate groups of cases resulting in finding solutions of issues which are akin with least effort. Directions have been issued to all concerned to scrupulously follow section 35C of Central Excise Act, 1944 and Section 129 B of Customs Act, 1962. The procedure of weekly roster has been replaced with one month roster. A new procedure for listing short matters on Mondays and Fridays and regular matters on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays has been introduced. The Cause List of final hearing matters is prepared subject wise so that these matters are decided in chronological order.

Toilet Facilities in DEMU And MEMU Trains

2409. SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether toilet facilities have been provided in Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) and Mainline Electric

Multiple Unit (MEMU) trains as announced in the previous Budget; and

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Efforts have begun in this direction and the coach layouts and design details have been finalized. Production of Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) coaches with such toilet facilities has commenced in 2009-10. Regular production of Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) coaches with toilet facilities will be started during 2010-11.

Introduction of Express Train

2410. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have announced a non-stop express train to Kerala in the Railway Budget 2009-10;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to become operational;

(d) whether the Railways propose to add more coaches to the Kerala Express/Mangala Lakshadweep Express running from Delhi to Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A Duronto train 2283/2284, Ernakulam-Nizamuddin Express (Weekly), has been announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10.

(c) The train has been introduced with effect from 07.03.2010.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

Demands of Petrochemicals

2411. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demands for petrochemicals (Polymers) was projected to have a potential to reach 12.5 million tonnes by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the total capacity addition made by the Government for the last three years of Eleventh Five Year Plan to meet the increased requirement;

(c) the target fixed by the Government at the inception of the said plan for the capacity addition and achieved so far;

(d) the further steps taken by the Government for the remaining period of above plan to meet the projected demand and capacity addition; and

(e) the funds invested so far and likely to be invested during the plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes Madam.

(b) to (e) The Petrochemicals Industry is delicensed, liberalized and deregulated. The Government is not making any investment for capacity additions in the Petrochemicals Sector. However Government is providing support to GAIL'S joint venture company *i.e.* Brahmaputra Cracker And Polymer Limited (Assam Gas Cracker Project) by way of Capital subsidy amounting to Rs. 2138 crores, as part of the project cost of Rs. 5460.61 crores. So far Rs. 453.74 crores towards capital subsidy has been released to BCPL.

The import of polymers is under open general license and can be imported by user industry depending on the demand and competitive prices. The capacity additions are being planned by the Private Sector and Oil Public Sector Undertakings depending on the techno-economic viability. As per Industry Estimates, the total investment made in the upstream Petrochemical Sector during 2007-08 & 2008-09 is around Rs. 13200 crores.

Modernisation of Trivandrum Airport

2412. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights operating from Trivandrum Airport in Kerala to foreign countries, sector-wise and country-wise;

(b) whether Air India or other airlines propose to operate any new flights from Kerala to any of the foreign countries;

(c) if so, the route of these flights and by which date these flights are going to be operational;

(d) whether it is proposed to modernize the Trivandrum airport; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) At present 59 to UAE, 9 to Bahrain, 4 to Kuwait, 26 to Oman, 9 to Qatar, 21 to Maldives, 7 to Malaysia, 3 to Singapore, 7 to Sri Lanka and 3 to Saudi Arabia, flights per week are operating to/from Trivandrum Airport in Kerala.

(b) and (c) The Indian carriers including Air India are eligible to operate the foreign destination from any point in India including Trivandrum as per the respective bilateral air services arrangements with concerned foreign countries. However, actual operations by any airlines is always guided by its commercial judgment.

(d) and (e) Construction of new international Terminal Complex with peak hour traffic 800 passengers arrival and 800 passengers departure at a time, including 8 apron parking bays and taxiway has been completed.

[Translation]

Appointment of Board of Directors

2413. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of guidelines for appointment of the Board of Directors in Public Sector Petroleum and Gas undertakings;

(b) whether the Government has fixed any norms for requisite educational and 664 professional qualification for appointment to such posts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The Board of Directors in public sector Petroleum and Gas undertakings comprises the following:

(i) Functional Directors,

(ii) Non-Official Part-Time Directors, and

(iii) Government Directors.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoP&NG) strictly adheres to the norms for educational and professional qualifications prescribed by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) for the posts in question and following the norms and procedures as laid down by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)/ Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)/Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT).

Retrenchment of Employees in SAIL

2414. KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees retrenched from the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) during 2000-2010; and

(b) the arrangement made to dispose of the technical work in the absence of retrenched technical staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) There have been no retrenchments of employees from SAIL during 2000-2010.

[English]

Covering of Contract Labourers in ESIC and EPF

2415. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the present strength in Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Plant- wise;

(b) whether the contract labourers are also counted in the total strength of SAIL;

(c) if so, the number of contract labourers employed in each plant as on date;

(d) whether the contract labourers are not covered under Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and Employees Provident Fund (EPF) schemes;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The plant-wise manpower strength in the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) as on 01/03/2010 is as under:-

Plant/Unit	Manpower Strength
Bhilai Steel Plant(BSP)	32402
Durgapur Steel Plant (OSP)	13638
Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	19538
Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP)	24313
ISCO Steel Plant (ISP)	11407
Alloy Steel Plant (ASP)	1796
Salem Steel Plant (SSP)	1312
Visveswaraya Iron & Steel Plant(VISL)	1676
SAIL Refractory Unit (SRU)	1612
Other Units of SAIL	9278
Total	116972

(b) No, Madam.

(c) In SAIL, Job contracts are awarded for the jobs of specialized & intermittent nature and jobs of widely fluctuating workload. The number of contract labour varies due to nature of jobs and requirement. Contract labour engaged in works area in SAIL plants units as on 01.03.2010 is given below:

Plants/Units	No. of Contract Labour in Works area
1	2
Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP)	2517
Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP)	2249
Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP)	2258
Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL)	2760
IISCO Steel Plant (ISP)	1837

1	2
Alloy Steel Plant (ASP)	290
Salem Steel Plant (SSP)	122
Visveswaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISL)	600
SAIL Refectory Unit	1111
Other Units of SAIL	311
SAIL	14055

(d) to (f) All Contract labour deployed in SAIL Plants/ Units are covered under Employees Provident Fund (EPF). All the Contract Labours are also covered under Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) except at Salem Steel Plant (SSP).

Salem Steel Plant (SSP) is situated in an area where ESI Act has not been made applicable. However, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Industrial Labour Co-operative Service society, which is one of the major contractors of Salem Steel Plant (SSP), has provided ESI coverage to its members since it has its registered establishment in an area covered by ESI.

Separate Law for IT Cases

2416. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a separate law to deal with IT cases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

Helicopter Accidents

2417. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of helicopter accidents occurred during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons died in these accidents;

(c) the total loss suffered due to accidents;

(d) whether the Government has prepared a special plan to prevent helicopter accidents in future; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There were total seven accidents to Indian Civil Registered helicopters during the last three years.

(b) There were total 15 fatalities involved in these seven accidents.

(c) Government does not maintain the data of financial loss to operators.

(d) and (e) Safety recommendations emanating from investigation of incidents are followed up for implementation with the concerned agencies for preventing recurrence of such incidents in future. To avoid air accidents, various accident prevention programmes have been initiated by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which include safety audits, surveillance inspections, dissemination of safety information, issue of Air Safety Circular Civil Aviation Requirements, etc.

[*Translation*]

Cottage Industry in Bihar

2418. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering/launching any special scheme for traditional cottage industries in the country, particularly in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to launch any special scheme for handloom and handicraft sector in the country. However, in the handloom and handicraft sector, Ministry of Textiles is implementing following schemes in the country including Bihar.

Handloom Sector:

- (i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS)
- (ii) Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (HWCWS)-comprising two components i.e. Health Insurance Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana.

(iii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme (MEPS)

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme (MGPS)

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS).

Handicrafts Sector:

(i) Babasaheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana.

(ii) Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme

(iii) Marketing Support & Services Scheme.

(iv) Human Resource Development.

(v) Handicrafts Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.

(vi) Research & Development.

In respect of Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, no proposal for launching any special scheme for traditional cottage industries in the country is under consideration. However, the Ministry of MSME through Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has introduced Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) with effect from 2008-09 by discontinuing the erstwhile Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) schemes of this Ministry with a total proposed plan outlay of Rs. 4735 crore including Rs. 250 crore for backward and forward linkages. It is a significant initiative with a higher level of subsidy than PMRY and REGP. Financial assistance is provided for generation of additional employment opportunities by setting up of micro enterprises (including those from cottage sector) throughout the country including Bihar. Under this scheme, margin money subsidy is provided for setting up of projects costing upto Rs. 10 lakh for business/service sector and Rs. 25 lakh for manufacturing sector. The assistance is provided in the form of subsidy upto 35 per cent to beneficiaries belonging to special category viz., SC/ST/OBC/Minorities/Women, Ex-servicemen, differently abled, NER, Hill and Border areas etc. (25 per cent for General category) of the project cost in rural areas while it is 25 per cent (15 per cent for General category) for urban areas. PMEGP is implemented through KVIC as the single nodal agency at the national level. At the State/Union Territories level, the scheme is being implemented through field offices of KVIC, State/Union Territory Khadi and Village Industries Boards and District Industries Centres (DICs) involving Banks. Detailed Guidelines of PMEGP are available in

the website of the Ministry, i.e., www.msme.gov.in. In Bihar, 5873 units have been assisted utilizing margin money of Rs. 421.22 lakhs in 2008-09 under PMEGP which generated employment opportunities for an estimated 58730 person.'

[English]

MoUs for Setting Up of Steel Plants

2419. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) have been signed by the various steel companies for setting up of steel plants in the country particularly in Jharkhand during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the status of implementation and the names of the companies with whom these MoUs have been signed;

(c) the estimated annual production capacity of the proposed steel plants, location-wise;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any policy for the rehabilitation of those families whose land have been/are likely to be acquired for setting up of such plants; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) The details of MoUs signed alongwith the name of companies for setting up of iron and steel plants in mineral rich states Jharkhand, Orissa and Chhattisgarh during the last three years & current year and the present status of projects, state-wise and project-wise are given in the Statement enclosed as per record of information available in the Ministry of Steel.

(d) and (e) The issue related to rehabilitations is dealt in accordance with the relevant Acts, Rules and individual rehabilitation policies framed by the concerned State Governments. The Government of India has no direct role to play on rehabilitation issues.

Statement

List of Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been signed with the State Government of Orissa (Year 2006 onwards)

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment Rs. in crore	Date of signing of MoU	Present status & progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	M/s. Welspun Power & Steel Ltd.	Bhadrak district or Cuttack or nay other suitable location in the State	3.00	5828.15	01.10.2006	Land acquisition is under progress
2.	M/s. Uttam Galva Steels Ltd.	Location is yet to finalized	3.00	6103.80	3.10.2006	Land acquisition is under orocress
3.	M/s. SSL Energy ltd.	Nuahata near Banarpal, Angul	Phase-I Phase-II	4339.00 4270.00	21.12.2006	Land acquisition is acquisition is
4.	M/s. MGM Steels Ltd.	Nimdiha Motagaon, Dehnnkanal	0.25	208.10	22.12.2006	Land acquisition is under progress

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5.	M/s. Surendra Mining Ltd.	Parahamus Nimidiha, Motagaon, Dhenkanala,		0.25	221.62	22.12.2006	Commence production of
6.	M/s. Crackers India (Alloys) Ltd.	Gobardhanpur, Konjhar		0.25	236.39	22.12.2006	Commence production of sponge iron
7.	M/s. Crackers Steel Company N.V.	Gobardhanpur, Konjhar		12.00	40,000	22.12.2006	Commence identified. The DPR has not submitted.
8.	M/s. Brahamani River Pellet Ltd.	Tonto, Nalda in Keonjhar and Duburi in Jajpur	(Pelletation Plant)	4.0	1485.00	15.03.2008	Production not started
9.	M/s. Pradhan Steel and Power (P) Ltd.	Durusia, Athagada, Cuttack		0.50	606.00	29.01.2008	Production not started
10.	M/s. Tecton Ispat Private Ltd.	Tarkabeda, Dhenkanal		0.25	291.00	29.01.2008	Production not started
11.	M/s. Atha Mines Private Ltd.	Tarkabeda, Dhenkanal		0.25	227.13	29.01.2008	Production not started

List of iron and steel plant projects for which MoUs have been signed with the State Government of Jharkhand (year 2006 onwards)

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Project cost Rs. in crore	Date of Signing MoU	Present status & Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	M/s. Sesa Goa Limited	Saraiakela-Kharswan	Integrated Steel Plant -0.5	1242	07.09.06	Production not Started
2.	M/s. Mukund Steel	Barlanga, Hazaribag	Integrated Steel Plant -2.0	4335	07.09.06	Production not Started
3.	M/s. Feegrade & Company Pvt. Ltd	Guraa & Rangamati W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant -0.3	688.8	11.09.06	Production not Started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	M/s. Bonai Industrial Company Limited	Kundubera and Singh Pokharia, W. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant -0.25	819	113.09.06	Production not Started
5.	M/s. Rungta Mines Limited	Chaibasa	Integrated Steel Plant Chaibasa	11320 -4.5	11.09.06	Partially commissioned
6.	M/s. Vini Iron and Steel Udyog Limited	Lupungdih, Chandil, Saraikela Kharswan	Integrated Steel Plant -0.6	880.64	14.09.06	Production not Started
7.	M/s. Narsingh Ispat Limited	Khunti, Chandil, Saraikela Kharaswan	Mini Steel-0.25	610	14.09.06	Partially commissioned
8.	M/s. Core Steel and Power Ltd.	Musabani, Ghatsila	Mini Steel-1.0	3300	29.12.06	Production not started
9.	M/s. Ispat Industry Ltd.	Nandpur/ Manoharpur	Integrated Steel Plant -2.8	6750	12.01.07	Production not started
10.	M/s. Ma Chandi Durga Ispat Ltd.	Nala Block Gamtrara	Integrated Steel Plant -1.1	1500	09.02.07	Production not started
11.	M/s. Jagdamba Fiscal Services Ltd.	Raneshwar, Sikaripara, Dumka	Integrated Steel Plant -1.1	1500	09.02.07	Production not started
12.	M/s. Brahmi Impex Ltd.	Ajialpur, Balablock, Jamtara	Integrated Steel Plant -1.1	150	09.02.07	Production not started
13.	M/s. Adhunik Corporation Ltd.	Kumrabad, Dumka	Integrated Steel Plant -1.1	1500	09.02.07	Production not started
14.	M/s. Traingle Trading Pvt. Ltd.	Pathanmara	Steel Plant -0.24	300	14.02.07	Production not started
15.	M/s. Premier Ferro Alloys and Securities Ltd.	Barlanga	Steel Plant-1.0	1830	23.02.07	Production not started
16.	M/s. Pushp Steel and Mining (P) Ltd.	Goridih and Rugri new Chowka	Steel Plant -0.25	361	24.02.07	Production not started
17.	M/s. Sarthak Industries Ltd.	Rajkharaswan	Steel Plant- 2.2	6300	26.02.07	Production not started
18.	M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Patratu	Steel Plant- 6.0	18560	08.11.07	Production not started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.	M/s. Bhushan Steel Limited	Galudih, E. Singhbhum	Integrated Steel Plant -3.1	7000	-	Production not started
20.	M/s. Ma Chhinmastika Sponge Iron Ltd.	Ramgarh	Integrated Steel Plant -1.0	1840	-	Partially commissioned
21.	M/s. Maa Chhinmastika Cement and Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	Ramgarh	Integrated Steel Plant -0.128	353.53	-	Partially commissioned
22.	M/s. V.M. Salgaocar and Brothers Pvt. Ltd.	Ghatishila	Integrated Mini Steel Plant-0.5	847	-	Production not started
23.	M/s. Ramgarh Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd.	Hosir, Hazaribagh	Stell Plant-0.25	785	-	Partially commissioned
24.	M/s. SKS Ispat and Power Ltd.	Kanchi Bundu, Ranchi	Steel Plant-1.3	655	-	Production not started
25.	M/s. Jupiter Iron Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Ramgarh	Steel Plant-0.25	-	-	Production not started

List of Steel Plant Projects for which MoUs have been signed with the State Government of Chhattisgarh (Year 2006 Onwards)

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Location	Capacity in MTPA	Investment Rs. in crore	Date of signing of MoU	Present status and progress
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	M/s. Ind Synergy Limited (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Sponge Iron - 0.40	960.00	06.10.2006	Partially commissioned
2.	M/s. Shree Bajranj Power and Ispat Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron - 0.60 Blast Furnace - 0.231	1400.00	06.10.2006	Production not Started
3.	M/s. SKS Ispat Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron - 0.33 Mini Blast Furnace - 0.5	1175.00	06.10.2006	Partially Commissioned
4.	Mis. Raipur Alloys and Steel Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Sponge Iron - 0.50 Steel- 0.24	720.00	06.10.2006	Partially Commissioned
5.	M/s. Shree Bajrang Metallics and Power Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Pig Iron - 0.060	109.41	21.10.2006	Production not Started
6.	M/s. Rajesh Strips Limited (Expansion Project)	Raipur	Steel Melting Shop - 0.30	120.00	18.05.2007	Production not Started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Blast Furnace - 0.32	8000.00	18.05.2007	Production not Started
8.	M/s. Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd.	Rajnandgaon	Integrated Steel Making Facility -1.2	5500.00	06.10.2006	Production not Started
9.	M/s. Monnet Ispat and Energy Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Naharpalli, Raigarh	Blast Furnace - 1.0 Sponge Iron for captive use-0.40	2087.00	04.05.2007	Production not Started
10.	M/s. Vandana Ispat Limited	Borai, Durg, Anjora, Rajnandgaon	Integrated Steel Plant - 0.83 Steel Melting Shop - 0.75	1310.00	04.05.2007	Production not Started
11.	M/s. Topworth Steel Pvt. Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Borai, Durg	Blast Furnace - 0.50	1225.74	04.05.2007	Production not Started
12.	M/s. MSP Steel and Power Limited (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Pig Iron - 0.40 Sponge Iron for captive use-0.3	1400.00	04.05.2007	Production not Started
13.	M/s. Salasar Sponge and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Steel Plant - 0.10	230.00	04.05.2007	Production not Started
14.	M/s. Prakash Industries Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Champa, Janjgir, Champa	Steel Plant - 1.2	2145.00	18.06.2007	Production not Started
15.	M/s. Singhal Enterprises (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Sponge Iron - 0.2 Steel- 0.3	500.00	23.06.2007	Production not Started
16.	M/s. Anjani Steel Private Limite (Expansion Project)	Raigarh	Integrated Steel Plant- 0.25	410.00	02.08.2007	Production not Started
17.	M/s. H.E.G. Limited (Expansion Project)	Durg	Sponge Iron - 0.35	280.00	02.08.2007	Production not Started
18.	M/s. Mangal Sponge & Steel Limited (Expansion Project)	Bilaspur	Sponge Iron - 0.12	445.00	02.08.2007	Partially Commissioned
19.	M/s. S.K. Sarawagi and Company Pvt. Ltd.	Bilaspur	Sponge Iron - 0.21 Steel- 0.15	330.00	02.08.2007	Production not Started
20.	M/s. Aarti Sponge and Power Pvt. Ltd.	-	Sponge Iron - 0.105 Steel Melting Shop-009	305.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
21.	M/s. API Ispat and Powertech Pvt. Ltd.	-	Sponge Iron - 0.525	1000	08.08.2008	Production not Started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22.	M/s. Jal Balaji Industries Ltd.	-	ORI Plant - 0.6 Steel Melt Shop - 1 .0	1450.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
23.	M/s. Baldev Alloys Pvt. Ltd. (Expansion Project)	-	Sponge Iron - 0.54 SMS Plant - 0.2	430.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
24.	M/s. Crest Steel and Power Pvt. Ltd. (Expansion Project)	-	Sponge Iron - 0.75 Steel Melting Shop - 0.5 EAF -0.32	1536.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
25.	M/s. Godawari Power and Isoat Ltd.	-	DRI - 0.6 Steel Billet - 0.6	1570;00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
26.	M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Gram Saraipali, Kosampali, Dhanagar, Raiaarh	DRI5.1	18300.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
27.	M/s. Khetan Sponge and Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. (Expansion Project)	-	Sponge iron - 0.09 Induction Furnace - 0.06	209.00	08.06.2008	Production not Started
28.	M/s. Nalwa Steel and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Gram Taraimal, Raigarh	DRI (coal based)- 0.33 Steel Melting Shop - 0.336 DRI (aas based)-2.0	3100.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
29.	M/s. Jaysawal Necco Industries Ltd.	-	Sponge Iron - 0.6 Steel Billet - 0.7	2020.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
30.	M/s. Nova Iron and Steel Ltd. (Expansion Project)	Bilaspur	Sponge Iron - 0.6	606.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
31.	M/s. Raipur Power and Steel Ltd.	-	Sponge Iron 0.135 Induction Furnace - 0.09	315.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
32.	M/s. Rashmi Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	-	Sponge Iron - 0.315 Steel Meltine Shoo-0.21	550.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
33.	M/s. Reallspat and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	-	Sponge Iron - 0.30	720.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
34.	M/s. R.L. Steel and Energy Ltd.	-	Sponge Iron - 0.4	29300	08.08.2008	Production not Started
35.	M/s. Satya Power and Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	-	Sponge Iron - 0.24	376.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
36.	M/s. Shri Shyam Sponge and Power Ltd. (Expansion Project)	-	Sponge Iron - 0.135	205.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37.	M/s. SKS Ispat and Power Ltd.	-	Sponge iron - 1.2 Blast furnace - 0.27	3611.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
38.	M/s. Surya Global Steel and Jenpower Ltd.	-	DRI-1.4 Blast furnace with PCM-06	3000.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
39.	M/s. Visa Steel Limited	-	Blast furnace with sinter -1.5 Sponge iron - 1.0	4750.00	08.08.2008	Production not Started
40.	M/s. NMDC Limited	-	Integrated Steel Plant - 3.00	10000.00	03.09.2008	Production not Started
41.	M/s. K. Energy Limited	-	Sponge iron - 0.21 Induction furnace - 0.192	469.00	12.09.2008	Production not Started
42.	M/s. Prakash Industries Limited	-	Blast furnace - 1.15 Sponge iron-1.6	2750.00	12.09.2008	Production not Started
43.	M/s. Singhal Steel Pvt. Ltd.	-	Blast furnace - 0.3 Sponge iron - 0.2 Induction furnace - 0.3 EAF -0.3	700.00	01.10.2008	Production not Started
44.	M/s. MSP Steel and Power Ltd.	-	Sponge iron - 0.9 Blast furnace - 0.7 Steel melting shop - 1.5	4930.00	01.10.2008	Production not Started
45.	M/s. Mahendra Sponge and Power Pvt. Ltd.	-	Sponge iron - 0.27 Steel Billet - 0.15	485.00	01.10.2008	Production not Started
46.	M/s. Hind Energy and Coal Beneficiation (India) Pvt. Ltd.	-	Sponge iron - 0.405 Steel melting shop - 0.216	505	03.10.2008	Production not Started

Upgradation of Ahmedabad Airport

2420. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to upgrade and develop Ahmedabad airport;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard;

(c) the time by which this project is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government has also decided to construct new airport terminal at Ahmedabad airport; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. As per plan, various development works have been completed at Ahmedabad airport like construction of new domestic departure terminal building with 4 numbers passenger boarding bridges, new domestic arrival passenger terminal, new apron and extension of existing domestic apron.

(d) and (e) The work relating to construction of a new terminal building to handle 800 departing and 800 arriving passengers with modern facilities like air conditioning, escalator, elevators, travelators, conveyor belts, public address system, sign ages and passenger

boarding bridges has been taken up and it will be completed by June 2010.

Steel Production

2421. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is unlikely to achieve the desired target of annual steel production of 124 million tonnes by 2011-12 due to slow progress in execution of big projects of different companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) During the year 2008, based on the progress achieved by the steel investment projects and based on the projections furnished by the companies, the steel production capacity of India was projected as 124 million tonnes. However, on account of factors such as, global economic slowdown in later part of 2008, delay in land acquisition, allocation of raw material resources, law and order problems etc; there has been some delay in the progress of certain projects. A meeting with major private sector steel producers will be held shortly in the Ministry of Steel, to review the current status of major private sector projects. Therefore, the revised projection, on year-wise basis, will be furnished by the Ministry of Steel after a fresh review and further assessment.

Gauge Conversion in West Bengal

2422. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of gauge conversion work undertaken in West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) the number of metre gauge railway lines in West Bengal, location-wise as on date;

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to convert the said metre gauge lines into broad gauge; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a): Details of new Gauge Conversion works falling partly/fully in West

Bengal undertaken during the last three years are as under:-

(1) Alubari Road-Siliguri

(2) Burdwan-Katwa

The Gauge Conversion of New Alipurduar-Bamanhat and Sonamakhi-Rainagar were completed during the said period.

(b) to (d) The details of metre gauge railway lines falling partly/fully in West Bengal as on date are as under:-

(1) Alubari Road-Siliguri

(2) New Mal-Domohini - Changrabandha

Alubari-Siliguri is targeted for completion during-2010-11. New Mal-Changrabandha is expected to be completed in about 2 years time.

Toll Free Information Services

2423. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide toll free enquiry services through telephone/mobile to enquire arrival- departure/reservation information etc. of trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are aware that the present railway enquiry system has proved more expensive to rail users; and

(d) if so, the total amount earned by the Railways and outsourcing agencies through existing enquiry system during each of the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Calls originating from Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata & Chennai Metropolitan areas/circles are charged only Rs. 1.20/- for a pulse of 180 seconds. Calls originating from places other than these are charged only Rs. 1.20/- for a pulse of 60 seconds. The Agreement between the Railway Enquiry Franchisee (REF) and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) was signed

in 2007 and these call charges were based on approximate average call rate charges prevailing at that time.

(d) The total amount earned by:-

- (i) Railways is NIL.
- (ii) As per the Agreement signed between the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and the Railway Enquiry Franchisee (REF), a total license fee of Rs. 13.75 Crores is due to the IRCTC in a phased manner from 2007-08 in a period of 10 years. In the last three years, the earning through license fees has been Rs. 1.5 Crores.
- (iii) The REF earnings so far is Rs.4,46,36,455/- from 2007-08 to 31.3.2009 and Rs. 3,25,47,214/- from 1.4.09 to 31.12.2009.

Ferozpur-Amritsar Rail Track

2424. SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for laying Ferozpur-Amritsar rail track;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said track is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) To provide alternative connectivity between Firozpur and Amritsar, Firozpur Cantt.-Tarn Taran, Khemkaran-Firozpur and Gharyala-Mallanwala Khas new line surveys have been conducted in the past. The project is not sanctioned.

MRO Facilites for Aricraft

2425. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facilities have been proposed to be set up at various airports in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether big and small aircraft within the country and abroad will be able to make use of the MRO facilities located in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) NACIL have full-fledged MRO facility at Mumbai which takes care of MRO requirement of B747-400 and A310 aircraft and engines/APUs/components and accessories fitted on these aircraft. Further, Air India and M/s. Boeing are working on setting up an MRO facility at Nagpur to undertake major checks of B777 and B787 aircraft.

Air India is also planning to set up MRO facility at Mumbai for GE90/GENx Engine as GE NETWORK partner.

One more MRO facility is being set up by Air India at Thiruvananthapuram for MRO requirement of B737 aircraft, for which the hangar construction is nearing completion.

Air India is also proposing to construct a hangar at Delhi to cater for the major checks of B777 and B787 aircraft.

These MRO facilities can support third party operators also.

[Translation]

Increase in Prices of Urea

2426. SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of times urea prices have been increased during the last three years and the current year; and
- (b) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND PERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The MRP of Urea has been Rs. 4830/- per MT since 2002, which has been revised by 10% w.e.f. 1.4.2010 and accordingly, it has been fixed at Rs. 9310/- per MT. It is expected to encourage the balanced application of fertilizers in the country.

[English]

Gas Hydrates in Andaman Deep Sea

2427. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some oil exploration agencies have conducted an elaborate seismic survey of Bay of Bengal in about 12000 square Kilometer area and found gas hydrates in Andaman deep sea; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the reasons for delaying the implementation of the project; if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Physical presence of gas hydrate in Volcanic ash was discovered in the location Site 17 in Deep Sea Offshore Andaman under the National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) expedition 01. The location was identified based on the already existing seismic data obtained for exploration of conventional hydrocarbons. No seismic acquisition was done specifically for Gas Hydrate. There is no delay in implementation of NGHP.

Restoration of Payment of PLI

2428. SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has since resumed payment of Productivity Linked Incentives (PLI) to its directors; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. National Aviation Company of India Limited has set up a Sub-Committee of the Board of Directors to examine and suggest measures for wage reduction/rationalisation of its employees. Pending decision of the Sub-Committee, the PLI payment to Directors has been restored.

Mango Processing Units

2429. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing industries and food parks functioning in Tamil Nadu at present;

(b) whether the mango processing and pulp industries are functioning in Tamil Nadu at present; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Food Processing Industries are set up both in organized and unorganized sectors and as such data on the number of food processing units in the country including Tamil Nadu is not centrally maintained by the Ministry. However, as per competitiveness report on "Enhancing Competitiveness of Indian Manufacturing Industry, March 2009" published by National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, Government of India, the total number of registered food processing units in Tamil Nadu is 3736. There are two Food Parks and one Mega Food Parks functioning in Tamil Nadu at present.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. The mango processing and pulp industries are functioning in Tamil Nadu at present. The financial assistance extended to the units/entrepreneurs under the Scheme of Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries in Tamil Nadu especially Fruit & Vegetable Processing including mango processing and pulp industry is 22 units for which an amount of Rs. 387.49 lakh during the year of 2009-10 (as on 02.03.2010).

Separate Air Corridor at Delhi and Mumbai Airports

2430. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has notified separate air corridor at Delhi and Mumbai airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Separate air corridors for helicopters at Delhi and Mumbai Airports have been designed in coordination with helicopter operators and will be notified by 15th March, 2010.

Corporate Governance

2431. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Satyam scam highlighted the need for overhauling of corporate governance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) The case of Satyam, which came in light in January, 2009, is an aberration and cannot be generalized. There exists an elaborate regulatory framework which governs the functioning of the companies in India. The existing framework is based on effective, fair and true disclosures about the state of affairs of the companies. To facilitate such disclosures, the Ministry has set up an electronic registry where the companies can file their reports and returns and the stakeholders can easily access them. The Ministry has issued voluntary guidelines for Corporate Governance in December, 2009 and is promoting the adoption of Good Corporate Governance practices by the companies.

[*Translation*]

Food Processing Industry in Bihar

2432. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) the total number of food processing industries and food parks in Bihar at present;

(b) the financial assistance provided for the development of food processing industries and food parks in Bihar during the last three years;

(c) the details of foreign exchanges earned therefrom during the last three years in Bihar; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve infrastructure and develop the food processing industries in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) (a) Food Processing Industries are set up both in organized and unorganized sectors and as such data on the number

of food processing units in the country including Bihar is not centrally maintained by the Ministry. However, as per competitiveness report on "Enhancing Competitiveness of Indian Manufacturing Industry, March 2009" published by National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, Government of India, the total number of registered food processing units in Bihar is 191. One Food Park was approved by Ministry in Bihar during 10th Plan period.

(b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries. During last three years, no financial assistance has been extended for Food Parks in Bihar by the Ministry. The financial assistance extended to the food processing industries under the Scheme of Technology Upgradational Establishment Modernization of Food Processing Industries in Bihar during last three years are as under:-

Year	No. of units	Financial assistance extended (Rs. in lakhs)
2007-08	5	83.91
2008-09	2	42.30
2009-10 (as on 02.03.2010)	2	44.50

(c) Data on foreign exchange earned during last three years in Bihar is not maintained by this Ministry. However, as per the information maintained by Agricultural & Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA), statement of quantity of processed food exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years in the country are as under:-

Sl.No.	Year	Quantity (in MT)	Value (in Rs. lakhs)
1.	2007-08	17404725	3138834
2.	2008-09	14101966	3580562
3.	2009-10 (April-Sept.)	5686372	1630971

(d) To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities and backward linkages in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11 th Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public/private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore. The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure, establishing value addition with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and processing for horticulture including organic produce, marine, dairy, poultry, etc. MFPI has been mandated to take up 10 such project proposals in first phase, out of which one project namely M/s Ganga dairy has been sanctioned in Bihar State.

[English]

Duronto Trains

2433. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE:
DR. BHOLA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to start more Duronto trains; and
- (b) if so, the sectors to be covered by these trains alongwith cost involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Ten new Duronto train services have been announced in Railway Budget 2010-11. These are as under:-

- (i) Yeswantpur (Bangalore)-Delhi AC (Weekly)
- (ii) Mumbai-Secunderabad AC (Bi-weekly)
- (iii) Pune-Howrah AC (Bi-weekly)
- (iv) Mumbai-Ernakulam AC (Bi-weekly)
- (v) Indore-Mumbai AC (Bi-weekly)
- (vi) Jaipur-Mumbai AC (Bi-weekly)
- (vii) Chandigarh-Amritsar.

(viii) Chennai-Coimbatore.

(ix) Puri-Howrah.

(x) Howrah-Digha.

Train-wise costing is not done by Indian Railways.

SITP in Orissa

2434. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:
SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has made a proposal for setting up of a knitwear park near Bhubaneswar under the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Park (SITP);

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

(c) the time-frame within which it is likely to be sanctioned and approval conveyed to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Project Approval Committee (PAC) of the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Park (SITP), in its meeting held on 16.05.2008, considered the project proposal of M/s Orissa Knit Complex Private Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) formed by a group of entrepreneurs. The project was not approved as it was not in conformity with the criteria of investment *vis a vis* number of entrepreneurs. The PAC advised the SPV to increase the scope of investment in the project and to resubmit the project proposal thereafter for consideration at appropriate time. So far, the SPV has not submitted the revised proposal.

BSCL

2435. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to take over the Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The process for transfer of BSCL to Ministry of Railways has already been initiated by the Ministry of Heavy Industries. The Ministry of Heavy Industries after due inter-ministrial consultation would obtain the approval of the Government.

Installation of Doppler Radar at IGIA

2436. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to install Doppler radar for accurate prediction of weather at the IGI airport, New Delhi;

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

(c) the salient features of the Doppler radar system; and

(d) the details of the expenditure likely to be incurred in setting up of said system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Doppler Weather Radar (DWR) will be installed at IGI airport, New Delhi by the end of April, 2010.

(c) DWR is operated in 24x7 mode and provides velocity and spectrum width data, in addition to reflectivity obtained from conventional radars. Radial velocity data of weather systems provides better insight into the dynamics of weather systems. Spectrum width data gives information on turbulence and wind shear in the atmosphere. It gives better quantitative rainfall estimates by suppressing ground clutter and anomalous propagation. It is able to produce wind field patterns associated with cyclones and make it possible to better analyse the internal structure of storms. DWR data is ingested in Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models for weather predictions.

(d) The cost of equipment is approximately Rs. 10 crores with an additional expenditure of Rs. 6 crores towards development of infrastructure for setting up of the said system.

New Fertilizer Investment Policy

2437. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

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

(a) whether the new fertilizer investment policy has been implemented;

(b) if so, the details of tax exemptions and other benefits provided to attract investments in the field;

(c) the rate of subsidy proposed to be given for the gas based fertilizer projects: and

(d) the extent to which the new policy is likely to boost the investment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) Yes, Madam. The new investment policy for urea sector has been notified by the Government on 4th September 2008 and is under implementation.

(b) No tax exemption are provided in the New Investment Policy. However, the policy is based on the Import Parity Price (IPP) benchmarked with floor and ceiling prices of USD 250/MT and USD 425/MT respectively. The additional urea from the revamp of existing units will be recognized at 85% of IPP, the urea from the expansion of existing units will be recognized at 90% of IPP and 2 - the urea from the revived PSU units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (HFCL) will be recognized at 95% of IPP with prescribed floor & ceiling price given above.

(c) The Fertilizer subsidy is given in the form of subsidized Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) notified by the Government, which are much below the normative delivered cost of these fertilizers. The difference between normative delivered cost and the notified MRPs is released as fertilizer subsidy to manufacturers/importers of these subsidized fertilizers on receipt of fertilizers in the district. The delivered cost will be based on pricing parameters laid down under New Investment Policy for new gas based projects.

(d) The fertilizer Industry has responded positively towards the New Investment Policy by initiating investment decision for revamp of existing capacities. The fertilizer units like IFFCO-Aonla-I & II, IFFCO-Phulpur-I & II, Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (CFCL)- Gadepan-I & II, Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (NFCL) - Kakinada-I & II and the unit of Tata Chemicals Limited - Babrala have informed regarding availability of additional production of urea after revamp. Further, RCF. Thai; KRIBHCO- Hazira and NFL,

Vijaipur have undertaken revamp of their units. The six companies viz IFFCO, KRIBHCO, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited, INDO-GULF Fertilizers Limited, TATA Chemicals Limited and Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited have proposed to undertake expansion of their units. However, these units have expressed concern regarding pricing and firm availability of gas before taking final Investment decision to undertake expansion of their existing units M/s Matix Group Company, Mumbai has also intimated to Department of Fertilizers for setting up of a Greenfield Gas Based Ammonia-Urea project in BURDWAN District, West Bengal of one million metric tonne per annum (1 Mn MTPA), based on Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Gas which Will be supplied to them by Essar Oil Limited's Raniganj CBM block.

Hike in Prices of Petroleum Products

2438. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether a meeting of the Chiefs of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies was held with the Prime Minister in January, 2010 in-connection with price mechanism of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main points discussed in the meeting alongwith the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Prime Minister reviewed the performance of the Oil Sector CPSUs in a meeting held on 13.1.2010. In the meeting, following decisions were taken:

- (i) Finance Minister and Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas (P&NG) would meet to take a view on the oil bonds/cash assistance to be released to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to compensate them for their under-recoveries.
- (ii) It was observed that in view of the need to make large scale investments for enhanced

production of oil and natural gas and to compensate the Oil PSVs. particularly the OMCs, for the under-recoveries accumulated due to control of price of four sensitive petroleum products, there was an urgent need to review the issues relating to their sustainable pricing. Hence, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas would expeditiously examine/process the report of the Expert Group on "Viable and Sustainable Pricing Policy" headed by Shri Kirit Parikh, and take follow up action for appropriate decisions.

On the above decisions, following actions have been taken:

(a) A meeting was held on 14.1.2010 amongst the Finance Minister and Minister for P&NG alongwith the senior officials of the two Ministries on the under-recoveries for the Financial Year 2009-10. After the meeting, Ministry of Finance has confirmed a budgetary support of Rs. 12,000 crore as the share of the Government towards meeting the under-recoveries for the year 2009-10.

(b) The Expert Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kirit Parikh to advise on "A Viable and Sustainable System of Pricing of Petroleum Products" has submitted its Report on 3.2.2010. The Government has not taken a decision on the implementation of the Expert Group's recommendations.

New Rail Line Between Amreli and Surat

2439. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of survey of new rail line between Amreli and Surat via Mahuva Dhasa and Ahmedabad;

(b) whether survey of the said railway line is likely to be completed in the current financial year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount allocated for the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There is no such survey sanctioned for new. rail line between Amreli and Surat via Mahuva, Dhasa and Ahmedabad.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Scientific Mapping of Availability of Sites

2440. SHRI VARUN GANGHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to do scientific mapping of the availability of sites for putting up steel plants and create land banks for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) Ministry of Steel has not decided to do scientific mapping of the availability of sites for putting up steel plants and create land banks for the purpose. Land availability is a State Subject.

Setting Up of Steel Manufacturing Units

2441. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of steel manufacturing units under public and private sector in the country, State-wise and sector-wise;

(b) whether there is any plan to set up more such units;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the investment likely to be made;

(d) whether the Government has drawn any time bound implementation programme for these projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The requisite information in respect of public and private sector units is given in the enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II respectively.

(b) and (c) Public sector companies *i.e.* Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) are expanding their capacities through brown-field expansions. SAIL is in the process of implementing Modernization & Expansion plan at Bhilai Steel Plant, Bokaro Steel Plant and Salem Steel Plant. This Modernization & Expansion envisages increasing hot metal production capacity from 14.6 million tonne per annum (2006-07 actual) to 23.46 million tonne per annum by 2012-13. The indicative investment for Modernization & Expansion is about Rs. 59,905 crores. RINL is implementing Expansion plan to raise its capacity from 3.0 million tonne to 6.3 million tonne per annum of liquid steel. Another public sector company *i.e.* NMDC Ltd. is in the process of setting up a 3 million tonne per annum integrated steel plant at Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh with an estimated investment of Rs. 15,525 crores which is likely to be commissioned in the year 2014.

There are also huge investments proposed by the private sector steel units, which are free to set up their units anywhere in the country, under the deregulated policy regime. Details of investments proposed to be made by some of the major integrated steel units, which have already signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the various State Governments, are given below:-

Sl.No.	Company	Project/State	Additional proposed capacity	Estimated Investment (Rupees in crores)
1	2	3	4	5
(i)	POSCO India Pvt. Ltd.	Jagatsinghpur, Orissa	12.00	51000
(ii)	Arcelor Mittal Ltd.	Keonjhar, Orissa	12.00	40,000
		Jharkhand	12.00	40,000
(iii)	Tata Steel Ltd.	Jameshpur, Jharkhand	5.0	20,000
		Kalinganagar, Orissa	6.0	21200

1	2	3	4	5
		Bastar, Chhattisgarh	5.5	16500
		Saraikela, Jharkhand	12.0	42,000
(iv)	Essar Steel Ltd.	Hazira, Gujarat	3.9	13,000
		Paradeep, Orissa	6.0	22600
		Dantewada, Chhattisgarh	3.0	11000
		Chaibasa, Jharkhand	3.0	11500
(v)	Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Raigarh, Chhattisgarh	3.6	30,000
		Angul, Orissa	6.0	22,500
		Patratu, Jharkhand	5.0	22,000
(vi)	Ispat Industries Ltd.	Dolvi, Maharashtra	0.9	1800
		Jharkhand	2.8	10,000

*As per information furnished by the respective companies

(d) and (e) Ministry of Steel is closely monitoring the implementation of the public sector steel expansion projects. According to the current status, the aforesaid

capacity expansion plans of SAIL and RINL are likely to be completed by the years 2012-13 and 2011-12 respectively.

Statement I

State-wise distribution of public sector units

Plant	Number of units	State
1. SAIL Plants		
Bokaro Steel Ltd.	1	Jharkhand
Durgapur Steel Plant	1	West Bengal
Alloy Steel Plant	1	West Bengal
IISCO Steel Plant	1	West Bengal
Rourkela Steel Plant	1	Orissa
Bhilai Steel Plant	1	Chhattisgarh
Visveswaraya Iron & Steel Plant	1	Karnataka
Salem Steel Plant	1	Tamil Nadu
2. RINL/Vizag Steel Plant	1	Andhra Pradesh

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

Statement II

State-wise distribution of Private Sector Units (including integrated Steel Plants, Stand - Alone Units such as Sponge Iron Plants, Pig Iron Units, Electric Arc Furnace Units, Induction Furnace Units and Rolline: Mills)

State	Number of Units
Chhattisgarh	68
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	26
Daman and Diu	14
Goa	23
Gujarat	59
Maharashtra	84
Madhya Pradesh	17
Chandigarh	4
Delhi	4
Haryana	37
Himachal Pradesh	15
Jammu and Kashmir	8
Punjab	128
Rajasthan	31
Uttar Pradesh	133
Uttaranchal	28
Tamil Nadu	79
Puducherry	27
Karnataka	28
Kerala	43
Andhra Pradesh	53
Assam	11
Bihar	16
Jharkhand	32
Orissa	77
West Bengal	65
Meghalaya	10
Total	1120

Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC)

Railway Safety Fund

2442. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:
SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the broad objectives of the Railway Safety Fund;

(b) the year in which the Safety Fund came into vogue;

(c) the total amount deposited in the Safety Fund as on date and the major areas where this fund is being utilised;

(d) the total amount collected through surcharges levied on passengers tickets for the purpose of Railway Safety Fund during each of the last three years and the current year;

(e) whether the Railways have recently proposed a hike in the Safety Fund to address the safety operations; and

(f) if so, the manner in which the Railways propose to raise additional revenue for Railway Safety Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Railway Safety Fund has been set up primarily to channelise the Railways' share of the diesel cess and petrol cess, receivable under the Central Road Fund, for road related railway safety works such as construction of road over/under bridges, subways and for the improvement to level crossings including their manning, interlocking, etc.

(b) The Railway Safety Fund was created in the year 2001-02.

(c) The total amount received from Ministry of Finance till January 2010 and appropriated to Railway Safety Fund is Rs. 5142.09 crore. Further, the Fund is utilised for construction of Road Over Bridges, Road Under Bridges, Subways and for the improvement to level crossings including their manning, interlocking, etc.

(d) No amount has been collected from passengers ticket for Railway Safety Fund.

(e) Yes, Madam.

(f) Ministry of Railways have approached Planning Commission for higher allocation of funds to Railways from Central Road Fund.

[*Translation*]

Demand and Supply of Kerosene/LPG

2443. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:
SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether there is difference between the demand and supply of kerosene and LPG in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of demand and supply of kerosene and LPG during the last three years; and

(d) the quantity of kerosene and LPG imported to meet the demand during the said period alongwith the rates on which the import was made?

THE MINISTER OF ESTATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. There is no difference between demand and supply of kerosene and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). The demand is met through supply of products either through domestic production or through imports in case of deficit. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas makes quarterly allocation of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene to States/Union Territories for further distribution under the PDS network. State-wise details of allocation of PDS Kerosene and sales of LPG for the last three years are given in the enclosed Statements-I and II.

(d) The details of the quantum of kerosene and LPG imported alongwith the rates at which these products were imported during the last three years are given in enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

Allocation of PDS Kerosene to the States/UTs

(Quantity in Metric Tonnes)

Name of States/UTs	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5659	5816	5816
Andhra Pradesh	511102	517158	517158
Arunachal Pradesh	9170	9257	9257
Assam	257893	258007	258007
Bihar	643786	647430	647430
Chandigarh	7181	9999	13067
Chhattisgarh	145822	146938	146938
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2785	2782	2782
Daman and Diu	2013	2118	2118

1	2	3	4
Delhi	135235	160935	168484
Goa	19209	19212	19212
Gujarat	742668	743759	743759
Haryana	144830	145619	145619
Himachal Pradesh	45466	49409	50537
Jammu and Kashmir	76044	76044	75326
Jharkhand	210964	211175	211175
Karnataka	461340	461478	461478
Kerala	216310	216308	216308
Lakshadweep	795	795	795
Madhya Pradesh	487845	488609	488609
Maharashtra	1276588	1276876	1276876
Manipur	19743	19907	19907
Meghalaya	20359	20401	20401
Mizoram	6181	6217	6217
Nagaland	13318	13312	13312
Orissa	314334	314977	314977
Puducherry	12249	12257	12257
Punjab	234700	23712	237192
Rajasthan	398431	398913	398913
Sikkim	5566	5582	5582
Tamil Nadu	558428	558929	558929
Tripura	30740	30832	30832
Uttar Pradesh	1240789	1241772	1241772
Uttarakhand	89845	89849	89849
West Bengal	751536	752103	752103
Total Allocation	9104266	9151967	9163712

Statement II*State-wise LPG Sales*

(Quantity in Metric Toones)*

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	847169	916958	972038
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5238	4916	5744
Arunachal Pradesh	10138	10933	11109
Assam	167347	177005	178869
Bihar	251712	266437	282811
Chandigarh	32550	35085	35816
Chhattisgarh	105635	116068	119353
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	9743	13378	13219
Daman and Diu	6068	6952	6955
Delhi	585041	619636	642144
Goa	47905	52333	54001
Gujarat	602629	661478	676066
Haryana	391033	439092	456622
Himachal Pradesh	82074	89962	92502
Jammu and Kashmir	110814	123423	122274
Jharkhand	95391	106400	113862
Karnataka	701910	780005	812966
Kerala	478784	516804	524268
Lakshadweep	243	209	252
Madhya Pradesh	411292	452919	472614

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	1612385	1778282	1814300
Manipur	15211	17467	16703
Meghalaya	12868	13289	13968
Mizoram	17801	17440	17573
Nagaland	13634	14302	14129
Orissa	134334	145372	158784
Puducherry	24358	30184	30525
Punjab	521686	556800	574484
Rajasthan	443694	503453	529638
Sikkim	8841	5624	8316
Tamil Nadu	977780	1070558	1130294
Tripura	18988	20061	19452
Uttar Pradesh	1113938	1202725	1251057
Uttarakhand	134491	148612	155187
West Bengal	534474	571308	607011
All India	10530044	11488220	11935429

*Sales figures are as per data provided by OMCs and include auto/bulk/dom & non dom LPG Sales.

Statement III

Import of Liquefied Petroleum Gas & Kerosene

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Quantity (TMT)	Rate (Rs./MT)	Quantity (TMT)	Rate (Rs./MT)	Quantity (TMT)	Rate (Rs./MT)
LPG	2278	25315	2833	30715	2360	33546
Kerosene	1424	29856	2489	33448	1423	45533

*[English]***Double Decker Coaches**

2444. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether introduction of high capacity air conditioned double decker coaches for intercity travel was announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the design of such coaches has been taken up by the Indian Railways and expert opinion/assistance obtained;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these coaches are likely to be introduced on different routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Coach layout drawings and design details for an Air conditioned double decker coach have already been finalized by Research, Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) of Indian Railways supplemented by the design organization of Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala. Manufacture of the prototype coach shell has been completed. This is presently undergoing tests for validation of the structural design parameters.

Development of coach interiors and furnishing work shall now be taken up, followed by detailed oscillation trials for track worthiness.

(e) Such AC double decker coaches are likely to be available for trains to be introduced during 2010-11.

Supply of Crude Oil from Iraq

2445. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iraq has offered to double its crude oil supply to India

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has since been signed with Iraq;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Government proposes to utilize the enhanced crude oil supply in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) During his visit to India in February 2010 Iraqi Minister of Industry and Minerals indicated that Iraq would be boosting its crude oil production significantly in next few years and that supplies to India can be enhanced. Indian Oil Marketing companies (IOC, BPCL, HPCL) are in touch with SOMA, Iraqi company with regard to enhanced crude procurement for the year 2010. Iraq is India's one of the biggest suppliers of crude oil. India imported 14.4 million tonnes crude oil from Iraq in the financial year 2008-09. Crude oil is imported from various countries including Iraq keeping in view the techno-economic considerations. The enhanced crude supply from Iraq will be utilized as demand of crude oil is growing in the country since the refinery capacity being enhanced.

Cases of Thefts in Railways

2446. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of theft of goods of passengers reported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is also increase in number of cases giving sedative to passengers with a view to loot in their goods;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways are preparing any action plan for the safety of railway passengers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The cases of theft of goods of passengers' over Indian Railways during the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 are as under:-

Year	Cases of theft of passengers' belongings
2007	7794
2008	7673
2009	9534

(b) and (c) There is marginal increase. The details are given as under:

Year	Cases of giving sedatives to passengers
2007	847
2008	812
2009	947

(d) and (e) Maintenance of law and order is a State subject and powers to investigate in IPC crimes are vested with Police. The State Police has a separate wing called the Government Railway Police (GRP) for dealing with all matters relating to law and order on the Railways. Railways bear 50% cost of expenditure on the Government Railway Police.

However, Railway is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force (RPF).

A co-ordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 20.1.2010 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi in which 7-point joint resolution was discussed and agreed to. The details of resolution are given below:-

1. In respect of crimes on Railways, there should be well defined system of regular co-ordination between the Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Intelligence Bureau & State Home Secretaries to review the position.
2. Keeping above in view, there will be quarterly co-ordination meetings at the following levels:
 - (i) Railway Board & Ministry of Home Affairs' Intelligence Bureau.
 - (ii) General Managers of Zonal Railways and State Home Secretaries.
 - (iii) Chief Security Commissioners of Zonal Railways & Government Railway Police Chiefs of respective States.
3. As a train passes through more than one State, one of the States with maximum run will be designated as the coordinating State of that train.

4. An inter-state Police Team will be nominated for a group of trains running over the concerned States so that crimes get investigated in a better coordinated manner.
5. There will be a special drive to bust the organized gangs operating in trains and at Stations
6. A better system will be evolved for rail crimes through networking for sharing passenger crime intelligence and special intelligence.
7. Special arrangements will be made for security of Rail Construction Projects through mutual agreements between the Railways and the State Government.

Probe by SFIO

2447. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has ordered an enquiry by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) into the alleged financial irregularities committed by the Austral Coke and Projects Ltd; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The matter relating to alleged financial irregularities by M/s Austral/ Coke and Projects Ltd. (name changed to M/s Greenerth Resources & Projects Ltd.) has been referred to Serious Fraud Investigation Office for investigation under section 235 of the Companies Act, 1956.

Contracts for BHEL

2448. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has bagged a Rs. 1000 crore contract for supplying equipments to a hydro power project in Bhutan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and details for projects/contracts in foreign countries has been done by BHEL during the last three years, country-wise; and

(d) the profit earned by BHEL therefrom during the last three years country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has secured an order valued at approximately Rs. 1,016 crore from Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project Authority of Bhutan in February 2010 for design, manufacture, supply, erection, testing and commissioning of main electro-mechanical package consisting of generating units with associated auxiliaries for 6x200 MW Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project in Bhutan.

(c) and (d) A country-wise list of major projects/contracts in foreign countries done by BHEL during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (up to February, 2010), is given below.

Sl.No.	Country	Project/Contract details
2007-08		
1.	Oman	1 no. Compressor for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Marmul
2.	Oman	1 no. Compressor for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Lekhwair
3.	Oman	3 nos. Compressors for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), Yibal
2008-09		
4.	Oman	2x100 MW (Mukhaizna) and 1 x 100 MW (Qarn Alam) Gas Turbine-Generator based Power Projects for Petroleum Development Oman (PDO)
5.	Zambia	10 nos. 135 MVA Transformers for ZESCO
2009 - 10 (upto Feb'10)		
6.	France	Compressor train for GPN BHEL.

In these projects/contracts, reasonable aggregate profit of approximately 10.8% was earned by BHEL.

Prices of Indigenous/Imported Medicines

2449. DR. SANJAY SINGH:
SHRI S. ALAGIRI:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:

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

(a) whether any norms for fixing the prices of indigenous and imported medicines have been laid down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of violation of these norms along with the reasons therefor during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the indigenous and imported medicines are being sold in the market on the much higher prices; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government for providing the medicines at fair prices to common men?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Yes Madam, the prices of indigenous and imported medicines are fixed/revised/as per the norms notified every year and the formula prescribed in paragraph 7 of the Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (OPCO, 1995).

Norms of Conversion Cost (CC), Packing Charges (PC), Packing Material cost (PM) and Process Loss (PL) were notified, every year, during the last three years and these norms are applied uniformly in all cases of price fixation of indigenous scheduled formulations. The prices of imported scheduled formulations are also fixed as per the provisions under paragraph 7 of the DPCO, 1995 uniformly.

(d) and (e) The prices of indigenous scheduled formulations are fixed as per the paragraph 7 of the DPCO, 1995. In the case of imported scheduled formulations, the landed cost of imported formulations is the basis for fixing the price along with such margin to cover selling and distribution expenses including interest and importer's profit which shall not exceed fifty percent of the landed cost. For the scheduled formulations, NPPA has the enforcement mechanism. As and when the cases

of overcharging come to the notice of NPPA, appropriate action is taken as per the provision of DPCO, 1995.

So far as non-scheduled formulations/medicines are concerned (drugs out of price control), companies are shortlisted as per the prescribed criteria in public interest. Wherever any abnormal price increase is noticed, the manufacturer is impressed upon in such cases to bring down the price voluntarily within 10% limit failing which, if justified, action is initiated under para 10(b) of the opec, 1995. This is an ongoing process.

Based on monitoring of prices of non scheduled formulations, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 formulation packs under para 10 (b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus in all, prices of 91 packs of non scheduled medicines have got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

More Autonomy to DGCA

2450. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to convert the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to an autonomous regulatory body with more financial and administrative powers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any recommendation from the International Civil Aviation Organisation in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has been commissioned to carry out a Feasibility/Advisory study for the reconstitution of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as an autonomous civil aviation authority with enhanced financial and administrative authority.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Amount Spent on Advertisements by Oil Companies

2451. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on advertisements by the public sector oil companies during each of the last three years and the current year, company-wise;

(b) whether the Government has issued/propose to issue any guidelines to the public sector oil companies in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The amount spent on advertisements by major oil public sector undertakings (PSUs) during the last three years and the current year are given in the Statement. Advertisements are issued by the oil PSUs as per their requirements and internal guidelines.

Statement

Amount spent on Advertisements by major oil Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years and the current year

Oil In ublic Sector Undertakings	Amount spent (Rupees in lakh)			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	6591.17	9426.82	6209.40	7453.73 (upto December 2009)

1	2	3	4	5
Hindustan Petroleum Limited (BPCL)	11027.00	10048.00	8372.00	5229.00 (upto February 2010)
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	4141.09	5067.34	1412.57	2100.00 (upto February 2010)
Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)	471.00	459.00	456.00	435.00 (upto December 2009)
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)	4735.00	1458.00	1291.00	1105.00 (upto February 2010)
Oil India Limited (OIL)	250.00	463.00	803.00	1447.00 (upto February 2010)

Double Track between Rajkot and Surendranagar

2452. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIYA:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for laying a double track between Rajkot and Surendranagar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Survey for doubling of Rajkot-Surendranagar has been sanctioned.

(c) The work is not yet sanctioned.

Demand and Supply of Natural Gas

2453. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI PURNMASI RAM:
SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO:

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

(a) the total demand and supply of natural gas in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the quantity of natural gas imported during the period to bridge the gap between demand and supply; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve energy security in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The demand and supply of natural gas during the last three years and the current year in the country is as under:-

in Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (mmscmd)

Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Demand	130	179.17	196.64	225.52
Supply #	96.98	1036.38	105.28	141.14*

*Data pertaining to production of domestic natural gas and Imported R-LNG for the year 2009-10 is available up to month of January-2010.

#Supply figures include RLNG.

(b) The quantity of LNG imported during the last three years and the current year is as follows:-

Sl.No.	Year	Quantity
1.	2006-07	6.77
2.	2007-08	8.31
3.	2008-09	8.02
4.	2009-10 (up to December 2009)	6.91

(c) The Government has adopted multi-pronged strategy to achieve energy security in the country,

consisting *inter alia* of the following:—

- (i) Intensification of domestic E&P activities through NELP Rounds
- (ii) Coal Bed Methane (CBM)
- (iii) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports
- (iv) Underground Coal Gasification
- (v) Exploration of Gas Hydrates
- (vi) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.

Operation of Old Aircraft

2454. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the aircraft and helicopters of the airline companies in operation are 15-25 years old;

(b) if so, whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has laid down any rules for operation of such old aged aircraft and helicopters;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware that these rules are not being followed scrupulously by the airline companies; and

(e) if so, the action taken against the companies for violating the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Most of the registered aircraft with the airlines are below the age of 15 years.

(b) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has laid down Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) restricting the Import of pressurized aircraft of more than 15 years and unpressurized aircraft of more than 20 years of age.

(c) CAR Section-2, Series "F" Part XX Para 3, lays down the requirements stated in (b) above and CAR Section-2, Series "F" Part X lays down the procedure to ensure continuing airworthiness of ageing aircraft and continued structural integrity of all aircraft which have crossed 20 years of age.

(d) and (e) As regulator of airline operations, DGCA has not come across any violation of above requirements.

integrated Transport System

2455. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are actively participating in the process of having integrated transport system by linking railway stations, metro stations and national highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether work on the proposed plan has been initiated; and

(d) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on the said plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The participation of the Railways in integration process occurs, whenever there is an overlapping of functional areas. Specific proposals, on receipt, are evaluated and considered.

[Translation]

Social Responsibility of SAIL

2456. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the activities under taken by the Steel Authority of India Ltd.(SAIL) and each of its subsidiary companies for the welfare of weaker sections of the society under corporate social responsibility in the country, particularly in Jharkhand during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the amount spent on each item of work done by the SAIL and concerned companies alongwith the State-wise details of the names of the beneficiary cities/ villages and total number of persons benefitted; and

(c) the names of the model steel villages 674 adopted during the said period by major steel manufacturing companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Under the aegis of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) is implementing various schemes at the corporate level and also in the periphery of steel plants to improve the quality of life of the local population focusing on the weaker and vulnerable section of the society. The peripheral development activities under CSR are being undertaken by the plants of SAIL broadly in the fields of education, medical and health care, family welfare, child health care, drinking water facilities, roads, sports and cultural activities. In addition, SAIL Plants are adopting villages to convert them into "Model Steel Villages" (MSV) by implementing various schemes/activities for the welfare of the population living in the villages.

So far as the state of Jharkhand is concerned, Bokaro Steel Plant and Raw Material Division of SAIL have adopted many model steel villages under the CSR initiatives. The details of major schemes implemented in the state of Jharkhand during the last three years and the current year is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The details of amount spent on the work done by SAIL and MEL, a subsidiary' under SAIL for the past three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) SAIL had adopted 79 villages as Model Steel Villages (MSVs) across eight states. The details of model steel villages adopted by SAIL steel plants are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

The major CSR initiatives undertaken by SAIL during the last three years and the current years are as under:

Major schemes implemented during 2006-07:

- * Under the project Swayam Sidhaa at BSP, 30 women provided vocational training (for making achar, papad and aggarbatti) and also have commercially started marketing the projects.
- * BSL provided health centre facilities to underprivileged/BPL patients at Sector V.
- * Construction of school building for physically challenged children and "SAIL-Block" of high

school building at Dhandabad", Durgapur by DSP and renovation of creche-cum-home for the disabled "Durgapur Handicapped Happy Home".

- * 2 mobile dispensaries provided to render medical facilities to around 15,000 inhabitants of nearby village by DSP and two food delivery vans given to ISCKON Foundation for Mid Day Meal Programme and assistance to Helpage India for mobile medicare unit for elderly people of Delhi.
- * Electrification through solar light - periphery of Chiria Mines.
- * 18 medical aid Centres started by RSP in peripheral villages(operating once a week); ISPAT SANJEEVANI Medical Centre at Rourkela Township-working for six days a week for underprivileged section of society; training of 30 mid-wives from villages.
- * Financial assistance was provided to Venu Eye Institute, New Delhi, for conducting 600 free eye surgeries for needy patients.

Major schemes implemented during 2007-08

- * ITI inaugurated at Gua mines on 13.09.2007.
- * Special school started exclusively for poor, underprivileged children at five integrated steel plant locations. The facilities provided include free education, mid-day meals, uniform including shoes, text books, stationary items, school bag, water bottles and transportation in some cases.
- * Project 'Jaladhara' was taken up under the Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives of SAILCMO in tribal villages in Vishakapatnam District. The project aimed to provide drinking water to the hamlets of Dummaguda and Sarada Bonguda village from the natural springs of the Ranajilledu water falls in the picturesque Araku Valley.
- * Free medical health centres for poor set up at Bhilai, Bokaro, Rourkela, Burnpur (Gutgutpara) providing free medical consultation, medicines,

etc. The medical health centre for the poor is being set up at Durgapur.

- * More than 400 medical camps held upto December, 2009 by all the plants and units in 11 States (Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh).
- * 18 months old girl born with congenital cataract in both the eyes (nearly blind) which was detected in one of the health camps organized by SSP was restored vision after surgery at SSP hospital.
- * 10 mobile medicare units provided to various NGOs of national repute
- * Vocation training provided to around 25,000 villagers.

Major schemes implemented during 2008-09:

- * Backyard poultry scheme: For sustainable development of the Backyard poultry, innovative 'backyard poultry scheme' started in 8 Model Steel Villages of Bhilai.
- * Project Baljyoti: In order to treat child blindness, juvenile cataract, squint etc, project Baljyoti has been launched at Lathikala Block, Dist. Sundargarh, Orissa, by RSP.
- * Learn to Read (L2R) program started in association with Orissa Government for improving standard of education in primary classes.
- * SAIL had adopted 79 villages as Model Steel Villages (MSVs) across eight states. The developmental activities being undertaken in these villages include medical & health services, education, roads & connectivity, sanitation, community centres, livelihood generation, sports facilities, etc. In 2008-09, 30 Model Steel villages (MSVs) have been completed.
- * Flood relief operation undertaken in 3 States - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa.
- * Over 2200 Health Camps have been organised in 2008-09 by all the plants and units, in

peripheral area and model steel villages providing free health check-up, path lab treatment, medicine, immunisation, etc.

- * 10 MMUs/ambulances etc. provided to various NGOs like Deepalaya, Sri Ramakrishna Mission etc.
- * Foundation stone for setting up an ITI at Samastipur, Bihar has been laid on 1st March 2009 and financial assistance provided to ITI Nangpoh, Meghalaya towards equipments.
- * In order to preserve the tribal culture of Chhatisgarh Lok Kala Mahotsav was held on 5 days at Bhilai, Rajhara mines and Nandini mines, Chhatisgarh, which attracted around 20,000 people.

Major schemes being implemented in 2009-10:

- * Around 2100 health camps have been organised in 2008-09 and more than 3100 camps have been organised in 2009-10 upto Decemeber 2009, benefiting around 1.7 Lakh people
- * Lok Kala Mahotsav-5 day Chattisgarh Lok Kala Mahotsav celebrated on 20th May at Rajhara, 23rd May at Hirri Mine and from 2ih to 29th May at Bhilai, in which around 350 artists participated
- * Akshay Patra Foundation: Mid-day meals are being provided daily to more than 22000 children in schools in and around Bhilai.
- * 161 educated youths selected and admitted at Balidih ITI, BSL, under skilled enhancement programme.
- * Ambulance provided by DSP to Hat Ashuria Swami Vivekananda Welfare Society, Barjora, Bankura.
- * Solar lights (10), sanitation units (50), smokeless chullah (56), well, and sal leaf plate making machine etc handed over to the tribal families of Champadanga by ASP.
- * Support provided to Calamity Relief Fund of Karnataka' towards the Karnataka flood relief.

Statement II

The amount spent on the CSR activities by SAIL and its subsidiary for the past three years has been:

(Rs in lakhs)

Companies	Activities	States/Locations	Year-wise expenditure			
			2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
SAIL	Peripheral Development: Model Steel Villages Education Medical and health Care Access to water facilities Roads/Connectivity Cultural & Recreational Activities, etc.	Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka	849	9699	6069	2310.35
	Family Welfare Activities/ Reproductive & Child Health Care (RCH)		95	170	138	28.34
	CSI & Sports/ Sponsorships	All over India	1034	2092	2096	1704.19
MEL*	Peripheral Development	Maharashtra	12.69	0.79	23.52	18.28

*Maharashtra Electros melt Ltd. a subsidiary of SAIL.

** Figures for 2009-10 are for April -December, 2009 and are provisional.

The developmental efforts of SAIL are targeted in the villages where SAIL plants were located and have been to an extent instrumental in turning these villages into large industrial centres. The entire population of the

peripheral areas of Steel Plants/Units and Model Steel Villages are the targeted group of likely beneficiaries of CSR activities under taken by SAIL.

Statement III

The model steel villages adopted by SAIL under Corporate Social Responsibility are

Sl.No.	Plant/Unit	Name of villages completed during		Remaining Villages (36)**
		2007-08 (13)	2008-09 (30)	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	BSP Chhattisgarh	Pippercheddi	Kachandur, Pahandoor, Dommerdih, Khapri-Siloda, Mahakakala, Bodegaon, Pauwara & Borigarika	Dhabha (Anjora), Daniya, Chetua, Devbaloda, Dhaurabhatha, Patora, Changori, Konari, Machandur, Anda, Janjgiri and Katro

1	2	3	4	5
2.	DSP West Bengal	Akundra, Bouripara, Adivasipara & Ruidaspara; Dasirbandh	Andal Leper's Colony, Mahantobagan, Dhoananga, DVC Para (Bagan Para), Dum Para, Namu Ruidas Para	Akandra-Bouripara
3.	RSP Orissa	Chikatmati	Bankibahal, Jagdishpur, Laing	Jaidega, Dumerjore, Ushra, Jabghat, Bijadihi, Pograhal, Kapatmunda, Loadsara, Baniguni, Jabanposh, Jamsera and Dalposh
4.	BSL Jharkhand	Bansgora, Gorabali	Maango, Chamsobad, Khuntari, Tetulia, Jhopro	Kundaury area
5.	ISP West Bengal	Gutgutpara	Dhairapada, Kankardanga (Leprocy Colony), Haramdih, Nakarasota, Bhallakzore	Purushottampur
6.	ASP, WB	Pratappur	—	Champadanga
7.	SSP Tamil Nadu	—	Thirumalaiviri	
8.	VISP Karnataka	—	—	Antharagange
9.	RMD	Kalta Basti	Baraiburu (Indira Awas Colony), Pacheri Basti	Bolani Basti (Bolani Iron Ore Mine), Tantra Basti (Barsua Iron Ore Mine), Guasai (Gua Iron Ore Mine), Ankua (Manoharpur Iron Ore Mine), Gairtalai (Kuteswar Limestone Mine) and Sinduria (Bhawanathpur Limestone Mine).
10.	CMO, Bihar	Youshufpur, Sultanpur	—	Saharbani
	Total	13	30	36

*Till Q3, 2009-10, 46 MSVs have been completed.

[English]

Holding of Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme

2457. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to hold the fertilizer subsidy scheme for a year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) No, Madam. Fertilizer Subsidy Scheme administered by Government for urea and decontrolled phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers currently is effective upto 31.3.2010. The Government has now introduced a Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy in respect of Phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers w.e.f. 1.4.2010, which will replace the outgoing concession scheme for P&K fertilizers. Subsidy for urea will continue through the existing policy as modified with 10% increase in MRP from the existing level of Rs. 4830/- per MT w.e.f. 1.4.2010.

Capacity of Steel Plants

2458. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the existing production capacity of steel plants in the country;

(b) whether any shortfall has been reported in the production capacity of some steel plants;

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

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

(e) whether the cost of production of steel has increased in the recent past;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to decrease the cost of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The existing crude steel production capacity of steel plants in the country is 72.76 million tonnes.

(b) No such report of reduction in production capacity has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

(e) and (f) Such information is not disclosed by any organization in view of its commercial interest. Different steel makers follow different technologies and are placed differently in the industry cost curve. They are also impacted differently by external factors related to costs. Since raw material, power, finance and wages comprise the bulk of the costs of steel making and in view of the

fact that the prices of major raw materials such as coking coal, met coke, iron ore, manganese ore, steel melting scrap, ferro-alloys, interest rates and wages have risen in the recent past, the steel makers are likely to have witnessed a rise in their cost of production of steel.

(g) Since the steel industry is deregulated, the Government does not have a direct role to play to reduce the cost of production. However, the Government initiates suitable policy measures from time to time with a view to create a level playing field, boost the steel industry and also protect the interests of steel consumers. In order to keep the cost of imported raw materials low, the Government has already brought down the import duty on various raw materials used in the steel industry to either zero or very low levels. The monetary policy stance of the Reserve Bank of India is also anti-inflationary, thereby helping support a low cost regime to the extent possible.

Complaints Against ADAG

2459. SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints against Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group of Companies (ADAG) for fudging of accounts and other violations of Companies Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Special Fraud Investigation Organization (SFIO) and Registrar Of Companies (ROC) have also received similar complaints; and

(d) if so, the details of complaints received so far against ADAG and action taken by the Government on these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The complaints pertain to following issues:—

(i) Irregularities in the Reliance Mutual Fund Investment;

(ii) Violation of Foreign Exchange Management Act;

(iii) Violation regarding transfer of certain undertaking of Reliance Energy Ltd. to Reliance Power Ltd.;

- (iv) Violation relating to Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Account;
- (v) Violation of Securities and Exchange Board of India Rules & Guidelines;
- (vi) Merger of Reliance Public Utility Pvt. Ltd. into Reliance Power Ltd. etc.

(d) These complaints have been forwarded to the Ministry of Finance, Reserve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Department of Telecommunication and Department of Financial Services for matters related to them. The allegations pertaining to Company Law violations, are being looked into by Registrar of Companies.

Employees of HMT

2460. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for the revision of pay scales of employees and officers of HMT, Kalamassery, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) No, Madam.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) A revival package of Rs. 880.80 crore has been sanctioned to HMT, Machine Tools Limited (of which HMT, Kalamassery is a Unit) in February, 2007. The Company is not in a position to implement 1997 pay revision as it is not able to generate resources to bear the extra cost on account of such pay revision through improved performance in terms of productivity & Profitability as required under the guidelines of Deptt. of Public Enterprises. With the full implementation of the revival plan it is expected that the company will be able to generate sufficient resources to implement the 1997 pay revision.

Setting Up of Gas Based Projects

2461. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up gas based projects in Southern States including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the current status of the Kakinada, Chennai-Tuticorin- Bangalore and Kochi gas transportation pipeline projects; and

(d) the time by which the projects are likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Decision to set up gas-based projects is taken after taking into consideration all the relevant factors. As per available information Department of fertilizer intends to convert Naphtha based fertilizer plants, namely, Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (MFL), Chennai, Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd. (SPIC), Tuticorin, Mangalore Chemical & Fertilizers Ltd. (MCFL), Mangalore, The Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) Udyogmandalam, Kochi., into natural gas. Further, NTPC is taking up gas-based power project at Kayamkulam, Tamil Nadu.

(c) and (d) The status of pipelines is as under:—

- (i) Vijaywada-Nellore-Chennai Pipeline (by Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Ltd.): The approximate length of the pipeline is 445 km, This pipeline passes through the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and the completion scheduled of this pipeline is December 2012.
- (ii) Chennai-Tuticorin Pipeline (by RGTIL): The approximate length of the pipeline is 670 km. and is passing through the State of Tamil Nadu. This pipeline is scheduled to be completed by December 2012.
- (iii) Chennai-Bengaluru-Mangalore Pipeline (by RGTIL): This approximate length of this pipeline is 660 km and is passing through the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. This pipeline is scheduled to be completed by December 2012.
- (iv) Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Bengaluru/Mangalore Pipeline (by GAIL): The approximate length of this

pipeline is 822 kms. and is passing through the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The pipeline completion schedule is synchronized with the completion of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal at Kochi which is expected to be completed by March 2012.

Act Passed by Parliament

2462. SHRI JAYANT GANGARAM AWALE:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Central Acts passed by the Parliament have not been implemented due to the delay in issue of notifications to give them the force of law; and

(b) If so, the details of the Central Acts passed by the Parliament since the year 1995 giving the names of the Act, Ministry concerned, year of passing the Act and the reasons for delay to issue notification to enforce the Law?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Madam

(b) Information is being collected, because the notification for bringing into force the Act is required to be issued by the concerned Administrative Ministry.

Stake in Gas Pipeline Built by China

2463. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Videsh Ltd. (OVL) and GAIL India Ltd. has planning to take equity in the gas pipeline being built up by China in Myanmar to transport natural gas found in Bay of Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) An Export Gas Sales and Purchase

Agreement (EGSPA) has been signed for , sale of gas from A1 & A3 blocks in Myanmar by the consortium partners, including OVL & GAIL, with the Buyer, viz., China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC). After delivery at sales point, the gas will be transported by an onshore pipeline from the sales point to Myanmar-China border. The pipeline will be owned and operated by a Joint Venture Company, comprising OVL, GAIL, Daewoo International, Korea Gas (KOGAS), Myanmar Oil & Gas Enterprise (MoGE) and South East Asia pipeline-CNPC (SEAP-CNPC), a Chinese Company. Participating Interest of GAIL & OVL in the Company are 8.35% and 4.1735% respectively.

Accidents on Railway Tracks

2464. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths reported while crossing railway tracks and also travelling on roof tops for the last three years, year-wise and zone-wise;

(b) whether the Railways have taken any steps to educate people using railway tracks for crossing and rooftops for travelling;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Small Vendors in Railways

2465. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any rehabilitation programme for the small vendors who were evicted following the implementation of catering policy, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time frame by which the rehabilitation is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. However, Catering Policy 2005 is presently under review.

Supply of Anti-Fog Porcelain Disc Insulators

2466. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has received an order for the supply of Anti-fog porcelain disc insulators from Power Grid; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has received an order valued at approximately Rs. 200 crore in January, 2010 from Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) for the supply of over 4.53 lakh 420 kN Anti-fog Porcelain Disc Insulators for use in the +/-800 kV HVDC Transmission Line of PGCIL from Biswanath Chariyali in Assam to Agra in Uttar Pradesh.

Vacant Posts of Judges

2467. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:
SHRI LAL CHAND KATARIA:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for raising the number of posts of judges for the lower courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expenditure incurred on judiciary;

(d) whether the Government proposed to raise the expenditure on judiciary so as to put in place a speedier justice delivery system; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Under article 235 of the Constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judiciary in the

States vests with the concerned High Court. Thus, as regards the judges' strength in the District and subordinate courts is concerned, the responsibility for taking necessary action vests with the respective High Courts.

(c) No assessment has been made, so far, about percentage of GDP expenditure incurred on judiciary.

(d) and (e) The 13th Finance Commission has recommended an amount of Rs. 5,000 crore to be spent during 2011-12 over initiatives for faster delivery of justice.

Setting up of SAIL Videsh

2468. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to set up a subsidiary of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) namely "SAIL Videsh" in joint venture to spearhead overseas acquisitions particularly in the mining sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) No decision has been taken by the Government to set up SAIL-Videsh as a subsidiary of SAIL.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Old Railway Bridges in Bihar

2469. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of old railway bridges in Bihar as on date which require strengthening and rebuilding treatment;

(b) whether the Railways have any comprehensive plan for strengthening and rebuilding of these old railway bridges; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of bridges is an ongoing process on Indian Railways. A well laid down system of multi-tier inspection of bridges is followed on

Indian Railways. Railways undertake rehabilitation/rebuilding/strengthening of bridges on the basis of their physical condition as ascertained during regular inspections carried out in the field.

Details on railway bridges is maintained zone wise. Bihar is served by Eastern, East Central, North Eastern, North East Frontier Railway. Number of bridges rehabilitated/rebuilt/strengthened on these railways in last 5 years are as below:

Railway	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09
ER	96	126	106	132	221
ECR	66	57	47	35	47
NER	40	20	18	15	8
NFR	112	125	80	125	92

[*English*]

Air Accidents

2470. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents of Alliance Air that took place during the past three years;

(b) whether there has been an increase in the accidents of Alliance Air during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the cause of each accident;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up an Air Safety Board to address the issue; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There have been no air accident to aircraft operated by M/s. Alliance Air during the last three years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Civil Aviation to set up an independent Air Safety Board.

Railway Projects in Bihar

2471. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals about railway projects received from the Government of Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Railways on such proposals; and

(c) the status of the proposal as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. No such proposal has been received for taking up new proposals.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Ban on Criminals Contesting Election

2472. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to bar criminals from contesting election in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam.

The Election Commission of India had forwarded a set of 22 proposals on Electoral Reforms in July, 2004 which inter alia includes the proposal on criminalization in politics. While the said proposals were under consideration of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, the Chief Election Commissioner wrote to the then Minister of Law and Justice on the 27th October, 2006 about the danger of certain hard-core criminals becoming Members of the august House of

Parliament and State Legislatures, suggesting amendments in the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to disqualify any person accused of an offence punishable by imprisonment for five years or more, from contesting elections even when trial is pending, provided charges have been framed against him by a competent court.

The Government then requested the Parliamentary Standing Committee to give its recommendations on the proposal of the Election Commission of India. The Committee in its Eighteenth Report on the subject *inter alia* disagreed with the aforesaid proposal as it is a major departure from the law of the land that a person is not guilty until he is convicted by the highest court of the land. The Committee, however, recommended that proclaimed absconders under section 82 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 be disqualified from contesting polls. The recommendation of the Hon'ble Committee was examined in consultation with other concerned Ministries and it was decided not to pursue the matter.

Selection of Judges

2473. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI RUDRA MADHAB RAY:
SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to make selection of Judges to Supreme Court transparent and lay written guidelines and parameters for selection of judges; and

(b) if so, the present norms for selection of Judges to Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India is made as per the provisions of Article 124 of the Constitution of India. There is already a "Memorandum showing the Procedure for appointment of the Chief Justice of India and Judges of the Supreme Court of India" drawn up pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 in the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record & Anr. Vs. Union of India, read with the Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998. There is no proposal before the Government to bring about any change in the present system of appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court of India.

The qualification of a person for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court has been laid down in Article 124(3) of the Constitution which provides that a person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is a citizen of India and-

(a) has been for at least-five years a-Judges of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or

(b) has been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or

(c) is, in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

JTBS in Malegaon

2474. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal to start Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBS) scheme through various social organization in the region of Malegaon district Nashik from Maharashtra State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. One representation has been received in the Ministry of Railways in this regard.

(b) As per provisions of the scheme, appointment of Jan Sadharan Ticket Booking Sewaks (JTBS) at an identified location is done by Zonal Railways by inviting applications through newspaper notification, from amongst those who fulfill the eligibility criteria. This is a continuous process.

[Translation]

IRCTC Tour Packages

2475. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) propose to launch tour packages to promote tourism in the country during commonwealth games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c): Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) is already operating large number of tour packages for various parts of the country. Different tour packages are developed on a continuous basis, as per demand. These packages are available throughout the year, including during Commonwealth Games. In addition, a luxury tourist train 'Maharajas' Express' running with different pan India itineraries has been recently launched and is available during Commonwealth Games also.

[*English*]

Disbursement Under TUFs

2476. SHRI VARUN GANDHI:
SHRI RAKESH SACHAN:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount due for disbursement under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme as on date;

(b) the reasons for this delay under this scheme, if any;

(c) the special efforts being made by the Government to make this scheme free from any disbursement which is outstanding for more than three months;

(d) whether the limit of maximum disbursement under this scheme is proposed to be enhanced;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to take steps towards adoption of high technology textile equipments; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As on date, claims amounting to Rs. 554.62 crore have been received.

(b) Due to overwhelming response of the scheme, there is a gap between subsidy requirement and budget outlay.

(c) Allocation under the Scheme has been enhanced significantly in the budget for the year 2009-10.

(d) and (e) No, Madam.

(f) and (g) TUFs is already applicable for upgradation and installation of technologically advanced textile machineries.

Increase in Prices of Steel

2477. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of steel has continued to rise during the recent past;

(b) if so, whether the Government has assessed and reviewed the effect of the increasing prices of steel on the economy and particularly the construction industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to investigate into the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the price trend and percentage of hike in steel, category-wise in the retail market in National Capital Region on quarterly basis during the last three years and the current year;

(g) whether the Government proposes to re-introduce the Administered Price Mechanism for Steel; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The retail prices of a representative category of steel items in Delhi during the last one year is given in Table-1 of the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) The movement of various category of iron and steel items used in the construction sector in the Whole Sale Price Index (WPI), and the Rate of Inflation based on WPI, maintained by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion from January 2009 to January 2010 is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Steel sector operates in a deregulated environment and in a liberalized market prices are determined by a multitude of factors such as cost of raw materials, production cost, international steel price movement and the demand supply gap in the domestic market and the role of a Government is limited to that of facilitator. Nonetheless, the Government keeps a close

watch on the price movement of commodities such as steel and takes appropriate fiscal measures whenever necessary.

(f) The price trend and percentage hike of a representative category of steel items in the retail market of Delhi on a quarterly basis during the last three years and the current year is given in Table-2 and Table-3 of enclosed Statement-I.

(g) There is no proposal in the Ministry of Steel to introduce administered price mechanism in steel sector.

(h) Does not arise in view of (9) above.

Statement I

Table-I

	Rs./Tonne						
	TMT	Wire Rods	Rounds	Plates	HR Coils	CR Coils	GP Sheets
DELHI	10mm	8mm	16mm	12mm	2.5mm	0.63mm	0.63mm
Feb., 2010	33310	32800	31710	37860	35890	40090	44350
Jan., 2010	33970	33500	32380	37860	35980	39530	44050
Dec., 2009	32220	31610	30700	37620	35720	38690	41170
Nov., 2009	31940	31230	30380	37620	35740	38690	41170
Oct., 2009	32328	32124	31514	36372	35428	39614	41888
Sep., 2009	32818	32404	31794	36372	35608	39774	42128
Aug., 2009	32503	32334	31444	35148	35388	38374	40388
July, 2009	33274	33184	32166	35337	33729	36568	40588
June., 2009	35479	35249	34021	35287	33699	36568	38788
May., 2009	35438	34762	34697	35247	33689	36568	40588
April., 2009	34122	33398	34102	35096	33608	35828	39328
March., 2009	34285	37427	35179	34143	34818	36608	39628
Feb., 2009	34639	36898	37758	36315	33858	36052	38588

Note: Prices are collected by Joint Plant Committee as on 15th day of each month. Prices are inclusive of excise duty and sales tax.

Table-2

	Rs/Tonne						
	TMT	Wire Rods	Rounds	Plates	HR Coils	CR Coils	GP Sheets
DELHI	10mm	8mm	16mm	12mm	2.5mm	0.63mm	0.63mm
Feb., 2010	33310	32800	31710	37860	35890	40090	44350
Dec., 2009	32220	31610	30700	37620	35720	38690	41170
Sep., 2009	32818	32404	31794	36372	35608	39774	42128
June, 2009	35479	35249	34021	35287	33699	36568	38788
March, 2009	34285	37427	35179	34143	34818	36608	39628
December,2008	36634	37927	38363	37533	36174	36039	39158
Sept.,2008	41934	43664	43788	46250	44211	48792	51662
June, 2008	47451	45925	43875	45200	48083	49492	52986
March 2008	43775	43225	42875	45000	43800	48000	56000
Dec., 2007	32200	32200	29800	35400	34700	38000	42500
Sept.,2007	29900	30500	27000	36175	35500	39550	46750
June 2007	36925	30950	31250	36925	35350	39000	48050
March 2007	29650	29325	28300	35150	33275	38475	48750

Note: Prices are collected by Joint Plant Committee as on 15th day of each month. Prices are inclusive of excise duty and sales tax.

Table-3

	TMT	Wire Rods	Rounds	Plates	HR Coils	CR Coils	GP Sheets
DELHI	10mm	8mm	16mm	12mm	2.5mm	0.63mm	0.63mm
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Feb., 2010	3.4	3.8	3.3	0.6	0.5	3.6	7.7
Dec., 2009	-1.8	-2.5	-3.4	3.4	0.3	-2.7	-2.3
Sep.,2009	-7.5	-8.1	-6.5	3.1	5.7	8.8	8.6
June, 2009	3.5	-5.8	-3.3	3.4	-3.2	-0.1	-2.1
March, 2009	-6.4	-1.3	-8.3	-9.0	-3.7	1.6	1.2
December, 2008	-12.6	-13.1	-12.4	-18.8	-18.2	-26.1	-24.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Sept.,2008	-11.6	-4.9	-0.2	2.3	-s.r	-1.4	-2.5
June,2008	8.4	6.2	2.3	0.4	9.8	3.1	-5.4
March 2008	35.9	34.2	43.9	27.1	26.2	26.3	31.8
Dec., 2007	7.7	5.6	10.4	-2.1	-2.3	-3.9	-9.1
Sept.,2007	-19.0	-1.5	-13.6	-2.0	0.4	1.4	-2.7
June 2007	24.5	5.5	10.4	5.0	6.2	1.4	-1.4

(-) Indicates fall in prices

Statement II

Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for Basic Metals & Alloys

Commodities	Weight	Jan'09	Feb'09	Mar'09	Apr'09	May'09	Jun'09	Jul'09	Aug'09	Sep'09	Oct'09	Nov'09	Dec'09	Jan'10
Milds steel & tensile plates	0.31	309.6	278.4	278.4	278.4	278.4	278.4	278.4	290.6	289.6	303.6	303.6	303.6	303.6
Angles, channels & sections	0.27	358.3	343.3	343.3	343.3	343.3	343.3	343.3	352.7	352.5	352.7	352.7	352.7	352.7
Joist & rolls	0.07	274.4	291.1	291.1	291.1	291.1	291.1	291.1	276.0	276.0	276.0	276.0	276.0	276.0
Bars & rods	1.24	301.0	282.0	282.0	282.0	282.0	282.0	282.0	302.2	302.2	302.2	302.2	302.2	302.2
MS Bars & Rounds	0.04	325.6	312.3	316.9	302.9	304.1	301.8	294.5	290.6	288.1	290.7	283.4	281.4	295.5
Heavy Light structurals	0.18	474.3	474.3	474.3	474.3	474.3	474.3	474.3	465.2	465.2	465.2	465.2	465.2	465.2

Rate of Inflation based on WPI for Basic Metals & Alloys

Commodities	Jan'09	Feb'09	Mar'09	Apr'09	May'09	Jun'09	Jul'09	Aug'09	Sep'09	Oct'09	Nov'09	Dec'09	Jan'10
Milds steel & tensile plates	10.57	-0.57	-14.02	-16.82	-16.82	-16.82	-16.82	-13.18	-13.47	-9.29	-9.29	-4.05	-1.94
Angles, channels & sections	20.92	15.86	-8.99	-13.61	-13.61	-13.61	-13.61	-11.25	-10.08	-6.15	-5.39	-3.50	-1.56
Joist & rolls	14.05	20.99	-5.02	-9.88	-9.88	-9.88	-9.88	-14.55	-12.02	-3.40	-17.27	-11.62	0.58
Bars & rods	16.53	9.18	-11.24	-14.57	-14.57	-14.57	-16.02	-10.01	-10.01	-10.11	-7.33	-7.33	0.40
MS Bars & Rounds	26.74	10.43	-4.98	-15.41	-5.85	-13.57	-16.17	-17.04	-17.78	-16.20	-16.52	-15.44	-9.24
Heavy Light structurals	44.12	44.12	7.21	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	-1.17	-1.17	-1.17	-1.92	-1.92	-1.92

Railway Projects in Tamil Nadu

2478. SHRI T.R. BAALU:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status of ongoing gauge conversion and laying new rail lines projects pertaining to Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether some of the proposed projects are still awaiting clearance of the Railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for delay in granting clearance in each of such projects and the time by which the clearance is likely to be granted;

(d) the details of amount earmarked and spent for the said projects, project-wise;

(e) the total length of the broad gauge and metre gauge rail line in Tamil Nadu at present; and

(f) the status of new rail lines Ariyalur-Thanjavur, Needamangalam-Pattukottai, Dindigul-Kumili, Dharamapuri-Morappur, Palni-Erode and Tiruvannamalai-Jolarpettai?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Current status including amount earmarked and spent on ongoing new line and gauge conversion projects falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Ongoing Project	Anticipated Cost	Expenditure incurred upto March, 2009	Outlay during 2009-10	Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
NEW LINE					
1.	Karur-Salem (85 Km)	613.11	231.23	35.99	Land acquisition completed. Earthwork, bridges, ballast supply, etc. have been taken up. Work on Salem-Namakkal section (51 km) is targeted for completion during 2010-11.
2.	Tindivanam-Nagari (179.2 Km)	582.83	9.05	25.00	Land acquisition taken up. Works on Palar Bridge and certain stretches have been taken up, where railway land is available.
3.	Tindivanam-Gingee-Tiruvannamalai (70 Km)	227.40	4.45	110.00	Land acquisition taken up. Works on 4 major bridges have been taken up.
4.	Attipattu-Puttur (88.3 Km)	446.87	0.31	45.00	Final location survey completed.
5.	Erode-Palani (91.05 Km)	288.87	0	02.00	Final location survey completed. Preliminary works taken up.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Chennai- Cuddalore Mahabalipuram (179.28 Km)	523.52 via	0.01	2.00	Tender for conducting final location survey from Chennai (Perungudi) to Cuddalore via Mahabalipuram and the link line from Chengalpattu to Mahabalipuram has been processed.
7.	Bangalore- Satyamangalam (260 Km)	226.00	0.29	0.10	Tamil Nadu Forest Department has not granted permission to carry survey through Reserve Forest Area. Central Empowered Committee constituted by Hon'ble Supreme Court has also not recommended this project as it will cause damage to Elephant Wild Life Sanctuary. State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been requested for their views on dropping of this project.

GAUGE CONVERSION

1.	Quilon- Tirunelveli- Tiruchendur and Tenkasi- Virudhunagar (357)	712.11	473.55	70.00	Virudhunagar- Tenkasi-Sengottai and Tirunelveli- Tiruchendur sections completed. Tirunelveli-Tenkasi portion is targeted for completion during 2010.11.
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1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Manamaduria-Virudhunagar (66.55 Km)	156.38	41.55	21.00	Earthwork, bridges, ballast supply, etc. have been taken up.
3.	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat and Pollachi-Coimbatore (224.88 Km)	557.24	54.20	31.00	Podanur-Coimbatore section completed. Earthwork, bridge works etc. taken up on Dindigul-Palani-Pollachi and Pollachi-Palghat sections. Dindigul-Palani (58 km) targeted for completion during 2010.11.
4.	Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur-Karaikudi and Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli (224 Km)	711.16	14.18	15.00	Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur section targeted for completion during completion during location survey in balance portion taken up.
5.	Madurai-Bodinayakkanur (90.41 Km)	182.66	0	1.00	Tenders for final location survey and Vaigai bridge have been processed.

(e) As on 31st March, 2009, in Tamil Nadu, the total length (route Kilometre) of Broad Gauge and Metre Gauge rail line is 2955 and 1152 Kilometres respectively.

(f) Erode-Palani new line work is already sanctioned. The work of Needamanglam-Mannargudi new line, which is a part of Needamanglam-Pattukottai proposed new line, has been decided to be taken up. The other proposals were processed for necessary clearances. State Government did not agree to share the cost of the proposed new lines.

[*Translation*]

Introduction of Rajdhani Express Train

2479. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce some new Rajdhani Express trains from Delhi to various States including Delhi to Bhagalpur *via* Patna in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Introduction of 2493/2494 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Bangalore Rajdhani Express *via* Kacheguda and 2235/2236 New Delhi-Guwahati Rajdhani Express *via* Muzaffarpur have been announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10.

However, there is no proposal at present to introduce Rajdhani Express from Delhi to Bhagalpur *via* Patna in Bihar.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

EMU Train Between Kharagpur and Balasore

2480. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce Electric Multiple Unit train between Kharagpur Junction and Balasore under South Eastern Railway as the track between the two stations is already doubled and fully electrified;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to path and resource constraints.

Commission to Travel Agents

2481. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI R. DHROUVANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of air travel agents in the country;

(b) the percentage of commission paid to these agents on sale of tickets;

(c) whether there is a proposal to deduct tax at source on payment of commission to travel agents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the interest of small agents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are about 3000 Air Travel Agents in the Country.

(b) Travel agents are paid commission by the airlines at a mutually agreed rate. National Aviation Company of

India Ltd. pays a commission of 3% on Basic Fare and Fuel Surcharge components, to the travel agents on sale of tickets.

(c) to (e) As per the current provisions of Section 194H of Income Tax Act, 1961, Commission Payments made to any person including Travel Agents the Tax Deduction at Source has to be done at the rate of 10% However, to protect the interest of small Travel Agents, tax need not be deducted at source if payment does not exceed Rs. 2,500/-.

[Translation]

Mobile Laboratories for Checking Adulteration

2482. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile laboratories functioning in the country to check adulteration in petroleum products in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of such mobile laboratories in the country;

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

(d) the actions proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) At present, there are 93 mobile laboratories operating under the control of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation (IaC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to check adulteration in petroleum products. The State-wise details of these laboratories are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) As of now, there is no proposal under the consideration of the OMCs to increase the number of mobile laboratories in the country.

(d) Action is taken by the aMes against the dealers found indulging in adulteration under the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Dealership Agreement. In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, the State Governments are empowered to take legal

action against the defaulting dealers under the provisions of the control orders issued by the Government under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Statement

Name of States/Union Territories	Number of Laboratories
Andhra Pradesh	6
Assam	3
Bihar	2
Chandigarh	2
Chhattisgarh	3
Delhi	3
Gujarat	7
Haryana	3
Jammu and Kashmir	3
Jharkhand	3
Karnataka	5
Kerala	4
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	9
Manipur	1
Odisha	3
Punjab	5
Rajasthan	4
Tamil Nadu	8
Uttar Pradesh	9
West Bengal	7
Total	93

[English]

Production of Ethanol

2483. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The steps taken by the Government to resolve the problem of delay in the procurement of ethanol, in certain parts of the country, on account of the taxation policy and procedural measures adopted by the State Governments;

(b) whether the Government has been taking steps to encourage the producers with adequate stimulus package, proper price or procurement policy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The matter regarding taxation policy and procedural measures has been taken up with the concerned State Governments to reduce/remove the duties & taxes on ethanol meant for doping with petrol. State Govts. were requested by MoPNG to waive the import/export fees. Hon'ble Minister (PNG) had written to the Chief Ministers of 10 States on 31st May 2006 and 14th May 2007 regarding imposition of taxes/levies on ethanol as also on the jurisdiction of the State Government with regard to production and inter-state movement of ethanol. The matter was also taken up by MoPNG with Chief Secretaries of concerned States on 2.11.2007 and 5.10.2008 for simplification and streamlining the procedure etc. Further, D.O. letters from Prime Minister were also sent to Chief Ministers of the concerned States in November 2007 in this regard. A meeting was convened by Department of Industrial Promotion & Policy on 25.11.2008 involving Financial Commissioners/Excise Commissioners from various States, in which issues were taken up for simplifying the operational/administrative procedures with regard to implementation of state excise levies, permits, licenses etc. and withdrawal of all import/export fee and other similar taxes in relation to ethanol procurement. As a result of above efforts, majority of State Governments had either significantly lowered or altogether removed the duties on ethanol. The State Governments had also increased validity the of permits to a year. A statement giving progress achieved in this regard is given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), which is concerned with the policy formulation and coordination in respect of all policy issues relating to bio-fuels, has informed that no stimulus package and price have been provided for Ethanol procurement. However, as per National Policy on Bio-fuels, the Minimum Purchase Price (MPP) for bio-ethanol will be

based on the actual cost of production and import price of bio-ethanol. The MPP for bio-ethanol will be determined by the Biofuel Steering Committee and decided by the National Biofuel Coordination Committee.

Statement

A Details of Progress in respect of Procedure/Taxation on Ethanol reported by State Governments after matter being taken up by the Govt. of India

- (xi) **Orissa** - Reduced import fee to Rs. 0.25 p per bulk litre.
- (xii) **Uttar Pradesh** - Government imposing export fee @ Rs. 1.15 per litre which is quite low.
- (xiii) **Chhattisgarh** - Introduced full waiver of export/import fee on movement of ethanol.
- (xiv) **West Bengal** - Reduced the import fee to 25 Paise per litre.
- (xv) **Gujarat** - Government imposing import fee @ Rs. 3 per litre. However, in public interest it is considering to annul the import fee positively. Transport Pass/Import Pass in now being issued for one year.
- (xvi) **Maharashtra** - Extended the period of Permits/authorization from 2 months to 1 year and such authorizations extended to multiple parties simultaneously. State is willing to revisit the regime of transport fees and initiate necessary measures in national interest.
- (xvii) **Himachal Pradesh** - No export fee being levied. Import fee @ Rs. 1.25 per bulk litre is nominal.
- (xviii) **Rajasthan** - Reduced import duty from Rs. 6 to Rs. 1 per litre. NOC for import of ethanol to be issued for one year. Excise Commissioner monitoring personally for smooth import.
- (xix) **M.P.** - Reduced import fee from Rs. 2 to Rs. 1 per litre.
- (xx) **Bihar** - Reduced import fee to 50 paisa/bulk litre.
- (xi) **Kerala** - Measures reportedly taken by the State of Kerala for implementation of EBP Programme in the State as under:

- (a) License to the Oil Marketing Companies has been issued.
- (b) Fee of Rs. 1000/- for each import/transport permit has been levied.
- (c) Validity period of each permit has been fixed for 6 months.
- (xvi) **Karnataka** - Not levying any export/import fee. However no confirmation letter has been received.
- (xvii) **Andhra Pradesh** - Not levying any export/import fee. Also issuing permit for a 3 year period.
- (xviii) **NCT of Delhi** - No export/import duty.
- (xix) **Haryana** - Permit fee of Re. 1 per BL on ethanol abolished in Excise Policy, 2008-09 and there is no excise duty on import of ethanol to be used for automobile fuel in the State.

Production of Natural Gas

2484. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of natural gas production in the major gas producing basins of the country like Bombay High, North Eastern States including Assam and Krishna Godavari basin;

(b) the total gas produced by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Reliance Industries and the Gujarat State Oil Corporation in Krishna Godavari Offshore basin; and

(c) the quantum of allocation of natural gas to northern, western, eastern and southern states in percentage terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The Natural Gas production in Mumbai Offshore North Eastern State and Krishna Godavari (KG) Basin are given below:

	(in MMSCM)	
	2008-09	2009-10 (till January'10)
Mumbai Offshore	16733	14662
KG Basin	837	11849
North Eastern State	2685	2389

(b) In KG Basin, commercial production is going on in Ravva oil field, where Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) holds 40% participatory interest. As on January, 2010, the cumulative Gas production from Ravva field is 8159.67 MMSCM.

In KG-D6 block operated by Reliance Industries Limited the cumulative Gas production till January, 2010 is 11467.20 MMSCM.

(c) The percentage of allocations of natural gas to northern, western, north eastern, southern and central states are 26.07%, 45.23%, 8.19%, 16.78% and 3.73% respectively.

[Translation]

Construction of Rail Line in Bihar

2485. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has submitted any proposal regarding construction of rail lines in the State;

(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 K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. No such proposal has been received for taking up new proposals.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Stoppage at District Headquarter Stations

2486. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken a policy to provide stoppage of important trains passing through District Headquarter stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to provide a stoppage to Bhubaneswar-Rajdhani Express at Midnapur Station in West Bengal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. There is no proposal to provide a stoppage to Bhubaneswar-Rajdhani Express at Midnapore station in West Bengal as it is commercially not justified at present.

Vanishing Companies

2487. SHRI SANJAY BHOI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the norms for determining vanishing companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of vanishing companies found during this year;

(d) whether this revision help in reducing the number of such companies and also help the small investors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) No, Madam.

(c) None of the companies that came out with Initial Public Offers (IPOs) after 2001 has been identified as vanishing companies during the year.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Marketing System of SAIL

2488. SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of marketing policy/system of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL);

(b) the procedure followed to open the new marketing centres; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the said system in remote areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Materials produced by the 5 Integrated Steel Plants of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) at Bokaro, Bhilai, Rourkela, Durgapur and IISCO are marketed through the Central Marketing Organisation of SAIL. Special Steel Plants of SAIL *viz.* Alloy Steel Plant (ASP) at Burnpur, Salem Steel Plant (SSP) at Salem and Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISP) at Bhadravati sell their products on their own.

Based on the assessment of domestic demand SAIL prepares its Annual Business Plan for domestic sales and exports. The All India domestic sales plan is further sub-divided into region-wise plans based on various factors *inter-alia* SAIL's competitiveness, post sales trend, competitors activities, orders booked etc. Availability for domestic sales is covered through order booking schemes which are valid for a financial year. Customers place their indents on SAIL through Branch sales Offices of SAIL spread across the country and orders are serviced by SAIL either directly from Plants or through its network of warehouses and dealers depending on customers' requirement. Priority is accorded in supplies to Railways, Defence, Government departments/Public Sector Undertakings and Small Scale Industries Corporations.

Order booking guidelines are also advertised in leading daily newspapers and uploaded on SAIL website every year when annual booking for the financial year starts.

The marketing network of SAIL as on 01.02.2010 comprised 37 Branch Sales Office, 26 Customer Contact Offices and 67 Warehouses.

(b) Marketing centres are opened at a location based on the potential steel demand of the area, proximity to

existing marketing network of SAIL and strategic requirement of expanding marketing network at the location. Based on these requirements SAIL takes decisions to open SAIL Branch Sales Offices, Warehouses and Dealer outlets.

(c) With a view to widen the reach of the products, SAIL is in the process of expanding its dealer network extensively to cover all the districts in the country. As on 1st February, 2010 SAIL dealership network consists of 1963 dealers spread over 599 districts. As per SAIL Dealership Policy, dealers are required to stock TMT Bars, GP/GC Sheets and other items required by common man and sell to small/retail customers at prices fixed by SAIL. Appointment of dealers in various districts/blocks is aimed at making steel items of mass consumption available near the consuming points in remote areas at competitive prices.

[English]

Per Capita Rail Network

2489. SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of State-wise per capita rail network in the country; and

(b) the major new railway line projects taken up on socio-economic consideration for providing rail connectivity to backward, tribal and other far flung areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The State-wise per capita rail network (route kilo metres) as on 31.3.2009 is given below:—

Sl.No.	Name of State	Route Kms. (RKM) as on 31.3.2009	Population as per 2001 census	Per capita rail network (route kilometre)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5184.85	83200000	0.0000623
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.26	1097968	0.0000011
3.	Assam	2283.71	26655528	0.0000857
4.	Bihar	3514.90	82878796	0.0000424

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	1185.76	20795956	0.0000570
6.	Delhi	182.48	13800000	0.0000132
7.	Goa	69.00	1347668	0.0000512
8.	Gujarat	5328.26	50671017	0.0001052
9.	Haryana	1553.05	21144564	0.0000734
10.	Himachal Pradesh	285.01	6077900	0.0000469
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	238.77	10143700	0.0000235
12.	Jharkhand	1967.98	26909428	0.0000731
13.	Karnataka	3006.86	52850562	0.0000569
14.	Kerala	1050.20	31841374	0.0000330
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4949.08	60385118	0.0000820
16.	Maharashtra	5601.71	96752247	0.0000579
17.	Manipur	1.35	2293896	0.0000006
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	2318822	0.0000000
19.	Mizoram	1.50	891058	0.0000017
20.	Nagaland	12.85	1988636	0.0000065
21.	Orissa	2385.41	36804660	0.0000648
22.	Punjab	2133.41	24358999	0.0000876
23.	Rajasthan	5854.48	56473122	0.0001037
24.	Sikkim	0.00	540493	0.0000000
25.	Tamil Nadu	4106.85	62405679	0.0000658
26.	Tripura	151.40	3199203	0.0000473
27.	Uttar Pradesh	8702.75	166198000	0.0000524
28.	Uttarakhand	344.91	8489349	0.0000406
29.	West Bengal	3890.29	80176197	0.0000485
Union Territories				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	356152	0.0000000
2.	Chandigarh	15.70	900635	0.0000174
3.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	220490	0.0000000

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Daman and Diu	0.00	158204	0.0000000
5.	Lakshadweep	0.00	60650	0.0000000
6.	Pondicherry	11.10	974345	0.0000114
All India		64014.88	1035360416	0.0000618

(b) At present there are 109 new line on going projects most of which have been taken up primarily on socio-economic considerations for providing rail connectivity to backward, tribal and other far flung areas of the country for their speedy development.

Assistance to Pharmaceutical and Fertilizer PSU

2490. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of assistance provided to pharmaceutical and public sector fertilizer undertakings during each of the last three years and the current financial year;

(b) the details of profit/loss earned by these undertakings during the said period;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of loss-making public sector undertakings; and

(d) the proposals under consideration to expand/modernize the fertilizer units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Details of assistance provided to pharmaceutical and public sector fertilizer undertakings during each of the last three years and the current financial year;

Reply in respect of Pharma CPSUs:

Details of assistance provided to pharmaceutical public sector undertakings during each of the last three years and the current financial years are as under:-

Name of PSU	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL), Pimpri, Pune	131.69*	20.17	10.00	5.79
Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited (BCPL), Kolkata	124.19*	20.00*	20.00*	28.61 *
Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), Gurgaon	-	-	-	-
Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Limited (KAPL), Bangaluru	0.95 (through HAL)	-	6.15 (through HAL)	-
Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited (RDPL), Jaipur	-	-	2.00 (through IDPL)	-
Bengal Immunity Limited (BIL), Kolkata	-	-	2.00 (through BCPL)	-

* includes assistance provided under Rehabilitation Scheme approved by the Government of India.

Reply in respect of Fertilizers CPSUs:

The details of assistance in the form of Plan/Non-plan loans provided to Fertilizer PSUs are as follows:

Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd:

BVFCL has received plan/non-plan loans for schemes under 'Renewal & Replacement' for replacement/procurement of capital items during last three years and current financial year as given below.-

Year	Type of Fund	Amount
2006-07	Loan (Plan)	Rs. 10 Crores
2007-08	Loan (Plan)	Rs. 7.47 Crores
	Loan (Non-Plan)	Rs. 20.96 Crores
2008-09	Loan (Plan)	Rs. 19.98 Crores
2009-10(budgeted)	Loan (Plan)	Rs. 55.34 Crores

Fertilizes and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT):

A grant in aid of Rs. 200 Cr. was given in March, 2008 to FACT to enable it to sustain its operation. Further, the allocation details of Plan funds (loans) during the last three years and current year are given below.

Year	AMOUNT (Rs. crore)
2006-07	30.00
2007-08	15.00
2008-09	13.00
2009-10 (budgeted)	33.515

Madras Fertilizers Ltd:

The details of plan funds (loans) from GOI are as follows:

Year	Amount (Rs. Crore)
2006-07	9.00
2007-08	9.00
2008-09	12.97
2009-10 (budgeted)	96.99

Fertilizers Corporation of India Ltd:

FCIL, a closed PSU under the Deptt. of Fertilizer has received assistance of Rs. 4.48 Crore once during the last three years, *i.e.* in the year 2006-07 towards payment of gratuity for training period to Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) employees.

(b) Profit/Loss position during last three years

Reply in respect of Pharma CPSUs:

Name of PSU	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
IDPL	(412.66)	(438.88)	(443.70)
BCPL	(20.07)	(10.68)	(5.35)
HAL	200.49*	(20.71)	(22.09)
KAPL	4.19	5.19	6.00
RDPL**	3.11	3.80	0.48

Figures shown in bracket indicate Loss.

*After considering the extraordinary items towards reliefs/concessions received as per the Rehabilitation Scheme approved by BIFR amounting to Rs. 23954.94 lacs.

**Profit before tax

Reply in respect of Fertilizers CPSUs:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of undertaking/Cooperative	Net profit(+)/Net loss(-)			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (Up to (Dec.09)
1	2	3	4	5
Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCI)	(-) 1422.63	(-) 1504.83	*5800.22	(-) 417.20

1	2	3	4	5
Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited(HFC)	(-) 1065.14	(-) 1101.98	*4841.16	(-) 288.35
Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF)	148.74	158.15	211.58	165.45
National Fertilizers Limited(NFL)	176.10	108.65	97.46	118.24
Project & Development India Limited (PDIL)	10.05	7.80	14.82	9.26
Fertilizers And Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)	(-) 124.72	8.97	42.95	(-63.39)
Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL)	(-) 114.78	(-) 134.85	(-) 145.38	(-) 51.54
Brahamputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd., (BVFCL)	(-) 62.37	(-) 105.83	(-) 215.04	(-) 104.40
FCI Aravali Gypsum & Minerals India Limited (FAGMIL)	6.31	7.54	9.04	4.93

*Book profit only after prior period adjustments on account of recalculation of the interest payable on Govt. of India loans.

(c) The steps taken by Government to improve the performance of loss-making public sector undertakings:—

Reply in respect of Pharma CPSUs:

Government approved the Rehabilitation Scheme of HAL on 9th March 2006 which *inter alia* involves Cash Infusion of Rs. 137.59 crore and waiver of past loans and interests thereupon to the extent of Rs. 259.43 crore (as on 31.3.2005). Similarly, Government of India also approved the Revival Scheme of BCPL on 21st December 2006 which *inter alia* involves Cash Infusion of Rs. 207.19 crore and waiver of past loans and interests thereupon to the extent of Rs. 233.41 crore (as on 31.3.2005).

Apart from the above measures, Government also provided financial assistance to the above mentioned Pharma PSUs for upgradation of their manufacturing facilities WHO-GMP standards and also for setting up manufacturing facilities for Cephalosporin Antibiotics,

upgradation of fermentation facilities for manufacture of Erythromycine Thiocyanate, setting up Quality Control laboratories & Integrated R&D Laboratories.

Reply in respect of Fertilizers CPSUs:

The loss making fertilizer PSUs are BVFCL, FACT, MFL, FCIL and HFCL. The Government is taking various steps to improve their performances.

(d) the proposals under consideration to expand/modernize the fertilizer units?

Various proposals in the Department of Fertilizer are undergoing to expand/modernize following fertilizer units:

- (i) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)
- (ii) Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL)
- (iii) Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT)

- (iv) Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF)
 (v) Bhahmaputra Vally Fertilizers Corporation Ltd.,
 (BVFCL)

Failure of ILS at IGIA

2491. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest Instrument Landing System (ILS) installed at IGI Airport became dysfunctional recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of flights cancelled due to fog during 2009-2010;

(d) the total number of aircraft owned by each airline and the number of these are CAT-III compliant;

(e) the total number of pilots in the country and the number of them are trained to use CAT-III ILS; and

(f) the action taken to ensure that ILS works properly and passengers are not harassed anymore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b)

The Instrument Landing System (ILS) installed at Indira Gandhi International airport, Delhi did not fail. However, operation under the CAT-III visibility conditions were affected as the Runway Visual Range (RVR) equipment used for determining the visibility at IGI airport and provided by India Meteorological Department had failed in the month of January 2010 on few occasions. Details are as below;

Runway 28:1-5th Jan, 24th Jan, 2010.

Runway 29:2nd Jan, 16th Jan, 21st Jan, 23rd-24th Jan and 27th Jan, 2010.

(c) Total number of flights cancelled in 2009-10 during fog were 339.

(d) and (e) Details of the Airlines having CAT-III compliant Aircraft and pilots is enclosed as Statement.

(f) Since the RVR was not available due to the damage to cable link, Airport operator Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) at IGI airport has been advised to assist the Meteorology Department in repairing the fault occurring in the cable communication systems at the airport. To ensure smooth and efficient operation of the airport, representative of Indian Meteorological Department and DGCA have been included as members in the Airport Coordination Committee.

Statement

Status of CAT-III compliant aircraft and pilots with airlines

Airline	Total Aircraft	Cat-III Compliant Aircraft	Total no. of pilots	Number of Pilots available for Cat-III Operations
NACIL(A)	38	38	494	232
NACIL(I)	75	75	734	360
Jet Airways	66	40	968	510
Jet Life	24	7	53	86
Spice jet Airlines	19	19	212	120
Indigo	22	22	307	181
Kingfisher Airlines	64	35	774	345
Go Air	8	8	85	58
Grand Total	316	244	3627	1892

Commando Training Centre

2492. SHRI SARVEY SATYARAYANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are setting up commando training centres in the country for RPF/RPSF personnel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the funds allocated for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. A commando training centre has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 26.70 crore. It will be a specialized training centre where Railway Protection Force and Railway Protection Special Force personnel will be given commando training. Other specialized courses will also be run on railway security related subjects.

Formulation of Model Act

2493. SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has urged for the formulation of Model Act for all State Minority Commissions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) National Commission for Minorities(NCM) Minority Commissions which was also discussed in the annual conference of State Minorities Commissions held by NCM on 21.1.2009. National Commission for Minorities has advised various State Governments to examine and adopt this Model Act with suitable modifications as per specific requirement of the States, in order to bring uniformity in powers, functions, secretarial and other logistics support of the State Commissions. The matter is to be processed by the State Governments under the prescribed provisions of law.

*[Translation]***Supply of Iron Ore to Steel Plants**

2494. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of steel being produced by the steel plants of the public sector undertakings in the country;
- (b) the demand and supply of iron ore in the steel plants and the actual quantity being supplied to these plants;
- (c) whether the Government has to import iron ore due to its heavy demand;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps being taken to make iron ore available as per the demand of steel plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The quantity of saleable steel produced by steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), public sector undertakings producing steel during last two years and during 2009-10 (April 2009-February, 2010) is as follows:

Saleable Steel Production by public sector undertakings

(Unit: Million Tonnes)

Name of Company	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10* (April-February)
SAIL	13.044	12.494	11.384
RINL	3.074	2.701	2.842

*Provisional

(b) Entire requirement of iron ore for five integrated steel plants of SAIL located at Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela, Bokaro and Burnpur is being met from captive mines. DURING 2008-09, 23.28 million tonnes of iron ore was supplied to these steel plants. However, Visveswaraya

Iron & Steel Plant, a special steel plant of SAIL in Karnataka meets its iron ore requirement by purchase from market.

The present requirement of iron ore in RINL is about 6.3 million tonnes. RINL is dependent on NMDC Ltd., another PSU under Ministry of Steel for meeting most of its iron ore requirement. However, a small quantity of iron ore is also being procured from SAIL and Orissa Mineral Development Corporation (OMDC) to meet exigencies.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. None of the public sector steel plants import iron ore. The production of iron ore in the country is much higher than its present domestic consumption. During 2008-09, the country produced 215.44 million tonnes of iron ore, while the domestic consumption of iron ore was estimated to be only 88.22 million tonnes and 105.87 million tonnes of iron ore was exported from the country. However, to conserve iron ore resources of the country for long term utilization of the domestic steel industries, export duty has been imposed on iron ore. Presently, 5% export duty has been imposed on iron ore fine and 10% export duty has been imposed on iron ore, other than fines.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 Noon.

11.35 hrs.

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

12.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

12.0¹/₄ hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Lalu Prasad and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

12.0¹/₂ hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Virbhadra Singh to lay the Papers.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Steel, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1822/15/10]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Steel, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1823/15/10]

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the papers to be laid.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you please allow the papers to be laid?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow the papers to be laid.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.01 hrs.

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

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

14.0¹/₄ hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

**Re: Constitution (One-hundred and Eighth
Amendment) Bill 2008—Contd.**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Shri Pranab Mukherjee to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, after the adjournment of the House in the morning, I had the privilege of having some discussion with some of my colleagues. I would like to inform the hon. Members that it has been agreed to conduct business of the House smoothly for the remaining days of the current lag of this Session. They wanted to have some sort of assurance about the progress of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill and I am just stating that before bringing the Constitution (Amendment) Bill to the Lok Sabha the Government will complete the process of consultation with all concerned.

I think this assurance assuages the feelings of the hon. Members and here-after the business of the House could be conducted smoothly. We have to transact the financial business and other important business.

With these words, I would request my colleagues belonging to all the sides to help the Chair to conduct the business of the House. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Sir, the seven members who have been expelled from Rajya Sabha are staging a Dharna...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Raghuvansh Prasadji, you do not know the whold matter. You please take your seat for a minute. I would like to say that this matter came up in that House, internal discussions are going on there and I am hopeful that by evening a proper solution to this matter will be arrived at there.

14.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now papers to be laid on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Law and Justice, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1824/15/10]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Law and Justice, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1825/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1826/15/10]

*Not recorded.

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1827/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): On behalf of Shri Kapil Sibal, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1828/15/10]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1829/15/10]

- (3) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1830/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): On behalf of Shri Praful Patel, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, 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 Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 2007-2008.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1831/15/10]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi

Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Raebareli, for the year 2008-2009.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1832/15/10]

- (5) 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 Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1833/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): 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 Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Khammam, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, Khammam, for the year 2008-2009, 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-1834/15/10]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1835/15/10]

- (4) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1836/15/10]

- (5) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1837/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the 53rd Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Working and Administration of the Companies Act, 1956, for the year ended 31st March, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1838/15/10]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1839/15/10]

- (3) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1840/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): On behalf of Shri Jairam Ramesh, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Sections 6 and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:—

(i) S.O. 3303(E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th December, 2009, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 489(E) dated 30th April, 2003.

(ii) S.O. 190(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th January, 2010, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 93(E) dated 29th January, 1998.

(iii) S.O. 3317(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st December, 2009, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 671(E) dated 30th September, 1996.

(iv) S.O. 287(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8th February, 2010, making constituting Bihar State Ganga River Conservation Authority.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1841/15/10]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:—

(i) The Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2010 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st January, 2010.

(ii) The Environment (Protection) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2010 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 61(E) in Gazette of India dated 5th February, 2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1842/15/10]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1843/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1844/15/10]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1845/15/10]

- (3) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1846/15/10]

- (4) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1847/15/10]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 3238(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 2009, indicating the supplies of urea to be made by domestic manufacturers of urea to States and Union Territories during Rabi season 2009-2010 under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1848/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow, for the year 2008-2009.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1849/15/10]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 2008-2009.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1850/15/10]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Bhubaneswar, 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 Orissa Primary Education Programme Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Bhubaneswar, 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-1851/15/10]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajasthan Council of Elementary Education (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Jaipur, 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 Rajasthan Council of Elementary Education (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Jaipur, 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-1852/15/10]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Puducherry, 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 Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Puducherry, for the year 2007-2008.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1853/15/10]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pondicherry University, Puducherry, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Pondicherry University, Puducherry, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pondicherry University, Puducherry, for the year 2008-2009.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1854/15/10]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 2008-2009.

- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1855/15/10]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2008-2009.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1856/15/10]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nagaland University, Kohima, for the year 2008-2009.

- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1857/15/10]

- (19) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1858/15/10]

- (21) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mizoram University, Aizwal, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1859/15/10]
- (23) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paschim Banga Sarva Shiksha Mission (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Paschim Banga Sarva Shiksha Mission (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1860/15/10]
- (24) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
(ii) A copy of the Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, 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 for Promotion of Urdu Language, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1861/15/10]
- (25) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1862/15/10]
- (27) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Auroville Foundation for the year 2008-2009 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1863/15/10]
- (28) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 2008-2009.
- (29) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (28) above.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1864/15/10]
- (30) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.
(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (31) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (30) above.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1865/15/10]

(32) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Warangal, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology, Warangal, for the year 2008-2009.

(33) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (32) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1866/15/10]

(34) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur, for the year 2008-2009.

(35) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (34) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1867/15/10]

(36) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli, for the year 2008-2009.

(37) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (36) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1868/15/10]

(38) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Durgapur, Durgapur, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Durgapur, Durgapur, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Durgapur, Durgapur, for the year 2008-2009.

(39) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (38) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1869/15/10]

(40) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Open Schooling, Noida, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Open Schooling, Noida, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Open Schooling, Noida, for the year 2008-2009.

(41) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (40) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1870/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 2010 (Hindi and English versions) published in the Notification No. G.S.R. 96(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 2010, issued under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1871/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act 1987:—

(i) S.O. 293(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2010 exempting the State Government and their procurement agencies and the Food Corporation of India, from the operation of Principal Order S.O. 2409(E) dated September 22, 2009, up to the extend of the total quantity of 2.71 lakh bales for packaging of foodgrains during the Rabi Marketing Season 2010-2011 to prevent disruption in foodgrain procurement.

(ii) S.O. 3290(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th December, 2009 exempting the State Government and their procurement agencies and the Food Corporation of India from the operation of Principal Order S.O. 2409(E) dated September 22, 2009, up to the extend of the total quantity of 3.80 lakh bales for the Khariff Marketing Season 2009-2010 and the Rabi Marketing Season 2011 to prevent disruption in foodgrain procurement.

(iii) S.O. 259(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2010, directing that the commodity, mentioned therein, shall be exempted from the operation of Principal Order No. S.O. 2409(E) dated September 22, 2009, up to 10% of the total production of sugar by the individual producing units during the jute year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1872/15/10]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1873/15/10]

- (3) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1874/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1875/15/10]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1876/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS):

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Agriculture, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1877/15/10]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1878/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): 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 Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1879/15/10]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1880/15/10]

14.02 hrs.

REPORT ON PARTICIPATION OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN THE 55TH COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the Report on Participation of Indian Parliamentary Delegation in the 55th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held at Arusha, Tanzania from 28 September to 6 October, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-1881/15/10]

14.02¹/₄ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

8th to 10th Reports

[English]

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE (Beed): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2009-10):—

(1) Eighth Report on "Implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act" relating to the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development).

(2) Ninth Report on "National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme)" relating to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education & Literacy).

(3) Tenth Report on "Undue favour to Vendor in Acquisition of Submarines" relating to the Ministry of Defence.

14.02¹/₂ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

4th to 6th Reports

[English]

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR (Bangaon): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports:—

(1) Fourth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on "Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in allotment of Gas and Petrol Agencies".

(2) Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of School Education and Literacy) on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Twenty-fourth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on "Reservation in services including reservation in admission and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Kendriya Vidyalayas and in Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Navodaya Vidyalaya.

(3) Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Railway (Railway Board) on "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in South Western Railway".

14.03 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE
LEGISLATION**

1st and 2nd Reports

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I beg to present the First and Second Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

14.03½ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

- (i) **Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 98th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the 83rd Report of the Committee on the "Functioning of Commission of Railway Safety", pertaining to the Ministry of Civil Aviation***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): Sir, I, on behalf of Shri Praful Patel, am laying on the Table of the House this fourth statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in 98th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on "Action taken by the government on the recommendations/ observations of the Committee contained in the 83rd report on the 'Functioning of Commission of Railway Safety'" in pursuance of the direction 73 A issued by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha Parliamentary Bulletin Part II dated 01 September, 2004 under the provisions of

THE REVISED POSITION THEREFORE IS AS UNDER:

Part	Existing	Revised
Annexure-2, (Column 3rd, Row 8th, Against Pekingong, Sikkim)	The Greenfield Airport is being developed at the cost of Rs. 58.36 crores.	The Greenfield Airport is being developed at the cost of Rs. 309 crores.

*[Laid on the Table and also placed in Library see No. 1882/15/10]

rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. Third statement was made on 23rd July, 2009.

The 98th Report on the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture contains 10 recommendations. Of the eight accepted/partially accepted recommendations, action had been completed in six cases. A Statement indicating the action taken/status of the remaining two recommendations in the Standing Committee Report is laid on the Table of the House.

14.04 hrs.

- (i) **Statement Correcting Reply to Starred Question No. 10, dated 19.11.2009 Regarding Aviation Infrastructure alongwith giving reasons for delay**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): Sir, I, on behalf of Shri Praful Patel, making a statement correcting the reply given on 19 November, 2009 to Starred Question No. 10 by Shri Subhash Wankhede and Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena regarding Aviation Infrastructure; and (ii) reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

This is with reference to the Annexure 2 of the reply of the Starred Question No. 10 answered on 19.11.2009 regarding Aviation Infrastructure raised by SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE and DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA, MPs. In the Remarks Column 3rd, Row 8th against Pekingong (Sikkim), it has been stated that 'The Greenfield Airport is being developed at the cost of **Rs. 58.36 crores.**' Since, the fact is 'The Greenfield Airport is being developed at the cost of **Rs. 309 crores**' the reply has been corrected to give factual position.

Reasons for Delay

The corrective statement of the Parliament Question could not be made before the Parliament in time as this discrepancy was noticed only after the end of the Session. The Session of the Parliament was adjourned sine-die on 21.12.2009 leaving no time to put up this reply.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1883/15/10]

14.00¹/₂ hrs.

(ii) Statement Correcting Reply to Starred Question No. 410 dated 17.12.2009 regarding 'Automotive Mission Plan' alongwith giving reasons for delay

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay a statement (i) correcting the reply given on December 17, 2009 to Starred Question No. 410 by Shri Gutha Sukhender Reddy and Shri P. Karunakaran regarding 'automotive mission plan' and (ii) given reasons for delay in correcting the reply. This is with reference to the reply to part (a) and (b) of the Starred Question No. 410 for answer on 17.12.2009 asked by Shri J Gutha Sukhender Reddy, Shri P. Karunakaran. In reply to part (a) and (b) of the Question, in the last sentence it has been stated that "A copy of the AMP 2006-16 is laid on the Table of the House". However, the copy of the AMP 2006-16 could not be laid simultaneously with the Statement, as Hindi version of the AMP 2006-16 was not readily available.

Reason for delay:

The AMP is a voluminous printed document comprising more than 50 pages which was available in English version only. The same could not be laid as the document required to be laid both in English as well as Hindi version and due to paucity of time its Hindi translation could not be made in time. As the Hindi version has become available now, the same is being laid now.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-1884/15/10]

14.05 hrs.

**ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND REMAINS
(AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION)
BILL, 2010***

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): Sir, I, on behalf of the hon. Prime Minister beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and to make provision for validation of certain actions taken by the Central Government under the said Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 and to make provision for validation of certain actions taken by the Central Government under the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

14.05¹/₂ hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: ANCIENT MONUMENTS
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND
REMAINS (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION)
ORDINANCE 2010*****

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2010 (No. 1 of 2010)

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 11.3.2010.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

*** Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, *See* No. LT 1885/15/10]

14.06 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Those who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today or are desirous of laying them may personally handover slips at the Table within 20 minutes. Unless those are handed over to the Table those only shall be treated as laid for which slips have been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.

(i) Need to address the problems faced by Agriculture sector and allocate adequate funds to boost agricultural produce in the country

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Agriculture and allied sectors like forestry accounted for about 17% of the GDP, employed 52% of the total workforce and despite a steady decline of its share in the GDP, it is still the largest economic sector which plays a significant role in the overall socio-economic development of India.

Slow agricultural growth is a matter of great concern as approximately two-thirds of India's people depend on rural employment for their livelihood. India's yields in respect of many agricultural commodities are low. Poor maintenance of irrigation systems and almost universal lack of good extension services are among the factors responsible for it. Farmers' access to markets is hampered by poor roads, lack of basic market infrastructure, and excessive regulation. Adoption of modern agricultural practices and use of technology is inadequate, hampered by ignorance of such practices, high costs and impracticability in the case of small land holdings. Irrigation facilities are inadequate, which result into dependability of farmers on rainfall, specifically during the Monsoon season. A good monsoon results in a robust growth for the economy as a whole, while a poor monsoon leads to a sluggish growth.

The required level of investment for the development of marketing, storage and cold storage infrastructure is estimated to be huge. The Government have implemented various schemes to raise investment in marketing infrastructure. Government have targeted four percent growth in Agriculture Sector during 11th Five Year Plan which is still to be achieved.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

In view of the above, I request the Union Government to take concrete steps to solve the problems faced by Agriculture Sector and allocate adequate funds to boost agricultural produce in the country.

(ii) Need to construct manned railway crossings in Bhiwani-Mahendragarh Parliamentary Constituency, Haryana

SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY (Bhiwani-mahendragarh): The unmanned Railway crossings on various rail sections under Bhiwani junction have become virtual death traps. On 18 January, 2010, seven persons of my constituency were killed at unmanned Railway crossing near Gothya station in Jhumpa village under Tosham Sub-Division of Bhiwani. The incident occurred when a family while crossing the unmanned crossing in a jeep collided with Sadulpur-Hisar passenger train. Seven persons of the family were killed on the spot while four others sustained serious injuries. Such incidents are very frequent and deserved to be viewed seriously and requires immediate action on the part of the Ministry of Railways.

As such, I request the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to pass on instructions to the authority concerned for the immediate release of compensation to the victims of this accident and for the construction of manned Railway crossings at the following points. (i) near Gothya station in Topsham, (ii) village Barwa on way to Rupana (iii) village/town Siwani Mandi near Mansha Devi temple; (iv) village Gandawas in the west of the village between Siwani Mandi and Gandawasi; (v) village Motipura in the west of the village (vi) village Jhumpa Kalan and Khurd, both in the west of the village.

(iii) Need to recover licence fee from big and multinational companies operating food outlets at railway stations

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE (Latur): Sir, big and multinational companies have secured licenses for opening food outlets at railway stations. But licence fee amounting to crores of rupees belonging to I.R.C.T.C. is outstanding against these big multinational companies which is yet to be recovered. The officers of I.R.C.T.C. are not taking active steps in this regard. These companies include Tate Coffee, Haldi Ram and Nestle. On one hand, I.R.C.T.C. is removing small vendors from the stations in the name of losses. At the same time it is not considering necessary to recover the amount which it owes on these big companies.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to recover license fee worth crores of rupees expeditely in the interest of the people.

(iv) Need to accord approval for desilting and renovation of Gandak canal in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HARSH VARDHAN (Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh): Sir, the discharge at the top of main western Gandak canal on the barrage built over the Gandak river partly in Nepal and partly in Bihar is 18800 cusec. The discharge at the point of entry into Uttar Pradesh after covering a distance of 18.9 kilometers in Nepal is 15800 cusec out of which the share of Uttar Pradesh is 7300 cusec and that of Bihar is 8500 cusec. This canal enters into Bihar after covering 131.400 kilometers in Uttar Pradesh.

This canal is main source of irrigation is Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Kashinagar and Deoria in Uttar Pradesh. Out of the total area of 112,550 kilometres in Uttar Pradesh, this canal has 361.373 kilometre of sub-canal, 1306-kilometre passages and 1535.993-kilometre pathways. Owing to the deposit of silt in very huge quantity at present the actual discharge of the water has come down about 50 per cent compared to the estimated discharge. As a result when comparing to irrigation capacity of 333.011 thousand hectare, it has reduced to 254.00 in 1994-95, 137.648 thousand hectares in 2007-08 and this has further decreased in 2008-09 and now in 2009-10 also. Owing to the large quantity of silt the regulators and gate located on the canal are damaged and the lining of the canal on most places have broken due to which the canal has become unsafe.

The capacity restoration project of the main Western Gandak canal is at present lying pending before the Central Water Commission. There is an urgent need to take necessary action in this regard so that this system could function to its projected potential.

(v) Need to construct a pedestrian Subway at Delhi Cantonment Railway Station to facilitate movement of pedestrians

SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA (West Delhi): Sir, there is a railway station in Delhi cantt in my parliamentary constituency and on the other side around 10 lakh people reside in Mayapuri Phase-I. The people have to cross railway tracks for resevad all railway tickets form this

railway station. On account of this, possibility of accident looms every minute at this place because there is no subway or foot over-bridge near this station. As such, the people of this area face lot of inconvenience.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to take immediate action in this regard so that a pedestrian subway may immediately be constructed and people may be protected.

(vi) Need to accord the status of an international airport to Surat Airport and to set up new domestic airports at Amreli and Ahmedabad besides connecting all airports in Gujarat

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA (Amreli): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation in regard to new domestic airports at Ahmedabad and Amreli. At present, all basic facilities required for a airport are available in Amreli, but due to financial constrains Amreli is deprived of this facility. The people are repeatedly demanding a new domestic airport for Ahmedabad, the egstwhile capital of Gujarat. The present airports in Gujarat are not adequate. Besides Ahmedabad, there are eight airports in Gujarat namely Rajkot, Surat, Bhavnagar, Jamnagar, Porbandar, Keshod, Kandla and vadodra which have not been inter-linked through air services. Export-import of goods in large quantity are carried out and a large number of passengers visit abroad every year from Surat, Bharuck, Ankleshwar, Vapi and Selvas, therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that keeping in view the need of the hour, additional air services from Surat airport be made available be granted to this airport and status, of an international airport.

I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to make an effort to make the airport of Amreli operational again and alongwith it direct his Ministry to issue orders to get a study conducted to ascertain conditions in regard to new airport in Ahmedabad and to inter-link the air-services from all the airports in the state.

(vii) Need to give adequate compensation to farmers whose land is being acquired by the subsidiary of Coal India Limited for coal mining in Chandrapur Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Sir, due to priority given by the Government to coal based power

generating projects in the country, the leading company of this sector, the CIL is making special efforts for enhancing coal production. The land of farmers is being acquired on a large scale by Western Coalfields Limited for opening many new coal mines and expanding old coal mines under my parliamentary constituency Chandrapur-Vani-Arni. The CIL and its subsidiary the WCL are mining and marketing coal. They are earning profit of crores of rupees from it, but the price and compensation paid to farmers for land acquired from them is not adequate. The farmers become unemployed in case of land acquisition and displacement. As less compensation for the land acquired is paid to the farmers for securing livelihood in future, farmers are turning against the land acquisition. Their demand is justified is satisfaction has emerged among farmers as their demand for payment of more price than the market price of land is not been acceptable to the WCL. As such, the resentment among the people has reached upto a condition of revolt. An agitation is going on in support of the demand. It is the natural right of the farmers that they may be provided minimum price of land at the rate of Rs. 8 lakh per acre and employment and appropriate rehabilitation may be ensured for them. NTPC is giving compensation of land on these lines in my area. Despite earning heavy profit in the coal areas, pendency or rejection of this demand by the WCL can cause hurdles in land acquisition of coalmines. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Government to intervene and issue directions for givings maximum price, employment and appropriate rehabilitation to farmers of our area against the land acquired from them for coal mines and other industries.

(viii) Need to utilize the water of Brahmaputra river for irrigation, water-ways and generation of hydroelectric power

[English]

SHRI RAMEN DEKA (Mangaldoi): Brahmaputra is a mighty river passing through China, India and Bangladesh. The total length of Brahmaputra is 2900 km. The water of Brahmaputra is shared by China, India and Bangladesh. Before Independence the Brahmaputra was used as a major water way, catering different parts of the Assam from the rest of the country. There are news that China is building a dam at the great Bend to

divert the water. This has worried people of Assam. Floods are a regular occurrence in Assam. Floods have damaged crops, live stocks and properties and increased siltation in the basin.

The Yellow River or HwangHo is called the cradle of Chinese civilization'. But frequent devastating floods caused by HwangHo has also earned it the name 'China's sorrow'. But Chinese Government managed to utilize the water of HwangHo in irrigation and generation of hydroelectric power thus turning this Yellow River as a source to boost economy.

I would like to request the Government of India to frame a long term policy to utilize the water of Brahmaputra in irrigation, water-ways and hydroelectric power. This will boost the economy of the region and contain floods in Assam.

(ix) Need to provide funds for Kanhar irrigation Project in Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI PAKAURI LAL (Robertsganj): District Sonbhadra (Uttar Pradesh) under my parliamentary constituency is naxal infested. This area is poverty, unemployment stricken and 80 per cent population belongs to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and backward classes. Economy is agriculture based. The agricultural yield is declining in the absence of irrigation facility leading to starvation.

Large area of land could be irrigated through kanhar irrigation project, which could generate employment and food for people. This project has been suspended owing to unavailability of fund. The local people and farmers are disappointed as a result of no progress in this project.

Therefore, through you, the Union Government is requested to provide maximum funds for Kanhar project, Sonbhadra (Uttar Pradesh).

(x) Need to re-start spinning mill at Sandila in Misrikh Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT (Misrikh): My parliamentary constituency, Misrikh is scheduled castes

dominated area and is quite backward. There was a spinning mill in Sandila tehsil of this area, which is lying closed for a fairly long time. Workers have been rendered jobless owing to the closure of this Mill as on date and they have lost their source of livelihood. Their families are in extremely pitiable state and are on the verge of starvation. The demand to re-start this spinning mill is being made for a fairly long time, it has, however, not been accepted.

Through the House, it is requested that the closed spinning mill at Sandila in my parliamentary constituency should be revived through special economic package by the Union Government so that the local workers could get employment.

(xi) Need to strengthen the ring dam in district Gopalganj, Bihar facing threats of erosion and damage by river Gandak

SHRI PURNMASI RAM (Gopalganj): Gandak River flows down my parliamentary constituency Gopalganj causing soil erosion during floods and increasing the possibility of floods due to breach of dam. There is dire need of bolder pitching on one side of ring dam upto 12 kilometre from Gram Panchayat Ramrajpur, Salempur West, Salempur East, Hasanpura and Amalpura Panchayat under Barauli block of Gopalganj district on the Southern bank of river Gandak. Since the dam in this 12 km. Long area has been damaged due to soil erosion. There is great possibility of caving in of this dam in future.

Therefore, the Government is requested to start bolder pitching on the ring dam under my parliamentary constituency immediately so that the imminent floods could be checked.

(xii) Need to re-start flight services from Balurghat to Dum Dum in West Bengal

[English]

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): From the security point of view, after the partition of India the Central Government has built up a well standard Air Port at Balurghat which is in West Bengal.

Long time ago there was a flight service from Balurghat to Dum Dum and Dum Dum to Balurghat. Now it has been stopped. In the meantime, the Civil Aviation Ministry has sanctioned money to protect the

Airport by constructing the boundary wall. Balurghat is the headquarters of Dakshin Dinajpur which is in West Bengal. Now the people of the district are eagerly waiting for the resumption of air service. I am requesting the Hon'ble Civil Aviation Minister to start the flight service for the benefit of this district.

14.10 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET (GENERAL DISCUSSION) 2010-2011

***DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL) 2010-2011**

***DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL) 2009-2010**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item Nos. 28, 29 and 30 would be taken up together.

Motions 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 India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment 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 4, 7, 9, 11 to 17, 19 to 21, 23 to 25, 28 to 33, 35, 39 to 41, 43 to 47, 49, 51, 53 to 55, 57 to 60, 65, 67,71, 72, 74, 76, 80, 82, 83, 85, 86, 88, 92, 93, 95 to 101 and 103 to 105."

"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 India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2011, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 33, 35, 36, 38 to 62, 64 to 74, 76, 77 and 79 to 105."

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

**Demands for Supplementary Grants-Second Batch (General) for
2009-2010 submitted to Vote of Lok Sabha**

No. & Title of the Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3
1 Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	208,63,00,000	...
2 Department of Agricultural Research and Education	3,00,000	...
3 Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	4,00,000	...
4 Atomic Energy	189,01,00,000	18,02,00,000
7 Department of Fertilisers	8000,00,00,000	...
9 Ministry of Civil Aviation	30,00,00,000	...
11 Department of Commerce	2,00,000	...
12 Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	1,00,000	...
13 Department of Posts	436,60,00,000	1,00,000
14 Department of Telecommunications	366,63,00,000	...
15 Department of Information Technology	2,00,000	...
16 Department of Consumer Affairs	1,00,000	...
17 Department of Food and Public Distribution	2459,00,00,000	2,34,00,000
19 Ministry of Culture	2,00,000	11,00,00,000
20 Ministry of Defence	896,61,00,000	...
21 Defence Pensions	2000,00,00,000	...
23 Defence Services-Navy	1033,32,00,000	...
24 Defence Services-Air Force	361,98,00,000	...
25 Defence Ordnance Factories	1337,57,00,000	...
28 Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	...	1,00,000
29 Ministry of Earth Sciences	38,00,000	1,00,000
30 Ministry of Environment and Forests	3,00,000	...
31 Ministry of External Affairs	40,01,00,000	...
32 Department of Economic Affairs	1,00,000	9136,26,00,000

	1	2	3
33	Department of Financial Services	625,00,00,000	1107,98,00,000
35	Transfers to State and Union territory Governments	6892,00,00,000	...
39	Pensions	2380,00,00,000	...
40.	Indian Audit and Accounts Department	32,10,00,000	...
41	Department of Revenue	2757,36,00,000	...
43	Indirect Taxes	22,77,00,000	...
44	Department of Disinvestment	23,42,00,000	...
45	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	3,00,000	...
46	Department of Health and Family Welfare	4,00,000	2,00,000
47	Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	2,00,000	...
49	Department of Heavy Industry	515,47,00,000	3,00,000
51	Ministry of Home Affairs	2,00,000	2,00,000
53	Police	592,45,00,000	2,00,000
54	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	1,00,000	...
55	Transfers to Union territory Governments	10,01,00,000	...
57	Department of School Education and Literacy	1771,03,00,000	...
58	Department of Higher Education	5,00,000	...
59	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	2,00,000	...
60	Ministry of Labour and Employment	2,00,000	...
65	Ministry of Mines	6,96,00,000	...
67	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	2,00,000	...
71	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	7,91,00,000	...
72	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	11843,00,00,000	958,08,00,000
74	Ministry of Power	3158,00,00,000	27,00,00,000
76	Lok Sabha	1,00,000	...
80	Department of Rural Development	15702,02,00,000	6,04,00,000
82	Department of Drinking Water Supply	1,00,000	...
83	Department of Science and Technology	2,00,000	...

	1	2	3
85	Department of Biotechnology	2,00,000	...
86	Ministry of Shipping	1,00,000	1,00,000
88	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	5,01,00,000	...
92	Ministry of Textiles	2,00,000	4,00,00,000
93	Ministry of Tourism	1,00,000	1,00,00,000
95	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	100,62,00,000	...
96	Chandigarh	85,83,00,000	89,25,00,000
97	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2,00,000	23,00,00,000
98	Daman and Diu	6,00,000	1,00,00,000
99	Lakshadweep	8,16,00,000	...
100	Department of Urban Development	4,00,000	1,38,00,000
101	Public Works	1,54,00,000	...
103	Ministry of Water Resources	2,00,000	...
104	Ministry of Women and Child Development	2,00,000	...
105	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	3,00,000	...
	Total	63901,11,00,000	11386,48,00,000

Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2010-2011 submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. & Name of the Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account submitted to the Vote of the House		
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	
1	2	3	
Ministry of Agriculture			
1	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	5038,13,00,000	13,98,00,000
2	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	604,23,00,000	...
3	Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	291,60,00,000	1,92,00,000
Department of Atomic Energy			
4	Atomic Energy	801,66,00,000	481,42,00,000
5	Nuclear Power Schemes	597,10,00,000	241,73,00,000

	1	2	3
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers			
6	Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	65,55,00,000	4,45,00,000
7	Department of Fertilisers	16142,68,00,000	39,92,00,000
8	Department of Pharmaceuticals	26,33,00,000	6,68,00,000
Ministry of Civil Aviation			
9	Ministry of Civil Aviation	245,50,00,000	238,12,00,000
Ministry of Coal			
10	Ministry of Coal	74,62,00,000	5,00,00,000
Ministry of Commerce and Industry			
11	Department of Commerce	550,09,00,000	113,83,00,000
12	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	259,79,00,000	1,67,00,000
Ministry of Communications and Information Technology			
13	Department of Posts	1888,11,00,000	54,93,00,000
14	Department of Telecommunications	1320,99,00,000	30,66,00,000
15	Department of Information Technology	424,33,00,000	26,83,00,000
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution			
16	Department of Consumer Affairs	76,28,00,000	5,22,00,000
17	Department of Food and Public Distribution	13777,45,00,000	10162,16,00,000
Ministry of Corporate Affairs			
18	Ministry of Corporate Affairs	33,84,00,000	29,12,00,000
Ministry of Culture			
19	Ministry of Culture	197,83,00,000	7,17,00,000
Ministry of Defence			
20	Ministry of Defence	1874,32,00,000	196,95,00,000
21	Defence Pensions	4166,63,00,000	...
22	Defence Services—Army	10005,53,00,000	...
23	Defence Services-Navy	1575,63,00,000	...
24	Defence Services-Air Force	2633,74,00,000	...
25	Defence Ordnance Factories	1998,34,00,000	...
26	Defence Services - Research and Development	876,64,00,000	...

	1	2	3
27	Capital Outlay on Defence Services	...	14902,97,00,000
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region			
28	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	269,72,00,000	40,17,00,000
Ministry of Earth Sciences			
29	Ministry of Earth Sciences	181,49,00,000	54,55,00,000
Ministry of Environment and Forests			
30	Ministry of Environment and Forests	425,96,00,000	7,57,00,000
Ministry of External Affairs			
31	Ministry of External Affairs	936,93,00,000	125,57,00,000
Ministry of Finance			
32	Department of Economic Affairs	1136,85,00,000	308,40,00,000
33	Department of Financial Services	5380,67,00,000	9887,50,00,000
35	Transfers to State and Union territory Governments	13044,97,00,000	...
36	Loans to Government Servants, etc.	...	50,00,00,000
38	Department of Expenditure	14,55,00,000	1,20,00,000
39	Pensions	2655,05,00,000	...
40	Indian Audit and Accounts Department	335,91,00,000	170,00,000
41	Department of Revenue	1853,68,00,000	13,00,000
42	Direct Taxes	474,16,00,000	279,83,00,000
43	Indirect Taxes	457,13,00,000	44,03,00,000
44	Department of Disinvestment	10,56,00,000	...
Ministry of Food Processing Industries			
45	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	51,20,00,000	55,00,00,000
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare			
46	Department of Health and Family Welfare	4002,51,00,000	203,50,00,000
47	Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)	160,25,00,000	42,00,000
48	Department of Health Reserach	110,00,00,000	...

	1	2	3
Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises			
49	Department of Heavy Industry	62,50,00,000	84,45,00,000
50	Department of Public Enterprises	2,62,00,000	...
Ministry of Home Affairs			
51	Ministry of Home Affairs	1910,78,00,000	31,33,00,000
52	Cabinet	55,72,00,000	15,18,00,000
53	Police	3953,72,00,000	1382,59,00,000
54	Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs	226,59,00,000	22,74,00,000
55	Transfers to Union territory Governments	319,85,00,000	12,00,00,000
Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation			
56	Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	157,84,00,000	...
Ministry of Human Resource Development			
57	Department of School Education and Literacy	7962,15,00,000	...
58	Department of Higher Education	2772,33,00,000	...
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting			
59	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	378,28,00,000	55,76,00,000
Ministry of Labour and Employment			
60	Ministry of Labour and Employment	526,76,00,000	127,23,00,000
Ministry of Law and Justice			
61	Election Commission	3,24,00,000	...
62	Law and Justice	112,03,00,000	2,50,00,000
Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises			
64	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	439,23,00,000	2,05,00,000
Ministry of Mines			
65	Ministry of Mines	87,70,00,000	6,63,00,000
Ministry of Minority Affairs			
66	Ministry of Minority Affairs	414,90,00,000	19,17,00,000
Ministry of New and Renewable Energy			
67	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy	159,20,00,000	8,88,00,000

	1	2	3
Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs			
68.	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs	11,97,00,000	1,53,00,000
Ministry of Panchayati Raj			
69	Ministry of Panchayati Raj	861,79,00,000	...
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs			
70	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs	1,25,00,000	...
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions			
71	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	93,63,00,000	19,42,00,000
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas			
72	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	529,83,00,000	...
Ministry of Planning			
73	Ministry of Planning	309,37,00,000	23,85,00,000
Ministry of Power			
74	Ministry of Power	1897,79,00,000	738,14,00,000
The President, Parliament, Union Public Service Commission & the Secretariat of the Vice-President			
76	Lok Sabha	57,94,00,000	...
77	Rajya Sabha	28,72,00,000	...
79	Secretariat of the Vice-President	50,00,000	...
Ministry of Road Transport and Highways			
80	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	2680,92,00,000	3033,93,00,000
Department of Rural Development			
81	Department of Rural Development	43620,42,00,000	3,91,00,000
82	Department of Land Resources	444,30,00,000	...
83	Department of Drinking Water Supply	1763,96,00,000	...
Ministry of Science and Technology			
84	Department of Science and Technology	389,81,00,000	6,27,00,000
85	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research	497,03,00,000	97,00,000
86	Department of Biotechnology	202,83,00,000	...

	1	2	3
Ministry of Shipping			
87	Ministry of Shipping	275,73,00,000	86,25,00,000
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment			
88	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	729,00,00,000	33,33,00,000
Department of Space			
89	Department of Space	516,71,00,000	446,14,00,000
Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation			
90	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	356,44,00,000	1,62,00,000
Ministry of Steel			
91	Ministry of Steel	18,99,00,000	17,00,000
Ministry of Textiles			
92	Ministry of Textiles	913,16,00,000	21,52,00,000
Ministry of Tourism			
93	Ministry of Tourism	184,74,00,000	1,83,00,000
Ministry of Tribals Affairs			
94	Ministry of Tribals Affairs	54,72,00,000	11,67,00,000
Union Territories (Without Legislature)			
95	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	295,85,00,000	75,11,00,000
96	Chandigarh	288,28,00,000	85,99,00,000
97	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	263,58,00,000	10,20,00,000
98	Daman and Diu	110,87,00,000	14,19,00,000
99	Lakshadweep	96,91,00,000	36,05,00,000
Ministry of Urban Development			
100	Department of Urban Development	175,95,00,000	1347,00,00,000
101	Public Works	178,48,00,000	66,62,00,000
102	Stationery and Printing	38,11,00,000	2,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources			
103	Ministry of Water Resources	170,09,00,000	17,83,00,000
Ministry of Women and Child Development			
104	Ministry of Women and Child Development	1824,07,00,000	...
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports			
105	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	392,57,00,000	201,60,00,000
Total Revenue/Capital		176870,28,00,000	45674,97,00,000

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Hazaribagh): Sir, for a moment I thought that this moment would never come. But I am very happy as I am sure the Leader of the House is that we have got this opportunity in this House to discuss the annual Budget. Let me start by saying that I have great respect for the hon. Finance Minister and I congratulate him also for finding out a solution to this impasse in which the House was. Therefore, when I speak on the Budget and say things which may not be very palatable he will kindly forgive me because there is nothing personal in this as they say.

Let me start with a good news first. The good news is that toy balloons have become cheaper.

[Translation]

Balloons of the children have become cheap as a result of the exemptions given by the Minister of Finance. That's why while sitting at his own Indira Aawas when the child sees that the bulb given to them under Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme is not working then he will think that if he gets an opportunity to visit the city, he will get a house under Rajiv Gandhi Housings scheme there also where he can reach through Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg. When he would be crying be bitterly due to hunger, his mother will silence him by saying that she is not in a position of feed him Roti but she can provide him balloons. In this Budget this is a good news that balloons have become cheap. I will present my views about the remaining things also.

Every budget is prepared keeping in view the economic condition and the challenges for that time and these find a mention in the budget. That's why the Finance Minister has mentioned about those challenges and through you I would like to talk about these three challenges about which the Finance Minister, has made a mention; what are those challenges as per his budget speech? He said that

[English]

the first challenge before us is to quickly revert to the high GDP growth path of nine per cent. Then we go on to achieve the double digit growth.

[Translation]

this is the first challenge. The second challenge is

[English]

to make development more inclusive

[Translation]

and the third challenge before him, which he has mentioned, is

[English]

"the weaknesses in systems; structures and institutions and remove bottlenecks in our public delivery mechanism".

[Translation]

He has made a mention about these three challenges. He has not included the challenge to price-rise among these three challenges. Before this august House I would like to say that the Minister of Finance sees the challenge of price-rise like this hal in the beginning itself he has stated in paragraph 3, while presenting last year's budget in July.

[English]

"At home, there was added uncertainty on account of the delayed and sub-normal south-west monsoon, which had undermined the kharif crop in the country. There were concerns about production and prices of food items and its possible repercussions on the growth of rural demand."

[Translation]

Please make a note of this point.

[English]

"There were concerns about production and prices of food items and its possible repercussions on the growth of rural demand."

[Translation]

but in the first sentence itself of the paragraph 4 he has stated that

[English]

"Today, as I stand before you, I can say with confidence that we have weathered these crises well."

[Translation]

Crisis has blown over. The challenge of price-rise has come to an end. I am sorry, when there isn't any challenge of price-rise then where is the question of taking steps to address the issue of price-rise. When there isn't any issue at all, there is no point in creating the issue

and then trying to solve it. Apart from the mention of the price of the food articles on page 29 of his Budget speech I did not find any other mention about this issue.

If you see, he has presented an economic survey before us. In that survey one observation has been made about inflation very cleverly. It is as follows:

[English]

“A significant part of this inflation can be explained by supply side bottlenecks in some of the essential commodities precipitated by the delayed and sub normal south-west monsoons as well as drought like conditions in some parts of the country. The delayed and erratic monsoons may also have prevented the seasonal decline in prices normally seen during the period October-March for most food articles other than wheat from setting in. And at the same time (this is significant) it could be argued that excessive hype about kharif crop failure not taking into account the comfortable situation in respect of food stocks and the possibility of an improved rabi crop may have exasperated inflationary expectations.”

[Translation]

He said—

[English]

“excessive hype about kharif crop may have exasperated inflationary expectations.”

[Translation]

After that he is saying:—

[English]

“encouraging hoarding and resulting in higher inflation in food items. This is supported by the estimates on shortfall of production etc.”

[Translation]

Then about sugar also he says the sugar economy also underment the same fate due to which the said issue cropped up. With due respect I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, when his own economic survey states that due to excessive hype, inflationary expectations increased and with the increase in inflationary expectations people resorted to hoarding. Then how come Bhartiya Janata Party is responsible for this? Is Mulayam Singhji

responsible for this? Is Sharad Yadavji responsible for this? Who is responsible for this? The Government is directly responsible for it. Who did this? I had stated in this that why such dexterity is being displayed? All this cleverness shown by the Government is to besiege one man. This is done to corner one man who sits here and he is not present today in the House. He is Shri Sharad Pawar. Corner him, put all the blame on him and escape from all responsibilities. We feel that if there is price-rise, the Government is responsible for it. Who is the chairman of Cabinet Committee on prices? The hon'ble Prime Minister is the chairman. Whose duty is to monitor and co-ordinate the things? It is the duty of the hon'ble Prime Minister, it is not the responsibility of a single Minister. Therefore, we are also aware of the politics played in UPA alliance. This trick is played time and again. When an issue relating to railways comes up efforts are on to entrap Mamtaji...*(Interruptions)*.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY): The entire Central Government is responsible.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please stop talking. Shri Yashwant Sinha, please continue. Hon. Members, please do not disturb.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: This is his twitter response. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yashwant Sinha, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir twitter is nothing. Shashi Tharoorji has not given any statement about price-rise on twitter so his name should not be mentioned. I would like to point out to you that if someone watches the whole situation closely, what will be his views about the economic condition? The biggest challenge and problem being faced by the country today is price-rise, mention must have been made about it, remedies should have been put forth. Mention would have been made about the crisis in agricultural sector, adequate measures

have been stated to deal with it. Along with this mention would have been made about that the Minister of Finance stated in his speech later. It was said that the growth, the economic growth rate which we are boasting of will be 7.2 per cent this year. The said rate was 6.1 per cent in the first quarter, when it touched 7.9 in the second quarter we thought that we were in the ninth heaven and now the country will take rapid strides towards progress. The day, on which the Minister of Finance presented the budget before the House, news came out that the growth rate for the third quarter has shrunk to at mere six per cent. I am saying that we are witnessing green shoots in economy, there is no doubt over it, we began to celebrate and started to proclaim that we have tide over the entire crisis. We have taken control over it and now we are heading towards double-digit growth. I feel that it will too early to feel elated in this regard. Even after this, I am keeping an ear. All the economists are of the opinion that in order to achieve 7.2 per cent growth rate this year, we have to attain about 9 per cent growth rate in the last quarter i.e. January-March quarter. Now they are saying that it will happen. We would also like to see how it happens: we will also be there in the House. If it happens, then it will be a matter of great joy. But I am saying that nobody eats the growth rate, people eat Roti, rice. Nobody eats growth rate. By the jugglery of words you are claiming that you have taken these figures to this level or that level. This will not bring any joy to the poor people of the villages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that the two challenges especially price-rise and the agrarian crisis, the crists faced by the agriculture sector, Finance Minister may excuse me, he has not given much importance to it in this budget which it deserved, if I get an opportunity to speak on this issue Further, I would like to add some more words.

During winter session once I had said in the same house that all the Finance Ministers resort to a little bit of jugglery of figures. I had stated that a little bit of plus mines, let us say to make 6.6 either 6.4 or 7 percent as it suits is acceptable move. But what is happening extra out there, he has assured 12.5 percent nominal growth for the next year in the budget and assumed the rate of inflation at four percent only. Therefore, when 31st March arrives, I would like to convey to hon'ble Members that from first April all of a sudden prices will come down and reach affordable rates. Suddenly at midnight at 12 o'clock it will take a turn and the prices will come down, as next

year percentage has to be four, this has been decided by the Minister of Finance and now it is 8.56 and all the economists who are making assessments in this regard are saying that by the time 31st March arrives it will touch double digits in wholesale price index, already this is hovering around 20 per cent in foodgrain price index. It will cross 10 per cent and may touch 12 per cent also. This kind of situation is going to emerge. There is a big question mark on the extent to which their figures will prove true in terms of growth and inflation for the next fiscal year. As I said that we will not be befooled on 1 April, the April Fool Day.

Secondly, what the Minister of Finance said that it is a old gimmick, the person who works in that Ministry knows that...(*Interruptions*) If one has to show the low fiscal deficit, there is its simple method i.e. show the income exaggerated and reduce the expenditure, then the deficit will decrease. Since the Minister of Finance was concerned about the deficit, and the total expenditure of Government of India is above Rs. 11 lakh crore, he showed that there would be only 8.5 per cent growth in expenditure during next year. I was going through the figures of past four years.

[*English*]

In 2006-07, the growth in total expenditure was 15.35 per cent. Next year – 2007-08 — it was 22.10 per cent. In 2008-09, it was 24 per cent and next year to that, it was 15.5 per cent.

[*Translation*]

This was the expenditure, and those two years, when it was 22 per cent and 24 per cent, were election years. After that the current year will end on 31st March, as per the revised estimate the growth rate in this year will be 15.5 pe cent. Next year, it has been reduced to half, i.e. 8.5 per cent. If the Minister of Finance takes the House in confidence and tell as to how the will do it, then we would accept it.

In non-plan expenditure, this increase has been shown as only 6.5 per cent. I was giving you the old figures to prove that such compression in these expenditures has never taken place, then how it will happen? You may see that as per the budget estimates of the Minister of Finance that the total revenue receipts of the Government of India will grow by more than 18 per cent. If it grows more than 18 per cent, see the figures of last ten years. I have gone through figures of

last two years 2006-07 and 2007-08 only where. Though the growth in economy was 9.7 per cent and 9.2 per cent. When in those two years the economic growth was more than 18 per cent, the revenue receipts also increase. I would like to tell that

[English]

It was largely on account of the growth in the industrial economy of the country and in the services sector of the country which are the revenue yielding sectors of our economy.

[Translation]

You know that the agriculture give another kind of benefit but the agriculture does not directly contributes to the tax realization. As the agriculture is subdued, therefore how the agriculture will have good growth rate? They had prayed Lord Indra and all of us are praying that the Lord should save the country. We should get good rainfall. If this happens, the agriculture will be able to contribute a lot and will lead to growth. There is a question mark on the growth of industrial economy and services sector. Therefore, I understand that the figures reflecting 18 per cent growth in revenue receipt and only 8.5 growth in expenditures are false. I understand that these figures are not correct and therefore everybody is happy with the fiscal deficit of 5.5 per cent shown by the Minister of Finance. The Stock Market went into a tizzy. Wow, what a good fiscal compression deficit has taken place in the next year's budget. The Ministry of Finance said it is 5.5 per cent. 13th Finance Commission said that make it 5.7 per cent but we gave better performance than it in next year's budget. It will be only 5.5 per cent and somewhere the Minister of Finance filched that very 13th Finance Commission had also said that revenue deficit should be 4 per cent, which has been reflected more. But I would humbly like to say that the figures of budget estimate cannot be believed at once and it will be very difficult to achieve them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, after that the former Minister of Finance said that the FDI will be taken upto 49 per cent in insurance sector. He had presented the bill for Pension Funds and Regulatory Development Authority. The hon'ble Minister of Finance has not mentioned these two things in his budget speech. If the Government is withdrawing its decision, I do not have any objection in this regard. The Government shall say that taking FDI upto 49 per cent in insurance sector is not its priority, I will accept it. While taking the House in confidence, I would like to tell you that I had presented it before the House.

At that time I said that the permission for 49 per cent of foreign direct investment should be granted, but the Congress party opposed it. We took up the issue with the Congress party, because we were not having majority in other House. We were in need of their support, they laid the condition that bring it upto 26 per cent. We had to agree on 26 per cent that all right, we will make it 26 per cent. Then all of sudden, the Congress party realized that it should be 49 per cent, then many more difficulties arised Now I would like to know from the Minister of Finance whether he has dropped the issue. We will applaud him, it is very good that they are putting the ceiling of 26 per cent on it. In view of crisis looming large on the insurance companies of all over the world, they do not want to increase it, but as far as Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority is concerned, it is very essential to make it statutory banking. Today, Pension Fund Authority is running without any legislation, or banking and the pension funds of all Government officers and employees is being deposited in it, since January, 2004, the Authority is managing those funds, but everything is being done on non-statutory basis. You brought that Bill. You get ordinance passed, but you withdrew due to objections raised by our Leftist colleague present here. He has not made any mention of it in this budget. I would like to know what is his stance today? Many things were said, but the Minister of Finance had made one announcement about financial stability and Development Council, he should give some clarification in regard to its role in between RBI and other regulators of financial sector. In regard to taxation side last year the Minister of Finance had said in his budget speech that GST will be implemented from 1 April 2010. The preparations were not made, we too expressed our concern in this regard, we discussed with people, what kind of preparations the Government has made, whether the GST can be implemented from 1 April 2010? We came to know that it cannot be implemented. We gave suggestion to the Government to extend its date, but not to implement in the mid-year. Some Members had suggested to implement it w.e.f. first of October. Now I am glad that the Minister of Finance announced it in his budget speech that it would be implemented w.e.f. 1st April 2011. Nobody knows better than hon. Pranabji about the magnitude of the problems. There are so many questions on which decision is yet to be taken and a decision will have to be taken on all those questions and in order to implement them amendment to the Constitution would be mandatory. Every State will have to make a legislation in order to implement it and then it would be implemented. So from today a period of 12 months is

also not sufficient. I request the hon. Minister of Finance that if action is not taken quickly on it and if the pace would be sluggish then it will not see light of the day even on 1st April 2011. Similarly, I welcome the assurance of the hon. Minister of Finance in regard to Direct Tax Code, he has expressed his intention of implementing it from 1st April 2011. Direct Tax Code was issued as a draft paper. Everybody is deliberating on draft paper, our party has also deliberated on it, our delegation also met him and expressed our concerns before him.

I do not know much work has been done by other political parties in it, however, being a responsible main Opposition party we have expressed our concern before you in writing and I think this concern is right and he will keep it in mind before finalizing it. And perhaps it will be introduced in monsoon session and not in the current session. Then such an important legislation should be placed before the Standing Committee. It will go to the Standing Committee then perhaps come for discussion and get passed in the budget session. If we do not put our best foot forward then there could be problem in its implementation from 1st April.

Mr. Chairman, on one hand there is concern for inflation which is grinding the common man, on the other hand there are diverse views in regard to it. In the opinion of the Minister of Finance and what has been quoted by him somewhere that people have started eating more which has resulted in foodgrain crisis. It was stated once by President Bush that people in developing countries have started eating more, resulting in this crisis. So we should eat little, remain hungry and sing praises of the God, then there will not be food crisis. In this very House, I had once stated that there was decline in production of Kharif crop. That day Sushmaji was speaking on rising prices, she also raised this point, How much shortage was there between 17 to 18 million tonnes, these are official figures. The most surprising thing is that godowns are full. All is well, I read these figures in a newspaper and even in Economic Survey that the stock of wheat, rice and sugar were approximately more than three times the normal prescribed limit...*(Interruptions)*. Oh my God! I had not seen the dark glasses...*(Interruptions)*. Why it is not going in the market despite being three times more? Why there is shortage of supply? The hon. Minister of Finance explained that it was a question of demand and supply. If the demand has increased, the foodgrain stock is three times more e.g. if the prescribed limit of wheat was 82 lakh tonne then the total stock is 230 lakh tonnes in Government's procurement. If the prescribed limit of rice is 118 lakh tonnes, it is 242 lakh tonnes. Similarly

the total stock of sugar is 184 lakh tonne. Despite that, there is shortage in the market. And the Union Government holds the State Governments responsible. All are responsible right from hon. Sharad Pawarji, State Government, hoarders, profiteers, international circumstances, Mr. Bush, Mr. Obama barring us. The entire world is responsible, not only us.

Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Finance that why this stock is not going in the market? He said that State Governments were responsible for it, since they did not take any action against hoarders and profiteers. Sushmaji raised this point during discussion on price rise that 83 per cent raids against hoarders and were conducted profiteers in non UPA States.

[English]

Only 17 per cent raids have been carried out in the UPA rule States.

[Translation]

Who is responsible for it? Why do they want to suffer the unpleasant effects of their own actions by blaming the States. This is the condition. If we do not put our best foot forward then there are possibilities of situation turning worse.

For whom have they made the sacrifice of Rs. 26 thousand crore in direct taxes, it is for them who earn from Rs. 3 lakh to 8 lakh per annum in the country. Rs. 3 lakh per annum means one who earns Rs. 25 to 40 thousand per month, he has been given exemption and Rs. 50 thousand exemption per annum has been given to those having income upto Rs. 8 lakh. They wish to generate Rs. 46,500 crore as a result of measures taken for indirect taxes, petrol diesel and service tax. This is to be borne by everybody. Even the poorest of the poor will have to pay it. In the concluding remarks of his budget speech the hon. Minister said 'This Budget belongs to aam aadmi'. I used to wonder at the definition of common man? The definition of the UPA Government could be different from ours, to give exemption to the one who earns more than Rs. 25 thousand and to loot one who earns Rs. 25 per day. I was referring to rising prices because if the hon. Minister of Finance had considered it as a crucial problem he would have been ready with some solutions also. However, it has been to the contrary here. He has taken three measures in his budget which would make the prices sky rocket in the country.

Sir, there was much talk going on about pink papers. Will the stimulus package be withdrawn or not? Under stimulus package, the central excise duty was reduced. All were hoping that the Minister will increase it. He increased it by two percent. I would like to know from the Minister of Finance whether the price rise had come down with this reduction. Nobody reduced the cost. Some decrease in inflation rate may have taken place, but the prices did not come down. Prices did not come down even though he reduced five percent import duty on petrol crude, but when he increased two per cent and five per cent import duty on petroleum products, the cost of diesel and petrol got increased by Rs. 1 each and it caused a stir in market. After that real estate was brought within the ambit of service tax. If someone is buying a flat and making its payment in instalments, he will have to pay 10.33% service tax, which will increase its cost further.

What happened to changes in service tax, particularly in respect of rice and indirect tax? I was in Mumbai a week back. I read in the newspaper there that the cost of cement and steel got increased by Rs. 12 per bag. About the cost of fertilizer, he has himself said that he would increase it from 1st of April. I do not know whether our colleague of DMK Shri Baalaji is sitting or not at this time, but the statement of his Cabinet Minister for fertilizer Shri M.K. Alagiri was published in the newspaper. In his statement, he said that he opposed it. I oppose and will continue to oppose his move to raise the prices of fertilizers, urea. It is not our concern but it is their concern as to how the Government is now being run on the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. I am saying that one of the Cabinet Minister agrees with the Opposition, which is wrong. In this, the economic point is that

[English]

As a result of these three steps, the prices of all the intermediate goods in our country will go up.

[Translation]

One thing is used in another thing like urea in agriculture production, steel and cement in building construction and so on. They created green fund for coal. I have no issue with that they may create green fund, but a duty on coal upto 50 tonnes has been imposed under the green fund through which Rs. 3000 crores may accrue. Service tax is to be borne by the railways, Mamtaji was saying in the House that Rs. 6000 crores are due on railways. In these circumstances, there will be increase in the prices of intermediate groups which

will lead to increase in the prices of all the commodities. The price of coal has gone up because electricity is costlier. Therefore, the electricity board may either suffer losses or hike the cost of electricity. Prices of agricultural products, cement, steel, foodgrains and potato-onion have gone up. I would like to say that we often talk about forward market, commodity exchange. I am surprised to see your economic survey that even today.

[English]

Wheat is being traded in the Commodity Exchange.

[Translation]

Why did they not keep wheat away from this trade, it is an essential commodity of daily use.

Mr. Chairman, Sir I want the Minister of Finance to announce in his reply that he is immediately going to put a ban on wheat forward trading of in commodity exchanges. I was watching that when the Minister of Finance presented the budget and the Prime Minister was returning from Saudi Arabia, he said while travelling in the plane, which was published in various newspaper that

[English]

“Any increase in prices does hurt some people.” No, Sir, it hurts everyone.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): It hurts poor people.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: “Any increase in prices does hurt some people. We have to take a long-term view.” They won the elections, the long-term view—“We cannot save people from inflation if we follow populist fiscal policies all along. Sooner or later, these populist policies if persisted with for a long time, will lead to erosion in the investment climate and other things.”

If followed for a long time,

[Translation]

If it is persistent, then, we may say that elections were likely to be held and everybody knew that election would be held in the year 2009.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they increased their expenses exponentially which included the cost of advertisement also. After that, there was global financial crisis which

went in their favour. When there was global financial crisis, they tried to cover up their excesses under the same. It became a shield for them. They took the shield of that and started saying whatever that they were doing was right. I have a quotation of their former Minister which proves that while presenting the budget for the year 2008, they had not the slightest inkling of imminent global financial crisis. I am sorry what they are now saying in the economic survey.

This is supposed to be Economic Survey, a very professional document.

[Translation]

They are saying that you may consider whatever losses we suffered in the budget for the year 2008-09 and 2009-2010 as stimulus. How may we consider it stimulus? Is it obligatory to consider deem a 3.7% rise or so as stimulus, no. I can say it with full responsibility in the House that this Government had taken all such steps just to win the elections.

Sir, now when the elections are over, suddenly now our Prime Minister is realising the importance of fiscal discipline that it should not be done, why? There is a saying in Bihar and Jharkhand "Bhail Biahar mor karba ka" it means when the marriage has taken place, what will happen now. We have won the election. Now harass the people who voted for us. The matter of basic dissension between us is that they will present a populist budget in the last year of their tenure opening up the coffers and then mislead the people by saying that it is stimulus. The conclusion of all these economic surveys is that the growth rate on which you are feeling proud

[English]

That is all consumption led growth.

[Translation]

It is only consumption led growth. In this regard, it opines that the consumption-led growth is on account of,

[English]

That is only because of the fact that

[Translation]

You opened up the Government coffers.

[English]

It is not investment-led growth and no growth can be sustainable without investment playing a role in that growth, an important role in that growth.

[Translation]

At that time you opened the treasure and now when the Prime Minister said, then, you will pull back your hand and when you pull back your hand, then, your consumption-led growth will discontinue.

[English]

How is investment-led growth going to pick up? This is the issue.

[Translation]

Shri Virbhadra Singh ji is sitting here, he should tell as to whether 10-20 new steel plants are likely to be set up in the country under these circumstances.

[English]

That brings me to the core industries and to infrastructure. In five years which is the big-ticket item of infrastructure that the UPA Government has done?

[Translation]

We started road work, constructed national highway.

[English]

They slowed it down.

[Translation]

We started to interlink the rivers, they forgot it. Nowhere big-ticket infrastructure was developed. Core infrastructure was not developed. Let it be power, how far did we go behind? Today the whole country is facing power crisis. Talking about the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana, all had been hoping that it would be increased, but it could be increased by only two per cent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my constituency a person was shot dead by the naxalites. I visited that village. That village is covered under the rural electrification programme. A board with the name of late Rajiv Gandhi and his photo is set up there. Gradually it became dark and I am telling you that really I had never seen such a deep

darkness that followed there. There was not a single flash of light in quite a distance. When I asked whether there was power supply in that village, they responded that there was of course power connection in the village, but the transformer was too weak to lit even a single bulb.

15.00 hrs.

This is the situation. Electrification was done only on papers. They said, Pranab Babu will also admit this fact that we had given more minimum support price to the farmers due to which prices went up. These are the figures. This Government came in power in 2004-05, when they came in power in 2004-05, the MSP of wheat was Rs. 640, they increased it by Rs. 10 and then it became Rs. 650. After that, the year 2007-08 came in which it suddenly jumped to Rs. 1000, why? Because there was election. It was increased by Rs. 80 in the year 2008-09 and Rs. 20 in the year 2009-10. If you see in regard to wheat, paddy, course grains, you will find that here also it was increased keeping in view the elections. Once the elections were over, it was again compressed. Their aim was achieved...*(Interruptions)* All is well. I want to submit to the Minister of Finance is all seriousness that you have made allocation to meet the challenges of infrastructures for the sake of name. You have said.

[English]

"I have provided Rs. 1,73,552 crore, which accounts for 46 per cent of the budget on infrastructure – total Plan allocation."

[Translation]

It gave us much pleasure. There were much clappings from that side, thumping of benches was done that an amount of Rs. 1,73,000 crore has been allocated for infrastructure. The Minister of Finance did not state as to how much is it more than that of the last year.

15.02 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

I was watching that.

[English]

in roads, it is an increase of only Rs. 2,400 crore. In railways, it is an increase of only Rs. 950 crore.

[Translation]

In the last year's budget, the Minister of Finance stated that the India infrastructure Finance Company Limited would extend support to the schemes of Rs. one lac crore in the infrastructure sector. This year, he is saying that.

[English]

"Disbursements are expected to touch Rs. 9,000 crore by the end of March."

[Translation]

That by the end of March that Rs. one lac crore will come down to Rs. 9000 crore. He had sated about take out financing in the last year budget.

[English]

Take out financing has not yet been implemented. The rules are being worked out.

[Translation]

whether it is agriculture, energy, irrigation, environment-climate change, for each of it he has allocated Rs. 300 crore, 200 crore and 100 crore as if it were offerings. With this, no progress is likely to be made anywhere.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has stated about long term. What is going to happen in the long term? I would like to tell the Minister of Finance that

[English]

if there are two or three very important things which we did to speed up the economy, the first was that we attacked interest rates in this country.

[Translation]

You know that Pranab Babu has been a Minister of Finance earlier also.

[English]

One of the major ills from which our economy suffers was absence of first-class infrastructure and a very high cost economy in which interest rates were 20 per cent or 22 per cent.

[Translation]

We brought the inflation under control for that purpose.

[English]

When we were able to control inflation, then without reducing the real rate of interest, we were able to compress the rates of interest and administered interest rates, and interest rates in the market came down

[Translation]

Rao Ji, please note if you are about to speak after this that this is from 14.5 per cent to around six per cent.

[English]

This along with the development of infrastructure and along with the boost that we provided to the housing sectors has led to the growth of the Indian economy.

[Translation]

I was expecting that the Minister of Finance would rationalize the rebate in income tax for housing.

[English]

By this one step, I ensured that anyone who was buying an apartment/flat will not be required to pay any interest up to about 10 lakh.

[Translation]

If any one is buying a flat at a cost of Rs. 10 lakh, there will be no burden of interest on him/her. We have given him exemption in income tax.

[English]

Now, for eight years or so that figure of 1,50,000 remains static despite rise in inflation and all that

[Translation]

That was required to be extended. As I said in regard to the real estate that it has suffered and there is nothing for its encouragement. The cost of cement has risen, cost of steel has risen and service tax was imposed. That is why this sector is suffering. If you do not develop the infrastructure in this country, do not increase the growth rate of economy through housing, then, the economy will not go ahead whatever effort you put in this country, do not increase the growth rate of economy through housing, then, the economy will not go ahead whatever effort you put in this regard. Nothing is going to happen by piece-meal measures. For this the most necessary things is

[English]

that the rate of inflation in this economy has to be controlled and it has to be brought down.

[Translation]

If you get successful in doing that,

[English]

then you will have the flexibility to reduce interest rates.

[Translation]

Interest rate will not get reduced in the market automatically.

[English]

and you go back to the bad old days of differential rates of interest.

[Translation]

Your Prime Minister, when he was the Minister of Finance, had discontinued the differential rates. There will be too many rates for this sector and that sector in that way. You should formulate such a system that

[English]

automatically the interest rates come down.

[Translation]

If it happens only then there will be progress in the economy and if it does not happen, then, it seems to me that there will not be progress in the economy as you are expecting.

The second point that I wanted to make and perhaps that would be my last point is that we all were very proud of the fact that our domestic savings rate continued to increase to go upto the level of the East Asian countries. 37 percent, 38 percent and your investment rate also witnessed increase. If we add foreign direct investment aid to it, then

[English]

it is always $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent more than the domestic savings rate. Now, if you see the *Economic Survey*, then you will find that the domestic savings rate have fallen

drastically by 390 basis points in one year, and in that 360 basis points is the reduction in the public sector, which is representative of the deficit in the Government.

[Translation]

This is long term damage being done to the Indian economy.

[English]

and if savings rate do not pick up,

[Translation]

I remember that when Pranab Babu was in another House and we would discuss the budget, I learnt from none other than Pranab Babu that what is required is

[English]

not only a high domestic savings rate, but the Incremental Capital Output Ratio (ICOR).

[Translation]

I learnt from him what is efficiency of investment. This country does not run on foreign direct investment. This country runs on the saving practice. This country runs on the earnings of the people. This country does not run on foreign support. If we cut short their source of income, weaken them and put them in crisis on the pretext that our savings have fallen, there will be no scope for investment and your estimate of a double-digit growth, I am sorry, will not be possible. Therefore, I would like to emphasize that if the attention of the Minister of Finance and Government is not drawn towards the challenges of economic crisis, it will aggravate the crisis in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude by saying one thing...*(Interruptions)*. The last point I was saying is that when the Minister of Finance, while speaking from part B of the budget speech, had state to increase the rate, we kept on listening. When he stated that the prices of petrol and diesel will be increased, then, the entire opposition spontaneously, without any consultation, walked out of the House. We did not know what was in the budget. Nothing was preplanned. Automatically, we all reached to a conclusion that it was unbearable, hence we should walk out of the House...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry, I beg a pardon to the hon'ble Minister of Finance as well. People like you and me participate in the budget discussion on T.V. channels. People go there wearing suit and tie, indulge in tall talks regarding fiscal deficit, this, that, don't know. ...*(Interruptions)* Poor people do not go there. No one talks to the villagers and asks their views on the budget. No one talks to the labourers and the students. Discussions take place over there. I heard a person saying that.

[English]

"It was a disgusting behaviour of the Opposition."

[Translation]

I asked him that he felt it very disgusting and got very annoyed but at least we did not disturb Pranab Babu.

[English]

Did we disturb him? Did we say, "No, we will not allow you to read your Budget Speech?" We just withdrew from the House. Anyone who knows Parliamentary Practices will agree that this is the right of the Opposition

[Translation]

that if we do not want to listen, we will withdraw, I would like to tell my congress colleagues that on 26th of February when the budget of Gujarat was presented, just two days ahead of presentation of the Union budget by Pranab Babu, the entire Congress party had walked out. That was okay for Ahmedabad but not for Delhi...*(Interruptions)*. Was it not disgusting over there?.....*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: These interruptions are not to be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: You see, I am not talking about any company etc., Otherwise it will be of much problem for many people...*(Interruptions)*. I want to submit that the claims made by the Minister of Finance in the

*Not recorded.

budget are not correct. I would say that on the one hand he has created the situation for the common men to suffer further and on the other hand the rich to become richer.

He has not shown concern about the villages and the poor, for the farmers and labourers. Even the middle class will have very little benefit. If he has pinned his hope that with the amount of Rs. 26000 crore which has been left for the pocket of the people, the economy of India with a budget of Rs. 11 lac crore and an economy worth one trillion will get a trigger, I would like to say very humbly that the estimate of the Minister of Finance is wrong. With this budget the condition of the common people will deteriorate further, they will suffer more and the country would not move ahead in the right track. It will also affect the economy and the jugglery of figures that he has played would no turn out to be true. I, therefore, oppose this budget and say that this is not a budget for the common man.

[English]

DR. K.S. RAO (Eluru): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that I am given an opportunity to speak particularly after the former Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinhaji spoke on the Budget. Sir, I heard Shri Yashwant Sinhaji with rapt attention on every item that he mentioned in his discussion. Obviously, I could come to a conclusion that there was a definite difference of opinion between the BJP and the Congress thinking itself.

As I told earlier in the House, about three to four years back, I was attending a Conference of farmers of all parties where there was a demand for increase of Minimum Support Price. I want Shri Yashwant Sinhaji to hear this particular point. The demand was to increase the price of paddy to Rs. 1000 per quintal. When all the opposition parties were making a noise about it, as a Congress Member of Parliament I said that no justice would be done to the farmers in any Government, be it the Congress, be it the BJP, be it the NDA or any Government, unless they go on to the street and maintain total unity among the farmers. I also explained the reason as to why it would not be. Wherever any party is in Opposition, they make *dharna*. The backbone of this country, the farmer is being neglected by the Government in power. They make *dharna*, they do everything. But the same Opposition when it goes to the ruling bench, they would be scared to touch that subject of MSP because the moment the prices of the agricultural commodities, which is an essential commodity particularly

for the poor, are increased, naturally the prices of the essential commodities and food stuffs would go up in the market, then once again the Opposition which was earlier in the ruling bench would go on to the street and say, "This Government which is in power is useless. They could not control the prices of the essential commodities. We have to bring this Government down." Then I said that unless a Government in power is prepared to lose power, is prepared to get defeated in the next elections, justice would never be done to the farmers in increasing the prices to the remunerative level. This is what I said. I am proud that this Government, the UPA, as you said, has increased the price from Rs. 550 to Rs. 1000 per quintal and Rs. 630 to Rs. 1100 per quintal for wheat.

That is where our thinking differs. I have all respect for the hon. Member. He said that the UPA Government has increased MSP on agricultural produce only keeping the elections in mind. That means his Government had won the 2001 elections because of increasing the MSP for farmers. When compared to the number of farmers in this country, the number of poor people is substantial. If the MSP given to the farmer increases, prices of food items naturally go up and the poorer sections of the society, in his opinion, would be affected. That is what the Leader of Opposition Sushma Swaraj said earlier during the discussion on price rise.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, do they think that this Government is so foolish to lose the votes of 50 per cent of the people of the country who are poor, by allowing the prices of essential commodities go high and by increasing the MSP for about ten per cent of the farmers in the country? I am not able to understand the logic behind the statement the hon. Member made. He said that all of us know when Minimum Support Price increases prices of food items go up and the poor man is affected. He said so. But how does it correlate? It does not correlate at all.

I have got the statistics. I heard with rapt attention the learned Member and the former Finance Minister and an excellent orator. I heard his Budget speeches as the Finance Minister. He spoke mainly on price rise. Bulk of his time was spent on the issue of price rise. I will deal with that in my submission. He also dealt with the FDI; he dealt with GDP growth; he dealt with wrong data, statistics and figures; he dealt with the GST; he dealt with the Direct Tax Code; and he dealt with the Provident Fund Regulatory Authority. However, nowhere in his speech he mentioned the poor man,

what is given to him, and how much money has gone to the rural areas. Not a mention was made of those things.

I will deal with the issue of price rise first. There is rise in prices. Yes, it is true. I have got the statistics. I am a grassroots level observer. There was no village left in my Constituency which I have not visited twice. I dealt with the people directly. When I was a child, a son of a five-acre holding farmer, we never could afford more than one curry in a meal. Making even that one curry was a big thing. We usually used to make do with pickle, buttermilk, rice, and dal. It was only a guest came calling or on a festival day that we used to think of cooking meat or chicken at home. We simply could not afford to eat chicken or meat at home in those days.

You go to any rural area today. The scenario has totally changed. That is because a large quantum of money has been transferred from urban areas to rural areas. How much is that money? In 2004, Rs. 75,000 crore was given as credit to the farmers. Today it is Rs. 3,75,000 crore. We have transferred Rs. 71,000 crore to rural areas by way of loan waiver. We have transferred Rs. 40,100 crore this year, and Rs. 39,100 in the previous year in the name of NREGP and that has gone into hands of the poor people. For rural development the allotment is Rs. 66,100 crore.

We have spent Rs. 1,37,674 crore in the social sector recognising that the children of the poor people are not continuing their education even up to the 10th standard because they do not know even if their sons study BA or MA, they would get a job. So, they sacrificed their education because they wanted to earn another Rs. 50 as wage. And they took to farming. Keeping this in mind, the Government of India has increased the allocation for elementary education to Rs. 31,036 crore which is mostly meant for rural areas. Likewise, for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan – Rs. 15,000 crore; higher education, Rs. 10,996 crore; Bharat Nirman Programme to the villages, Rs. 48,000 crore; BMGSY, for which you claimed credit, Rs. 12,000 crore; social justice – Rs. 4,500 crore; backward region grant this year, it was Rs. 7,300 crore. Lakhs of crores of rupees have gone to the villages. Thereby, there is circulation of money in the hands of the people which has increased the ability or the purchasing power of the poor man in the villages.

As a son of middle-class family, or a five-acre farmer, when I could not have the capacity to purchase meat, today, they could have three tonnes meat in a week.

Today, we are having *curry*; today they are having more than what I could have in those days. The day the minimum support price was increased for agricultural products, automatically, the wage of the farm labour has gone up. Both the discussions that went on price rise the other day was a wrong argument. Yes, we do not need to get hurt so much by price escalation. I do agree that it is the duty of the Government to control the price rise, particularly of the essential commodities. But like you if we do not increase the remunerative price to the farmer, what would be the result? Then, there would not be production of food grains and if the need comes for importing food grains, and the day, the news goes into the newspaper that India is short of food grains, the international prices will double the next day. Do you want this country to purchase food grains also at double or treble the price from outside the country? That is why, if the prices of the food grains were to be increased rationally, at least to a level of remunerative to the farmers, the production will increase. We do not need to import food grains. Our farmers are so intelligent, very competent, very progressive and innovative minded, where they can produce anything you want, if they are paid remunerative prices. I understand that we do not have ways to produce dal, pulses, edible oil here and we are not paying remunerative prices with the result we are importing. Sir, we are importing 40 per cent of the edible oils. Likewise, 15 per cent of the pulses. Naturally, when the international market has gone up, the prices will go up. Is it a surprise? The prices of food grains are going up automatically because of this price hike. If the amount goes from the farmer, it will come to the farm labour; if it goes from the farm labour, it will come to industry.

Sir, when 70 per cent of the people living in the villages do not have the purchasing capacity, where does the industry come from? How does it flourish? Then, he cannot even purchase a cycle; he cannot purchase a TV or radio. Today, they can have. In fact, some of the farmers in my area are praising the NREGP because they are getting Rs. 100 wages; they are not getting labourers for their farm work. And the farm labour wage has gone up to Rs. 250 per day. So, you must take all this into account. That is why, I touched this MSP first because the thinking itself is different. Your convictions are different; our convictions are different. We definitely wish both farmers and farm labourers must be taken care of.

We wish the money must be transferred in ample quantity to the rural areas, not to the urban areas. If

Rs. 71,000 crore is transferred as loan waiver, where did it go from? It goes from the urban areas – the corporate tax has gone to the rural areas. What did we do? Is it good or bad? Can you criticize this? I do appreciate that the Opposition has to criticize the Ruling Party. You are not meant for praising us. There is nothing wrong even if you walk out; and I do not find fault. But there must be a sensible thinking in it and there must be a rationale in it.

Shri Yashwant Sinha was telling about hike in petrol. It is true. The moment the hon. Finance Minister talked about Re. 1 increase in petrol, the reaction was spontaneous; I believe, as you said and I do agree. But who is going to use this petrol and diesel? Is it 50 per cent of the people in BPL category? You may say that by increasing the price of diesel, the transportation cost would go up, the cost of power generation would go up and the cost of car transport would go up, but who are those who use it? It is the rich people who use it and it is the rich who need it. How many villagers are coming to Delhi or how many people are coming from village to Hyderabad? There are people in the villages who never saw a train; there are people who have not gone out of their districts. How do you want the oil companies to cut Rs. 26,000 crore of loss that is being incurred every year on this count? Do you want it to be provided from the Budget? Is petrol being produced here? Can you and I control the price of crude which is being imported? Can we not understand that it is not in our hands and the prices have gone up 90 per cent in four years? Having gone up to 170 dollars per barrel, it had come to 22 dollars, but once, again it has gone up to 70 dollars. So, this is not in our hands. There must be a way; you suggest a way and we will be happy – where to get this money from?

You said that there is a reduction of Rs. 26,000 crore in the direct tax income. I appreciate what you said. You want to say that this money which is to come from the richer section of the society is reduced and you wanted to criticize the Government on that count. But you have gone through that; you were a Finance Minister. While not reducing the total tax, you must understand that MAT is increased, indirectly to 18 per cent. The surcharge has come to 20 per cent; that means, we are charging. Irrespective of whether a company has got the privilege of getting deductions in income, still it has to pay it on the book-income. So, you cannot say that the corporate sector had been given any privilege by reducing the income tax. You also said that it is for poor. Can I ask, any poor man comes

under income tax? You say that the income tax reduction is affecting the poor. There are three crore of tax payers. Out of these three crore people, how many BPL person come? How are they affected by this change in tax? But yet I see your point – why this amount of Rs. 26,000 crore come down. You also said that it increased from 1,60,000 to 3-4 lakh or eight lakhs. Who are these people? They are fixed income people. If the fixed income people are to be given any benefit, there is nothing wrong in it.

I would have definitely supported you if Rs. 26,000 were to come from the corporate sector, from the richer sections of the society. You have also said that the indirect taxes have gone up. Income tax will go up for all those commodities which are not put to use by the poorer sections of the society. You are talking about inflation or price rise. Let me tell you that 23.4 crore families are being served food grains at a fixed price through the Public Distribution System. This means that irrespective of the market price of wheat, dal, oil or rice, 70 crore of the people are getting these essential commodities at a fixed price. So, they are not affected. Who are the affected people? All the people who make such a claim are silent majority and only vocal minority is making noises. The people who are getting income are making noises. Really, poor people are not making noise about the price rise. There may be a few people in urban areas who are really affected. I agree with it but what is their percentage? For a man who gets an income of Rs. 1 lakh what percentage of his income is spent on the food grains? We all agree that for a poor man food grains constitute 70 per cent of his income. So, you are right that he is affected. But I would say that he is not affected. As you have said, there is a weakness in the handling of the Public Distribution System. There is nothing wrong in criticising it. I would say that even the price rise is more an issue for discussion in the Parliament than a reality in the society or in a village. Some 50 years back when a labourer in a farm used to get Rs. 1, it used to be an equivalent to his requirement for food grains and all. Now when it goes up to Rs. 500, it is again equivalent to the measure of his food grains. So, he is not affected. So, a farm labourer in the village is not at all affected by the increase in the price of food grains. How many people are really affected? Rich people are not bothered about it and the poor are not affected because of the effective Public Distribution System. Only the fixed income group people might have been affected by this price rise....(*Interruptions*)

I also believe that high interest rate is one of the biggest evils in this country. We say that 8.5 per cent or 9 percent inflation in our country is too much when compared to America where it is only 1 per cent or 2 per cent. Do you know the rate of interest there? It is only 3 per cent or 4 per cent whereas the rate of interest here is 15 per cent or 18 per cent. When you purchase a commodity and keep it in your house, whether you use it or not you are paying interest on it. In one year Rs. 100 will become Rs. 180. Where from will you get this Rs. 80? Naturally, there will be inflation. I would appreciate if the interest rate in this country comes down. That is the only solution for this country. If I have Rs. 1 crore, I do not need to work. Even if I sit idle in my house, I will earn Rs. 18 lakh every year. It means that it is not the human being but the money which is earning money. It is not my talent or my intelligence that is bringing money for me. I would say that my money should not earn money but I should earn.

The example which you gave here is not relevant. You have said that during the NDA regime, the administered interest rate for housing was reduced to 6 per cent. I appreciate it because the economy is recycled. More housing activity will result in more employment. You have said that for a flat of Rs. 10 lakh if you reduce the interest rate by 6 per cent the flat owner is benefited. Who will purchase a flat worth Rs. 10 lakh? Can it be purchased by a person below poverty line or by an average person earning Rs. 10,000 as salary? So, there are many things to be done.

In Andhra Pradesh, or even in the whole country, you see the faces of the women's Self-Help Groups who are giving loan at 3 per cent rate of interest. You see their pride. You see their performance and how much they are earning every month. Let us say that we will give that money to all the people. In fact, I suggested one thing to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. We are wasting Rs. 1,20,000 crore on food subsidy. Instead, the Government should give credit to the Self-Help Groups of women. They purchase farm product by paying more price to the farmer locally. They will stock paddy, wheat and other things in the traditional manner in their own way. They will sell it at a price you say to the nearest fair price shop by which you are avoiding transport, re-handling, rats eating away and men eating away in the godowns as also corruption. You suggest that. We can reduce the subsidy of Rs. 1,20,000 crore. All that we have to do it is that the interest rate should be less for the people and for the women Self-Help Groups. They can do it. They are talented and

competent. In fact, in Andhra Pradesh the SHG started purchasing maize from the market and selling it. They made money which means we are providing employment to the poor. We are motivating them to work and we are increasing the family income. What more we want? Instead of a middleman making tonnes of money, directly a poor lady is making money. We will be happy. All the money in the banks can be utilised for such purposes.

You said that the country did not depend on FDI. I agree with that. It must depend more on domestic savings. I also support this. Why should we crawl on FDI? We do not need to crawl on FDI. All that we have to do is that the very Bill or the Act which we make in Parliament must motivate a citizen of this country to work hard and to generate wealth. It should not demotivate anybody. I am happy the hon. Finance Minister made a mention of it. He said that he believes in an enabling Government not to deliver directly to the citizen everything he needed. He only said that he believes in an enabling Government which creates an enabling ethos so that an individual or an enterprise creativity perishes. The Government must concentrate on supporting and delivering services to the poor. It does not need to interfere in the business, trade and industry. I appreciate it and that thinking has to come. He also said that while taking care of the poor, the underprivileged who could purchase a house site who still look to us as people's representative for a ration card, for a house site, for a house in spite of their working for generations and not only himself but his wife and children by stopping their studies, they could not do it. It is the duty of this Government basic needs to all the people. It is not the poor people that should ask, we must arrange – whether it is a ration card, affordable foodgrains – Rs. 2 per kilogram or Rs. 3 per kilogram – including dal, sugar, kerosene, tamarind, chilli, onion, etc. which is required for a poor man. Let it be served through fair price shop. Similar is the case with their house or education of their children or health care. I have been suggesting to this Government since several years that every BPL man has to be given health care insurance with a limit of Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000 in a year by paying premium. Today, if a poor man gets into an accident or some serious illness and if he goes to the Government hospital, there is nobody to look after him. He cannot afford to get treatment in a private Nursing Home. Then he only depends on the God. No one knows how long he would live – be it one month or one year.

We have to take care of such people. If we can provide health care to these people, then we are doing our job. I have been warning this Government for quite some time. The Sarva Siksha Abhiyan is an excellent programme. The Government has allocated a sum of Rs. 30,000 crore for elementary education. That is an excellent thing. A sum of Rs. 11,000 crore has been provided for higher education. That is an excellent thing. But what will happen after 10 years from now? How many people would come out of the colleges and universities as graduates and post-graduates? There will be an umpteen number of students who would come out of these institutions and what would be the situation then in the society? My humble request is that the Government must concentrate on providing skills to the people. A boy who goes to school, vocational training for him should start when he is at the sixth standard or seventh standard so that by the time he completes secondary school or junior college he will not have to depend on Government support for his employment. He must have the courage and confidence to face the world. He should be able to tell to himself that he will not be a parasite to society and also will not be a burden to his parents and that he could live by himself. He should have the confidence that he is an expert in some profession.

If you look at the history of some countries including China, I may tell you that I visited China some 15 years back and there was nothing then, but today there is no comparison in growth standards between China and India. There are other such countries like Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea and they have developed enormously simply because of their skilled people, only because of their training of people. Therefore, let us concentrate on skill training.

I am happy that there is a proposal to provide skills to fifty crore people by the year 2022. Why should we wait that long? We must spend more money on providing skills to the citizens of our country. I also provided the statistics. If we can provide skills to all eligible citizens in this country, then the additional generation of wealth would be to the tune of Rs. Ten lakh crore per year. We are talking of a double digit growth rate; if this is done then we can have a growth rate of 15 per cent. But unfortunately even though the Government realises the importance of providing skilled training, yet they are not providing enough money for this purpose.

Today, how many engineering colleges have come up? How many such colleges have a good faculty? There

are no teachers. The Government must concentrate on providing teachers training institutes. Unless teachers are competent; unless teachers are learned, the students cannot be competent. Merely criticising for the sake criticism will not take us anywhere, whether the Opposition criticises the Government or I criticise their Government. But I agree that criticism must be there, but that must be a valid criticism...*(Interruptions)*

I have always been impressing upon one point and I do not if the Government is strongly and wholeheartedly pursuing that point or not. The UPA Government has said that this Government is more particular about development being more inclusive. It is a different matter as to how far this is implemented. No matter how much wealth is created in this country or in any country, unless that reaches to the poor man, there is no use of having this wealth. No society can be peaceful, no society can ever be happy and growing unless there is a rational division of wealth amongst the various sections of society. The Government must concentrate on that. One can criticize the Government if it has not implemented what it has promised. I would support that.

It was mentioned by the previous speaker about the road infrastructure. They took the credit for starting the highways during their tenure. I was then a member of the Consultative Committee on Surface Transport. It was mentioned by the Ministry then that they had called for tenders under BOT in roads and nobody had come forward to take that.

I suggested the Consultative Committee to find out the reason. When the private sector came for starting the power projects, why are they not coming towards the road sector? That means it is unremunerative. That is not giving them any interest. Then you say about gap funding. If the construction of a road costs you Rs. 500 crore, and if it is not remunerative for the private sector to come there, then you ask them as to how much they want from the Government like whether they require Rs. 100 crore, or Rs. 50 crore or Rs. 200 crore. You then tell them to invest the balance and take it as toll. Today, the Government is concentrating entirely on BOT or BOO. The private sector was ready to invest. The Government does not need to invest in everything. In fact, I was suggesting the other day to the Railways and the urban development authorities that there are ways and means to do it. The hon. Minister will usually say that the question put by the hon. Member is excellent and valid. But he regrets to say that they do not have funds. That

is the routine answer coming for the last 50 years. But there must be a will to do it. If there is a will, there is a way. All the roads can be taken up. Railways can be taken up under BOT. We have got a line in Bhadrachalam-Kovur whose rate of return is 27 per cent. No private sector enterprise can get 27 per cent return but that road is not taken up in spite of our Chief Minister telling that he will bear 50 per cent of the expenditure. That means there must be some valid or sane thinking on these things.

There are plenty of resources available in the entire country. If anywhere in the country, there is water, we should ask them to develop. Where coal is available, they should be asked to develop it. Where gas is available, it should be developed. We should tell them to spend money. Every project need not be at one place. We must all think in a rational way. We cannot think in terms of 'my village and my district and my State'. We are now Members of Parliament representing the whole country.

I agree when you were telling that the Government has thrown the blame on the State Governments regarding the rise in prices. I do agree that it cannot be thrown entirely on the States only. But we all agree that it is the State Governments that have to implement the Essential Commodities Act. If the Chief Minister concerned has no will and has no desire to control the prices, then hoarding continues. He said that great hype is given. Is it given by the BJP, is it given by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav or is it given by Shri Lalu Yadav? You said it. They are not responsible. But Essential Commodities Act must be stringent. There was a time when a trader hoarded more than what is expected, he used to be arrested with unobtainable warrant. Traders used to get nervous then. Later when the Essential Commodities Act was diluted, everybody became a hero. Who is responsible for diluting the Essential Commodities Act? It was done during your tenure.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Rao, we were handling an economy of surpluses. An economy of surpluses is what we created. You have again plunged this country into an economy of shortages. You change the amendment that we made. Who is preventing it? For the last six years, you are in office and you are still blaming us.

DR. K.S. RAO: Sir, hon. Yashwant Sinha is telling that during their tenure, there was surplus. It is true. When the purchasing capacity of the poor people in the

villages was not there, then who will purchase? Then there will be surplus naturally for you. When there is nobody to purchase commodities, there will be a surplus. Today, the purchasing capacity of the poor people has gone up. The demand and consumption have gone up by 30 per cent. The consumption of foodgrains has gone up by 30 per cent in rural areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

So, you have never allowed 70 per cent of the rural population to increase their income, so that their purchasing capacity could go up, so that there consumption could go up. You never allowed it. There may be some surplus in cities or there may be some surplus with rich people or there may be some surplus with traders, in their godowns. I agree with you. But it is not a compliment to you.

The prices have gone up, more particularly of perishables. We all know and the statistics reveal that Rs. 50,000 crore worth of perishables are going waste every year. Rs. 50,000 crore worth of vegetables and fruits is going waste. We must rush and get the technology, which has increased the shelf life of goods. We must add capacity to food processing industry; we must add value of the agricultural products in the villages. But you did not speak a word about food processing industry.

He has said that they will encourage cold chains and that they will see that the difference between the farm gate and the consumer is reduced or minimised. The farmer gets better price and the consumer is not required to pay extravagantly. That has to be done, no matter how much it costs. If this is done, then there will not be shortage of products and there will not any increase in prices. The Government is ready to do that.

The hon. Finance Minister has given exemption for cold storage, fishery equipments and technology. He has even removed the limits on paying of royalty. So, it is for the entrepreneur or it is for you and me to encourage the entrepreneur to purchase it and take it to the rural areas and avoid this Rs. 50,000 crore wastage on perishables and see that more price is paid to the farmers.

Let me come to the food crisis. You said that there were food stocks three times more than what is expected in the godowns and still the prices have gone up. We are lucky in one respect. You and I know that this food shortage is there in 36 countries today. There are wars because of food crisis. But it is not here. The hon.

Minister of Agriculture has released over and above the quota, 3.6 million tonnes of food grains; and earlier he released two million tonnes of food grains to ease the prices in the market.

The hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, is present here. I have all respect for Shri Yashwant Sinha. By virtue of his being in the BJP and sitting in the Opposition benches, his criticism of this Government is understandable. I understand that. It is a traditional thing. But I did not find any valid reason for his criticism. There was no valid reason at all. I could have understood if you were to criticise the implementation of some of the policies which the hon. Minister has announced. But that is not the case. I have gone through every item.

I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for transferring the money to the rural areas, for thinking in terms of paying remunerative price to the farming community by which farming labourer also is benefited, rural area is benefited, because of which the purchasing capacity has gone up and the consumption has gone up. I wish you to maintain the same thing even in the coming Budgets also.

It is not simply thinking in terms of how much subsidy has to be given to the exporter, etc. That is not our criteria. Our priority is rural areas, our priority is poor man, our priority is farmer, which the hon. Minister of Finance has taken care of.

I whole-heartedly congratulate him and say that this Budget is pro-poor, pro-farmer and pro-rural. Thank you very much.

16.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (Kaiserganj): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to extend my thanks to the leader of my own party that he has given me an opportunity to speak on the budget on behalf of my party. This budget has been presented for the year 2010-11 and very tactfully burden of taxes to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crore has been imposed upon the people of the country. I would like to say that this budget is anti-poor, anti-farmer and pro-capitalist. Just now, Members from the Congress party were contending their opinion. I just want to tell them one thing that at the time when our country became independent, the contribution of farmers to the development of the country

was 50 per cent, but now it has declined to 17 per cent only. Recently, I was going through a data in a magazine that during the last year there 27 billionaires in our country and 83 in China. This year, India has 53 billionaires. During the last ten years, these billionaires have accrued such a financial position during the tenure of your Government. China has 83 billionaires whose all assets are worth the assets of our 23 billionaires. This is your budget. I was listening to this side and also to that side; I was observing the jugglery of figures. There is a common saying in our country—"Uttam Kheti, Madhyam Vaan are nishiddh chakri bheekh nidaan." Agriculturalists in this country gained primacy over those in service and people engaged in business were also considered to be in the same category. People engaged in service were considered to hold the lowest position in society. Today, the position has turned around. Therefore, I want to say that this budget is anti-poor. Last time when the question was raised on the price of sugarcane, the Government at the centre told the farmers of Uttar Pradesh that minimum support price for sugarcane would be fixed at rupees 129 per quintal and the Government of Uttar Pradesh assured that it would make efforts to provide 165 rupees per quintal but they did not get the same. Farmers have agitated and did not accept either 165 rupees, or 129 rupees but they forced the Government to fix the minimum support price for sugarcane at rupees 275. Farmers of Uttar Pradesh got 275-300 rupees per quintal price of sugarcane as to how different your policy is, you can see it for yourself.

Sir, our Agriculture Minister have left agriculture at the mercy of Rain-God whereas we all know that our country is a country of rivers, and ponds. Ponds can be dug where farming is not done. After digging ponds, pisciculture can also be done. Water can also be reserved there but these work which should be done is not being done by the Government.

16.0¹/₂ hrs.

[SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI in the Chair]

Sir, I want to raise one small question as to how Government is neglecting the health sector. I am not raising any big issue. At the time of NDA Government or during the tenure of any of the Government before, for the letters written by Members of Parliament seeking assistance from the Prime Minister Relief Fund, no time limit was set. We used to recommend two, three, four or five letters but since the time this Government came to power, a quota of two has been fixed for grant of

assistance from the said fund. Last year this quota was fixed at three and this year the said quota has been reduced to two. Consequently the money reaches the person for whom we write the letter dies before. This is the concern of the common man. A reference has been made about the loan waiver scheme of the last Government for the farmers. I do not want to criticize that but today what is its outcome. Nowadays, the loan of banks mean for farmers is not released without paying commission. No one shall deny this and cannot deny the fact that Kisan Credit Card has been marred by corruption. I want to ask as to who will take care of it. If the institutions established for governing the nation are not functioning properly then who will correct them. But it is the Congress Party which has ruled for the maximum time in this country after independence. Therefore, the Congress Party cannot escape from this responsibility.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when late Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, he talked of corruption but they forgot it. Today we are not concerned about it. Whatever money you are sending is not reaching the farmers. Four hundred crore rupees have been allocated to Purvanchal for Green Revolution in the present budget. There are several states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh have been covered under this but not Assam. Each State gets a share of 67 crore rupees out of the said amount. Today, I want to put an allegation on the Government of India that it is the result of your negligence that states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar have been neglected and as a result today the youth from Uttar Pradesh who happen to go to Maharashtra and Punjab have to face humiliation ...*(Interruptions)*. I am not alleging anyone but it has happened recently in Ludhiana.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today I want to say through the Chair that as on date Punjab takes pride in the production of cereals and we are also proud of it but maximum labour is belonging to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was watching one advertisement in which a son was saying to his father that I will open a cycle repair shop. That advertisement must also be of the Government and not of any body else. Father asks his son, why so, then he replies that one the stock of diesel and petrol is exhausted, we shall have to move on bicycle when we grow up. I want to ask that the farmers of India whom we revered as God, are today a helpless lot, who else will come to their rescus. When I was a small child, I used to see the election symbol of Congress Party as a pair of bulls. After this, I saw the

symbol of Congress Party changing into the Cow and a calf. I want to say that you are decreasing the subsidy, you may do so, but you should think of those small and marginal farmers who do their farming with the help of bullock...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please keep quiet.

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: I want to give a suggestion that you can promote agriculture if you so wish, You can save agriculture if you desire so...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Government can do so, if it intends to. Use of bullocks can be promoted for encouraging agriculture and if not the big farmers then small farmers can be encouraged to cultivate with bullock ...*(Interruptions)*. You have not seen bullock, but you have seen the aeroplane Agriculture has been the worst affected since the time this Government came into power. The party which ruled for the maximum period in the country is the Congress Party and the section neglected by the Congress Party is the poor and the farmers. Chairman Sir, I want to say through you that...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Brijbhushan Singh ji, you could have called directly me as Speaker or Deputy Speaker but you have kept me in between...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when Congress Party was in power in Uttar Pradesh, the price of sugarcane used to rise by one or two rupees per quintal. But it was for the first time in the history that when the Government of Mulayam Singh ji was formed, the price of sugarcane was increased by Rs. 25 per quintal within two years and for this hon'ble Sharad Pawar ji had extended congratulations to hon'bel Mulayam Singh ji. The result to this was that Uttar Pradesh topped in sugar production. I would like to tell you not to ignore the poor ...*(Interruptions)*. Yes, it is right that earlier I was in B.J.P. Before that I was in S.P. and during childhood I was in Congress. But on becoming mature I left your party...*(Interruptions)* As soon as I realized that it was not right, I left it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all know. I said it the last time also and today again I am saying it. Spurious milk, ghee, cheese and medicines are sold in the country. We also have fake currency notes and such other things. If you take the farmers of the country into confidence, barring medicines, the problem of spurious milk and ghee can

be solved ...(*Interruptions*). This is not being done by the farmers. Today they are getting nothing. They are being neglected. They are getting step motherly treatment. It is the result of this that today those who are the real rulers of the real rulers of the country the people are unhappy.

Sir now a days MPLAD fund is in the news. My suggestion is not that the MPLAD fund should be increased. My suggestion is that the MPLAD fund should be discontinued or be increased. If you cannot increase it, discontinue it. Regarding all the centrally sponsored schemes whether related to housing, power or roads you should add 10-15% amount to these if you do not consider all to be dishonest. Your problems will be over, but you consider all to be dishonest and corrupt. There is democracy in our country. For you those sitting here are dishonest and the bureaucracy honest. Today the situation the country is facing is not due to the peoples representatives. It is all due to the system which is nothing but a machine having no heart. The reason for the worsening situation of the country is the system and not the peoples representatives. They are accountable and if they fail, they are not elected for the next term.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, someone has said that desire makes one guilty, wealth is the root cause of all the evils and there is no meaning of patriotism for those who face starvation. It is hunger that makes one a traitor. Today's situation is the result of this very thing. Today the naxalites have the support of the people. ...(*Interruptions*) Terrorism is increasing. Today, in Pakistan explosion has become common. The root cause of which is hunger. Our weakness is being exploited. This budget is anti-poor, anti-farmer, anti-youth and anti-national. It is nothing but a procapitalist budget. I, therefore, oppose it.

DR. BALIRAM (Lalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to speak. Today discussion is being held over the budget. Our country has been mentioned in glowing terms in all the Vedas and the Scriptures and our elders have also appreciated it. We have composed a song. "Saare jahaan se achchha Hindustan hamaaraa." People used to say that India was a rich country and it was called 'Sone kee Chidiya.' It appears from the budget which has been presented today in the House that India is, in fact, not a rich country. I would like to say that India has been and is still today a rich country. No country in the world has the natural resources as much as India has. Today if this country is getting poorer and if the people are suffering from starvation the definitely it is nothing but the policies of the Government which are responsible for all these. That

is why I would like to say that in the budget which has been formulated no attention has been paid to the poor, the farmers as well as the students. Rather, it has been presented to further the interests of capitalists.

India is an agriculture-based country. Here 70-72 per cent of the people are dependent on agriculture. But the Government has neglected the agricultural sector. If the proper distribution of the arable lands that India has including those lying useless is made among the poor and these are developed as agriculture lands by giving grants to them by the Government, agriculture production can definitely be increased.

One honourable Member said that India is self-sufficient in agriculture, in foodgrains. If this country is self-sufficient in respect of foodgrains *i.e.* there is no shortage of foodgrains here, then, why are the people dying of starvation. Their figures are totally wrong. If you want to increase productivity, you will have to provide subsidy to the farmers. You will have to decrease the prices of fertilizers. If the prices of fertilizers continued to go up like this and the subsidy is not provided to the farmers, this country will definitely face starvation. If anyone is responsible for this, it is none other than the Government. That is why I would like to say that the Minister of Finance who had presented the budget earlier had provided for the poor. He said that he was working in the interest of the poor. Today, the discussion is being held over BPL. There are about 15-20% people who have no lands, not a single inch, and no means of livelihood. How should these 20% of the people get foodgrains and fill their bellies. The Government formulated a scheme that it will overcome starvation by providing them the BPL Antyodaya Card. The Union Government has provided BPL cards to 1.40 crore families all over the country till date. As far as Uttar Pradesh, the biggest state, is concerned, 17 lakh BPL cards have been distributed. Discussion is being held in the House, and all the Members stated that attention should be paid to the poor, there should be rectification of the existing BPL list and those who have been left out should be added. If you conduct a survey fairly, you will find that these are at least ten crore people who have no land nor any employment. Such people are suffering starvation. If this Government is really pro-poor, it will have to add ten crore people in the BPL list and provide benefits to them.

Before the budget which has been presented now, the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister had made an announcement for establishing ideal villages and stated that they would spend Rs. 10 lakh for this. How will a

village be developed as an ideal village in Rs. 10 lakh? Villages are full of jhonpris. How will a village be developed as an ideal village unless and until all the jhonpris and the houses lying in rubbles are replaced. Today there is a BSP Government in Uttar Pradesh. Behan Kumari Mayawati ji has formulated Dr. Ambedkar Gram Vikas Yojana there. You may go and see the Ambedkar villages, the way RCC roads, concrete roads are being constructed there, the way houses are being constructed for poor and other facilities like widow, old age and handicapped pensions are being given there, if the Government works in the similar manner, then only, these villages can be termed as model villages. Further, I would like to say that Bahujan Samaj Party Government has come to power with full majority in Uttar Pradesh and this state is in the grip of poverty. Our Chief Minister, Behan Kumari Mayawati ji has repeatedly demanded from the Union Government, the package of Rs. 80 thousand crore so that poverty, starvation and unemployment prevailing there may be removed and widows, old women and handicapped may also get pension, and students may get scholarship, then we may be able to eradicate poverty in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Chairman, Sir, but I would like to say that the Government is giving step-motherly treatment to us...*(Interruptions)*. They are giving all kinds of facilities and packages to the States where their Government is in power...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not make interruption.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BALIRAM: They are giving step motherly treatment to those States where their Government is not in power and they have not given a single penny against the demand of package of Rs. 80 thousand crore.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to demand that this kind of step motherly treatment should not be given to Uttar Pradesh and poverty should be eradicated there also, therefore, the package of Rs. 80 thousand crore should be given for development of people there. Today, prices are rising. The prices of cement, steel and bricks have increased. Now please tell us how the poor people of that State can live in pucca houses? They cannot afford. I had been the party incharge of the Jharkhand State therefore, I have also seen Jharkhand and Bihar also. The way poverty and starvation are prevailing there, the people of that State works very hard. He transports 4-5 quintal of goods on cycle but his

diet is only a little quantity of rice alongwith salt and water. Whether the Government has only such intentions? If the Government intends to remove the poverty, it should go and see those far-flung areas of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh which are in grip of poverty. People in these areas are not getting foodgrains to feed themselves.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Government to send its representatives to meet the poor people. It is not so that they cannot go to the places where their Government is not in power. They have got one 'Yuvraj' also. The 'Yuvraj' eats food in dalit settlements and sleeps in their houses. But no work is done to alleviate poverty and remove starvation. Their condition of poor would not improve by staging such drama.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bali Ramji, please conclude your speech.

DR. BALIRAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not take much time.

Finally, I would like to say that price rise has taken place due to hike in prices of diesel and petrol. Sometimes, the prices of diesel and petrol are decreased and sometimes increased. They decrease the prices of diesel and petrol at the time of election. When they had to contest the elections and form the Government, they decrease the price of diesel and petrol and as soon as their Government come to power, they increase the price of diesel and petrol to profit the affluent people from whom they had got money to contest the elections and burden the poor people.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has presented the Budget for the year 2010-11 in this House. There are about 189 items now; and I think, there were 152 items last year. So, the Finance Minister has stretched almost all the issues that we have been discussing nowadays.

I would neither say that this Budget is bad just because there is a fiscal deficit nor would I say that it is good Budget just because it is a surplus Budget. During the course of his speech, the hon. Finance Minister said that 'the Budget is not a mere statement

of assets and liabilities, and it is something more.' He stressed that there should be some vision. I fully agree with him. So, it is on this point, with my limited capacity, that I would like to analyze this Budget as to what is the vision and for whom this vision is visualized.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please speak a bit louder.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: During the last time we witnessed global recession. We discussed the Budget in the wake of the situation in the world arena. So, the Government had given the tax exemption of Rs. 80,000 crore for the rich people. It was in the form of the stimulus package. It was stated that the incentive would give some encouragement to the economy.

In this Budget, our Finance Minister has said that there is a loss of Rs. 26,000 crore on giving exemptions including income tax. This is one picture. On the one side, there was an exemption of Rs. 80,000 crore for the rich people last time. The hon. Finance Minister says that there is a recovery at this time and at the same time, there is again an exemption of Rs. 26,000 crore. On the other hand, the Finance Minister has reversed the excise duty on non-petroleum items from eight per cent to 10 per cent; and 7.5 per cent on the petroleum items. This august House had discussed on the issue of price rise for one full day, one day before the presentation of the Budget, and I think, all the Members including the Members from the Treasury Benches had stressed about the seriousness of the price rise situation. Next day, the hon. Finance Minister presented the General Budget. I am sure even the Members from the Treasury Benches were shocked, when the Finance Minister had taken such a regressive step in regard to petrol. These are the two visions that we see.

The Direct Tax is coming down and the Indirect Tax is going up. When we say that this Budget is for the poor people, it is really notable to see with the facts and figures as to whom it has really benefited. It is said that there is a better growth rate, that is, 6.7 per cent to 7.2 per cent; and there is an anti-inflationary trend prevailing in our country. This is the argument being advanced by the Government side. If it is true that these are the good economic parameters as far as a growing economy is concerned, then, how has the Government failed in translating these messages into action for the benefit of the poor people? That should have been translated in the form of the lowering of price, that should have been translated in the form of other benefits to the common people.

Here, the Government is saying that there is a better economic situation prevailing, but we cannot see it happening in the life of the common people. The hon. Finance Minister and others say that we need a strong economic base. I fully agree with it. But at what cost would it be? Would it be at the cost of sufferings of the common man? Would it be at the cost of new taxes that are being imposed on the poor people? Or would it be due to the tax exemption given to the richer people? The vision is very clear that this is not for the poor people.

The Government says that there is better economic situation in the country. But the growth rate has declined from 7.22 per cent to 6.7 per cent. The average inflation increased from 9.12 per cent to 11.1 per cent. The export growth is negative, that is, it has declined from 13.62 to minus 20.3 per cent. Import growth declined from 27.2 per cent to minus 20.6 per cent. The current account balance has declined from minus 3.42 to minus 3.3 per cent. I fully agree that only in mining, quarrying and other sections, there is a growth in production. But India being an agricultural country, the result is shocking. Agricultural production has declined from 1.62 to minus 0.2 per cent. That is the situation in agricultural production. This has to be specially noted because we have given Rs. 70,000 crore as debt waiving to the poor farmers. Even after that, there is no substantial change in the case of agriculture. I want to know whether the Government has gone into the details of the assessment why it is so. I fully agree that the Government has given Rs. 70,000 crore for the poor people or for farmers but at the same time there is no increase in production, though you have taken up these issues.

Here the Government has to realise the fact that what the farmers need is not merely a one time settlement in the form of loan or in the form of grant but they want a better price for their agricultural produce. Mr. Rao, on the side of the Treasury Bench, has spoken. I listened to him. He knows what is the price of areca nut in Kerala and Karnataka. Three years back it was Rs. 160 per kilo. Now it is Rs. 40 or Rs. 50. Three years back the price of pepper was Rs. 21,000 per quintal. Now, it is Rs. 7000 or Rs. 8000. Except rubber, almost all the prices of the agricultural produce or of the cash crops have gone down. So, on the one side, the prices are increasing but on the other side, the prices of the agricultural inputs of farmers are really increasing. There is increase in the prices of inputs like seeds,

fertilizers and also in the social sector, that is, medical, transport, the prices have gone up. So, there is a vicious circle as far as the common man is concerned.

It is true that bank credit is increasing three-folds or two-folds. But whom has it affected? Whom has it benefited? Is it possible for an ordinary farmer to avail Rs. 10 crore or Rs. 25 crore? Of course, the banks may give. But as far as the poor farmers are concerned, they have to get the remunerative price or better price. The Government has totally failed on this issue. It is true that in connection with the price rise, the Government takes some measures. I do agree. But at the same time, we are not able to agree with them. They say it is the universal phenomenon and it is the responsibility of the State Governments.

There are four issues that we have given or all other Parties have given. One is, from the time of Nehru himself, the Congress Leader, the procurement policy has been fully depending on the FCI or the Government. You have switched it on. You have turned it on. You have given it to the private parties. Of course, there is need for private participation. But then they may go to the market. They may go to the farmers. They may give a little better price; and their godowns are filled, of course, but at the same time, their main aim is not to give food grains at cheaper price to the farmers. Their aim is to get more profit.

When we say that there is less production in any agricultural product or of any essential goods anywhere in India, either in Delhi or in Kolkata or in Mumbai, we may get it but we have to give higher prices. It means there is hoarding. There is black –marketing. So, the first failure on the side of the Government is the procurement policy that the Congress had taken earlier.

Second is the Essential Commodities Act which is not strictly implemented.

The third one is the PDS system. The Government says that the PDS system has to be strengthened. How can we strengthen it? You are not giving money to the States. I do not say that you have to give. But, at the same time, ours is a country where we have a federal structure. Some of the States are producing rubber or arecanut or coconut. Some of the States like Punjab produce wheat and paddy. We see this diversity in almost all the aspects of our day-to-day life. It is the responsibility of the Central Government, not only as a coordinator but also to assist the States, promote the States and see to the needs of the States. But what do

we see here? The Government says that if the Food Security Act comes, then it is the duty of the State Governments to give food to the APL families also. As far as the Planning Commission is concerned, the Government says that they fixed the APL and BPL limits and as a result a vast majority of the people are now out of the BPL list.

Irrespective of the political parties, irrespective of the States all say that there are mistakes and deviations in the case of the APL and BPL. We say that the universalisation of the PDS system is the only way out. When our hon. Minister of Finance intervened in the discussion on the price rise, he said that it is not possible. At the same time, hon. Member Shri Baalu stated how they are implementing it in Tamil Nadu. This is an example.

As far as Kerala is concerned, I can say that we are giving rice to 25 lakh families at the rate of Rs. 2 a kilo. In the recent Budget it is increased to 35 lakh families. We give rice to APL families at Rs. 9.80 a kilo. We give rice at the price of Rs. 14 to the Maveli Stores. There is a big network of Maveli Stores and the ration shops and also the Civil Supplies Corporation. As a result of this, this is really a better PDS system. But how can we give foodgrains to them? In the year 2007 the Government has given 1,30,648 MT of rice to APL families. But now it is reduced to 17 lakh. It means a reduction of 82 per cent. Is it possible for a State to run? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): It is because you are not lifting it timely. ...*(Interruptions)*
Mr. Suresh, we discussed it many times. ...*(Interruptions)*
You are not for Kerala now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Karunakaran, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Whatever rice is allocated by the Central Government, you have not lifted. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: You are not the Minister. The Minister is there. He may answer. ...*(Interruptions)*
You are not the Minister now. ...*(Interruptions)* You may become a Minister. I would be glad, of course. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: But I am telling the truth. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: I would be glad if you become a Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) I am coming to your point.

Sir, it is 82 per cent reduction in the supply of rice to APL families. It is true that there was a reduction. Why was it so? It was at the time of the UDF Government and also at the time of the LDF Government. Then the price in the open market was less. There was less demand in the ration shops. It was not possible for the State Governments to impose them. At the same time, when there was price rise, of course, there was the need. It is not a mechanical data as far as rice is concerned. How can Mr. Suresh, from my State, say that Kerala needs no rice when the Government is demanding? There is a very big network.

Not only that, when we approach the Government, we are ready to give the price of APL. You please allow us the APL rice. Then the Government will say that 'we will give the rice only at the rate of open market price'. At open market price, we can get it at less price from Andhra Pradesh or from Tamil Nadu. This is the approach of the Central Government.

Sir, the Central Government has to change the attitude with regard to the PDS system. So, universalisation of PDS system is the best way. The Government has to think that there are various methods that every State is taking. Some examples of Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are given by the UPA Members. There should be a coordination and also assistance. That is really the essence of the federal system that we are following.

So, in order to check price rise, the Government has to fulfil these four issues. In this case, the Government has utterly failed. That is why, I have made this point again and again.

The Government says that there are 474.45 lakh tonnes of food grains in the godowns, but what is the requirement of the buffer stock? That is only 200 lakh tonnes. It means that if the Government is ready to give the food grains through the PDS, at least the APL price can be curtailed. If a family gets rice at least for four days, for rest of the days, it can depend on the open market. The Government is not ready to introduce even that. Again, I demand to reinstate the quota that was there for me and Shri Suresh in 2007. I think, he will also agree with me on this point.

Coming to some of the allocations made in the Budget, I would submit that there have, of course, been some additions in the case of Bharat Nirman, infrastructure and minorities. I fully agree on this aspect. With regard to education, it was in 1966 that the Kothari Commission had made it clear that six per cent of the GDP should be earmarked for education. Even after 44 years – most of the time the Congress has been in power – it is only 3.23 per cent. With regard to health, it was estimated that there should be allocation of at least three per cent of the GDP, especially for children and women health. Now it is only 1.06 per cent. There is an increase from 2.1 to 2.3 per cent. This is marginal as far as 2010-11 is concerned.

Then, ICDS is another model project, which we admit. But at the same time, there are 26 per cent posts vacant under one category and 43 per cent in another category. The Rapid Survey Committee Report says that 46 ICDS do not have the best building. So, there is a need to increase the allocation to ICDS also.

Let me raise some points with regard to my own State. Everybody says, and the Government also says, that there is better education and 100 per cent literacy in Kerala. At the same time, we have been demanding for an IIT in Kerala. Once our Prime Minister had said that if there were IITs going to be declared, of course, there would be one for Kerala, but it has not materialised in this Budget also. So, I strongly demand to consider this issue.

Sir, Kochi has become an industrial centre and persons from almost all the States can come there. So, a Metro is very important for it, especially in view of its increasing importance as an industrial centre. Some Ministers have said that it is going to materialise in the month of March itself, but nothing has been said in this regard in the Budget. That has also to be taken into account.

As far as my State is concerned, lakhs of people are dependent on traditional industries, like khadi, handloom, beedi and handicrafts. Lakhs of families are dependent on these professions for their livelihood. Almost all the trade unions, including the BMS, INTUC and HMS have met the Prime Minister. Last time in the 14th Lok Sabha also, they met the Prime Minister and the Textiles Minister for giving a special package, but this issue is still pending before the Prime Minister and no action has been taken. It is stated that there should be a special package to write off the loans of the handloom workers who have not been able to repay it.

There should also be provided funds for the renovation and working capital of the handloom societies. A large number of such societies are really in difficulty.

When the Chief Ministers' meeting was chaired by the Prime Minister, there was a discussion with regard to tax-sharing between the Centre and the States. It was said that it should be 50:50. Now in the Budget, it is said that the share of the States would be 32 per cent. In this regard, I would like to submit that every expenditure has to be met by the State. Even when the Central schemes are introduced, the administrative expenditure and all other expenditures have to be met by the States. So, all the Chief Ministers, I think, irrespective of their political parties, have made it clear that this proportion has to be changed from 32 per cent to 50 per cent.

We are getting \$ 52 billion every day from the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) who go either to the Gulf countries or other foreign countries. I also know that at least 92 per cent of them are from the State of Kerala. At the same time, there is no package at all for the NRIs in this Budget who are returning from there. It is said that we have witnessed the Dubai crisis. It is not only from America but a large number of people are returning from Dubai also to Tamil Nadu, Karnataka or Kerala. But there is no provision for them in this Budget. They have come and met the Prime Minister and met the other Ministers. We have given tax exemptions of Rs. 80,000 crore, and now we are losing Rs. 26,000 crore as far as Income Tax exemptions are concerned. Why are you not able to give a penny to the people who were working for these foreign countries, especially, the Gulf countries? I cannot understand why our Ministers are not able to think about this issue because they are trying not only to give funds, but also employment. They are going there and getting employment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Karunakaran, please conclude your speech now.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I am concluding. We were proud at the time of the first UPA Government that the Government had taken a decision not to do disinvestment at least for the profit-making PSUs. Now, 41 PSUs are listed and the Government has made it mandatory to disinvest it irrespective of the fact whether it is profit-making or not. As a result of this, we are really losing our assets. Further, the real value of the share of these 41 PSUs has come down after this decision was taken. Therefore, it is not really a good thing for the Government of the nation and this issue has to be looked into.

Lastly, if this Government is really sincere in saying that this Budget is an *aam aadmi* Budget, then the Government should come forward and withdraw the hike in petrol and diesel prices. Thereafter, you can claim that there is any bit of affection towards the poor people. With these words, I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Hon. Members, those who want to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House can do so, and it will be treated as part of the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stand here today to deliberate on the Budget (General) for 2010-2011.

Normally, it is said that a good Budget is as much about spending money wisely as it is about mopping up revenue. Despite the rich-poor divide and our level of human development, there is no departure from short-sighted policy-making. In this year's Budget speech, there is nothing about our deplorable levels in the human development index. It was all about economic growth, which unfortunately is likely to widen rather than decrease the rich-poor divide. This is not a complaint, but a statement of fact.

According to the public choice theory, a small but influential minority will make large gains at the expense of a large majority each of whom will lose a little. The poor are a large majority; they have little; and they will lose relatively a little more. The rich are a minority; they have much; and they will gain a lot more. This is the way public choice operates. Should we accept this situation as inevitable and do nothing about it or nothing about to change it? Why not try to have it the other way round? This is my suggestion. Make the rich sacrifice a little and let the poor benefit a little more. I hope my friend, Mr. Palanimanickam, will understand it. He has been vouchsafing this for the last 20-25 years.

If one asks an average Indian today what his most significant economic problem is, my guess, the answer would be rising food prices. The second will probably be employment, especially the difficulty in finding a decent paid and self-employed livelihood, whether in agriculture, in industry or services. The third may be ensuring health security for the household and providing

adequate education for the children. How far has the Finance Minister, who claimed in his Budget Speech that he was concerned with improving the conditions of the people, delivered on these issues?

In fact, this Budget is remarkable for its rejection of the material concerns of most of the population. The Finance Minister made some sympathetic noises about measures to improve agricultural productivity, but on the more pressing question of ensuring adequate distribution of food to prevent local speculation and rising prices and to make sure that the poor are able to access food at reasonable prices, he was silent. Moreover, the Finance Minister reduced the food subsidy allocation by Rs. 424 crore. This suggests that the Government does not see Public Distribution System as an important means of curtailing food inflation and is not serious about the food security legislation that it intends to enact.

Second, the presumption seems to be that the economic growth on its own will deliver more jobs even though recent evidence suggests that without active labour market policies this is not going to happen. Meanwhile, there was hardly any increase in the allocation to the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme though it is argued that it is a demand-driven, the amount may still increase, while laughable amounts were provided for various urban livelihood schemes. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme essentially being a demand-driven scheme, the utilization depends on its effective implementation. It has been widely observed that among most of the States, the Scheme has not been able to provide the guaranteed minimum days of employment to a large number of beneficiaries.

With the economy yet to gather momentum out of the recession, lack of any substantial increase in allocation as per 2009-10, that is, Revised Estimates, and 2010-11 of Budget Estimates, it betrays a lack of sense of urgency by the Government towards employment generation. Similar is the case of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana. Although allocation for the Scheme has increased significantly over the years, over the Plan period, the growth in allocation capered down significantly for adoption of a demand-driven model.

The Rural Housing Scheme is one of the major beneficiary-driven incentives of the Ministry of Rural Development. The Scheme got a magnificent impetus in

2008-09 with an increase of 127 per cent over the previous year. With the Eleventh Five-Year Plan overtly targeting one hundred and fifty lakh houses for the rural poor during the Plan period, it was expected that the impetus will continue. However, allocations for the Scheme for 2008-09 and 2009-10 remained the same with a marginal increase in the present Budget (2010-11). In this Budget, we see a major increase in the unit cost of provisioning of rural housing for both plain and hilly areas.

17.00 hrs.

Lack of concomitant increase in the total quantum of allocation for the scheme effectively scales down the physical targets for the rural housing for a financial year. Similarly, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is a Bharat Nirman Programme. Compared to all other schemes, PMGSY has shown considerably better utilization of funds and achievement of physical targets. In this context, while the scheme got a bit fillip in allocation in 2009-10 Budget, the percentage increase in allocation in 2010-11 is disappointing with a large number of habitations yet to be covered under the scheme. It is only in Backward Regions Grant Fund, there is increase of funds from Rs. 5,800 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 7,300 crore and this is a sole high point of rural development in the present Budget.

“The Budget, as we all know, cannot be a mere statement of Government accounts. It has to reflect the Government’s vision and signal the policies to come in future.” This is what the Finance Minister had told us while presenting the Budget. One can assume that this is a clear policy statement of the Government towards propelling not just economic but also social development in the country. As we heard the Railway Minister talking about the economic aspect and also of the social obligation, so also Didi said that and Dada has also repeated it in a different way. But with some scant provisions notwithstanding, the tenor of the Budget has largely missed the mark when it comes to critical social sectors such as education. Government spending on education as a proportion of GDP is at 3.23 per cent in 2009-10 and continues to be way below the recommendations made by the First Education Commission in 1966 about which my predecessor has spoken.

The UPA Government in 2004-05 had committed to raise public spending on education by six per cent of GDP by 2008-09. This remains as much a promise in

2010. The Budget outlay has increased marginally from 3.88 per cent in 2009-10 to 4.5 per cent in 2010-11. In addition, States will have to access to around Rs. 3,675 crore for elementary education under the Thirteenth Finance Commission grants for 2010-11. However, there is a clear signal of the Government in favour of the neo-liberal policy framework. The proposal to ease foreign direct investment restrictions in the higher education sector is a move towards pushing for greater privatisation in education. There are certain key issues which I would like to address. Take for instance, earmarked spending on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes children. The census projection for 2011 in 5-29 years of age group is 57 crore. Assuming that 24 per cent of total population in this age group would be SCs and STs, that is, 13.68 crore, the *per capita* expenditure on education of an SC or ST student in the age group of 5-29 years by the Union Budget of 2010-11 works out to Rs. 1,073 only. But where is that money?

While the Finance Minister commended the progress achieved through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Government estimates of poor teacher and student attendance tell a different tale. It is unlikely that Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan would be able to address such gaps given that the thrust of spending has been largely on two areas – civil works and recruitment of contract teachers. The budget approved for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan of 2008-09 says that 28 per cent of the total outlay was earmarked for civil works and 31 per cent for teachers' salaries. Therefore, increase in the quantum of the budget does not necessarily translate into better development outcomes, if the funds are not spent in a timely manner. Under-utilisation of funds in schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a key concern, which is due to the inefficient institutional and budgetary processes and flaws in the scheme design.

The United Progressive Alliance had made a commitment that total public spending on health in the country would be raised to the level of two to three per cent of GDP. This was reiterated in the Eleventh Plan. However, the combined budgetary allocation, that is the total outlay from both Union and State Budgets for health, stands at a meagre 1.06 per cent of the GDP for 2009-10. Allocation of Union Government on health has increased to Rs. 25,154 crore in 2010-11 from Rs. 22,641 crore in 2009-10. Allocation on NRHM has increased from Rs. 14,002 crore to Rs. 15,514 crore. In this money, Government would augment rural health infrastructure, fill in the vacancies of doctors, ANMs and paramedics.

The allocation on National Disease Control Programme has come down from Rs. 1,064 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 1,050 crore in 2010-11. This decline in allocation is very disturbing given that the diseases covered under the scheme have witnessed increased prevalence in the recent past.

The overall allocation on medical education and training has also gone down from Rs. 3,255.94 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 2,678.84 crore in 2010-11. With this, the most pronounced is the fall in allocation on establishment of AIIMS type super-speciality hospitals where allocation has declined to the tune of Rs. 700 crore only. Whether the Government is falling back on its promise of creating more AIIMS-like institutions or not remains to be seen. We expect an answer from the Finance Minister on this.

The ruling Congress party had made a commitment in its 2009 election manifesto that every District Headquarters Hospital would be upgraded to produce quality health facility to all. But what do we find? There is a new scheme called 'District Hospitals' but with only Rs. 68 crore in 2008-09 which was reduced to Rs. 36 crore in 2009-10, and it has been increased to Rs. 200 crore in this Budget. However, the benchmark of public spending on District Hospitals suggests an annual recurring expenditure of around Rs. 2.5 lakh per head in such hospitals, which translates into an annual recurring cost of around Rs. 3,000 crore for the whole country. Assume that 200 beds are there in a District Hospital. There are 600 plus Districts in the country.

I leave it to the Finance Minister to calculate as to how much money is required. But do you have a plan? We do not find any plan as to how many districts and in how many phases it would be done. But this was a commitment in your election manifesto in the last elections. I am dealing with the specifics. I am not going into the details of the Budget. But on agriculture, I have some more points to make and that is why I need a little bit time.

To achieve double digit growth, agriculture has to be focused upon. Historically, India's agriculture growth rate, the share in agriculture and allied activities in the country, the GDP has constantly been declining over the years and it has reached 15.7 per cent during 2008-09; expenditure on rural economy is a proportion of total Union Budget expenditure was 11.23 per cent during 2005-06. I need not go into the details of this but I would say that there is a decline in the share of Central

Plan allocations towards agriculture. I come to the basic point. Investment has declined; budget allocations towards financing irrigation and flood control measures has been far from satisfactory. It was expected that this Budget would propose a higher allocations towards financing irrigation and flood control measures. However, the expenditure towards financing all these measures as a proportion of the GDP has been estimated to be a meagre of 0.01 per cent in 2010-11.

What the Finance Minister has done? He has raised the prices of fuel, cement and steel. He has also decontrolled fertilizer prices. The prices of urea has increased by 10 per cent but that is all that is there for the rural sector and the urban poor. So, for farmers, two-thirds of their input costs are fertilizer and irrigation, that would now go up. Today, the Government, it seems, is not worried about the common man. The initiator of the debate, hon. Yashwant Sinha ji had posed a question. Who is the *aam aadmi* – the definition? I have the answer here. The answer is given in the Budget itself. The definition of *aam aadmi* has changed for the ruling alliance. The Budget does a lot for a new class of *aam aadmi* who are affluent, who are articulate of the society. The regressive tax measures in Budget provide the strongest indication of the Finance Minister's lack of concern for the bottom three-fourth of the population. Direct taxpayers, the corporations and less than five per cent of the population who pays such taxes were given a bonanza of tax reductions, which will cost the Exchequer an estimated Rs. 26,000 crore, besides benefits this year, that are projected to have cost around Rs. 80,000 crore. But indirect taxes were raised across the board including for items of mass consumption so that the common people will now contribute disproportionately to the additional Rs. 60,000 crore that is being raised. This rise is bound to generate further inflationary pressure at a time when inflation concerns are already marked. This is a strange move to make and one that would negatively affect the ordinary citizen. ...(*Interruptions*) It is said that the Finance Minister has made – at times, truth are unpalatable - I can understand the hon. Member's predicament.

It is said that the Finance Minister has made much of the substantial increase in plan allocation for social services and at Rs. 26,000 crore, it does seem significant. But non-plan revenue expenditure on social sector is to be cut by nearly Rs. 6,000 crore so that the increase is not as much as has been trumpeted. The Central Government has allocated only Rs. 8,000 crore

more for school children and literacy programme; the financial burden of ensuring the right of education is to be crushed on the streets. But many of them, already face fiscal crisis and will find it difficult to raise the required resources.

In conclusion, I would say that a combination of inflationary taxation, significant revenue optimism and a modicum of window dressing have helped craft a budget that appears growth-oriented, partially inclusive and fiscally prudent. We need not wait till the revised estimates which would come next year, to conclude that this is by no means the true picture. There is no mistake about it. This Budget is internally consistent given the reason of growth for the 10 per cent that it embodies, but the question is whether the other 90 per cent will continue to share that.

With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar): It is a matter of strong resentment that the General Budget could not touch the mind of the people because of its failure to give relief from price rise. No practical and genuine method has been adopted to check the price hike which is the burning problem of the total population of India. This is why the Budget is not "AAM AADMI" Budget rather against the AAM AADMI.

Out of the Rs. 6.82 lakh crore of total Plan Expenditure an amount of Rs. 2.48 lakhs will be spent on interest payment which was 2.19 lakh crore in 2009-2010 and Rs. 1.37 lakh crore will be spent on debt re-payment which was 95 lakh crore in 2009-2010. Total amount for interest payment and re-payment of debt comes to Rs. 3.86 lakhs i.e. 57% of the total Plan expenditure is meant for interest payment and re-payment of debt. If nearly 60% of the plan expenditure is spent for interest payment and re-payment of debt than 6.82 lakh of Plan expenditure for development work as announced in the Finance Minister's budget speech is not statistically correct.

I am sorry to state that no importance has been given to North-East particularly Assam in this Budget.

For increasing agricultural production the strategy announced by Finance Minister is to extend the green revolution to the eastern Indian states viz. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Easter U.P., West Bengal and Orissa. But the name of Assam has not been included. It is really unfortunate. We notice many a time Mega

Projects finish in West Bengal and not proceed to Assam or North-East.

In the budget speech, the Hon'ble Finance Minister pointed out that Rs. 15,000 crore of due share of NE States have been provided by different departments. The trend continues this year also. One such example is that the Department of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution has allocated only Rs. 20.55 crores as lumpsum provision for projects/schemes for the benefit of North-Eastern States out of its total budget of 56133 crore. As Non Lapsable Central Pool of Resources the department is required to keep 10% of its total budget for the purpose, the due amount for NE should have been Rs. 5613. There are many other important department which have abstained from giving due share to North-East India.

It is a matter of a bit satisfaction that the Bongaigaon Refinery Ltd. has been left out of Budget reduction.

Only an amount of Rs. 280 crores as a symbolic increase has been given to NEC. This need be increased in future in consideration of dire necessity of growing infrastructure in the North-East. It is astonishing that for construction of Roads of Economic Importance under Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region the already low budget of Rs. 15 crore has been further reduced to only Rs. 5 crore for the year 2010-11.

Sir I come from one of the most backward areas of our motherland. There is practically not any kind of infrastructure. Particularly, the Communication system is so deplorable that it has become almost impossible to move from one place to another. Gauze conversion from Lumding to Silchar has been started in 1997 but yet to be completed. This is the only Railway connection not only for Barak Valley but also for Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur States. The Super Express Highway from Silchar to Sourashtra has been started but half-done yet. This needs to be completed soon. I demand that the hon'ble Finance Minister should make provision of necessary funds for these tow National Projects.

*SHRI R. DHUVANARAYANA (Chamrajanagar): I would like to take this opportunity to put my views and demands on the union budget 2010-11. First, I would like to congratulate the Union Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee for presenting a fantastic balanced budget between GDP growth and social sector. He

successfully managed to provide an incredible balance (Importance) to all key sectors like agriculture, infrastructure, financial sector, rural development social security and good governance.

I whole heartedly wish him for his successful sailing when river (economy) was on its high (global economic slowdown). He crossed all the difficult situations through its efforts and hard work and brought this great nation to the safer destination. Through this budget he wiped out the fear of economic slow down from the people of India. But this is not the final destination, it's a just a mile of our journey and several miles to go ahead to reach our destination. We have to face several mighty challenges, which are on the way of our destination. This budget has given all such warnings and how do we prepare to face those? What should be our preparations to overcome?

Union budget 2010-11 has included several visions, prospects to achieve long term goals. Through this budget Mr. Mukherjee has laid out the path for fiscal discipline. There are several reasons to believe on his deliver. The few key important observations, which I would like to tell the respectful members,

- Long term perspective goals and visionary plans to reach the double digit growth in GDP and to maintain the sustainable 9% growth in GDP.
- Visionary, practical plans for Agriculture and its associated sector growth.
- Several new schemes and 37% hike in the fund allocation for social empowerment.
- IT relaxation for salaried income people which benefited the majority of the middle class people
- Industry friendly approach like reduce in the current surcharge of 10% to 7.5% on domestic companies
- Providing surplus money to rural India to maintain the sustainable balancing growth between rural and urban India
- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009, increase the allocation from Rs. 26,800 to Rs. 31,036 in 2010-11
- Rural development through NREG and Bharat Nirman

- Recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks
- The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission – target of 20,000 MW targeting 2022.

Agriculture and associated sector

I personally thank Mr. Mukherjee for providing the centre-stage for the Agriculture Growth and Food Management in the Union budget. The decrease in the agriculture growth is a matter of concern in the countries like India. Where the Agriculture sector alone itself provides the major contribution in the countries GDP growth, the steep fall in the Agriculture GDP during 2009-10 has got the several reasons to address. The delayed and subnormal South West monsoon, reduced water availability at 87 major reservoirs caused the steep fall in the agriculture GDP.

Union budget 2010-11 is the road map for agriculture renaissance. The approach adopted and the allocations made in the union budget assume importance. Agricultural recovery, progress based on the integrated approach, environmental friendly cultivation practices, attention towards food safety and quality farmer centric commerce has shown the change in the strategy of the government towards agriculture growth.

Key announcement like—*Mahila Kisan Sanshaktikaran Pariyojana* with an initial outlay of Rs. 100 crore.

The intended strategic plans to spur the growth in the sector like,

- I. Strategy to extend the green revolution to the eastern region of the country comprising Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Eastern UP, West Bengal and Orissa with the active involvement of Gramsabhas by providing Rs. 400 crore.
- II. Rs. 300 crore for organizing the 60,000 pulses and oil seed villages in the rain fed areas and integrated intervention for water harvesting, watershed management and soil health to enhance the productivity. Rs. 200 crore for defending the gains in the heartlands of green revolution regions like Punjab, Haryana and western UP for climate resilient agriculture initiatives.
- III Strategy to improving the availability of credits to farmers. PPP initiation to minimize the food wastage in the public distribution and storages.

- IV. Providing the basic rural infrastructure for agriculture product marketing and providing the updated technologies in the food processing.

Six months extension for repayment crop loans till June 30, 2010. Providing the credits to the farmers who repaid the crop loans in stipulated time at 5% interest rate.

Demands:

Request to involve the rain fed villages of my constituency, where pulses and oil seeds are the major crops.

Request to establish Cotton Research Centre in the South Karnataka through ICAR

Request to establish the research extension centre for raw turmeric and its products.

I urge the Union Government to establish the “Food Park” at Chamarajanagar.

Rural Development Sector

Thanks for allocating the more funds for NREG and Bharat Nirman. Through which we can achieve the substantial growth at rural India. It adds more value to the rural infrastructure development. In addition it directly or indirectly helps in achieving the 9% GDP growth. It provides direct fiancé facility to rural population and simultaneously increases purchasing power of these poor people. Once they started spending the money as and when raise in purchasing the capacity will also contribute in lowering inflation.

In order to the increase the effective implementation of NREG and Bharat Nirman projects at rural India, needs much transparent system. Few of the observed cases show the failure the governance and implementation.

Energy Sector

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission establishment will become a remarkable milestone in the history of clean energy development. Target of 20,000 MW by 2022 needs constant government watchdog agency to monitor the development. Any failure/delay in the implementation of the project may cause severe consequences. The enormous difference in the demand and production may get the satisfactory answer when we able to achieve this goal. National Electricity Policy 2-005 and Tariff Policy 2006 benefits should reach the end user.

Today we are losing 30% of the generated power during transmission, there should be some significant steps that have to be taken place in near future. Implementation of upgraded technology in the power transmission is in need.

This is the right time to open ourselves to the global power market in generating the power from Nuclear energy sources. Meanwhile we should concentrate on the indigenously developed technology in Nuclear energy power generation.

Education Sector

Union Government has tried its best to provide the primary infrastructure to the elementary education across the country. *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* has made significant contribution in this aspect. The right of children to free and compulsory education act 2009 to create the legal entitlements to all the children in the age group of 6 to 14 is a significant step taken by the union government in providing the quality education without any discrimination. Allocation of Rs. 31,036 crore shows its keen interest and responsibility of the Union Government.

But still some where we are missing out of the track, we are not able to reach the goal. The general enrolment is still nearly 50% of the world average (world average general enrolment is 24% and India is just 12.4%). Another worried statistical report is general enrolment of SC/ST students is just 2%. That means whatever the efforts done by the Union Government is not yet reached these communities.

I urge the Union Government to initiate new schemes to increase the general enrolment of SC/ST's. Government must start new programmes to provide more scholarships to BPL, SC/ST's students, facilities at remote villages and locations where population of these communities is more. Also, it is the primary responsibility of the government to provide them compulsory, quality education without discrimination. We are long way to go to reach these communities in this way, where there are the situations people of these community are not allowed to take part of the government compulsory education act, government should necessarily provide them security and facilities to them.

I also request the Union Government to initiate the effective steps in bringing SC/ST's to the mainstream of the society by providing the compulsory education. It's not able to achieve just by through launching/announcing

the new programmes on all the time. Also it should set up the high priority monitoring machine to evaluate the support programme provided to them. We have already enjoyed the 60 years of independence but still we are not able to make these communities complete educate communities. It means that there are laps in the governance and its distribution system in reaching these communities.

Demands:

1. Request to establish the KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA in Chamarajanagar
2. Also Request Union Government to establish the IIT.
3. Since my Chamarajanagar constituency geographically covered by 43% of the area with forest. So I request to establish the forest Research Institute to study the forest wildlife.

Social Justice and Empowerment Sector

I congratulate Mr. Mukherjee to provide the allocation of Rs. 4,500 crore that is 37% hike the total plan outlay. It shows how the union government has right prospective in empowering the weaker section of the society. The allocation will allow the ministry to expand the various schemes, running for the welfare of SC, ST's and OBC's. Through which weaker section of the country will be able to access to the main stream of the society.

In a big boost to the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Government increased the allocation by 50% in 2010-11 budget. To meet the needs of women farmers, government has announced the Rs. 100 crore as a sub component of the National Rural Livelihood Mission. Under National Rural Health Mission Government has increased the allotment to Rs. 2,766 crore to conduct the district level annual survey to prepare the health profile.

I urge the Government to the effective implementation of the Special Component Program for SC/ST's, which was the dream project of our Hon'ble Late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi launched during 1978. But I regret to tell this in front of this House, even after 30 years our governments have not taken care to effective implementation of this project. Several government surveys and agencies were pointed out the failure of governments in the population based plan outlay. One

of the recent reports says that about 83 ministries have 0% allotment and nearly 14 ministries have 1% allotment.

This means that governments should realize themselves, how much honestly they support the weaker section empowerment. It is important take some serious and effective initiation to fulfill the dreams of Late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi.

Demands:

1. Request to establish the proposed Indian Sign Language
2. Research and Training Centre at Chamarajanagar Establishment of National Sericulture Machine (N S M)

In this Union budget Government has not given the enough allotment for sericulture. It is one of the sectors, which was neglected for long period of time. The effective and focused the plan layout and allotment of proper fund can regain the earlier days beauty to this sector. It can act as one of the major foreign exchange trade in future, just like China we also have our reputation on our silk and its products. It provides the employment to the rural people and cottage based industries will boost up from this upliftment. We regain the beauty of Mysore silk sarees (Karnataka), Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), Bhagalpur silk industry (Bihar). Since steep fall in the silk production cottage industries dependent on the silk are now looking towards for raw silk China. The results the global dominance for China in silk trading.

I urge the Government to establish National Sericulture Machine similar to National Horticulture machine. To encourage farmers to get involve in the Sericulture and provide them more developed technology for effective production of silk. It helps both the farmers and lakhs of people who works in the cottage industries.

[Translation]

*SHRI NARAYAN SINGH AMLAMBE (Rajgarh): Sir, first of all I would like to give many many thanks to hon'ble Minister of Finance who has presented such a balanced and farmer friendly budget.

On timely payment of short_term loans the financial assistance of 1% additional interest in the form of incentive was made available to the farmers in the last

budget. Keeping in view the said thing, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has increased its percentage upto 2% in this year's budget, which is a very commendable its percentage upto 2% in this year's budget, which is a very commendable task. I would like to extend many thanks to the Government for this. I, myself, is a farmer, therefore, I can well understand this fact.

Alongwith it, the limit of agricultural loan has increased from Rs. 3,25,000 crore to Rs. 3,75,000 crore in the year 2010-2011. This will benefit the farmers.

Alongwith it, this time it has been announced that a survey for preparing outline of District Health Scheme in all districts of the country will be done in the year 2010-11. The poor rural farmers will get maximum benefit of it.

The allocation for Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been increased upto Rs. 40,100 crore in the year 2010-11. All these things prove that the soul of our UPA Government resides in the villages.

*SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha): The budget for 2010-11 presented by the hon'ble Minister of Finance is perfectly favourable in the present situation. The budget has been prepared as per today's necessity Today there is a need to promote development in the country. After going through the recession, the budget of this year has been prepared after considering all aspects and all the necessary concrete steps, required to be taken, have been taken.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE: The most important thing in this Budget is that a lot of attention has been paid towards agriculture in it. A Provision of Rs. 400 crore has been made for bringing about another green revolution. Alongwith this, the budget also mentions about developing 60,000 pulses and oilseed producing villages. There is also a provision for giving direct subsidy to the farmers. However, we cannot deny the apprehension that it can be misused. It also mentions about developing 5 Mega Food Parks for food processing.

The hon'ble Minister of Finance has also announced a rebate of 2 pre cent in the interest for the farmers repaying their loans timely. These are all welcome steps. However, even today farmers in the Vidarbha region are committing suicides. I feel that there is a need to take more effective steps to prevent farmers from committing suicide.

SUBSIDY FOR FERTILIZERS. The new subsidy policy that has been announced by the Government will be effective from 1st April 2010. I feel that the new system will help in providing subsidy directly to the farmers. I would like to say that there is also a need to promote the production of natural manure.

RELIEF TO SERVICE-CLASS PEOPLE: In this budget the minimum exemption limit for income tax has not been changed, however the maximum rate of 30 percent tax has been extended to Rs. 8 lakh annual income which was earlier Rs. 5 lakh annually. This limit will be effective from 1st April. Although the basic exemption limit has not been increased in the budget but an income tax payee will be able to save more after the increased tax slab. The form, for filing return has been simplified and now it will contain only 2 pages which will enable the tax payers to file the return easily.

MORE ALLOCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE: There is improvement in the road sector in our country. The Government has kept a target to construct 20 kms of road per day. The Government has proposed to increase the funds for road transport by 13 percent from Rs. 17,520 crore to Rs. 19,894 crore. This will accelerate the process of constructing roads in the country.

NECESSITY OF INCREASING POWER GENERATION: There is need to undertake rapid increase in power generation in our country. In order to increase the generation of power, the Government has raised the allocation under this head from Rs. 2,230 crore. It is a welcome step.

On this occasion, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my constituency Wardha and Vidharbha region. This area faces power cuts for hours together. The farmers have to face even more difficulties. Agriculture is adversely affected due to insufficient supply of power. Therefore, I would like to submit that the Government should first of all pay attention towards increasing the production of power.

Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor being set up with the collaboration of Japan. An industrial corridor from Delhi to Mumbai is being set up under this project. When I was the Member of Rajya Sabha, I had raised the demand to include in this corridor Vidarbha and Nagpur

also. You are aware that the area of Vidarbha is very backward. If the Vidarbha region alongwith Nagpur is also included in it, this area will be developed and this backward area of Maharashtra will also achieve development.

Need to pay attention towards villages in regard to the health sector

The Government has made efforts to encourage doctors to work in villages. However, there is still lack of health services in villages. The doctor working in villages should be provided more salary and facilities in order to strengthen the health services in villages.

Provision related to Education

The hon'ble Minister of Finance has said in his speech that the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has made important contribution in expanding the elementary education. Rs. 31,036 crore has been proposed for education during the year 2010-11. We need to pay attention in this regard that there are such children in our country who are not able to study beyond primary, middle or tenth classes. Special attention needs to be paid in this regard.

*SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR *ALIAS* KUSHAL TIWARI (Sant Kabir Nagar): As hon'ble Minister of Finance has mentioned in regard to the implementation of his announcements made during the year 2009-10 that agriculture is the main base of our economy and 60 percent of our population derives its sustenance from this. Since, the hon'ble Minister has earmarked Rs. 3,25,000 crore for agricultural loan inflow, with an interest rate of 7 percent and announcement of 1 percent assistance to the farmers repaying their loan on time. During this financial year, this amount has been increased to Rs. 3,75,000 crore and percentage of assistance has been made 2 percent. Sir, I would like to request that this amount should be increased to Rs. 10,000 crore and the farmers should be freed from the burden of interest. Today, the farmers of our country are committing suicide as they are not able to pay this interest. Therefore, interest free loan should be made available to the farmers.

I represent a very backward district of the country where floods ruin the kharief crop of farmers every year and they are forced to migrate to cities to do the job of labourer. Through you, I would like to request the Government that an economic package for the farmers

*Speech was Laid on the Table.

of Poorvanchal be announced in this budget session itself. The Government should do crop insurance of the farmers of this area from its own expense, in case the crops are ruined by natural calamity, as it did for the farmers of Bundelkhand and other States of the country. Every year, not only crops of the farmers, but many houses, cattle and lives are lost in the floods caused by Rapti, Kauno, Aami, Badhi Rapti and Gandak rivers and the only thing that is left is tears and extreme disappointment in their eyes.

Therefore, I have another request that the Government should strive to save the people of this area from this calamity.

Separate provision should be made in this budget to provide for fertilizers, seeds and irrigation for the farmers of Poorvanchal for agriculture. An Agriculture Training Institute at each block level should be set up in this area so as to educate the farmers of this area for improved farming.

There are no industrial factories in this area and the unemployed youth of this area are compelled to migrate to cities like Mumbai and face harassment at the hands of persons like Raj Thakre. Therefore, the Government is requested to make provision in this budget for establishing factory in this area.

This area is dominated by weavers, bronzesmith and craftsmen carving with terracotta. The presence of major textile mills, and utensil manufacturing industries in the country particularly in States like Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan has spelt a doom for these weavers and artisans and pushed them on the verge of starvation.

The Government is requested to announce a package for these poor weavers and vessel makers in this budget so as to make available livelihood to these poor people.

This area was world famous for small cottage industries. However, it is regretted that owing to the negligence of the Union Government, this small cottage industry has perished. I would like to add that Uttar Pradesh has mostly been governed by the Congress Party ever since independence. All these weavers/craftsmen belong to the Muslim minority community. The Congress Party always boasts of protecting the interests of the people belonging to these communities and they are in extremely pitiable State. Therefore, the Government is once again urged to make provision for a package for employment for them and their children in this budget.

My parliamentary constituency is named after the great sufi saint-Kabir. So, the area should be equipped with all tourism facilities by declaring it a tourist place. It would also be a tribute to the great sufi saint Kabir. Madam, Uttar Pradesh is one of the leading states in sugar production. However, the economic condition of the sugarcane growing farmer is extremely pitiable in the State. Therefore, the Government is requested to provide a financial package to the sugarcane growing farmers during this financial year itself to ameliorate their condition.

There is no Technical and Vocational education center of the national level in this district. The children of the poor farmers, workers, weavers, artisans remain deprived to education due to financial constraints. Their economic condition does not allow them to move to Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Delhi, Bangalore or any other place for studies. The Government is requested to set up the above mentioned educational institute in this district so that the local poor people could get such education. This district is extremely backward in the field of sports as well. The Government is requested to set up sports institute and construct national level sports stadium so that the youth of this area could bring laurels to the country and the state.

Farmers, workers, weavers, artisans have been neglected in this budget. So, I oppose this budget.

*SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL (Deoria): The budget, the hon'ble Minister of Finance has presented this year, has nothing to do with the common man. Instead, this budget has been prepared for particular persons due to which injustice has been meted out to the 80% poor people of the country.

The small and medium size industries of the country may be smaller in nature, but have a very important role in economic development and alleviation of unemployment in India. They have 45% contribution to the gross production, but they have been given only lollipops. In this competitive age, there is much requirement of funds to explore new markets and adopt latest technologies, which are not being provided to these small industries. They are getting only 4.9% of the total borrowings which is less, so it should be raised to at least 6%. At the same time, concession should also be provided to them.

After agriculture, 65% people are employed in handloom sector in the country and among them 61%

are women who are struggling hard to preserve their traditional art and many are committing suicide. The Government is running various schemes, but to no effect in this regard. Once there was great respect for cloth manufactured in India which were made by the ancestors of the weavers who are economically in weaker position today. There is no where Banarasi saree today. Weavers are not getting benefited at all from the funds allocated for their welfare.

Foodgrains allocated for the poor people are being sold in open market. The Government has not made any such assessment so that it could be ascertained as to how much foodgrains are being diverted to the black market however, 42% ration goes to the open market in the country. The hon'ble Supreme Court has also stated that foodgrains meant for welfare schemes end up in black marketing, but the Government did not take any positive action in this regard. It is being done in connivance with the corrupt officials. Modern technology is being applied for various purposes in the country, why not modern technology be applied in public distribution system so that we could provide foodgrains to the poor under welfare schemes and remove prevalent corruptions from the system.

The Union Government had started public distribution system to provide foodgrains to the poor at subsidized rate, but today foodgrains worth Rs. 358 crores go in open market instead of being distributed under the welfare schemes and ration shops. In this way, ration meant for the poor is diverted to the hands of the mafia. The Union Government has provided subsidy of Rs. 49000 crores on foodgrains in the year 2008-09. The practice of corruption starts with the allocation of ration shop. There is an assessment that the fair price shopkeepers earn Rs. 10 crore per annum by selling ration items in the black market and if someone complains in this regard, no action is taken thereon.

In 1990, the Government has set up Bundelkhand development fund and Purvanchal development fund under which very nominal funds were released. Funds were provided for under the supplementary demands for grants from time to time for the development of these regions and also to augment the sources of income for the local populace, but these funds are too meagre and in this age of price-rise one can not expect to complete a work in Rs. 10 lakh today. In the year 2001-02, an amount of Rs. 60 crore was provided for Purvanchal alone which was very inadequate. After the 10th five-year plan the Planning Commission found that there were gaping

regional imbalances in Purvanchal. Due to these imbalances, the problems in urban areas are increasing manifold giving rise to many hardships.

Various circumstances have given rise to many problems in Purvanchal on account of which there is an urgent need to provide an economic package to 29 districts of Purvanchal. Potters of Purvanchal have suffered due to rampant use of plastic. The silk workers from around Banaras who played an important role in bringing India name and fame all over the world are sitting idle today. They are not getting raw material at cheap rates due to which they are not able to manufacture the cloth. Even the fishermen are not in a position to catch fish due to lack of ponds and rising pollution in rivers. They have also been rendered unemployed. People in Purvanchal are facing various problems in leading their lives over there and many of them are cursing their stars for having taken birth in Purvanchal and accusing God for the same.

The budget presented by the hon'ble Minister of Finance in the House has been termed to be the budget of the common man, but time alone will tell what benefits this budget will accrue to the common man. However, some big industrialists instead of the common man will get benefited, by this budget yet it has been hyped to be the budget of the common man. This budget only speaks about the issues of the farmers, the labourers and rural people of the country, but if we go in depth of the budget, we will find that there is nothing for the welfare of these people.

In the last budget, the hon'ble Minister of Finance had announced Pradhan Mantri Gramin Adarsha Gaon Yojana under which the villages having at least 50% ST population each are proposed to be upgraded as Prime Minister's rural model villages. May I inform the Hon'ble Minister of Finance that there are 44000 such villages in the country having 50% population of Scheduled Tribes. Under this scheme one thousand i.e. the expenses of only Rs. 10 lakh are covered with the present budget allocation in a village. That is to say that the provision of a model village is nothing but just a provision with which no objectives can be achieved.

Under the National Health Mission, he has raised the budget allocation in a failed attempt to earn applause. Hundreds of people die due to malaria in the country. In the areas around Ghas in Gorakhpur meningitis breaks out at a fixed time and takes the toll of hundreds of lives. The disease of polio is common in the eastern

areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. He has not increased the funds for the same. Poor people for various remote places visit AIIMS and Safdarjung hospitals for treatment, but he has also reduced the budget thereof; so how can say it to be the budget of the common man? A separate package should be provided to the State Governments for checking meningitis, malaria and polio in eastern regions of the country.

Floods occur every year in eastern regions causing losses to crops worth billions of rupees and death of hundreds of cattle as well as inconveniences to millions of people. This has become a recurring phenomenon for decades now but the Union Government has not taken any permanent measures to mitigate it. Electricity can be generated with this water. Fields can be irrigated with this water as and when required by constructing canals in drought-hit areas. In my parliamentary constituency heavy soil erosion occurs along the course of Narayani river in Tamkuhi Raj area and many villages get washed away in the floods. It seems that the Union Government has proved a complete failure in flood management. Even after the lapse of 62 years of independence only 32% arable land is irrigated and the rest of 68% is dependent on rainwater. I am not able to make out whether this is causing benefits or losses to the common man, but still this budget is being touted to be the common man's budget, The Minister of Finance is doing well to the common man by terming this as the common man's budget. A provision of Rs. 400 crore has been made in this budget for green revolution, which is meant for five six states, but the real work will be carried out in West Bengal. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have only found a mention.

The figures the Union Government have in regard to poverty in the country are far from reality. These are deliberately underestimated whereas the number of poor people residing in India is far more than these figures. Tendulkar Committee has reported that poverty is increasing by 12% in the country whereas the number of people living below the poverty line is decreasing every year in the records of the Union Government and the fact remains that the poor are becoming poorer. If the Union Government is honest in its purpose then, why it is not preparing the BPL list afresh? It is clear that the intention of the Government is malicious. If there are more poor people in the states, the Union Government shall have to make allocation of more poor people in the states, the Union Government shall have to make allocation of more funds on central level for foodgrains, kerosene oil and other welfare schemes for the poor.

That is why the Union Government is showing the figures by underestimating the number of the poor, which is like doing injustice to them.

Most parts of the country are affected by drought on account of untimely and scanty rainfall i.e. 50% less than required and many parts are worst affected by drought. After the lapse of 62 years of independence only 32% of the arable land in the country is irrigated as on date. The rest is still dependent on rainfall. If we talk about small farmers, more than 90% of their fields are deprived of irrigation till date.

12 of 15 districts of Uttar Pradesh are affected by drought and if there is no rainfall any further; the number of drought-hit districts will be more than 50. We used to think about facing floods in parts of my home state Purvanchal, but this time we are facing drought. The condition of districts under Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh is very grave and the people have migrated from there. Farmers have to suffer huge financial losses due to drought and floods. Therefore, their loans should be waived off. Facility of providing seeds, fertilizers and pesticides should be made at the central level free of cost.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (Amravati): I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Budget 2010-2011.

First of all, I regret to say that the Finance Minister has not taken into consideration the price rise of essential commodities which is our burden to all the sections of the society. Secondly, the Finance Minister has raised Re.1 per litre on diesel and petrol, which also puts burden on the common people and also, on all the sections of the society. He has also imposed service tax on so many commodities. Many commodities are brought into the service tax net. This also puts much burden on the common people and the other people of the society.

Education and health are very important sectors. In health, only Rs. 5,836 crore has been allocated in the Budget; in health, there is a rise of Rs. 2866 crore, being a very important sector. Housing and urban poverty alleviation, the allocation has been raised from Rs. 852 crore to Rs. 1000 crore. It is only a meagre rise of Rs. 148 crore, which will not solve the problem of urban poverty.

Too many important issues are there; I will bring them to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister. One is suicide of farmers. In so many States, farmers are committing suicides. But particularly in Vidharba, which is a part of the State of Maharashtra, to which place I belong, on an average 2-3 farmers are committing suicide every day. In the last Budget, loan waiver had been implemented totaling to Rs. 71,000 crore. Why then the farmers are committing suicides? This is the real big question. If loan waiver is there, why then the farmer is going in for suicide? The main reason is that the Finance Minister has not taken into consideration the irrigation facilities of the farmers. This is the most important one.

Wherever irrigation facility is provided the farmer can grow at least two crops and thus is able to overcome the problems being faced by his family. In such a case, the farmer will not commit suicide. If there is an increase in the credit flow to the farmers it will not help him because for kharif crop he can take advantage of it but as you know kharif crop is dependent on monsoon. Unless there is enough irrigation facilities provided he will not go for this credit facility for another rabi crop. That is why the Central Government has to take that into consideration and increase the irrigation facility in each part of India so that this problem can be solved once and for all.

Right from the beginning of the Income Tax there was an exemption provided under Section 80 (p) to the cooperative banking industry. But unfortunately, in 2005-06 Budget that exemption was withdrawn. When this exemption was there for the last 45 years, I could not understand why accidentally the then Finance Minister withdrew this exemption. Not a single thought was given as to why this exemption was there. This exemption was there because those cooperative banks belonged to the very common people. The formation and functioning of the cooperative banking industry is very much different from the public sector banks. People of the same caste or the same region come together, form a society and ask for a licence from the Reserve Bank to run the bank for the common people. The share of the cooperative banks is not linked with the stock exchange, in contrast to the share of the public sector banks. The share value of the cooperative bank remains the same. It never increases and that is why the members of the cooperative banks are eligible for the dividend. If we deduct the income tax, there will be no balance left for the dividend. Secondly, unless a person is a member of the bank he cannot borrow from the bank. That is the rule of the Cooperative Societies Act.

If the bank is making profit, it is out of the borrowings of its members and that is why members are the rightful persons to get the dividend also.

I tried my level best to bring to notice of Finance Minister. In the last two years I have met the present Finance Minister also and he agreed too but unfortunately he has not taken this into consideration in the last Budget and this Budget too....(*Interruptions*) My colleague is smiling. He knows better. The Finance Minister is not here. He will bring to notice of Finance Minister again and get it done.

Cooperative credit societies also are the societies of the very common people, which are for the people and run by the people. These societies are running particularly in rural areas. In this Budget there is a ban on the withdrawal of Rs. 20,000 and above as also on deposit in cash. In real sense, it is not possible in the rural areas. This unnecessary ban should be withdrawn. I can understand it for the cooperative banking industry and for other financial institutions.

It should not be for the cooperative credit society. That is also my request. I would request that the limit should be raised, at least, to Rs. 50,000.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Sir, I regret the disinterest of the Treasury Benches and I am walking out.

17.25 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Tathagata Satpathy,
hon. Member left the House.*

*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): I am thankful for giving me an opportunity to express my views in this August House on the General Budget debate. My congratulation to our UPA Government, headed by Shri Manmohan Singh ji, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and guided by our beloved leader Smt. Sonia Gandhi ji and Shri Paranab Mukherjee ji, Hon'ble Finance Minister for presenting an excellent growth oriented budget, which is one of the best budgets in recent time. Hon'ble Finance Minister has rightly highlighted the growth concern of Indian economy. I am happy to note that our UPA Government has categorically spelled desire to a double digit growth in Indian economy. Despite concern of opposition to petrol and diesel price roll back, which

is expected to raise marginal inflation of 0.4 percent, the present budget is fantastic. Moreover, an increase in petrol and diesel won't accelerate inflation as is proved in some countries like Phillipines, where it has been reported that despite deregulated oil, consumer inflation in February 2010 was only 4.3 percent. This budget is full of practical aspect as is said by several industrialists and economists across the country. This budget shows firm commitments of UPA Government towards better economic development of people from down trodden, vulnerable sections of the society. The present budget has been termed as one of the best budget in recent times by media persons, economists and industrialists of our country.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has quite correctly put agriculture on the radar in this Budget against the background of the drought that has somewhat spoilt the otherwise amazing growth story. Although agriculture provides livelihood to over 60 percent of India's work force, it accounts for less than 20 percent of the country GDPs. Agriculture sector is the backbone of the rural livelihood security system. Growth in irrigated area is slow and groundwater is being over exploited. Large numbers of farmers (over 40 percent) reportedly want to quit farming. The production of pulses and oilseeds, which are the important crops of rainfed areas is stagnating. Despite the decline in the share of agriculture in the GDP from 36.4 percent in 1982-83 to 18.5 percent in 2006-07, the sector sustained the country's years of recession and that too without a stimulus package for industry. However, the latest estimates say the worst monsoon will bring down the farm growth rate to 0.2 percent from 1.6 percent last year. The Hon'ble Finance Minister, for the first time in recent years, has laid out a road map for agricultural recovery and progress based on integrated attention to the conservation of the ecological foundations essential for sustainable agriculture, cultivation based on the principles of conservation and climate resilient farming. Credit must go to the Hon'ble Finance Minister for proposing a Mahila Kisan Snshtikaran Pariyojana with an initial outlay of Rs. 100 crore. Provisions of Rs. 400 crore to extend the green revolution to the eastern region of the country, Rs. 300 crore to organize 60,000 pulses and oil seeds villages in rain fed areas during 2010-11 and an integrated intervention of water harvesting, watershed management and soil health to enhance the productivity of the dry land farming areas, Rs. 200 crore for sustaining the grains already made in the green revolution areas through conservation farming during the

current year, are the welcome steps proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the agriculture production. The Green Revolution started in seventies turned out to be a wheat revolution and is confined to the States of Haryana, Punjab and Western U.P. Despite drought, we have been able to achieve good production target of rice in the country. The current approach to the Green Revolution is two fold. The first is to stretch it to new regions like in Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and Eastern U.P., where the economic condition of the farmers is quite below in comparison to the farmers of Haryana, Punjab and Western U.P. The proposed measures will help the farmers to move to higher income levels and also to that extent reduce the level of regional imbalances. Without growth of the agriculture sector, our growth is not an inclusive growth. A credit availability target of Rs. 3,75,000 crore in rural areas has been proposed in the budget. Also the extension of time period for repayment of farm loan by 6 months and an effective rate of interest for farmers who repay their short term crop loans as per the schedule will be 5 percent annum are nice incentives to the farmers.

Wastages of agriculture produce is a big problem. It is estimated that the total losses in farm production could range between 10 to 30 percent for various crops due to the limited supply of cold chains, transport and warehousing facilities. Appropriate measures to make available storage facilities at a reasonable costs to the small and marginal farmers should be taken by the Central and State Governments. Incentives for relevant farm mechanisation and for establishing cold storages and other facilities for the preservation of perishable commodities is a welcome move. Opening up of retail trade with a view to bring down the considerable difference between farm gate, whole sale and retail prices is the need of the hour and which has been timely addressed in the budget. A mechanism should be devised to ensure that farmer's co-operative societies are involved in opening retail stores, so that small and marginal farmers can get maximum benefits o their produce. Similarly, promise to reform regional rural banks is extremely important for credit delivery in the rural agriculture sector. The reforms in regional rural banks should be initiated keeping in view of the interest of the small and marginal farmers. The Finance Minister approach to agriculture sector is fairly cogent and comprehensive and does not leave any loose ends.

The UPA Government is committed to improve the economic condition of weaker and vulnerable section of the people of our country. The spending on social sector

has been gradually increased to Rs. 1,37,674 crore in 2010-11, which is 37 percent of the total plan outlay in 2010-11. Another 25 percent of the plan allocations are devoted to the development of rural infrastructure. The proposal to allocate Rs. 4,500 crore to the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment in the next fiscal, a substantial increase of 80 percent over last year, would benefit lakhs of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the other Backward classes besides the substantial number of physically challenged. The enhancement of budget allocation would definitely help the ministry to enhance the scholarship amounts for students belonging to these sections, besides expanding the various schemes for the welfare of the physically challenged and for the SC/STs and the OBCs.

It is unfortunate that according to an estimate the incidence of anemia has reportedly been risen in rural women and rural children. Several reports put India at the bottom when it comes to gender equality. The World Economic Forum, in a report titled the Global Gender Gap, 2009, has quantified the magnitude of gender based disparity in 134 countries. India ranks the very last on health and survival and is at the 114th position overall. Comparing Gender Equality deprived from three National Family Health Surveys spanning 13 years, a report published by the International Institute of Population Studies (IIPS Mumbai 2000) also presents a miserable picture. Punjab & Haryana continue to have the lowest sex ratios in the country. South states have registered an adverse child sex ratio. Jharkhand followed by three northeastern states have the best female child sex ratios countrywide. IIPS shows that among married women from 25-49, only one out of five women had completed 10 or more years of education. Only 7% of Indian women are employed in professional or managerial occupations. Not even half the couples in the reproductive age group use any contraception, anemic, adolescent girls and malnourished women continue to deliver underweight children. The UPA Government is seriously concerned with the problems of Child and Women in the country and hence proposed to allocate a total sum of Rs. 44,961.41 crore for the development of children and Rs. 67,749.80 crore for women specific programmes as part of its gender budgeting programme. Further, poverty rate among Muslims 31 % compared to the national average of about 22% and 15% unemployment among Muslim graduates Representation in civil services, central and state government service, armed forces and judiciary was less than 5% though Muslims make up over 13% of the population. Govt. has identified 90 Muslims Concentration

Districts (MCDs). I am sure that plan allocation for the Ministry of Minority Affairs, which has been increased by 50 percent from Rs. 1,740 to Rs. 2,600 crore for the year 2010-11 will certainly be beneficial to this community.

The UPA government is committed to provide health services in rural areas. The Government has increased the allocation for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare by Rs. 2,766 crore, a part of which go towards conducting an annual survey to prepare the health profile of all districts in the country, which will be conducted in 2010-11. the findings of the survey would be certainly of immense benefit to major public health initiatives, particularly the NRHM, which has successfully addressed the gaps in the delivery of critical health services in rural areas. The Plan allocation to Ministry of health and Family Welfare has been enhanced from Rs. 19,534 crore to Rs. 22,300 crore for 2010-11. However, according to recently released National Health Accounts (NHA) statistics, public health expenditure as a share of GDP Increased from 0.96 percent in 2004-05 to just 1.01 percent in 2008-09. Considering this aspect, it is my humble submissions that Central Government should consider providing health services through publicly funded system as over 80 percent of the health expenditure in India is in private sector, while in most developed societies, over 80 percent of health care expenditure is spent by the exchequer. Broadly, there are three patterns of healthcare financing across the world. The National Health Service (NHS) of the U.K. is a stark example of a state run and publicly funded system. Elsewhere in Europe, social insurance schemes bear most of the financial burden. The U.S. relies on private insurance, paid for mostly by employers; almost half of the supersized health spending (16 percent of GDP) is financed by tax money for the care of the old and the very poor. The NHS is relatively inexpensive, accounting for 8 percent of GDP, even below the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) average of 9 percent. U.K. and other OECD countries have better health indicators than the US although they spend less on it. Cuba with a per capita income that is less than a fifth of that of the US has a publicly funded system that yields better health outcomes than the U.S. In India, the share of healthcare expenditure borne by Insurance Companies is now less than 3 percent. Insurance covers only the cost of hospitalization and not expenditure on outpatient care. NHA statistics show that close to 70 percent of the out of pocket expenditure of the household is for outpatient care, which will not be covered by insurance. Moreover, many villages in India do not have a hospital worth the name within the accessible distance.

Our UPA Government's National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has successfully ensured that farmers get a reasonable wage, good enough to lift them above the poverty line. United Nations has praised Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme saying such inclusive anti poverty schemes are more effective than other like BPL cards which are selective in nature. Commitment to eradicating poverty requires an integrated approach to economic and social policies for the benefit of all citizens. It calls for more developmentally oriented and progressive state activism and universalism as opposed to selectivity, the UN report on World Social Situation 2010 said. Allocation of funds for the year 2009-10 was raised to Rs. 39100 crore to MNERGA. Employment provided to 4.27 crores household. Real wages raised to Rs. 100 per day. 200 crore persons days generated so far of which Women comprises 50%, SC 30% and ST 22%. 8.8 crore bank accounts have been opened to give wages transparently. 34 lakhs works taken upto 619 districts in the country. The allocations of Rs. 40,000 crore as against the previous allocation of Rs. 39,100 for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Rs. 48,000 crore for rural infrastructure programmes under Bharat Nirman, Rs. 10,000 crore for unit cost of house under Indira Awas Yojna, Rs. 73,00 crore for Backward Region Grant Fund and additional central assistance of Rs. 1,200 crore provided for drought mitigation in the Bundelkhand region shows that our UPA Government is committed to eradicate poverty in rural sector of India. Decision to extend benefits of "Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojna" to all such Mahatma Gandhi NREGA beneficiaries who have worked for more than 15 days during the preceding financial year deserves special commendations. Proposal to set up National Social Security Funds for unorganised sector workers like weavers, toddy tappers, rickshaw pullers, bidi workers etc. with an initial allocation of Rs. 1,000 crore shows that the UPA Government is very much concerned about the welfare of down trodden and economically weaker sections of the society.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has enhanced fund allocation for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises which employs about 60 million people through 2.6 crore enterprises and contributes about 40% to the country's exports from Rs. 1794 to Rs. 2400 crore this year. The corpus of Micro-Finance Development and Equity Fund has been doubled to Rs. 4000 in 2010-11. Setting up High Level Council on Micro and Small Enterprises to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of High Level Task force constituted by the Hon'ble Prime Minister is a welcome move in the interest of small and Medium Enterprises of the country.

The allocation of Rs. 1900 crore to the UIDAI for 2010-2011 would provide an effective platform for inclusive growth and enable the participation of the rural population integrating them with various social welfare schemes and Development. Our UPA's determination to push road and highway constructions in the country is clear as allocation to the sector is up by 13% from Rs. 17520 crore to Rs. 19894 crore. The move to exempt critical road making equipment from import duty and expected loan disbursement of Rs. 20,000 crore by March next year by India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. are strong indication of the government's backing for the ambitious plan to construct 20 kms. highway per day. Move to allow an extra Rs. 20,000 crore in long term infrastructure bonds under 80C from 2010 is also seen a push for long term finance availability for highway developers.

Energy sector is vital for rapid all round development of an economy. Presently, the scenario of our Energy sector is not satisfactory. Considering the importance of energy sector, the move to double plan allocation for power sector excluding RGGVY from Rs. 2230 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 5,130 crore in 2010-11 shows that our UPA Government is committed to achieve sustainable growth in power sector. Further, proposal to introduce a competitive bidding process for allocating coal blocks for captive mining to ensure greater transparency and increased participation in production from these blocks and to set up a "Coal Regulatory Authority:" to create a level playing field in the coal sector are welcome moves. The impetus provided for renewable energy with waivers on excise duty for solar panels and photovoltaic products, LED lights and exemption on electronic cars eco friendly vehicles will enable the India Solar Semiconductor Industry, energy efficient devices and promote the local eco system to develop products for the domestic market. Levy of a cess on coal support research in clean energy technology to build the corpus fund for NCEF, aiming at harnessing renewable sources to combat global warming proposal to set up a national clean energy fund for supporting research and innovative projects in technology are need of the hour as pollution levels have reached alarming proportion in many areas of the country. To encourage the use of biodegradable materials exemption on import of compost able polymer from basic duty is a good move.

Sir, Lakhs of people are facing water pollution problem due to discharge of effluents from Textiles units and other Industries located across the country. Tirupur and other Districts of Tamil Nadu state are part of these units. The products of Tiruppur are renowned in India and across the world. The textiles industries of Tiruppur are earning several crores rupees foreign exchange

annually besides providing employment to lakhs of people from Tamil Nadu. The waste effluents emanated by these units have polluted and spoiled river, Canal, River and Dam. One time grant of Rs. 200 crore to Tamil Nadu for installation of a zero liquid discharge system at affluent treatment plant at Tirupur will check pollution created by this industry. It is expected that a semi automatic Control system plant at Tirupur can produce 2000 to 3000 litres of potable water an hour from NBC. I on behalf of People of Tamil Nadu would like to express deep gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Hon'ble Sonia Gandhi Ji and Hon'ble Finance Minister for fulfilling the long cherished demand of textiles Industry of the State of Tamil Nadu.

I am happy to note that allocation for National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has been doubled to Rs. 500 crore in 2010-11. River Ganga is National River of India. Challenge is to restore Ganga's lost beauty, price and holiness. There is an urgent need of mechanism to sensitise cities and its people as well as industries to optimize river Ganga's water usage and generate less pollution. There is the need to involve the communities and reconnect the communities to the river. The success of the programme to bring the river back to life will lie in involving communities right from Planning to monitoring. Efforts should be made that Ganga clean up mission becomes a people's campaign.

The Finance Minister's announcement in the Budget that Reserve Bank of India is going to issue additional banking licences to private sector players including non banking financial companies is a welcome move. It will increase the geographic coverage of banks, improve access to banking services particularly in rural India and bring competition to the sector. The Nationalised Banks in India helped to push up the gross domestic savings of the household sector from just 9.5 % in 1970-71 to 22.6% of the GDP in 2008-09. But, still a significant proportion of Indian households, especially in rural areas, are still outside the coverage of the banking system and the number of bank account holders per 10 of the population is low at 31. According to a recent NCAER, survey over 58% households in rural areas prefer to keep their savings at home. The proposed steps to increase financial accessibility in rural areas will immensely help the rural households in the country.

Lastly, I would say that the present budget is road map for the future economic development of our country and urge to the Government that accountability in the implementation of development programmes must not be

compromised at any cost. For this proper monitoring, checks and audits should be put in place by the government. We need to evolve clear plans for achieving the targets set out in the Budget proposals, not just at the national level but at the sub national and local levels as well, adapted to local realities. The poor and the marginalized population have to be made an active part of the process at the three crucial stages of planning, implementation and monitoring. With these words I conclude Sir.

[Translation]

*SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI (Jalaun): Through you, I would like to lay my written speech on the table of the House. The hon. Minister of Finance has not allocated adequate funds for the development of a very backward region of the country- Bundelkhand. In View of the frightening situation of drought 594 prevailing in Bundelkhand for the last five years, the farmers are compelled to commit suicide owing to starvation. The labourers are migrating to other cities for earning their livelihood. But so far, the Union Government has not taken any concrete steps to quench the thirst of Bundelkhand—a thirsty land.

Bundelkhand is an agriculture based region. No good can be done to the farmers and labourers of Bundelkhand until arrangements are not a made to irrigate their dry fields. Through you, I would like to demand that the Government should install at least 500 public tubewells in every district for the purpose of quenching the thirst of Bundelkhand. Bundelkhand has a network of rivers. Small lift pump canals should be constructed in these rivers so that the thirst of Bundelkhand could be quenched. Presently the level of Chandrasi, Mainpur Pump canal could be raised, an additional pump house should be installed in my Lok Sabha constituency, district Jalaun and the second phase of Amrahat pump canal located on Yamuna river in Kanpur rural should be completed immediately.

The Union Government has implemented Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Scheme in KBK (Kalahandi), Balangai, Karakut) region in Orissa state, I would like to request the Union Government that keeping in mind the interests of the farmers this scheme should immediately be implemented in the very backward area of the country, Bundelkhand, particularly in my parliamentary constituency, so that the farmers of Bundelkhand may progress.

Through this House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that whereas Bundelkhand

*Speech was Laid on the Table.

is in the grip of drought for the last 5 years, the farmers are a distraught lot. The standing crops got completely ruined in the Vidhan Sabha constituency, Garotha, district Jhansi, under my parliamentary constituency, due to sudden hailstorm. This year, the farmers were expecting a good crop, but their hopes were dashed to ground due to this natural calamity. The State Government has not made any effort to compensate the loss till now. Neither is there any hope from the anti-farmer State Government. Therefore, I would like to request the Union Government to grant full compensation for the loss of standing crops ruined by hailstorm in Garautha Legislative Assembly constituency so as to console the farmers of this area.

The Union Government is beating the drum of carrying out development work in Bundelkhand but the fact remains that the Government has not paid any attention to education sector in this very backward area. There is neither any Kendriya Vidyalaya, nor any institute of high technology, particularly in my parliamentary constituency. I demand that a Kendriya Vidyalaya and an engineering college should be opened in my parliamentary constituency. Besides that, the primary and junior schools should be upgraded at the Panchayat level and the shortage of teachers and resources met in Bundelkhand. An ITI and a polytechnic should be opened at the block level for providing technical education so as to address the problem of unemployment among youth.

Bundelkhand has been hit by drought for the last so many years, due to which the farmer is economically incapable to provide higher and technical education to his children. I demand the Union Government to make educational loan easily available to the meritorious students of Bundelkhand.

There are many health related problems in the backward area of Bundelkhand in the country. There are no Primary Health Centres and Health sub-centres at village level. Even at places where they are present, there is shortage of doctors, nurses and medicines. There are many blocks in my parliamentary constituency where there is no PHC or CHC and in blocks where PHC and CHC are available, there is shortage of doctors, nurses and other facilities. In the absence of treatment and due to pitiable financial condition, the villagers have to lose their lives. The State Government of my party had sanctioned a neurology research center alongwith a Medical College in my parliamentary constituency, Jalaun, Urai, but it has not started functioning and neurology center has also been shifted to some other place.

I demand the Union Government to upgrade medical college located in my parliamentary constituency, Jalaun and provide all facilities and medical treatment on the lines of AIIMS in the said college so that the people of entire Bundelkhand region may get medical facilities without delay.

There is a grave power crisis in Bundelkhand. Here in Delhi, there is hardly any power cut, but in my area power is rarely supplied, in the absence of power, the tube-wells and pump canals can not be operated, due to which the problems of irrigation emerge. Keeping-in view the power crisis in my parliamentary constituency, Bundelkhand, additional power stations of 132 KV should be set up in Kalapi in district Jaulan, of 33 KV in Amrotha in district Kanpur Dehat, and 33 KV in Bhognipur, Garautha, Month, Poonch in district Jhansi. There is an urgent need to open one power station of 33 KV each in Konch, Jaulan, Kalapi, Urai near Mandi.

I would like to submit to the Union Government that 1200 acres of land of Gram Samaj near Choura village along national highway, on the banks of Yamuna river under Kanpur Dehat district to Bhognipur Legislative Assembly constituency has been identified. The District Magistrate has submitted his report to the Government. If the NTPC sets up a power plant there, the power crisis of the entire Bundelkhand region expect my parliamentary constituency will be resolved. Moreover, thousands of youth will also get employment, because railway line is also passing through this area.

Bundelkhand has a network of rivers due to which lakhs of areas of land is rough and rugged and is lying useless. The Government has sanctioned a total amount of Rs. 1200 crore in the budget for the whole of Bundelkhand which is a drop in the ocean keeping in view the problems of irrigation, power, education and health in this region. A scheme of levelling the land in Bundelkhand should be implemented for making the rough and rugged land arable in the interest of the welfare and well-being of lakhs of farmers and labourers over there.

Lastly, I would like to urge upon the Union Government to allocate more funds in the budget keeping in view the proposals of irrigation, agriculture, health, power, roads, education and unemployment of the most backward areas like Bundelkhand. Only then the development of this backward area is possible. Since Bundelkhand and its adjoining areas of Kanpur Dehat, Bhognipur, Ghatampur, Oraiyya, Etawah and Fatehpur etc. share the same lot of grave problems, so the same

facilities as are being provided to Bundelkhand should be given to these districts adjoining Bundelkhand so that all round development of this region can be undertaken. The monster of inflation in the country has eaten into the vitals of the economic condition of all the people like labourers, farmers, youth, the poor and the minorities including the downtrodden the backward, the upper classes and made their lives pitiable and weaken Bundelkhand and its adjoining areas. The education of children is suffering. Serious patients and the common man are not able to get medical attention due to lack of money. The patients are not even getting fruits and medicines. There is no electricity in most of the hamlets and villages. If the infrastructure exists somewhere, there is no light for months and even years. Same is the case of roads. There are no roads in villages for transporting the people and they have to face acute problems in movement. There is an urgent need for roads over there. There is no drinking water available. Keeping in mind all these basic facilities I would like to say through this House that the Government should contain the price rise and impose a ban on black marketing with immediate effect. Since the condition of the common man is very pathetic due to this price rise. It seems that the Government is dancing the tune of the industrialists and taking care of them alone. The economic assistance of at least Rs. 20,000 crore should be provided in the budget for the development of Bundelkhand region. Only then the development of our region is possible. The Government should provide assistance free of cost to the people of Bundelkhand. It should also provide facility of interest free loans to the people living below the poverty line. Same facilities should also be provided for the areas like Kanpur Dehat, Etawah, Oraiyya, Ghatampur, Fatehpur which lie adjoining Bundelkhand. This is my demand, which may kindly be considered.

While raising the problems of the weavers, through you, I would like to give some suggestions about their development. When there were no cloth mills in the country, very good hand-made clothes used to be manufactured by the weavers in India and clothes manufactured anywhere in the world were no match to the hand woven clothes manufactured by the weavers in our country. With the advent of cloth mills in India from other countries the weavers of our country have become poor and financially weak, but the Government of India never thought about the development of weavers, which is a matter of concern. I come from the weaver's community. The credit of greatest service all over the country goes to the people of the weaver's community.

There is requirement of clothes from day one when a child is born and clothes are very important throughout one's whole life.

Clothes have a great importance in every phase of one's life. They make the people look gracious and provide security to them in their whole life. Weavers thread from cotton in order to make clothes. Today the weavers are rendered unemployed completely and have become labourers. The Government has not launched any scheme in the interest of weavers for their development. There is need to provide jobs to the wards of weavers in the Ministry of textiles and other ministries and the Government should launch a scheme for providing free education to their wards and free of cost machines and houses to them. Only then their development is possible. Today the maximum number of poor people belongs to the weaver's society in the country. So, the Government should launch schemes and implement them in their interest and for their economic development. The Government should work for all the categories. Those who are the most poor are suffering. The Government should provide free of cost houses, medicines, education and food to the people living below poverty line. Only then the development of this country is possible.

[English]

*SHRI P. KUMAR (Tiruchirappalli): I express my sincere thanks to Hon'ble Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on General Budget.

Sir, my colleague have already given many suggestions on the budget, I would like to table my views on some topics like agriculture, road infrastructure, health, internal security as these areas need immediate and effectual initiatives.

Sir, our is a country in which majority of the people are engaged in agriculture activities. Nearly 70% of country's population are engaged in agricultural activities and the agriculture is the axle of the common citizen of the country. Hon'ble Finance Minister has intimated in his speech that the Government has intended to follow a four pronged strategy covering agricultural production; reduction in wastage of produce; credit support to farmers and a thrust to the food processing sector.

I appreciate this move and welcome the idea of the government to focus enhanced agricultural development. But even though, the government has formed such strategy, still we are witnessing a threat for food

*Speech was Laid on the Table.

availability. The proposal of extending the green revolution to the eastern region of the country with the active involvement of Gram Sabhas and the farming families and proposal to organize 60000 pulse and oil seed villages in rain fed areas during the year 2010-2011 is a welcome step.

Whereas the government failed to establish technological set up to be involved in the filed of agriculture. Due to lack of sufficient quality seed, irrigation, failure of monsoon, flood or drought, conversion of agricultural lands into commercial purposes, there is an acute decline in agricultural production during this current decade. Focusing on a couple of years in the recent past we can observe a relative decline in the overall growth rate of agriculture. In 2004-2005 for instance while the non agricultural sector recorded 9.5% growth, for agriculture, it was a zero growth year. During the years 2005-2006 and 2007-2008 growth rate in non agricultural sector ranged between 10% to 11% but in agriculture the growth rates was way down at 5% because of such adverse decline, now our country, in which one third of population are engaged in agricultural activities, is forced to import one lakh tonne of sugar, oil varieties and pulse to cater domestic consumption. It is shocking that we are importing wheat at Rs. 19.00 per kilo where as standard price fixed by the government for wheat is Rs. 9 per kilo. I request the government to explain the reason for this stance presently exists. I further urge the government that a sufficient fund should be allocated for research in agriculture to enable ourselves self sufficient in agriculture production and take steps to stop conversion of agricultural lands into commercial flats. The government must come forward to strengthen the existing law to prevent the conversion of agricultural lands into commercial purposes and should take steps to increase the area of cultivation in the country. For a country of 1.15 billion people, with around a third of them poor, the rate of growth of agriculture must always be on the radar of policy makers.

The waiver of agricultural loans is availed by farmers who are having below five acres of agricultural land. This should be extended to agricultural farms loans and also to the farmers having more than five acres.

Now the Tamil Nadu Government is paying only Rs. 1419 for one tonne of Sugar Cane and it should be increased as Rs. 2,500 per tonne as demanded by our General Secretary of AIADMK Party Hon'ble Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi. While exporting Sugar at the rate of Rs. 12.50 per Kilo we are importing sugar from other countries at the rate of Rs. 35 per Kg resulting in loss of revenue of our country.

Secondly, Hon'ble Minister informed about the reduction of wastage of production. During the last five years, nearly half of the production stored in Godowns

of Food Corporation of India have rotted and the same was confessed by the FCI officials themselves. Therefore, an advanced plan of action should be formed for maintenance of quality of stored production while the government increase the storage capacity through private sector participation, it is imperative to monitor the storage and the same should be demand and supply imbalance as this imbalance is the main cause for price rise of essential commodities.

Hon'ble Minister during the budget speech has intimated that there is a strategy for the development of food processing sector by providing state of the art infrastructure. I would like to remind to the government through this August House that according to industry estimates, our country losses over Rs. 55,000 crore worth of harvested produce mostly vegetables and fruits annually due to poor infrastructure. I believe that Hon'ble Finance Minister's plan to strengthen infrastructure of food processing sector would reduce the level of losses for stored production at least in future.

As far as road infrastructure, the government could not achieve the last year target of awarding the road projects. Against the target of awarding projects for a total length of about 9800 km under various phases of National Highways Development Project during the just gone financial year, projects only for a total length of 1285 km has been awarded. The lackluster implementation of projects causes for escalation of project cost. This year also it is informed that the allocation for road transport increased by over 13 percent from Rs. 17520 crore to Rs. 19894 crore. Also, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has set a target of completion of 20 km of national highways per day, translating to 35000 km during the next five years with a view to expedite the progress of the National Highways Development Project. I request the Hon'ble Minister to explain how these road projects could be completed within the targeted time whereas 60% of previous projects are pending causing escalation of estimated cost and excessive burden to the exchequer. There should be a clear plan of action for realization of plans drawn in paper.

I am very much concerned about the price rise of essential commodities. As an act of adding fuel to the burning flame the government suddenly increased price of petrol. Hon'ble Minister has informed that the transportation by road of cereals and pulse to be exempted from service tax and transportation by rail remains exempt. But at the same time increase in price of petrol has caused increase vehicle rent for transportation of commodities upto Rs. 1000/- per tonne which will finally fall on the head of common man. This increase in the petrol and its allied products will adversely

accelerate the rise of price of essential commodities. As per Economic Survey the retail prices in the country are rising at a rate ten times faster than that for the wholesale prices. With inflation already at double digit levels, the hike in fuel prices will make it difficult for the common man to make ends meet.

Even at this time while I am speaking here, the price of commodities would have been increased to certain extent. I am very much frustrated that the government instead of taking steps to combat increasing inflation rate through the general budget, have given another blow by increasing fuel price. On behalf of our dynamic leader Amma, I strongly oppose this fuel price rise. I request the government to revert the excise tax imposed on petrol products and take necessary steps to combat the food inflation rate.

In Para 74, Hon'ble Finance Minister told that National Rural Health Mission has successfully addressed the gaps in the delivery of critical health services in rural areas. Further a plan allocation of 22,300 cores for the year 2010-11 announced by the government. But the real picture is not healthy. According to the recent data released by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in the first week of February 2010, there is a shocking shortfall of doctors, nurses, health assistants, pharmacists and other personnel in the rural health delivery structure.

Only 20% of required pediatricians and only 26% of surgeons and general physicians are placed in Community Health Centers. Even at the lower rungs of the medical service hierarchy like the health sub-centers and primary health centers, many of the key personnel are not yet appointed. Expenditure data also shows that the problem is not of resources. Out of the Rs. 42000 crores released by the government in the past four years for National Rural Health Mission nearly 10,000 crore is lying unspent with state governments. It is the responsibility of the government to clear this limitations of Rural Health Mission programme by placing adequate medical staff so that all rural population could access medical facility.

The government should also urge the State Governments from time to time to channelise the fund allocated for the purpose and the central government should also ensure that the fund is utilized for the purposes to which it has been allotted and it should not be diverted to any other enchanting scheme by the state governments like free tv, free stove etc for the creditability of vote bank.

I welcome the proposal of setting up of National Mission for Delivery of Justice and Legal Reforms to

help reduce legal backlog in courts from an average of 15 years at present to 3 years by 2012. The government may set up evening courts appointing experienced retired high court judges to clear the numerous number of pending cases.

Sir, presently, the threat to internal security is the biggest challenge among others. The states have reported that 3.94 lakh that is nearly 20% of the total sanctioned strength are lying vacant. I request the government to reiterate the state government to fill up the gap. The police force should be trained with modern technology to tackle the new technological face of anti social elements.

Now, Tiruchirapalli Airport is one of the Customs Airport in India. This should be upgraded as International Airport and also to introduce frequent flight services between Trichy and Chennai, Trichy and Delhi (via Chennai).

I would like conclude my speech with one more request that presently Member of Parliament Local Area Development Fund granted by the government is 2 crore. The MP constituency is larger than the legislative assembly and even an MP constituency has six legislative assembly constituencies. The legislative members in the state are granted an amount of Rs. 1.75 crore for their local area development. Comparatively when we are visiting to every corner of our constituency a lot of requisitions are being made by the people. So the responsibility of an MP is higher than an MLA. Therefore I request the government to enhance the amount of MPLAD to address needs of the people of our constituencies.

[Translation]

SHRI LALJI TANDON (Lucknow): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my colleagues have presented lots of figures and tried to portray a specific picture of the budget. I do not want to repeat them, because there is much difference between the ground reality and the statistics. I cannot judge as to what is in this budget that we should criticize or appreciate. This is the *status quo* budget according to which the weak will have to bear the burden of price rise, unemployment and taxes as much as they are financially weak and those who are financially strong will avail tax exemptions, rebates and holidays. This budget shows us that those who have earnings of Rs. 50 lakh, 40 lakh will avail so and so exemptions and those who have earnings of Rs. 3 lakh will face price rise.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has said that this budget is not merely a budget of announcements, but it is a farsighted budget. I do not know how far is the length of sight in it. Is there any need to consult any eye specialist? What farsightedness is there in it? This budget has all the seeds needed for worsening the crisis situation facing our country. There is price rise and it is misleading to say that the price rise is triggered by the monsoon i.e. Lord Indra. If it is so, then this Parliament, the Ministers etc. are all suseless. In such a case we should visit any temple of the Lord Indra and pray to Him. "God, have mercy on us; we will be saved by the mercy of you; they cannot save us".

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the name of Kautilya is often mentioned frequently when it comes to formulation of taxation policy. Kautilya had stated that a king should collect tax from public in the same manner as a bee sucks sap from flowers and returns it to the society by converting it into honey. It is nowhere to be seen. If you look at the budget as a whole, you will find it that it is based on debt and sops. It espouses neither self pride nor protection of human rights nor generation of employment. It is all about sops. The name of Gandhiji is evoked but I think, despite the presence of so many economists over here but they hardly care for the country. Our Prime Minister is an economist. Our Minister of Finance is also an economist. Our Minister of Home Affairs and Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission and a number of other persons are economists but none of them is having any in depth knowledge about Indian economy.

Sir, I would like to give an instance. There was an illiterate and sage poet whose name was Kabir. Perhaps he had spoken the following words for these people, "Tu Kahta Pustak Ki Lekhi Aur Main Kehta Anakhon Ki Dekhi." These two lines reflect depth of philosophy that he has summed up the situation in just two lines. These belong to that tradition as they are presenting data before those people who are totally ignorant about the same. The data is a mind boggling exercise. We are discussing those data which has nothing to do with us. We want food, shelter and employment today, people are in need of higher and primary education. Consumer commodities are required to make available to people at reasonable rates. What is happening now? In spite of such a high inflation if the Government denies existence of price rise or makes claims that inflation will come down after presentation of the budget. How will it be reduced? The poor farmer is being held responsible for the inflation because the

support prices had been increased and that is why inflation is rising. The support prices of foodgrains are increased by 50-60 paise whereas the prices have increased three times in the market. Nobody blames those who are instrumental in increasing prices but that poor farmer is held responsible for this. These policies and economists are not held responsible while this poor farmer is being held responsible. Even in this matter also he is being grossly exploited. Billions of Rupees are being spent in the name of land reforms. Lakhs of hectares of land is not proving productive because the farmers of those areas lack financial resources to make the land even surfaced. It was stated that consolidate testing would be done to find out what kind of fertilizer, seed, is required to be used and what kind of produce can be grown ghereon but is is happening? When I visit rural areas, people complain that bribe was demanded from them when the authorities were contacted in this regard. People had to return empty handed and decided to go in for traditional manner of cultivation continuing for generations. Corruption is inherent in it. NREGA is a burning example of this.

You are making claims of providing employment to the people. nobody can guess the difficulty of small farmers doing farming on their own due to unavailability of labour here because they cannot afford to hire labourers at enhanced rates of wages. Now production is declining. Inclusive growht is being talked about. Who are all these? There are around 40% people living below the poverty line. The middle class or the service class forms the largest segment of the consumers. There is yet another class for which we have been speaking in different voices here for such a long time in the name of reservation but is there a single item for amelioration of economic condition which is meant only for women.

Today, younger generation is getting deprived of higher education. How exorbitant fees will be afforded? Even for that purpose bank loans are available. There is yet another person named 'Charvak' whose name is remembered along with the name of Kautilya. Charvak was the first person who had favoured the regime of loans and he said that there is no need to be worried. One should live happily as long as one is alive and should not hesitate in eating ghee by arranging loans because at last one has to die. When the body will be burnt to ashes, who will repay the debt? It is happening today. Take loans, use it up and the loan will be waived off in the name of Gandhi ji. Did any one over see when Gandhi ji made mockery of self pride of a poor man and

distributing sops to him. You can spin 'Charkha' in case of unemployment which does not cost any thing. He had set up an enormous rural industrial base so as to provide employment opportunity to each hand. You are talking of farsightedness. This country has never been driven by large industries. This country has been driven by the commodities manufactured by small artisans. ...*(interruptions)*. I would like to ask as to before whom should we place all these figures. One Urdu poet has state:-

"Andhon Ki Basti Mein Aine Bechta Hun." I am trying to show mirror to those who cannot see. That is the current state of affairs but we give a pat on our back that it a progressive budget. Middle class is the largest class of our country. The NREGA for farmers, loan waiver and little increase in the M.S.P. is being held responsible for price rise but real factors responsible for it are increase in excise duty on coal, hike in petroleum prices and fertilizers and the mill owners were given full freedom to earn profits as much as they wanted. Let the farmer die his own death. When there will be further increase in prices we shall point towards this very farmer that we had given some sops to him due to which the people are reeling under the impact of price rise...*(Interruptions)*. I am not wasting your time by going into figures. I am trying to hold mirror to the same people who refuse to see and exhort them to see and do something but nobody is going to do anything. It is true what I am saying. They are not given to thinking and not open to correction and unwilling to learn something. Many speakers have spoken. There can be differences of opinions but the economic problems faced by people are the same for all. There must be somebody to listen to all those suggestions which are made over here.

Sir, we are going to face a severe crisis of water. The cycle of weather is changing. It will not be solved by offering worship to Lord 'India'. A vital factor for climate change is declining table of ground water, which is being exploited to the hilt. Due to this exploitation the land, which used to absorb heat is now generating heat and weather cycle is changing.

We have been criticized all over the world. But are we still giving it a thought? Severe drought hit some parts of the country this year and there was excessive rain in other parts and lots of water just drifted down the drains. Water Conservation is a mere slogan. If a campaign for water harvesting is launched then all the rainwater would be absorbed in the ground and would find the water level to be increasing and even the cycle

of the weather would improve. You are recommending all varieties of chemical fertilizers to the farmers. While the entire world is acknowledging the benefits of organic fertilizers...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI LALJI TANDON: I am about to finish. Is it not possible to conduct a research regarding mixing our traditional manure with some chemicals so that it does not reduce the fertility as well as increase the yield?

Animal husbandry is the backbone of our rural economy and yet more than one lakh cows are being butchered daily. Some people say that why only we raise our voices about cows. We do so because we look upon the cow as the mother of this land. If we save them then we would have manure in abundance. The farmers would not have to purchase these costly fertilizers but nothing is being done in this regard...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI LALJI TANDON: Sir, I would like to submit that things should be improved. There is one more issue which I want to raise. Code of Conduct is being formulated for tax system. Whether big corporate houses ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: this is your last point.

SHRI LALJI TANDON: Yes, Sir. The hon. Minister of Finance is consulting with corporate people but has he thought of consulting the common man who is going to bear its burden. There is nobody to listen to his voice here even if we try to raise his concerns here. It is my request to pay attention towards the concerns of the common man and the sops which are being offered-reservation and all are just an eyewash...*(Interruptions)*. Where have you reached. I am saying that the big industries which have been set up are a historical blunder...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

SHRI LALJI TANDON: I am going to conclude after making just one more point. A big threat has emerged. I was saying that the the goods produced by rural industries had a big market and there were big opportunities for self-employment but now China has captured that market. Now clay idols and toys which are much in demand Diwali come from Chian...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

SHRI LALJI TANDON: Sir, let me conclude this point because it concerns a big threat. Employment should not be snatched from the hands of rural artisans leaving them to face penury. They should be provided employment. If this opportunity goes to our neighbouring countries then it would turn our country into a market for their goods.

[English]

*SHRI C. SIVASAMI (Tiruppur): In the very beginning, on behalf of former Chief Minister, hon. Amma Selvi Jayalalitha, on behalf of the people of my parliamentary constituency, Tiruppur, and on my own behalf, I would like to express gratefulness to the hon. Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee for granting a sum of Rs. 200 crore for the installation of dyeing common treatment plant industry in Tiruppur as one-time grant to the Government of Tamil Nadu. In fact, on the insistence of our leader, hon. Amma, I had raised the issue of sanctioning grants for the development of garments and hosiery industries in Tiruppur a number of times in the 15th Lok Sabha. This long felt wish has been fulfilled in this General Budget presented by the UPA Government.

In this regard, I would like to add that though Rs. 200 crore is a good amount, rise in the prices of petroleum products like petrol and diesel would create a chain reaction in the increase in the prices of food articles, food grains as it would severely affected the farmers, small scale industries and the common man which is very poor and the downtrodden population of our country. Hence, my view is that hike at this point in time should have been avoided as prices of essential commodities have been on the rise for the past 3 months without any break.

Next is about the utilization of funds of the Government Departments. Firstly, I would like to state that implementation of the schemes of the Ministries is slow with the results benefits are not reaching the people. Secondly, schemes are implemented through the officials, which takes a lot of time. We, as peoples' representatives, Members of Parliament understand the genuine and just problems of the people. We are the pulse of the people. We live in the constituencies; our understanding is at a different level altogether if you compare it with the understanding of the officials, who are always away from the people and rarely visit and

interact with the people. We understand the genuine problems of the people like drinking water. Money should reach as fast as possible and on war footing, which is not happening at present. Hence, I would like to suggest to the Government that to ensure that money is released immediately, MPs should be involved as they tackle the problems of the people in a better manner.

At present, Rs. 2 crore is sanctioned per MP per year under the MPLAD Scheme. But in many States, every MLA gets Rs. 2 crore per year. The fact of the matter is each parliamentary constituency covers a maximum of 6 assembly constituency. When this is the fact, allocation of Rs. 2 crore for MPs under the MPLAD Scheme per year is not at all justifiable.

Taking the above facts into consideration, I would request the Government to consider allotting Rs. 12 crore per year for each MP under the MPLAD Scheme so that MPs could do justice to their parliamentary constituencies by bringing in more schemes and to serve the public better. This would also help the UPA Government a lot of credit. I would request the hon. Minister to reply to the request, which is also the requests of all the MPs of Lok Sabha.

The Airport Authority of India, which handles the airports of the country, is a loss-making enterprises and the main reason is its faulty administration. For example, Coimbatore Airport. Coimbatore is considered as the Manchester of the South. Its headquarters is located in Chennai. Coimbatore is surrounded by industrial towns like Erode, Karur, Tiruppur and located close to Kerala border and important cities like Palaghat and Tiruchur. But to the utter astonishment of everyone, only four flights are operated, out of which three are of Spicejet, a private airline and only one of Air India. Out of three Spicejet flights, two are from Coimbatore to Delhi via Hyderabad, which takes 4 hours and one of Spicejet and one of Air India are from Coimbatore to Delhi via Mumbai. Even here, Spicejet takes only four hours to reach Delhi, Air India takes almost 6 hours, though both takes off at Coimbatore at the same time, that is 3.10 p.m.

The other interesting point is that the Air India flight was scheduled earlier at 2.10 p.m. but it was rescheduled at 3.10 p.m. Air India passengers started opting for Spicejet just because it takes around 4 hours only. This has resulted in huge loss to Air India. Officials of Air India are hand in glove with Spicejet at the cost of incurring huge losses to the Exchequer.

The other problem being faced by air passenger at Coimbatore, New Delhi and other airports of the country at the Boarding Counters of Air India, passengers have to take care of their luggage on their own whereas at the Boarding Counter of Spicejet, they provide the facility of helping the customers by lifting the luggage, etc. This too has caused lot of problem and most importantly more passengers are drawn towards Spicejet.

Hence, I would request firstly to reduce the time taken by Air India by 4 hours as Spicejet flight. And secondly, at least 1 direct flight, preferably Airbus which could accommodate 200 passengers, should be introduced between Coimbatore to Delhi immediately.

I was informed that a new flight, a small one, which can accommodate only 60 passengers is going to be introduced. If it is true, instead of a small aircraft, an Airbus which could accommodate 200 persons should be introduced which would not only draw more passengers to Air India but it would bring in more money for the Government.

Another important issue is that at present raw cotton is being exported. I would request that raw cotton should not be allowed to be exported. If a finished product is exported, it would generate more jobs, and the Government would also earn more in the form of tax. Hope, the Government would consider this and issue directions accordingly.

I wish to also bring to the notice of the august House, through you, Madam, the sorry state of affairs of the exporters in my parliamentary constituency, Tirupur, in Tamil Nadu. In order to improve the India's exports, and to render assistance to the exporters, banks have been extending loans and monitoring Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with the result, instead of keeping the salient 'helping' aspect in mind, these banks have purely become a commercial entity. When banks became a business entity and forcing the exporters to enter into Forex Derivative contract, exporters hailing from Tirupur have incurred huge losses.

In 2007, the exporters from Tirupur as well as other parts of the country when there was steep appreciation of Indian rupee against US dollar, which forced them to incur heavy losses. This fate has befallen them because many banks have entered into Forex Derivative control with SMEs by approaching them and cajoling them, which resulted in exporters of Tirupur and others from various parts of the country lost thousands of crores of rupees.

Banks have blatantly floated the stated guidelines of the RBI and FEMA rules in this regard.

These banks have misguided and cheated the exporters with the result these exporters lost heavily and banks threatened these exporters to payback. I would state that in Tirupur alone, exporters have lost a sum of Rs. 300 crore; in many other States, exporters have lost to the tune of approximately Rs. 8,000 crore.

When these exporters felt the heat from the banks, they approached the Standing Committee on Finance and RBI and ventilated their genuine grievances. RBI, when it came to know of the things, issued instructions to keep profit and loss of these exporters separately to protect them, thus, helping the exporters to operate the other account. In this way, RBI came to the rescue of these exporters of Tirupur and other parts of the country. Except the SBI, all other banks have accepted and implemented the instructions of RBI.

SBI and other banks have floated the instructions and guidelines of both the RBI and FEMA rules and converted these loans into a long term loan, which has undeniably added to their already existing burden. This is nothing but adding salt to injury.

I want to bring an interesting fact to the notice of the Minister. When the issue was brought to its notice, the Orissa High Court has ordered CBI to carry out a thorough investigation into this sordid aspect after registering a case. But to the utter dismay of affected exporters, Association of Bankers have obtained interim stay from the Supreme Court against the CBI Enquiry ordered by the Orissa High Court.

Under such circumstances, I would like to strongly urge the UPA Government to order a CBI Enquiry on a war-footing and to protect the exporters of Tirupur and others from the clutches of Forex Derivatives contract, which banks have entered into with these exporters by floating the RBI guidelines.

Next, I would like to harp on the problems being faced by Tiruppur garments and hosiery industries due to frequent power cut. This is not only confined to Tiruppur but also spread across Tamil Nadu.

Shortage of electricity is causing huge problem in the garments, textiles and hosiery industries in my parliamentary constituency, Tiruppur, and other industrial towns located nearby. This cluster is one of the biggest

garments spots in the country. Lack of power supply is the main obstacle in Tamil Nadu, more particularly, in Tiruppur.

Tiruppur is providing employment to thousands of youths not only from Tamil Nadu but people from Orissa, Bihar and other parts of the country come to Tiruppur to seek employment. Fortunately, they get employment. There was never an instance where there is not job in Tiruppur. Whoever comes for job, they get job. I have not seen in these 2 decades no one waiting for a job. Everyone is given a job. Jobs are in plenty. And we do not get persons for hiring them for employment. There are always vacancies in Tiruppur-based industries. To the utter dismay of everyone, due to lack of electricity, power-cut literally everyday, many industries in Tiruppur are on the verge of closure. This would create a situation wherein unemployment would grow. So, also other problems would crop up in due course of time, if supply of electricity is not attended to.

It seems that the State Government is not making sincere or serious efforts in providing more power or at subsidized rate to these garments and hosiery industries due to which they are in a very bad shape. This situation has been continuing for a long time.

On the one hand, the State Government is providing power at Rs. 1.60 and non-stop supply for 24 hours to the multi-national companies. On the other hand, domestic industries are facing the brunt from its own State, which is supposed to protect their interests. This pitiable situation is prevailing in Tamil Nadu.

This situation should change. Hence, I would like to strongly urge the Central Government to consider providing more power supply to the State Government from the National Grid and at concessional rate so that garments and hosiery industries in Tiruppur, in particular, and other industries, in general, in Tamil Nadu would flourish in the years to come.

The other most important issue is for bringing in simultaneous interpretation in Tamil the floor language in Lok Sabha. I am not only pleading for Tamil but for other languages also.

It is a bitter fact, which like me, from Tamil Nadu, many non-Hindi speaking MPs, accept or face in Lok Sabha while participating in the debate. Every MP represents 10 lakhs; some times more and some times less. But those MPs who could not understand Hindi or

a little bit of English become a silent spectator as the debate in English or Hindi alone are interpreted simultaneously.

I would like to highlight the plight of Tamil Nadu MPs. We have 40 MPs, including one from Pondicherry. Almost 13% of the Cabinet and State Ministers hail from Tamil Nadu. But to our dismay, many MPs from Tamil Nadu and other non-Hindi speaking States fail to understand as there is no simultaneous interpretation of Hindi or English, which are the only two languages, into Tamil or any other language.

For example, in this very House, Lok Sabha, even when hon. Speaker ask us to conclude, we fail to understand the directions from the Chair. When heated debates on important subjects of national importance like debates on price rise, security or a debate on President's Address is on, we sit as a mute spectator as we could not understand anything because of non-interpretation of the floor language into Tamil.

Under such a piquant situation, I strongly urge and plead with the hon. Speaker to consider interpretation of floor language into Tamil, as Tamil being the oldest language of the country, on an experimental basis, in Lok Sabha for the benefit of 40 odd MPs from Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Tamil has also been recognized by the Government of India as a classical language. I hope, hon. Speaker would positively consider this genuine requests of the MPs of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry soon.

I would like to come back to my parliamentary constituency. Koduveri village in my parliamentary constituency, Tiruppur. It is separated by Bhavani river. The most fascinating and interesting fact is Koduveri is one of the important and big tourist spots in Tamil Nadu. It draws visitors, both domestically and internationally. Thousands of tourists through this tourist spot.

Not only that Koduveri village is the doorway for Talavadi, it is also located at the entrance of Mysore, Nilagiri and Ponnariamman Temple.

The real issue is if a tourist or a local want to go to either side of the Bhavani river, one has to take detour – a huge 40 kms. At present, only small boats carry the tourists and visitors, which consumes lot of time and causing a lot of inconvenience. Hence, I would plead with the Government to allocate a fund of Rs. 8 crore for the construction of a bridge connecting both sides of the Bhavani river, on which Koduveri village, which is a huge tourist place, is located in the middle.

This act on the part of Government would not only help develop this important tourist spot in Tamil Nadu but it would also go a long way in drawing more and more tourists. If need be, I am willing to spend Rs. 2 crore from my MPLAD Fund for the benefit of the people of my parliamentary constituency.

I would like to bring in the plight of Tamil Nadu fishermen in the Indian waters due to the Sri Lankan army. Our leader, Puratchi Thalaivar, Amma Jayalalitha, has brought this issue a number of times. Another dimension of this issue is Tamil Nadu fishermen face constant harassment meted out by the Sri Lankan Army in the Palk Bay areas off Tamil Nadu coast. In spite of repeated requests by our leader and the All India Anna DMK, no action has been taken.

Tamil Nadu Government headed by DMK has failed to address the genuine problems being faced by the fishermen in Tamil Nadu. Hence, I request the UPA Government to look into this very important aspect of protecting the fishermen of Tamil Nadu by providing safety and security in the Indian waters.

Before I conclude, I would like to bring another very important issue before the Government. Tiruppur garment exporters have to compete globally. Their competitors are China and Pakistan. If the Government wants the exports to be increased, and India have to successfully compete with majors like China and Pakistan in the export market globally, for the same of Tiruppur garment exporters, their 'draw back' should be increased.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

*SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): The hon. Minister of Finance has presented the budget for year 2010-11 in which villages, poor people and farmers have been ignored. This is not the budget for the common man but for the privileged people. Prices have risen. No effort has been made to check them and the monsoon has been blamed for the same while the prices of foodgrains have been increased even when there is no shortage and the reason is storage of foodgrains. The Government has no control over this. The prices of wheat, rice, sugar, vegetables, foodgrains as well as cement and steel have been increased. The increase in the prices of diesel and petrol has led to a further increase in the prices of other items. No consideration has been extended towards the

*Speech was Laid on the Table.

farmers as the prices of urea and fertilizers have been increased. The hon. Prime Minister takes about long-term policy while at present the poor people of the village are starving and they need houses and food. They do not have money. They talk about enhancing the infrastructure but the increase of Rs. 400 crores in the allocation for agriculture is very less and the farmers are concerned in this regard. Unless there is development in the field of agriculture, the problems of price hike, unemployment and migration of people from villages to cities would remain. The reason is jugglery of figures. The country can make progress by saving. But reeling under the burden of rising prices, the citizens of the country are not able to save. We will have to accept the challenges of economic crisis in the country. There is a need to make changes in the policies to streamline the economy.

The condition of carpet industry is not good in my constituency Bhadohi and there is a need to promote this industry by including it in small medium khadi industries. Hundreds of acres of land is eroded by the river Ganga in the area. The land there is getting ruined due to soil erosion. Immediate steps should be taken to check this menace. In the rural areas the facilities of electricity, health care, drinking water and irrigation should be made available to the farmers and the benefits of Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, NREGA should directly reach the farmers. This is essential. There is a need to promote vocational education in the rural areas for overall development of the country. This is not the budget for common man but for the special people.

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Chittorgarh): Mr. Chairman Sir, first of all I would like to thank Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sonia Gandhi ji and Minister of Finance. Laluji you just made a comment and I would like to tell you that I was just returning by a plane and I met a common man there, common man you are talking about...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran): You met him on a plane...*(Interruptions)*

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: I met him in the train. Why you cannot meet a common man in a plane too? He told me that this budget is a definite combination of Soniaji's sensitivity, Prime Minister's experience of economic affairs of several years as an economist and experience of Pranabji as political economist. In these testing times in the time of confusion and uncertainty when the whole world is reeling under economic crisis, UPA Government and leaders of UPA definitely deserve compliments for bringing such kind of budgets. Yashwant Sinha ji just made

a right point. I would also start my point from there that atleast there are balloons for the children.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, thought you I would like to requesty Yashwant Sinhaji that education is his right as well as playing with the balloon. Although every corner is not to lit but there are glimpses of light. People are not hungry although there may not be many dishes to choose from. Therefore, I would like to quote:

Roshan kahin Bahar ke, Imkaan hue to hain,
Gulshan mein chakband, Girebaan hue to hain
Inme Lahu jala hai hamara, ki jano dil
Mehfil mein kuch chirag, roza hue to hain.

There is some glimmer of hops, hunger has been satiated to some extent and more needs to be done in this direction. This budget was no prepared in a single day, therefore I would like to thank hon. Minister of Finance because he initiated the process of perparing the budget in the beginning of the year in January itself, he held meetings with various stakeholders like people from commerce lobby, farmer leaders, farmer's association, International Policy Research Institute, Ministers of the States, people from the civil society. We find the results of his efforts reflected in the budget as welfare of the nation and common man, concerns of education sector, have been taken care of and it also reflects the resolution to make treatment available to patients to do something for the common man. Once again I would like to thank hon. Minister of Finance for the same.

Congress and UPA Government have not given slogans like India shining for returning to power. Ask anyone about the economic condition of the country and you would get the reply that it is ok. The people who have been abroad are well aware about the economic slowdown there but despite that in India, from the workers of NAREGA to people holding high posts have been given some kind of package and concerns of all the sectors be it education or medical have been addressed. I was talking about my party's manifesto. THere are certain promises, which need to be fulfilled.

Woh jo vaade se mukar jaye, aasmano se utar jayega
Rang chehre ka hatega uska, Aaina dekhkar woh
dar jayega.

That's why Congress and UPA Government have taken up those issues. We have addressed all the issues in the budget regarding which we made promises in our manifesto. As far as the question of health is concerned,

there was the issue of health insurance. The Government have fulfilled that promise by bringing National Health Scheme. If a worker under NREGA works even for 15 days, he will surely get his due. As regards Quality Health Facility, that promise has been fulfilled in this budget through the District Hospital Scheme. As far as the question of education is concerned, we have made education a right. We mentioned about two model schools in our manifesto. A new direction has been given to the Model School Scheme by increasing the allocation to Rs. 425 crore in the year 2010-11 in comparison to the allocation of Rs. 350 crore in the year 2009-10. The Ministry of Social Justice has asked for free education across the states for Dalits and tribal people a provision to provide post-matric scholarship has been made in the budget. There is so much in the budget for the work and social security. A provision of Rs. 1000 crore has been made for the establishment of National Security, Social Security Fund. The budget mentions formulation of a new pension policy for the people working in unorganized sector so as to enable them to benefit from new pension policy. Agriculture is our backbone and I would like to submit as to why agriculture is the backbone but before that I would like to tell that a target of Rs. 3,75,000 crore has been fixed for the agriculture credit flow and a provision of Rs. 400 crore has been made for green revolution, particularly for the eastern region. I myself admit that these funds are not enough, but am inclination is there to see as to what extent it succeeds. Therefore, I believe that in thhe states which are going to receive grants under this new concept, green revolution will get a new direction there. Usually states cannot be controlled and they are not able to spend more than 70-80 percent of the allocation. Therefore, the states, which are going to get funds for green revolution will utilize it properly. Secondly, there is a mention of identifying 60,000 villages for pulses and oilseeds in viw of the increasing prices of pulses and oilseeds in the budget. It indicates that direct income support will be provided through crop insurance.

Sir, urban housing is a major problem. We have not discussed it in detail as we have been focusing more on rural poverty. At the same time he cannot overlook the increasing urban poverty. A provision of Rs. 3060 crore has been made for the purpose in the budget for 2010-11. The issue of rural electrification and other points as well have also been mentioned in the Budget of 2010-11. A proposal for social infrastructure has been made in this Budget as to how the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will further quicken the pace of this work. There is many a thing in this Budget for the rural people and down trodden. The statement of the

Minister of Finance which he had initially made during the Budget goes this way.

[English]

“The Union Budget cannot be a mere statement of Government accounts. It has to reflect the Government’s vision and signal the policies to come in future.”

[Translation]

In view of this point this Budget has been prepared. Sir, when the interim Budget and regular Budget were presented in this House during the year 2009 in February and July respectively, there was slowdown in Indian economy. I remember the Diwali of 2008. I hail from Rajasthan. The purchase made during Diwali festival stands for this thing as to how much heavier is the purse of the people. The recession during that period had shown that there was nothing as much light nor as much purchase because people were under apprehension of financial burden on their pockets. But in spite of a dismal scenario of global economy, the government accepted the challenge in a better way to combat with this crisis. The first challenge before the government was to increase the gross domestic production to the level of nine per cent.

I have also gone through the economic review. I would like to say in this regard that the year 2009-10 has been a challenging year for the Indian economy. Due to noticeable decline in the second half of 2008-09, the increase in actual gross domestic production, which had been more than nine percent for the last three years, has gone down to 6.7 percent. We were among the first few countries in the World, who acted upon the comprehensive policy package to deal with the negative effects of the global recession. There was involvement of fiscal expansion also along with the liberal monetary policy assistance.

17.54 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

Sir, I would also like to submit here that our participation in the world trade was less than even one per cent. But the UPA Government thought it out that they should strengthen their nation first. Hence, the efficacy of these policy measures became evident when the economy began to stabilize in the first quarter during 2009 and it reached to 6.1 per cent compared to the growth rate of 5.8 per cent recorded in the fourth quarter. Later on it increased 7.7 per cent. As per anticipatory projections anticipated growth rate is 7.2 per cent for the

year 2009-10. Shri Yashwant Sinha himself is doubtful about what he has said, but I think that the growth rate will be more than that. Today, I can surely claim in the House keeping in view the encouraging work style of our Minister of Finance. In December 2009, such signs were spotted that there was a definite decline in food products due to increase in fuel prices. It was a challenge before the government. It was a deplorable situation along with challenge. You cannot say that the UPA-Congress Party led government is not concerned about the reasons of price rise, particularly food products.

Keeping this, point in view, the Government have made constant efforts to provide relief to the common man from price rise and has given utmost priority to this and under which farmers have been paid more for acquiring their yields. The government have incurred extra expenditure on the rural development works, as a result of which income of rural people has increased and purchase prices of foodgrains have also increased. Fixed prices have been kept unchanged since 2002 by the Union Government for the purpose of public distribution. Import mechanism has been liberalized for essential commodities. I would also like to mention here that the subsidy scheme for edible oils and pulses has been continued. The State Governments have been advised to contain hoarding and deal with this situation effectively and co-operate with the state agencies *i.e.* Civil Supplies Corporations for the procurement of commodities in heavy quantity which do not come under the public distribution system. It does not imply that the Union Government are not managing the public distribution system and only the State Governments are responsible for the same. The main concern is that the system should be managed well. The Union Government are giving their full co-operation and the State Governments should certainly come forward and pay attention to those measures so that soaring prices could be contained.

This government are committed to frame laws to ensure the food security. I would like to submit here that three main objectives of the UPA Government, which have been mentioned by the honourable Minister of Finance, are that the GDP growth should be nine percent, economic growth and development should be inclusive and the weaknesses of delivery system and governance should be done away with. I think nobody has thought about the third ground so far about which I will discuss later on. The issue of corruption has also been raised here in the House now. In my opinion most of the work will be completed if the governance and delivery system gets corrected.

I would like to mention here specifically that estimated budget for the year 2010-11 is 11,8749, which is 8.6 per cent more than the last year's Budget. Plan allocation is 3,73,092 crore which is 15 per cent extra. Non-plan expenditure is 6 per cent which indicates towards the statement of the Minister of Finance as to how we will adjust with plan and non-plan in General Budget keeping in view the negotiations made with stock holders with plan and non-plan by him in the month of January.

Sir, certainly we can say that it is the great achievement of this Government to keep the fiscal deficit only at 5.5. per cent, it is not only a promise but it surely shows the good intention of the Government to take every possible measures in this regard. Development has two parts, social sector and infrastructure development. Allocation of Rs. 1,37,674 crores for the social sector, which is 37 per cent of the total plan outlay and it certainly shows that how UPA Government is committed to the social sector, particularly education, health and agriculture etc. and how the Government is concerned about providing these benefits to the common man, farmers and women.

Our Government is trying to materialize the dream of infrastructure development while allocating 1,73,552 crore which is 46 per cent of the total plan outlay. 25 per cent increase has been made in the allocation for rural infrastructure and 48,000 crore rupees have been allocated for Bharat Nirman scheme, which was proved quite successful last time and certainly its credit goes to the people.

Here, I would like to request that attention on fiscal consolidation is base of our government and the prices of Kerosin, LPG and fertilizers have not been revised. Besides the prices of rice and wheat have not been increased, our PDS system has been strengthened. Even the Wholesale prices also registered a meager increase of 0.41% only. Despite our 1 per cent contribution in world trade we could manage to sustain our market and have proved that one can do anything if one has will power to do so. The budget proposal was devised in such a way so as the demand of goods is created and the pocket of the common man has been filled. I would like to further request that the intention of the government is towards Right to Food security after Right to information, Right to work, Right to education and definitely we will succeed in our effort. If the hunger of poor would not be seen by the followers of Mahatama Gandhi, who else will take care of them?

18.00 hrs.

It is a great achievement in itself. NREGA has not only provided money to the people but also paid an incentive to them for purchase. Be it Indira Aawas Yojana or the Grant funds of backward region wherein an increase of 26 percent has been registered. The plan amount for urban development has been increased. I would like to submit that the government is paying full attention towards fiscal consolidation. Therefore, Government intend to curtail fiscal deficit by 5.5 per cent.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, it is 6 o'clock and I have a list of 30 more speakers to speak on this General Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, Sir please postpone this discussion for tomorrow and take zero hour now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Zero hour will be taken up after discussion upto 6.30 PM.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will definitely take 'Zero Hour'. My request is that with the time available tomorrow also, we may not be able to do justice to the hon. Members who have given their names to speak on this, so we will allow two more speakers and then we will take 'Zero Hour'. Girija Ji, please conclude now.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS: I will conclude within two minutes.

Sir, major point is that how we may mend transparency and public accountability. I would like to thank Shri Pranab Mukherjee as he he has announced financial Sector Legislative Reform Commission. He has also announced Technology advisory group for unique projects. You have announced the independent evolution office and we all are dedicated towards National Mission for delivery justice and legal reform and you have given it a new direction with its announcement. I would also

like to thank for this 34-35% increase for women and child development and 50% increase in budget allocation. I would like to express my gratitude to hon'ble Soniaji, Pradhan Mantri ji and Minister of Finance. But I would like to request the hon'ble Finance Minister to take care of gender auditing because the reports we receive from the State Governments, states that gender budgeting is not being done completely as gender auditing is not over yet. We have to ensure monitoring system with the support of the Union Government because we may go ahead after that only. In brief, I may say that the Government has put money in the pocket of Common man and made many arrangement for the people. Be it poor farmer, or be it labourer, working class, government employee marginal farmer, or be it labourer, working class, government employee marginal farmer or even industrialists, all have certainly got relief by this way or that way. Therefore, I may say, that the aim of the government is to make common man eligible by putting money into his pocket so as he may stand equivalent to all people. Common man may not feel deprived himself and the UPA Government has tried to define the conclude my point with the following sher:-

“Job jeb mein paise hote hain, pet main roti hoti hai
us waqt ek zarra heera hain, us waqt ek shabnam moti hai

Sir, that is why by taking care of food to eat and funds in pocket the government has prepared such a step in infrastructure development and social sector. This is the best possible budget.

*SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Sir, I term this budget of Union Government as anti-poor, anti-middle class. Minister of Finance has only concentrated on the way by which he can extend maximum benefits to the capitalists. The Govt. has broken the back of the poor and the middle class people by increasing the prices on petrol and diesel. Besides this, common man will not be in a position to construct a home for himself as the prices of cement and steel has been raised steeply. Similarly, he will find himself unable to marry his daughter as the prices of gold and silver has increased many fold.

The Government has not paid desired attention toward the development of rural areas. the Union Government do not pay attention towards that tribal staying in far flung forest areas. Though the forest rights

have been given but the land of sanctuary areas of the forest reserve where tribal reside have not been leveled so far and no irrigation facilities has been provided to them. Hence the irrigation facilities for unirrigated land should be extended by making small dams.

Budget provision for Narmada Scheme should be made at the earliest by declaring Sarovar Yojana (Narmada Dam) of Gujarat as a National Scheme like Sangbaru Dediapara of district Narmada; Valeecha of district Bharuch, Mangril and Umarpada fo Sagadiya Surat; Bodeli, Naswadi, Chhota Udaypur may get the water of Narmada scheme for irrigation. The Government has made a provision of Rs. 400 crores in the budget for the green revolution in north east states and a similar budget for green revolution in unirrigated areas of Gujarat should also be made.

Small farmers should be encouraged for animal husbandry business besides agriculture activities, which is not done so far. Irrigation facilities should be provided to small farmers and they should be encouraged for cow and buffalo rearing and special grant should be extended to them so as they may associate themselves with the development of the country. The amount provided in the budget for improving the position of Tribal Community of the country is very meager. Dhan Bandhu Kalyan Yojana and Gujarat Paden Yojana of Gujarat should be implemented across the country.

Government should evolve a new scheme for the education in tribal areas. The quality of education in government school is very pathetic. More and more funds should be provided in the budget for hostels and residential schools.

Presently, there is disparity in facilities provided in residential schools in different States of the country. The amount given per student differrent from place to place in one school a girl student gets seven hundred rupees per month, in another one a girl student gets rupees twelve hundred per month, the amount that is provided should be same throughout the country besides giving better facilities and better education.

There is also a need to improvise budgetary allocation for healthcare facilities in rural areas. The scheme of exclusive rural doctor for rural areas is good and I thank the government for this. Hospitals with better facilities should be constructed in the rural areas where the M.S. surgeons rather than M.B.B.S. doctors should be recruited.

So, I would like to request the Minister of Finance that in tribal areas villages without irrigation facilities should be provided with the same, thus a way should be paved for green revolution and incentives should be given to animal husbandry. Do justice by providing at least rupees one lakh to the rural and the urban poor for the houses.

[English]

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO (Purulia): Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir. I am grateful to you for giving me a chance to speak in the discussion on General Budget.

The Union Budget 2010-11 placed by the hon. Finance Minister is not for the vast sections of poor people of India. The Budget has given a lot of tax exemptions for the corporate sector. It is an irony that while harping upon inclusive growth, the Government is excluding the poor.

It is a shocking announcement from the Finance Minister to hike the Central excise duty on petroleum products by Re. 1 per litre. Prices of essential commodities will go further up and more farmers will be forced to quit the agricultural activities in the light of the Budget. With the recent hike of urea prices and the announcement to reduce the fertilizer subsidy, the Budget has nothing to stop the suicidal saga of farmers. The poor people and the farmers will be the direct victims of this Budget. The two per cent subsidy for farm loan will not make much difference. The Government has totally ignored the suggestions made by Swaminathan Committee to bring back agriculture into the path of growth.

The Government is worried about the food subsidy of Rs. 52,490 crore but is keeping silence on the revenue foregoing of Rs. 4,18,096 crore through tax exemption to the corporates. The decision to allow the Reserve Bank to sanction more private banks shows that the Government is not ready to learn lessons from the current global financial crisis.

The reluctance of the Government to enhance the Security Transaction Tax indicates that the Government is under the penitentiary of the corporats and the multinational companies.

The expansion of NREGS to the urban areas is the need of the hour. There is no concrete proposal for providing employment to the educated and skilled youngsters.

Enhancement of funds for the rural development, Bharat Nirman, setting up a Social Security Fund for unorganized sector workers who constitute 93 per cent of the country's total work force, Women Farmers' Fund, and 13 per cent rise in road development allocations are welcome steps. But the Budget is not for the poor; it is for the corporates. It is my view and the view of my party.

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (Erode): Sir, I would like to speak in Tamil.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ganeshamurthi ji, interpretation is not there, so please take your seat. I will give you time; please take your seat.

Now. Shri Mohammed E.T. Basheer.

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: I have given a notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have given the request in time but there is some delay; I will give you time, please.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to make my observation on the Budget. I welcome the Budget. Of course, there are problems; there are drawbacks. It is quite natural in a country like ours that we will have a lot of problems, but the approach has to be positive. As far as India is concerned, we all can be proud of our economic stability. I would like to say that India is now like a silver line in this gloomy situation of economic meltdown.

Sir, as has been correctly mentioned by other Members, our GDP growth is up to our expectation. Our target of nine per cent GDP can be achieved; even two-digit per cent GDP can be achieved by the end of the tenure of this Government. That also can be made as a reality if things improve like this.

Sir, on the manufacturing sector, it is seen that 18.5 per cent increase is there. It is the highest in the last two decades.

Sir, according to the latest survey, India is ranked in 'Top-10 Industrially Developed Countries' in the world. All the Indians can be proud of it.

Then, Foreign Direct Investment is also really encouraging.

As far as price rise is concerned, my learned friends had said about it. Of course, still there is an upward trend and we have not succeeded in arresting price rise and bringing it down. Anyhow, there is also an honest approach in controlling price rise.

Strengthening of the Public Distribution System is the most important thing. Of course, there is an emphasis here on that also.

Sir, as far as agricultural sector is concerned, this Budget has given maximum emphasis in this area also. For increasing the agricultural production, marketing and incentive to farmers, there are different schemes in this Budget. We all know that in our country 65 per cent of our population depend on agriculture only. Here, the main problem is marketing of their production. From the stage of production to marketing, a lot of exploitation is taking place. The producers, means the farmers and the consumers are losers. Unfortunately, the middlemen are exploiting them. This situation has to be taken into consideration.

Sir, we are all talking about inclusive growth. Of course, it is a very good terminology. We have to work for that. But at the same time, I would like to say one important thing about the marginalized section of society. We were discussing about their reservations and things like that. I would like to say that in the Upper House there was a lot of discussion on non-implementations Ranganathan Misra Commission Report. Inclusive development can be made a reality by doing justice to the marginalized section of society. As far as the Ranganathan Misra Commission Report is concerned, I would like to say that the entire country is anxious to know what exactly the Government is going to do on this Report. The Government has placed this Report without any Action Taken Report. I expect that the Government will seriously think about that. As far as minority matters are concerned, there is a wide gap between declaration and implementation.

Then, I come to the 15-Point Programme of the Prime Minister. Of course, it is a beautiful programme but its implementation is really very poor.

I hope, the hon. Minister will say something about the Ranganathan Misra Commission Report in his reply.

Now I come to the allocation of funds. Enforcement mechanism is very poor. You have given consideration for the Ministry of Minority Affairs. For the Scheme also,

you have given better allocation. There is a programme, IDMI – Infrastructure Development for Minority Institutions. What is the allocation that you have made to this programme? It is just Rs. 5 crore for implementing this programme in the whole country. What are we going to gain out of this amount of Rs. 5 crore? So, what I am suggesting is that for the effective implementation of the minority welfare programme, adequate fund allocation should be made.

Sir, coming to the side of education, we are also discussing that. We all know that it is an era of educational economy. The entire economy of the 21st Century is controlled by knowledge and knowledge only. In this knowledge-driven society, India can come up provided we take substantial steps in this regard.

Sir, they were saying about the foreign investment in the education sector; about the foreign universities; whether they are to be allowed to come in are not. I am of the opinion that in this Internationalisation era of education, India's doors should be open for all eligible universities to come in. We can even attract foreign students. We are hearing the news that the Indian students are manhandled in Australia. Why? They are going abroad. I am an optimist. We can attract foreign students from Africa, from Gulf countries provided we make our education system to that of international standards.

I would like to mention another important point. We are all talking about the poor people. From the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund we are giving financial assistance for cancer patients and heart patients. You may be knowing and everybody knows that thousands of applications are pending for getting assistance under this Fund. It is such a deplorable thing. The patients are anxiously waiting. So, I would humbly request the hon. Finance Minister to give adequate allotment from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. That would be a great relief, which you can do for the ill-fated poor patients.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a good point to wind up, Mr. Basheer. The hon. Finance Minister has listened to that.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Thank you, Sir. There is just one more point and then I would conclude my speech.

It is about environment hazard. We have to save our rivers and lakes. But we are going to make a lot of manmade disasters. We have to do something. What I

am suggesting is that we must have a national programme for the preservation of our lakes and rivers.

In the end, I would like to say something about voting rights to the NRIs. We must be grateful to this Government that through the hon. President's Address, a declaration has been made. Now, we know that this voting right is going to be a reality. From the bottom of my heart, representing all the NRIs. We are really bound to give congratulations to the Government for that bold decision and declaration.

I once again support this Budget and conclude my brief speech. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Tamil Interpreter has come. So, Mr. Ganeshmurthi, you may start and conclude your speech in two minutes.

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Sir, when I started earlier, there was no interpretation available. *Hon. Chairman, Let me thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on behalf of our party Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam on the General Budget for 2010-11.

The fall in agricultural production has been cited as the reason for price rise. But I would like to point out that the small and meagre concessions announced to grow more and cultivate more are just an eye-wash. These soothing words fail to console and convince. This Budget fails to find ways to bring more land under cultivation.

This Union Budget fails to spell out any measure to control the increase in the price of agricultural inputs which may help to bring down the cost of production. There is nothing to ensure remunerative price to the farmers taking in to consideration the cost of production.

At a time when it becomes increasingly difficult to get agricultural workers in the farms, there is no incentive from the Government to mechanise the farming activities at an affordable cost and also to get agricultural implements at lesser cost.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme providing jobs to the rural poor has led to non-availability of agricultural workers for farming activities and cultivation crops including food crops. Since

agricultural wages are needed to be fixed over and above the per diem wages paid to job-card holders of NREGScheme, that is more than Rs. 100, small and marginal farmers are the worst hit. If this situation continues, fall in agricultural production and rise in prices might become unstoppable.

There is a need to streamline NREG scheme and make use of the work done by job card holders in Agriculture. Even when there is no job available with the Panchayats, jobs have to be provided. In states like Tamil Nadu, this is the condition available. So is the condition in many other places. A new method can be evolved. Those who require the services of Agricultural workers in panchayat villages may be asked to pay the money equivalent to the wages to be paid to the NREGS job card holders. Then these workers can be sent to work in the agricultural lands of those who have paid money to the panchayats. Thus job seekers can be given jobs not merely for hundred days but almost all the days in a year.

When agriculturists pay the wages, the government can save that much of money and can retain it with its resources. So the beneficiaries of this scheme and the agricultural activities as well will not be affected in the rural areas. This can be reviewed from this angle by a panel consisting Members of Parliament.

Depletion in agricultural production and loss to the agricultural produce caused by droughts and flood havocs can be checked and the funds spent hugely on relief and rehabilitation measures can be saved by way of taking up feasible inter-linking of rivers. In this budget there is no mention and apportioning of funds pertaining to inter-linking Southern Rivers. Absence of this announcement disappoints States like Tamil Nadu leading to apprehensions and a fear.

This budget do not contain any irrigation development schemes and there is no proposal to augment irrigation and creation of more cultivable lands with irrigation facilities. Poorer sections of the society and the middle class people are afraid of steep rise in prices of essential commodities. Like adding insult to the injury, this budget contributes to further price rise.

Levying tax on petrol and diesel, coal and electricity in the name of excise and service tax will inevitably add to the price rise.

Sufficient incentive schemes for agricultural growth have not been announced. It is a mere eye-wash to

*English translation of the speech Originally delivered in Tamil.

announce that two percent reduction in interest rates would be available to those farmers who repay their loan in time. When sugar mills are getting crores of rupees as credit at four percent from the government, agricultural loans attract seven percent of interest. This is a serious blow to the farmers at the hands of the government.

I would prefer to suggest that there must be separate budget for Agriculture like Railways as it is a big employment generation sector with various economic activities in its purview. This budget has not come down heavily on the online trading which give rise to price rise in a big way.

Liberalisation in retail trade sector will affect crores of small traders and the labour force that are dependent on them.

PSUs have contributed to the economic development of the Country in a big way. The government has announced that PSU shares will be off loaded. This is nothing but an attempt to privatise the profit making public sector units.

This budget do not spell out any road map for new employment opportunities. The fund allocation for Education and Health is not sufficient.

In order to give a boost to the knitting Industry in Tiruppur town Rs. 200 crores has been provided by the centre as its share to set up effluent treatment plant to overcome the pollution by several dyeing units there. As the knitting Industry has grown in a big way, there are many small dyeing units around Tiruppur town on the banks of the River Cauvery and Bhavani River in Erode districts. There are hundreds of small dyeing units in weavers' towns like Erode and Chennimalai. The chemical effluents from the SIPCOT Industrial Estate have polluted the ground water there by affecting drinking water sources in the towns like Eengoor, Chennimalai and Perunthurai. These effluents flow into the rivers like the Cauvery and the Bhavani polluting the irrigated cultivation-lands. When government comes forward to establish a common effluent treatment plant in Tiruppur, the same may be considered for Erode too.

Tax- rates meant for export quality tobacco have been made applicable to lesser grade tobacco used in the manufacture of Cigar and Cheroot. This will wipe out the cigar industry. Hence I urge upon the government to provide tax exemption to the tobacco used for the manufacture of Cigar in order to save this Industry.

It does not appear that this budget seeks to address the problems faced by the poor and the downtrodden. When we are already burdened with heavy price rise there is no viable scheme to increase agricultural growth are to augment agricultural production. This budget is bound to affect the lives of the poor common people.

With this, I conclude.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat):
Hon. Chairman Sir, you are aware that many a time we have discussed the issue of price rise in this august House. Both the sides have accepted the fact that indeed prices of all commodities have risen exponentially. Moreover, in this year's general budget, the costs of petrol and diesel have increased and also prices of fertilizers have gone up whereas subsidy on motor fuel and fertilizers has comedown. Therefore, in near future there will be more price rise. I am also very doubtful about the prospect of the proposed food security. It may not be a successful programme. Thus we cannot call this a budget of the common man. The customs duty has been raised from 8% to 10% as a result of which prices of about 700 commodities will increase by leaps and bounds. Steel and cement will become dearer. Resultantly, infrastructure sector will bear the brunt. There will be less development and more and more unemployment.

We have seen that already the price of coal has been increased by Rs. 50 per quintal. Last year, Coal India had raised the price but again this year the price of electricity has been raised from Rs. 3.03 to Rs. 3.05 per unit. This 80% of the population of the country will suffer a lot. They will have to pay more for a limited consumption. People, mainly in the rural areas use coal for cooking purpose too. This hike will hit then hard. So in no way can we say that this budget caters to the common people – Actually this will serve the purpose of the corporate would. We have seen that land developers, hoteliers and other commercial entrepreneurs have been given an exemption of Rs. 26,000 crores. Indirect tax worth Rs. 60,000 crore would be accrued from petrol and diesel. Thus this year's budget is in the interest of the capitalists and big industrialists.

Insofar as income tax is concerned, last year's provision have not been much tinkered with. But the high income group people will gain the most. Lower and middle income group employers will continue to suffer.

*English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali.

On the other hand in order to increase agricultural production productivity has to be increased. For that we should have more and more investment in the agricultural sector. But not much has been done for the farm sector. Credit facility has been raised by a meagre Rs. 50,000 crore. The Agricultural Commission had recommended that the interest rate should be 4% but that has not been adhered to. It is mentioned that if the loans are repaid in time, the rate of interest will be lowered. This should be implemented in letter and spirit.

The Public Distribution System in the country is also in a bad shape. So PDS should be strengthened in order to provide food to the teeming millions if this is done then the common people, the poor hapless people will be able to grab two square meals a day.

Due to time constraints, I will not speak more I thank you for allowing me to participate in this debate and conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN (Fatehpur): The atrocious budget for 2010-11 which has been presented by the honourable Minister of Finance is suffocating the common people already suffering from the burden of excessive rise in prices. This budget has levied maximum number of taxes in comparison with the budget presented during the last one decade. The people of the country will have to face a tax burden of rupees twenty thousand crore. Moreover, the rise in prices of petrol and diesel may result in more and more rise in the prices. This rise in prices will have an adverse affect on agriculture, transport, industry and essential commodities needed in our daily life. In this budget, the prime sectors like education, health have been neglected. Honourable Minister of Finance has entrusted all responsibility of taking GDP to double digits upon the god, Indra, as he knows that the GDP of the country may not touch the two digit unless the growth rate in the agricultural sector reaches 4-5 per cent which is at present below zero. It is the result of leaving our agricultural sector on the rain god (Indra) that even after the sixty three years. of independence, 60 per cent of agriculture depends on rain though there is a network of rivers and rivulets throughout the country. It is due to the lack of water management that the country goes through a huge loss of life and property due to flood every year, on the other hand, our agriculture does not get sufficient water for irrigation. More than a dozen of big irrigation projects have been pending for years. The current budget provides a meagre amount for irrigation projects. The

country is still suffering financially because of destruction caused to Kharif crop due to drought. But even then if the government does not take effective measures in this regard, this is a matter of great concern. In the budget there is no mention of the ambitious project of checking the land erosion due to floods and interlinking the rivers.

The Government also accepts this fact that as long as there is no increase in the production of foodgrains, the rise in prices cannot be controlled. But there is no concrete provision for increasing the agriculture produce in the budget. The condition of agriculture cannot be changed only providing the bank loans. If we want to make our country self-reliant in case of foodgrains, it is need of the hour that the government should keep agriculture in its priority list. But unfortunately, the sector on which more than half of our population is dependent is not in the priority list of the government. This is why only one to two percent of the total budgetary allocation is being given to this sector for a very long time. This is because of the neglect of this sector that the share of agricultural sector, which used to be half of the GDP of the country has dwindled to a mere 17 per cent. Only ten to eleven per cent of the total land of the world is suitable for agriculture. But in India, fifty four to fifty seven percent of the total land is available for agriculture. Though the agricultueal land has shrunked due to increasing population and SEZ, yet presently 14.2 crore hectares of land is under cultivation. But it is a matter of concern that the agricultural production has been stagnating for the last one decade and has not been crossing the mark of twenty two crore tonnes. On the contrary, though the geographical area of our neighbouring country China is double than that of India, yet only ten crore hectares of land is cultivated there, but their annual foodgrains production is double than that of India. This depicts the lapse in our agricultural policy. The truth is that our agriculture has become a trade of loss due to which farmers are compelled either to commit suicied or to leave the farming. During the last one decade more than one lakh and eighty six thousand farmers have committed suicide and more than one crore farmers have left the farming.

Only Rs. 400 crore have been earmarked in the present Budget to achieve the goal of achieve the goal of Second Green Revolution in five states of eastern India i.e. Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, West Bengal and Poorvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh. Thus each state will get even less than Rs. 67 crores. Though there is a network of rivers in these eastern states, yet there are no means to channelise the water to the fields.

Fertilizers are required for cultivation, however, there has been a reduction of nearly Rs. 3 thousand crores in subsidy for fertilizers. It is on account of reduction in fertilizers subsidy, increase in the prices of petroleum products and also in the rate of wages payable to the labourers that the input cost of agricultural production will go up. If the farmers do not get remunerative prices for their produce in the commensurate proportion, the situation will worsen further. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Finance that since several concessions were given to the Industrial sectors to enable them to cope with the economic slowdown, similarly an adequate economic package should be provided to the farm sector to improve the condition of farmers and save the common man from falling prey to starvation.

The UPA Government has been harping on the common man on every occasion right from its previous tenure. However, in the current Budget the common man is on the back burner because the Government has decided that it will not allow the common man to come in the way of economic reforms. This is the reason that despite the mention of agriculture, Farmers, rural development, health, education, social security for unorganized sector, food security and welfare of Dalits, tribals and minority people, the fact is that it is the common man and the above mentioned heads that have paid the price of emphasis given on reduction in expenditure in the Budget. We may take the example of the ambition scheme, "Mahatma Gandhi Rashtriya Gramin Rojgar Guarantee Yojana (MNREGA) which has been launched by the present Government to provide relief to the common man and on which the present Government is harping for years. The hon'ble Minister of Finance has emphatically announced in his budget speech that Rs. 40,000 crore have been earmarked for this scheme in the next financial year. However, it has been cleverly avoided to mention as to the present amount is how much more in comparison to that provided in the current financial year, whereas this has not been the case while announcing other items. The fact is that there is an increase of a mere 2.5 per cent in this item. If it is evaluated in the context of the existing inflation, it becomes evident that it is not an increase, there is rather reduction in it. If this is the condition of the much-hyped scheme, one can easily guess what will be the condition of the remaining schemes.

Right of Children for Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 has found a mention in the Budget proposal, however, Government does not seem to be serious about implementing it. This law is to be implemented with effect

from 1st April this year and as per the estimates at least Rs. 45 crore per annum will be required to implement this scheme. The Ministry of Human Resource Development also admits that on an average Rs. 34 to 35 thousand crores will be required per annum to implement this Act. However, only Rs. 31 thousand crore have been provided in the present Budget for children's school education.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to the fact that as per the information furnished by the National University of Educational Planning and Administration to the Supreme Court, nearly 1700 schools are running in tents. Nearly 34,300 schools do not have pucca buildings. These figures pertain to the Government and Government aided schools. As per these figures nearly one lakh schools do not have drinking water facility available in their premises. Girls' toilets are not available in 45 per cent schools. Discussions are held time and again on the plight of the Government schools, however, the Government is not serious about improving their condition.

I would also like to remind the hon'ble Minister of Finance that when the UPA Government was formed for the first time, it was assured in the common minimum programme of UPA and its allied parties that 6 per cent of the GDP will be spent on education, however, till now no action has been taken in this regard which tantamount to breach of commitment on the part of the Government. If the Government is really serious about boosting education, it will have to increase the allocation of funds for this purpose.

While talking about inclusive growth in his budget speech, the hon'ble Minister of Finance said that the Right to Education Act was enacted in 2009-10 and now the draft of the Food Security Bill has been prepared as a next step and very soon it will be introduced for the general discussion. It has found a mention in the previous budget as well. However, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Finance whether the objective of the Bill will be fulfilled even if the Bill is passed because many hurdles will come in the way of its implementation. For example, keeping in view the food crisis in the country, how and from where shall foodgrains be arranged for distribution to the poor families?

What will be the criteria for identifying the families living below the poverty line since the same Government had constituted a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sen Gupta.

Then a Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Suresh Tendulkar. Similarly other Committees also submitted their reports and there are differing data regarding poverty in all these reports.

In para-9 of the Budget Speech he has himself accepted that if there is any hurdle in the way of developing our nation as a modern nation, it is the irregularities in our public distribution system.

Foodgrains will be distributed to the poor people through this corrupt system. That is why I would like to know whether the Government is confident that these poor people will regularly get prescribed quantity of foodgrains.

Sir., as per the provisions made in this Act by the Government, 25 kg of wheat or rice will be given per month to the poor families at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg. It is a good initiative of the Government, however, it is doubtful whether it will be sufficient to meet the requirement of foodgrains to nearly half of the population of the country. The hon. Minister of Finance is an experience political leader. He is well versed in the jugglery of figures and knows how to entrap even the best brains in it. However, I would like to present a remarkable fact in this regard. There has been a tradition of joint family in our country since ancient times and it is very difficult to tell the exact number of such families. However, presently a family having roughly five member is considered a unit. 25 kg. foodgrains are give per month to five persons which means that 5 kg. is given to each person for 30 days. Thus one person gets only 167 gram of foodgrains per day. It is evident that even after the passage of this Act, the problem of feedings half of the population will remain unsolved.

The hon'ble Minister is well aware how much food is required for an adult person who does physical labour. But the present Act of this Government will not provide foodgrains sufficient even to meet the requirements of a child of a poor man.

Sir, I would like to quote a few points of the report of the Committee on Indian Medical Research for the year 2003.

Each adult requires 480 to 690 gram of food grains per day.

A child aged between 4 to 6 years requires 210 gram of foodgrains per day. If the Government is honest

in implementing this law then it will have to increase the quantity of foodgrains. Otherwise the hungry and the poor people of this country will say:—

Hum to payase hi chale jayange, lekin saki
Inkhab aake rahega, tere mayekhane mein.

In the end, I would like to submit through you, that my electoral constituency, Fatehpur, is an extremely backward area. It lies sandwiched between the Yamuna river and Ganga river and yet irrigation of 50 percent of land is at the mercy of the God of Rain. It since there is the facility of canals, and the Ram Ganga canal is running along the banks of river Ganga whereas Ramganga lower canal is running along the banks of river Yamuna but being in tail the canals remain dry without water. If water from the Ganga river is lifted and channelised in Ram Ganga canal, the fields of the farmers upto Kaushambi, Allahabad could be irrigated. I had raised this question in Lok Sabha on an earlier occasion as well that if a lift irrigation scheme located near Bhitaura along the course of the Ganga river, a minor scheme presently were upgraded to a major scheme and linked to Ramganga canal, it would greatly benefit the farmers. However, it has not been provided for in the current budget. I hope that the hon. Minister of Finance would include this lift Irrigation Scheme by making a provision therefore in the year 2010-11.

The water is lifted from the Yamuna river and channelized into the lower Ram Ganga canal under Jarauli and Kishunpur pump canal Scheme. However, Fatehpur is not benefited by Kishunpur lift canal which is located in district Fatehpur itself as well as its capacity augmentation. A small canal should be made in the area and provision should be made in this budget for construction of a small canal therefrom to facilitate irrigation for farmers in Dhata area.

Lastly, I would like to inform the House that my district Fatehpur is located in the riverine raivines. So approximately 30 per cent land is unleveled which can be converted into cultivable land. Thus, it is requested that Fatehpur should be included in the special package announced by the Government for the development of Bundel so that the district could be developed since the geographical contours of Fatehpur are akin to that of Bundelkhand. I believe that the hon. Minister of Finance would pay attention to my demands and meet them.

In the end, drawing attention to the amount of Rs. two crore disbursed per annum under the Member of

Parliament Local Area Development Scheme. It is requested that it should be increased to Rs. 16 crore per annum and 1000 hand pumps should be installed on the recommendation of the Member of Parliament, since this amount is meager keeping in view increase in prices and aspirations of the people. People have high expectations from the Members of Parliament. The electoral constituency of a Member comprises of roughly Vidhan Sabha constituencies on an average. The Legislative Assembly Members across several states of the country are being given Rs. one crore or more per annum. Besides, there is a serious crisis of drinking water. So, one thousand hand pumps should be installed on the recommendation of the Members of Parliament.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this budget. I am sorry, the hon. Minister of Finance, to say that I was disappointed with this budget because when I was a grown up person, I listened to the first budget presented by none other than you. I would like to say that the backward state of Jharkhand, I come from has been ignored. The Eastern India, the youth as well as the backward classes including the common man have been overlooked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nishikan Ji, you have more points. So, you better continue your speech tomorrow. Take your seat for now.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Okay, I will continue tomorrow.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us take up zero hour submissions now. Shri Shailendra Kumar, please conclude your speech within two minutes. There is a long list of speakers.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the matter of urgent public importance. Gross violation of human rights at the national level is taking place today throughout the length and breadth of the country and I think that hundreds of people are getting killed every year. Recently in my Parliamentary constituency an accused who was being taken to the court from jail on 17th of February was beaten by the circle officer, Sushil Kumar, with lathi in such a manner that the accused began to bleed in his

mouth. When a journalist intervened, he too was beaten blade and blue. One week prior to that incident, the same thing happened at Ghurpur police station in Allahabad where there two boys namely-Sanjay and Ashok Nishad-in police custody. They were beaten so badly that both of them died. It caused so much commotion that in the all party meeting the people of other parties alongwith the Samajwadi party staged protests by sitting on a dharna.

Sir, one and all, be they advocates, journalists etc. lodged a strong protest against these incidents. There was this boy named Sadda alias Moun from whose mouth blood came out. One was a 24-year-old journalist namely Ved alias Vinod Pandey. When he intervened, he was beaten so barbarously that he also got fainted. When the incidents came into the notice of the local District Judge: the D.M., the collector and the senior superintendent of police; they conducted on the spot visits. Violation of human rights on such a large scale is taking place over there. So, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to instruct the states to check such violation of human rights and take strict action against the guilty persons. This incident occurred in Manjhanpur under Kaushambai district of Uttar Pradesh. Another incident took place at Ghurpur police station in Allahabad. The Union Government should take these incidents seriously and ensure that action is taken.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): Sir, there is a region of terror in Uttar Pradesh. Noting in the name of humanity exists there...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: There is a reign of terror in Uttar Pradesh. Nothing in the name of law and order exists in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Take your seats please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Incidents of theft, dacoity, murder, rape and killings are occurring rampantly...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Shailendra Kumar, basically it is a State subject, but since the issue of human rights' violations was involved, you were given time to speak.

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Chairman, Sir, being a public representative and Member of

Parliament from Purulia district, West Bengal, I want to bring to your kind notice a very disturbing fact of illegal activities going on in Purulia district. In Purulia district, there is a large number of sponge iron factories and sponge iron plants, which are violating the law, due to which a lot of pollution is being caused in Purulia. The following changes are happening due to it. Fertile land is changing into unfertile land; the color of the top layer of the land is changing to black; and the plants, which bear fruits and flowers, are getting dry and changing into black colour. Also, the water in the ponds is becoming black and poisonous and so on and so forth.

Besides all these things, the people of my constituency and my district are suffering from various diseases. They had agitated many a time against these polluting sponge iron factories which have made their lives miserable, but at no single point of time had the authorities concerned initiated action against these polluting sponge iron factories.

Besides all this, I further want to bring to your kind notice that the devices, which these factories have installed for preventing pollution, and should always be in use for non-pollution, are being used only sometimes in the day light. Not a single of these sponge iron factories is using the device in the night, just to save electricity and other supplementary things.

In light of the above mentioned sorry state of affairs, I strongly urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, to take immediate action against these sponge iron factories so that the common people of my constituency and my district can be saved. Thank you.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to raise a very important issue of my state. you know that the Government of India has done a lot of work relating to the railways in my Jammu and Kashmir. Our DRM office was set up in 1926 at Ferozepur. The distance from Ferozepur to Jammu and Baramulla is around 2000 kms. Earlier also I had said that the Railways have constituted several zones and that injustice has been done to Jammu and Kashmir in this regard. If DRM office is set up there, 20,000 people from my area who work in various parts of the country, could undertake work coming over here. People from Barmulla, Banilhaal, Udhampur, Doda have to go to the DRM office situated at Ferozepur, Punjab even for petty works. You will be surprised to

know that though the DRM office is situated in Amritsar and Jalandhar, even then people have to go Ferozepur.

Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, my submission to the Government is the this issue should be resolved. Jammu is a center, it is not my constituency, You know that whenever the Government proposes to undertake any developmental work in Jammu-Kashmir, pulls and pressure start. Upto jammu, train service is available since 1970. It is necessary to set up the DRM office at Jammu because more than 80 lakh people visit Vaishno Devi and the condition which is prevailing there is not good. Therefore, my request is that a DRM office should be set up at Jammu also.

[English]

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS (Wayanad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to raise an urgent matter of very grave public importance that concerns the Wayanad district that I represent and also the border districts of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Wayanad is a backward district. It is one among the 92 minority districts in India declared by the Government of India, and it is also a tribal district. The only road that is connecting Wayanad to Karnataka is the Sulthan Bathery-Gundlupet-Mysore road, and unfortunately, the Karnataka High Court on a Public Interest Litigation yesterday issued an order banning night traffic on the argument that it will disturb the movement of wildlife. Now, the whole of Wayanad is up in arms. Tomorrow, all the public and various organizations will come forward. They have called for a *bandh/hartal* and Wayanad will face a standstill tomorrow. Hence, I will urge the Central Government to act immediately in this matter, and call upon the Karnataka and Kerala Governments. An appeal should also be filed before the Supreme Court and other necessary steps should be taken to save Wayanad, which is suffocating.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Why are only all Kerala Members getting the chance to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is there in the list.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): Thank you, Sir. Thousands of poor patients across the country are getting

the benefit of the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). It is a welcome initiative, and the noble efforts behind this should be appreciated. But today, the number of applications has increased and only a few applicants are getting its benefits. The poor patients suffering from cancer, heart, and kidney diseases are struggling to meet the high expense of their treatment, and the help from the PMNRF is their only hope. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to consider enhancing the support for them from the PMNRF.

I would request the Government to ensure that all applications, especially, the applications of children get some financial help without any discretion. I would also request the Government to consider having a National-level insurance scheme in which the premium will be met by the Central and State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (Ludhiana): Mr. Chairamn, Sir, it is a popular saying among the lawyers that in the courts, justice is not done, only judgement is given. In a country where a news-item is published in the newspapers quoting a judge that it will take 320 years to dispose of the pending cases, then about that country we can only say that "mulk ka kaum ka itna bhi na myar gire ki Surkhiyan dekhte haath se akhbaar gire" Judiciary is the core of democracy. If the people of the country lose faith in the judiciary, the judicial system, it would be fatal for the democracy and democreacy will lose its meaning.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I know that this Government and the previous U.P.A. Government, both took initiative to improve our legal system. The concept of Gram Nyayalayas has also been mooted. In many states, Gram Nyayalayas have also been set up, however through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and submit that this problem is very serious and sensitive and perhaps now the time has come to convene a special session of the Parliament to improve the legal system and discussion should be got carried out in this regard for two days. This discussion should be constructive and a strategy should be chalked out and implemented on a war footing. If the people of the country lose faith in the judicial system, we may not be able to tackle the problems like that of Maoists in the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Mr Chairman, Sir, a serious problem of lack of irrigation facilities has arisen before the farmers in most parts of the country hit by drought which has broken the back of the farmers. The agriculture production has been adversely affected. There is despair and frustration among the farmers. Both lives as well as their occupation have been thrown out of gear. The condition of paddy and wheat growing farmers is horrible. Even the sowing of paddy has been adversely affected owing to scarce rainfall and that of wheat due to the absence of means of irrigation and also mismanagement of irrigation facilities. The condition of the farmers of Bihar among the drought ridden states has become even more pitiable. The farmers of Bihar are suffering the double whammy of drought on the one hand and non availability of power despite the presence of resources, under utilization of the canal water that does not flow to its full capacity and non-availability of state and private tube well facility on time, on the other.

Sir, Southern Bihar has very fertile land, however, situation in the area comprising Nalanda, Aurangabad, Sasaram and Bhojpur which is known as the wheat and rice bowl is extremely pitiable. Thousands of hectares of land has become fallow inspite of the presence of a wide network of canals, several dozens of embankments, two major lift canals and two-three smass lift canals in these districts. The lift canals were not utilized in optimum capacity owing to engineering faults and shortage of power supply despite the fact that rivers like Ganga, Karmnasha, Punpur, Sone, Panchan and Falgu etc. flow to capacity. The rain water also flows down into the rivers owing to the dilapidated condition of embankments. The water is not being channelized to the fields of the farmers.

Sir, while bringing this matter of urgent public importance to the notice of the House, I demand that the Government should prepare a special action plan for the irrigation of drought ridden areas. A special action plan should be devised for optimum utilization of the irrigation resources already in place in those areas. The farmers should be extended full assistance for fully utilizing the already existing resources in those areas. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Recently, a statement has been published in various newspapers stating that Union Home Secretary has sounded alarm-bells saying

that Maoists want to control the Government by 2050. He also has mentioned that Maoists might be getting the help of some former soldiers in carrying out subversive activities. He says, "They are looking for 2050 to control the Government." This is startling, no doubt, but I hope the Government is pulling no punches calling the Maoists a serious threat to the State. But I am constrained to state here that despite joint operations against Maoists, hardly five per cent of the hardcore militants have been hit, and this has been stated by the Home Secretary himself. He has called a spade a spade. "The real armed cadres are yet to come out", he has stated. If this is the stated position of the Government, then what is the Government doing? Already a threatening call has been given that Maoists are going to attack Kolkata, Bhubaneswar and some other cities. This has been published in the Headlines in different newspapers. Has it not become urgent now to take some hard action against Maoists instead of theorising? Government should come out, this is my demand, with a clear statement on this issue and assure the people of India not to be alarmed.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Sir, I bring to the kind attention of hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas the acute shortage of LPG domestic cylinder supply in Tamil Nadu. People are experiencing great difficulties. In Salem district in particular, the situation is the worst. Consumers have to wait for more than 30 days to register their names for getting re-fill cylinders from the earlier date of supply. Even after that, they have to wait for another ten days to get cylinders. So to say, a housewife has to wait at least 45 days to get the refill cylinder. Why is this?

Another pity is that kerosene supply through the public distribution system is also withheld to those who are having cylinder connection. Moreover, most of them are having only one single cylinder connection. Retail dealers tell me that oil companies are allotting lesser number of domestic cylinders because they are concentrating only on commercial cylinders. People in Salem district feel that they have been singled out for such treatment. So, I request the hon. Minister to intervene and to increase the supply of domestic cylinders to Salem district. I also appeal to the Minister to direct the authorities of oil marketing companies to reduce the number of days for registration to a minimum of 21 days from the date of earlier supply and to make delivery within three days from the date of registration. I hope to get a positive and quick response to my request. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU (Ujjain): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would request the hon. Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Hon. Minister of Environment and Forests that renewed permission has been granted to very hazardous industry in my Lok Sabha Constituency Ujjain, Nagda, A (Lexus) and Orkama and Grasim Chemical Industries. Lot-the Gwalior Chemical Industries Aroni Chemical, Orkama and Lexus industries located at Nagda are the names of a single industry which emits large quantum of chlorine gas and aluminium vapours while manufacturing aluminium chloride. It is such a lethal hazard that the foul stench of the gas can damage eyes and a person may lose eyesight. Besides, smelling it could choke one's windpipe and even cause death. One person has recently fallen victim to it and lost his life but this incident was camouflaged as an accident and no case was registered. The industrial effluent is rendering the fertile land of farmers infertile. The entire area has been restricted for drinking water scheme. This has resulted in great resentment among the rural people. It is highly deplorable that the Pollution Control Board of Madhya Pradesh has declared the Chambal water unsuitable for any kind of consumption, and its sole reason is the above mentioned pollution.

Orders of the hon. Supreme Court are also being openly violated and the norms prescribed in Chapter 68 are not being complied with. This matter falls under the hazardous category of 29.1. There are two divisions of Indore and Ujjain. The setting up of new industries has been banned owing to pollution there, which has affected approximately 11 districts.

My submission, through you, Sir, is that a major tragedy on the lines of Bhopal gas tragedy in the Union Carbide factory of Madhya Pradesh could take place in Nagda. It is requested that the licenses of these factories should be cancelled so that life there could be put back on track and new industries could be set up in and around the area.

[English]

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (Pathanamathitta): Hon. Chairman, I take this opportunity to draw the attention of this august House to a serious matter. Attacks on agricultural land are becoming common incidents in Kerala. In my Constituency alone there have been three such incidents. In many places in Kerala paddy cultivators

are not being allowed to reap their yield. Besides, coconut trees, areca nut, banana, palms, cocoa, rubber plants etc., are being cut down.

The Government of Kerala is not able to realize the gravity of the issue as a consequence of which the culprits are able to go on indulging in such activities without any fear. I would request the House to express its concern to the Government of Kerala over this issue. In addition to that, I would request the Central Government to take strong measures to create a sense of security among the farmers and start effective schemes to protect their interests. Recent atrocities over cultivators in Kerala have created a sense of distress and a feeling of insecurity among the farming community.

Even though India is considered an agrarian country, agricultural sector has been facing many challenges for a long time. These challenges vary from low productivity to natural calamities, increasing cost of agriculture and meager returns for producers, etc. As a result, farmers are forced to commit suicide. Today farmers are the

most impoverished community in the country. These developments created a notion that agricultural sector is insecure in India. It should be noted that the new generation in our country is not interested in agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your demand?

SHRI ANTO ANTONY: If there is no step taken to raise the morale of farming community, food security in our country would be collapsed. Besides the above challenges, farmers are facing threat from antisocial elements. The Government should take this matter seriously. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.52 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 12, 2010/Phalguna 21, 1931 (Saka).

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