

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourth Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 22, 2010/Vaisakha 2, 1932 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Observance of Earth Day

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you are aware, 22nd April is observed the world over as Earth Day to generate awareness about the environmental problems being faced by Planet Earth due to global warming, over-population, indiscriminate exploitation of our natural resources and other critical environmental issues and to inspire us to take concerted action for the cause of environment.

Let us, on this occasion, reiterate our resolve to step up our endeavours for preserving the Planet's finite natural resources for ourselves and for the future generations.

11.01 Hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 381, Shri Naveen Jindal.

Fire at IOC Depot at Jaipur

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

(a) whether the inquiry conducted in the aftermath of the devastating fire in the Indian Oil Corporation fuel storate depot at Jaipur has concluded non-observance off normal safe procedure and sheer negligence as the factors responsible for the colossal loss;

(b) If so the details thereof;

(c) whether the Oil Industry Safety Directorate undertakes safety audit including inspection of the depots and other installations periodically for adherence to safety norms;

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

(e) the action Government is taking to ensure that such serious accidents do not recur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) An Independent Inquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri M.B. Lal, Technical Member (P&NG), Appellate Tribunal for Electricity and Ex-Chairman & Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, constitutes by this Ministry to probe the incident of fire at IOC's POL Terminal at Jaipur has determined that the immediate cuase of the fire accident was non-observance of the normal safe procedure which involves sequence of valve operation in the line up activity.

(c) and (d) Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) undertakes safety audits and inspections of oil and gas installations of oil PSUs and monitors the recommendations for compliance. OISD conducts pre-commissioning & post-commissioning audit, external safety audit, surprise safety audits, investigates incident, capacity building and training, evaluates safety performance, etc.

(e) The Committee in its report has pointed out the lapses at operator, supervisory and management level. This Ministry has directed IOC to examine the report and fix the responsibility for the lapses committed at various levels and take action against erring employees for this accident. The Committee has also recommended numerous short term as well as long term measures for preventing such incidents in future. This Ministry has accepted the recommendations made by the Committee for improvement and ensuring safety and emergency preparedness at POL terminals and advised OMCs to implement the recommendations within a time frame. This

Ministry had also convened a meeting on 3.11.2009, to review the safety and security at all oil & gas installations in the country, belonging to both public and private oil companies, in which the oil companies were directed to carry out self safety audit conforming to statutory norms and risk assessment, including OISD standards by 31.12.2009. Such audits have been carried out and report compiled by OISD.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Madam Speaker, I congratulate the hon. Petroleum Minister for the prompt action taken by the Government immediately after the catastrophic fire incident at IOC's depot at Jaipur in October 2009. The relief measures taken by the Government are really appreciable in the wake of this calamity. However, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what was the total loss of revenue due to this unfortunate incident, and what steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that incidents like this do not occur in future?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, this incident happened in October last year, 2009 where this fire took place in the Jaipur Oil Depot leading to loss of life and lot of equipment, oil, kerosene, tanks. Regarding the estimate, the approximate value, of the loss that the Member has asked, as far as the fuel stored in these depots is concerned, the extent of the damage was about Rs. 191 crore. As far as damage to property, machines and building is concerned, that was another Rs. 160 crore. After this incident, the Ministry, the oil marketing companies, had review meetings; we had review meetings. The Cabinet Minister had firstly visited the site and has formed a Committee. Usually, the Committees are formed and reports are not being submitted. But, within the scheduled time-frame, the report has been submitted. The recommendations are being implemented. We have gone in for a security and safety audit of all depots, all installations so that we can try and such an incident does not happen in future. After all, it is an accident. Accidents can happen any time. But as far as the Ministry is concerned, our PSUs are concerned, we have taken every possible step in the book that these incidents do not occur in the future.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Minister of State as to what is the plan of the Government for shifting of oil depots from densely populated areas.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: As far as the question of shifting oil depots is concerned, it is a very sensitive and tricky issue because usually wherever these depots were initially installed, there were in far off areas where there was less population and less buildings. But as the pressure of population and people is so much, inhabitations have come in and around these installations and they have now become congested areas. But world-over, depots are placed in areas which are congested, where there is population around. So, we have reviewed these installations. Security and safety audit had been ordered after this incident. At the moment there are about 324 depots and terminals in the country out of which, during the last five years, 59 of them have been shifted because of reason that they were seen as threats to the surrounding areas. Another 45 locations of BPCL and HPCL have been identified.

We are looking at the possible areas to take them but the constraint is that wherever you take them, whichever far-off place you will take them, with passage of time there will be population cover around them, and the only way that we go and do is to ensure safety of these installations irrespective of population that is surrounding them.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, there are incidents and accidents. I remember, recently in my constituency, there is a Hindustan Petroleum depot and it is located in the midst of population, in a place called 'Ranchi Road', and there is a well in a house and suddenly we had the strange spectacle of oil trickling into the well. If immediate precautions had not been taken, it would have resulted in a major catastrophe.

The question that I would like to ask the Minister is this. Madam, you have just paid tribute to saving the earth. The Minister is aware and I am sure, this House is also aware, that his Ministry is one of the biggest polluters and the biggest dangers to the survival of this earth.

The next Question also deals with the safety of oil installations of all kinds, whether it is off-shore or on-shore. What I would like to know from the Minister is this. Is there a standard norm? Have we created a Safety Code for oil installations? Is that Code being strictly followed on a day-to-day basis? I would like to know from the Minister as to which is the Authority which is continuously monitoring the safety norms under this Code. I would also like to know whether they would

consider making the oil regulator ultimately responsible for safety of oil installations also. That is my question.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, the hon. Member has raised a very important question regarding the safety of oil installations. Specifically this Question relates to oil depots.

As far as his first query regarding the pollution standards is concerned, I must inform the House that as far as India goes, we are conforming to Euro IV—Bharat Stage IV norms of pollution. Fourteen cities have been upgraded where Euro IV fuel has already been given, and the rest of the country will be on Bharat Stage III.

As far as safety is concerned, the Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) is the mandatory body which forms the rules and regulations with regard to safety of installations. There are set parameters, which all installations have to comply with; failing which they will not be allowed to set up a shop. OISD regulations are very strict. It is the endeavour of this Government and our Ministry that there will be no compromise on security or safety of these installations. In spite of these, accidents such as the one in Jaipur about which we are discussing now do happen.

We ordered a review of the security and safety of all the depots, and OISD did that. They have already submitted their Report. There have been discrepancies which have to be eliminated. There is a need to revise it. An analysis has been done. Inadequate fire fighting facilities have been found out; layouts not conforming to parameters have also been pointed out; and availability of company-wise standard operating manuals was missing.

So, all these things are under the purview of the Ministry. We are very well aware of these. Necessary orders have been issued so that all installations comply with the parameters set by OISD.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam, last time also I had asked to the honourable Minister and he had during his reply mentioned about the damage caused to the depot and surrounding areas. In such incidents farmers have to suffer losses on a large scale. Crops within 50 kilometres of radius have been damaged totally.

Similarly, the honourable Member had raised the issue concerning a constituency of Orissa that some

accident took place there and the farmers did not receive any compensation as yet. The damage assessed at Rs. 160 crores caused to a building in Jaipur is being compensated for but I would like to ask as to what steps and measures are taken to compensate the farmers of the surrounding areas in Jaipur.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Sir, as far as the issue of honourable Member is concerned, I had already informed the house earlier also that there was impact of fumes and heat etc. due to burning of oil in the accident that had happened there. The quantity of sulphur and nitrogen was more than the regulated norms on these days when fire broke out but this quantity was not in such proportion which is lethal and causes harm to the people. As I said that sulphur content in our fuel was very low, we comply with Euro-4 norms; so far as the farmers are concerned, that was also investigated and the outcome of the investigation is that no damage has been caused to any crops in any way due to heat and high temperature when fire broke out. The committee constituted under the chairmanship of environment secretary of the Government of Rajasthan, have given their findings and the officers of the Government there stated that no damage has been caused to the farmers and their crops.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 382, Shri P. Kumar—
Not present.

Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh Naik.

Safety of Off-Shore Petroleum Installations

+

*382. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:

SHRI P. KUMAR:

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

(a) whether adequate legal framework exists for safety of off-shore petroleum operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the surveillance system to safeguard off-shore petroleum exploration, exploitation, production, drilling and other related activities is working satisfactorily;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the proposed extension of the safety zone around petroleum installations beyond 500 meters has been finalized;

(f) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (g) The Government has notified 'Petroleum & Natural Gas (Safety in Offshore Operations) Rules, 2008' under the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and designated Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) as competent authority to exercise powers and functions for regulation of safety in offshore oil and gas installations.

The Government has designated the Indian Navy as the agency responsible for overall maritime security including coastal security of India. The Indian Navy, the Coast Guard, State Marine Police and other Central and State agencies work in coordination for the coastal security and to safeguard offshore petroleum installations.

The issue of extension of the safety zone around petroleum installations beyond 500 meters is under discussion amongst the concerned authorities.

[Translation]

DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Madam Speaker, the Honourable Minister has stated in his written reply that he has tried to follow the safety norms but I would like to say that ONGC operates from Mumbai and the surrounding areas. Some accidents have occurred during operations. They are pursuing the matter of providing compensation to these people for the last two years. Through you, I would like to express my gratitude to the honourable Minister for he has tried to help them but no further progress has been made in this regard. I would like that this matter be expedited further.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, so far as honourable Member is concerned, I think oil installations of ONGC situated at Bombay High is very important for

our country. All steps have been taken by our Government for security, safety and protection of ONGC installations. But some people have some problems there and he has not specifically mentioned about it. If anybody has any problem and suffers any damages due to this, they can contact me or our ministry and for the cabinet Minister who is belonging to that area, any time and we shall try to solve it through deliberations whether these are related to compensation or any other issue.

DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: I would like to say that petroleum products extracted from there are associated with the security of the entire nation. It has been written in the reply that attention will be paid to it by forming an agency comprising the Navy, the Coast guard and the state Coastal forces. The process of appointment of a committee has been going for a long time. I would like that this work should be completed as soon as possible and security of our nation should be intact.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, the Ministry and the Government are fully aware of the issue raised by the honourable member. I have paid every attention and contributed my might for the security and the air force the navy and our PSU's. We are aware of the security risks and steps required to be taken for them. It is a very important issue and is related to national security. So, I would like to go further because if we discuss these things openly, then, it may be security hazard. I would like to assure the entire House that we are fully prepared. Navy, Coast guard, State police and PSU's personnel are involved in security there.

[English]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that the Indian Navy, the CoastGuard, the State Marine Police and other Central and State agencies work in coordination for coastal security. Madam, the problem lies therein that there is really no coordination. I do not think national security should become a fig leaf or a subterfuge to stifle debate. What I specifically want to ask the Minister is this. Is there an inter-agency consultative mechanism, which regularly meets, so that there is coordination between these agencies? Is the ONGC or the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas represented on this inter-agency consultative forum?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, as I said, this is a very sensitive issue, and I have already said there is nothing left to chance with regard to security and safety of such installations. With this, as the Member has enquired, is there a mechanism where coordination happens between Navy, Air Force and ONGC personnel, of course, the coordination does happen.

There is a committee. There is an Offshore Security Coordination Committee, a high powered apex level Committee on Offshore Security headed by the DG, CoastGuard, which reviews the security of offshore installations periodically and recommends additional security measures wherever required. Senior officers from Navy, CoastGuard, DG (Shipping), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are also on the committee. Officers from Intelligence Bureau, besides ONGC, are members of this committee. They meet from time to time. In fact, the Cabinet Secretary also heads one of those committees for the incident in Mumbai. The committee which has been formed, which regularly reviews the security of these installations, and complete coordination between all the agencies required to protect such installations does happen from time to time.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance for Food Processing Industries

*383. SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government to the States for food processing sector, during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the farmers have been benefited economically as a result of setting up of food processing units;

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

(d) whether the Government is considering to raise the current loan limit for food processing industries; and

(e) if so, the percentage share of subsidy in the new loan limit?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing various plan schemes for promotion and development of food processing sector in the country *viz.* (i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development with major components *i.e.* Mega Food Park, Cold Chain, Value addition, Preservation Infrastructure and Modernization of Abattoirs, (ii) Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/Modernisation of FPI, (iii) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards and R&D (iv) Scheme for Human Resource Development, (v) Scheme for Strengthening of Institution and (vi) Schemes for Upgradation of Quality of Street Food. Financial assistance in these schemes are released to various implementing agencies which may be Central/ State Agencies/SPV/Private Entrepreneurs/NGO/Industries Associations.

MFPI schemes are project specific and not State specific. A Statement showing State-wise, Scheme-wise details of financial assistance released to implementing agencies during last three years is enclosed as Annexure.

(b) and (c) The value addition as a result of setting up of food processing industries have certainly benefited farmers economically by way of higher value of farm produce, enhancing shelf life of their produce and generation of additional employment.

Under flagship scheme of Mega Food Park, around 10-20 clusters of producers (farmers' groups/societies) are envisaged to be established/strengthened in each Mega Food Park. Through backward linkages, the SPV will enter into an arrangement with the farmers/farmers' group in the catchment area for production of desired variety and quantity of farm produce to ensure regular supply of raw material to the Mega Food Park. This will facilitate clusterised farming and co-operative as well as community farming in demand driven manner with market orientation. The farmers will be assured of the market of its farm produce and get remunerative prices thereby increasing their income considerably. Each cluster will comprise of 20-30 self help groups/farmer associations, each having a membership ranging between 10-20 farmers. Thus in all at least 6000 farmers/producers are supposed to be involved through various group formation mechanisms and directly linked to the supply chain of the Mega Food Park and the components therein to ensure assured and regular supply of raw materials to the food park in the catchment area. The investments in

the catchment area are expected to impact about 25,000-30,000 farmers indirectly *i.e.* other than the farmers directly involved through various groups. Thus 30 parks will ensure benefits flowing to about a million farmers

over and above 180,000 directly associated farmers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Annexure

Financial assistance provided by Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the various Plan schemes during last three years, State-wise.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	Infrastructure Development			Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernisation of FPIs	Quality Assurance, Codex standards, R&D*	Human Resource Development	Strengthening of Institution*
	MFP/FP	Cold chain	Abattoir				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2007-08							
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	947.49	9.68	9.50	0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	0	0	0	442.17	0	1.45	0
Bihar	0	0	0	83.915	0	0	7.00
Chandigarh	0	0	0	138.08	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	5.00
Delhi	0	0	0	0	18.87	2.62	0
Goa	0	0	0	17.00	0	0	0
Gujarat	0	0	0	544.06	28.94	0	5.00
Haryana	0	0	0	418.72	4.82	12.25	5.00
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	325.09	0	20.45	0
Jammu and Kashmir	0	11.99	0	109.855	0	8.50	0
Jharkhand	0	0	0	9.09	7.70	0	0
Karnataka	200.00	0	0	529.62	15.50	58.91	5.00
Kerala	197.00	0	0	876.8	1.00	58.44	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Madhya Pradesh	100.00	0	0	172.32	0	9.83	5.00
Maharashtra	100.00	0	0	1696.805	34.45	23.74	0
Manipur	0	0	0	61.74	0	0	0
Meghalaya	0	0	0	8.19	0	0	0
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	27.485	0	0	0
Odisha	0	14.56	0	129.41	0	6.79	4.60
Puducherry	0	0	0	31.3	0.86	0	0
Punjab	0	0	0	481.45	23.50	7.12	0
Rajasthan	87.99	0	0	566.075	0	0	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	1.20	10.00
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	951.79	4.88	61.22	0
Tripura	0	0	0	39.98	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	80.77	0	0	1123.425	176.60	5.00	0
Uttarakhand	0	0	0	339.78	0	8.88	0
West Bengal	362.81	0	0	653.56	11.00	9.99	5.00
Total	1128.57	26.55	0	10725.2	337.8	305.89	51.6

*Excluding promotinal activitites, support to IICPT, NIFTEM, IGPB, NMPPB.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	Infrastructure Development			Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernisation of FPIs	Quality Assurance, Codex standards, R&D* etc.	Human Resource Development	Strengthening of Institution*
	MFP/FP	Cold chain	Abattoir				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2008-09							
Andhra Pradesh	500.00	243.88	147.90	908.999	135.97	42.67	2.5
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	17.67	0	2.00	6.67
Assam	446.00	0	0	176.79	0	26.11	0
Bihar	0	0	109.72	42.3	0	40.45	2.5
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.5
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	163.725	0	4.85	2.5
Delhi	0	0	300.00	160.65	62.66	37.52	0
Goa	0	0	0	24.57	0	0	0
Gujarat	0	0	0	714.81	0	15.6	7.5
Haryana	0	0	0	349.415	0	7.64	7.5
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	114.20	152.745	135.22	6.04	7.5
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	150.00	22.05	0	37.60	2.5
Jharkhand	500.00	0	0	0	82.70	16.81	0
Karnataka	100.00	0	0	629.895	0	12.12	5.00
Kerala	97.00	0	0	545.37	5.46	20.60	2.5
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	201.87	4.83	55.02	7.5
Maharashtra	0	0	0	1802.633	125.31	31.20	7.7
Manipur	40.00	0	0	45.51	0	15.00	7.5
Meghalaya	0	0	0	159.57	19.92	0	5.00
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	2.00	2.5
Nagaland	0	0	143.75	178.205	0	0	0
Odisha	0	0	0	38.68	0	11.00	5.00
Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	0
Punjab	0	0	0	841.36	4.00	5.75	2.5
Rajasthan	0	183.00	0	551.975	0	60.00	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	1.02	2.5
Tamil Nadu	0	151.436	0	594.355	8.47	16.54	7.00
Tripura	0	0	0	13.86	0	3.8	2.5
Uttar Pradesh	100.0	0	0	875.475	115.10	44.32	0
Uttarakhand	500.0	245.263	0	163.15	6.60	3.90	0
West Bengal	0	0	128.73	390.135	97.78	55.91	7.5
Total	2283.00	823.579	1094.30	9765.767	744.02	575.97	106.37

*Excluding promotional activities, support to IICPT, NIFTEM, IGPB, NMPPB.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	Infrastructure Development			Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernisation of FPIs	Quality Assurance, Codex standards, R&D* etc.	Human Resource Development	Strengthening of Institution*
	MFP/FP	Cold chain	Abattoir				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2009-10							
Andhra Pradesh	1000.00	488.99		677.05	146.03	87.00	0
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	376.14	0	1.00	2.50
Assam	54.00	0	0	418.74	120.42	18.00	0
Bihar	0	250.00	0	35.59	0	11.70	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	45.46	0	32.39	0
Delhi	0	0	0	50	130.28	34.00	0
Goa	0	0	0	24.26	0	3.00	0
Gujarat	0	539.00	0	665.18	26.00	0	0
Haryana	0	739.00	0	134.96	50.00	30.10	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	269.58	0	7.25	10.00
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	141.00	59.73	0	66.00	10.00
Jharkhand	0	0	79.00	44.09	46.25	4.85	0
Karnataka	0	250.00	0	269.55	10.00	40.60	5.00
Kerala	0	0	0	567.53	137.52	31.15	5.00
Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	273.03	0	5.89	0
Maharashtra	0	750.00	85.102	1717.3	273.72	117.41	0
Manipur	0	0	0	163.75	0	10.00	0
Meghalaya	0	0	150.00	123.02	0	3.00	5.00
Mizoram	0	0	0	11	0	0	7.50
Nagaland	0	0	431.25	64.99	0	6.00	5.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Odisha	0	0	0	84.4	0	74.88	2.50
Puducherry	0	0	0	0	0	13.00	0
Punjab	0	0	0	172.37	23.23	19.00	0
Rajasthan	0	366.00	0	325.46	0	5.00	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	4.42	0
Tamil Nadu	0	302.00	0	672.11	208.47	69.20	0
Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	6.00	10.00
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	560.63	66.5	117.81	0
Uttaranchal	0	492.00	0	307.57	0	19.70	0
West Bengal	500.00	174.00	0	136.48	161.00	97.84	0
Total	1554.40	4350.99	886.35	8249.97	1399.42	936.19	62.5

*Excluding promotional activities, support to IICPT, NIFTEM, IGPB, NMPPB.

[Translation]

SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR: Madam Speaker, I wanted to know from the Hon'ble Minister that the crops produced by the farmers have been given to multinational companies, for example the potato which is cultivated is purchased from market at the rate of rupees 2 per k.g. but potato chips are sold at the rate of rupees 250-300 per k.g. in the market. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he would encourage the farmer to set up processing industry.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam Speaker, farmers or any other person or organization or NGO or a self help group, micro level or MNEs submit their application for seeking permission to set up food processing industry and we grant permission for the same.

SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR: Madam Speaker, I mean that Hon'ble Prime Minister often says that farmers of our country should be prosperous. Farmers, particularly of Uttar Pradesh are already perturbed because there anyone who is having more than 12 acre land is subjected to ceiling. Farmers who want to be content by producing small crops and using tractors for farmtrack, Powertrack etc. are shocked because these industries have been given to foreign companies.

I demand that Hon'ble Minister should ban it because this issue is related to the farmers. He told us that a mega food park is about to be set up, under which groups of farmers will be formed. Ten to twenty farmers will supply raw material. You have invited companies for setting up food park. They are not at all concerned about the deaths of the farmers of our country due to starvation and the burden of debt on them. Recently you have waived off loans before elections and after that prices of diesel have been raised so much that it is becoming difficult to drive a tractor in the fields. On the one hand, procurement of wheat is not taking place, particularly in Uttar Pradesh. There is no procurement centre there. All mafias agent are procuring wheat.

Madam Speaker, I would like to submit, through you, that Hon'ble Prime Minister should intervene in it and all the food processing units should be given to farmers. There are sons of farmers highly educated and MBA qualified and they can run the factory well. Like in our Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR: My question is how financial benefit can be given to farmers. I desire that potato cultivated in Shahjahanpur, Badaun, Mainpuri, Itawa and Barailley etc. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now let the Hon'ble Minister give answer to this question.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam Speaker, I appreciate the hon'ble Member's concern for the farmers. The Central Government is constantly persuading the State Governments to pay attention towards group farming and make policies accordingly and we will also support them. Today as the family of a farmer has multiplied the land holding has squeezed farms have become small earned the farmer is not able to produce crops enough to earn money and re-invest in farming. So, our effort is to go in for industrialization of the produce of the farmers, so that there may be value addition to their produce. I want to say to the Hon'ble member of Uttar Pradesh that Agriculture produce marketing act should be repealed in order to save the farmers who have small land holdings. If it is not repealed, no one will come forward to make investments. Under this set up the farmer will own a farm, he will do farming, and determine the price of his produce and an outsider person will do investments. Only this procedure can save the farmers, and it will happen only if a separate food processings Industrial policy is made. This is a perishable industry. Till a new industrial policy is not made, no one on. ...(*Interruptions*) I am speaking the truth. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please do not talk to each other.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Now you please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Thank you for giving me an opportunity. There are huge advertisements in newspapers and TV that the Food Processing Ministry will give you loans, will give you grants and subsidies if you want to start a food processing centre in your area. The point is of skill addition. In my constituency, Aonla, the farmers rotate between rice, wheat and sugarcane.

*Not recorded.

They have no idea of how to grow things that could possibly result in a value addition. Is there any part of the Food Processing Ministry which could be harnessed to have teaching camps in areas like this where we could teach them skills on what to grow, so that they could then process them and get extra money? There is no centre for farming education which I have been able to access.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: If any group comes forward asking for training programme, my Ministry would help them to set up a training programme for short course and the long duration course. If anybody comes forward, I would love to help them.

SHRI RAJAI AH SIRICILLA: Madam, Nowadays to meet the national requirement, the increase in production and productivity is one way and the other way is to have the value addition of the various products. Andhra Pradesh is one of the States which is producing agricultural produce and horticultural produce, pulses and cereals in sufficient quantity. The allocation given for food processing plants for this State is very low or meagre. My question is—is there any plan with the Ministry to increase the mega food processing plants in the State particularly in Telangana region.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam, I can say that Andhra Pradesh is the number one State which has utilized the maximum schemes of this Ministry. When I say it is number one, more than 6,400 units have been set up in the State with the help of the Ministry. We have given one of the mega food parks and cold chains to Andhra Pradesh. That way Andhra Pradesh is a very progressive State and I must appreciate it. If anybody comes forward further, he is welcome. It is an open scheme and whoever comes forward and subject to the budget allowed, we give them assistance because we have done complete decentralisation of this work. It comes from the bank and it is disbursed from the bank. The Ministry is literally having no role in that. If any entrepreneurs from Andhra Pradesh are coming forward, we will see to it that they would get the benefit.

So far as the particular region is concerned, I will see to it that in that particular region how these industries should grow more. We can hold an investors' meet in that region so that we can motivate the entrepreneurs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: Madam Speaker, Bihar is an agriculture dominated state. According to the figures

given by the hon'ble Minister approximately Rs. 450 crores have been invested under various heads like infrastructure development, technology upgradation, establishment and modernization, quality assurance, human resource development and strengthening of the institutions etc. in various states of the country during the last three years, the amount may have been given through banks or directly by Union Government. In a large state like Bihar, where agriculture is the basis of economic development, only Rs. 5 crore that is approximately one percent amount has been invested during the last three years in different programmes. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that when this is your promotional work, value added programme, a provision of providing remunerative prices to common farmers then why less than one percent amount has been invested in Bihar. This is not fair. If you see the population of Bihar, it is approximately 10 per cent and if you see the geography of it then it has a big geographical area and as far as agricultural production is concerned, either it is paddy, wheat or potatoes, different type of maize or vegetables, all these things are produced there on a large scale. That is why I want to know whether any provision will be made for giving big share to Bihar for all these works, so that the economic development of the State can take place?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Madam Speaker, I am also perturbed if economic development is not taking place in Bihar also belong to Bihar. I can definitely say that post harvest management is not in the agenda of many State Governments. We are continuously making efforts to work on this separately, because it is a perishable industry. State Governments should make separate policy for this purpose.

We do not do anything from our side. It is awarded in the place from which entrepreneurs come and who apply. Several State Governments have come forwards to do this work. People are aware in various States of South India. Those States are utilizing it but the States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, where agriculture is the main stay, unfortunately, enterpreneurs from there are not coming because State Governments are not taking interest in it, they are not creating any awareness. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Madam, everytime the issue of Bihar is discussed in House, State Government is made the target. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: I am saying the Ministry does not set up industries on their own. The enterpreneurs who came forward, we help them in setting up their industries. There is a separate Ministry and a separate department in many States. There is a separate Minister and separate Ministry in West Bengal. State Governments are being given advise, they are not being targeted. This is a farmers region but nothing happens there in this direction.

Allocation of Oil and Gas Blocks to Private Companies

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*384. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:

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

(a) the policy parameters laid down under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) for relinquishing blocks for private companies/joint ventures for exploration of oil and gas which have been initially explored by the public sector agencies;

(b) the number of blocks which have been carved out from the areas relinquished by the public sector companies and offered to the private companies/joint ventures under NELP; and

(c) the underlying objectives of the policy and the benefits that accrue to the Government by such transfer of sites to the private operators for exploration?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) NELP blocks get relinquished as per the provisions of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC). Some blocks are carved out from these relinquished areas for offering under various New Exploration

*Not recorded.

Licensing Policy (NELP) rounds through International Competitive Bidding Process. These blocks are awarded to the successful bidders, which may be private, foreign, national or State Oil Companies/Consortium. Under NELP, 18 blocks have been carved out from the areas relinquished by the Public Sector companies.

(c) By such a policy, the relinquished blocks where no commercial discovery is established, would continue to be explored by new operators for hydrocarbons and all benefits under NELP would be available to the Government. NELP was formulated with an objective to encourage private and foreign investment by providing level playing field both to private and public sector companies with a view to accelerate oil and gas exploration in the country. The Policy has resulted in the following achievements:

- Private & foreign investment to the tune of US \$10.3 billion has been made in NELP blocks as on 1.1.2010.
- As compared to 2008-09, natural gas production in the country has increased by 75% and is expected to be doubled in near future.
- Under NELP, about 46% Indian Sedimentary basinal area has been awarded for exploration including deepwater.
- So far, 77 oil and gas discoveries have been made, including major gas discoveries in deepwater. Out of these, 49 discoveries were made by private/foreign companies.
- Commercial oil/gas production has commenced from 6 discoveries till date.
- Crude Oil production is about 20,000 barrels per day, which is likely to increase to 34,000 barrels per day in near future.

The offer of blocks for exploration and production is expected to contribute to increase in production of oil and gas in the country thereby enhancing the energy security of the country and also generate revenues to the Government of India in the form of Profit Petroleum, Royalty and other Statutory Taxes & Levies as applicable.

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Madam Speaker, Government companies explore the availability of oil and

gas in block with the cost of crores of rupees. Thereafter, blocks having larger quantity of gas and oil are given to private companies and those having lesser quantity thereof are given to Government companies. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether any amendment is being brought out to allot loss-making blocks to private companies? Your answer was that private companies have to be encouraged. So many private companies are working in the country and Government companies should be treated at parity with them. You can give whatever work you want to private companies get done from there but the country would benefit more and the revenue would increase if the Government companies are given this work. Madam, through you, I would like to ask what the Government would like to do in this regard?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, I totally deny the allegation of hon'ble member that private companies are being encouraged more in comparison to Government companies. I would like to inform the House that our Government has formulated a policy-New exploration Licensing Policy for bringing transparency and those fulfilling the criteria under bidding process will be awarded the blocks. This is the intention of Government. We have explored the half sedimentary basin of the country and half is still to be explored. It is intention of the Government and our Ministry that people from abroad come here and invest money in those blocks. This is very risky work. Everyone do not know whether oil will be definitely found when block is found beneath and when oil is available, will that be commercially viable? One gets to know all these things only when exploration work starts.

New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) is fully transparent. PSUs as well as private companies were awarded blocks under this policy. PSUs got more blocks. Blocks are relinquished, because as exploration progresses they are given time to dig certain number of wells within seven or eight years and when they do not fulfill those criteria they have to surrender the blocks. Another situation in which it has to be surrendered is like this: when oil or gas is found in a block, the area of operation constantly narrows down and full block is not needed.

The area where is found, only is considered to be useful and only that is retained, rest are surrendered. 35 blocks have been surrendered out of which 18 blocks have been given to rest of the companies. 18 blocks were not given through simple bidding, they have fulfilled the criteria and participated in bidding 5 have been

bagged by the PSUs and 12 by the private companies. Oil was not found in any of the 18 blocks which were surrendered whether they are public or private. I want to inform the House about this only.

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Madam Speaker, oil and gas which is extracted in blocks is sold at high rates leading to cost increase and the finished product becomes costly for consumers. I would like to ask the Minister whether Government have determined the pricing of oil and gas for the private companies? If so please elaborate.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, the prices fixed through NELP (New Exploration Licensing Policy), profit sharing contract is already signed therein. Many things are to be noted there like expenses incurred, the risk involved and the quantum of investment. Keeping in view all these things prices are fixed and such efforts are made that no one gets more profit or suffers loss. For this purpose empowered groups of Union Government are formed and they decide the prices. Rates are decided according to international crude prices.

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN: Madam Speaker, the hon'ble Minister has mentioned about NELP. In Eighth round out of 70 blocks bidding for only 36 blocks were held in which only 76 companies participated and big companies of the world did not take part in this. That incidents that the new licensing policy infested with many shortcomings and corrupt attitudes. Its publicity and advertisement is also not satisfactory due to which there is lack of environment for competition. I would like to know from the Minister as to what steps have been taken by the Government for developing more transparent and competitive structure for allocation of oil and gas to attract more people for investment.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, so far as question of hon'ble Member is concerned, under the eighth round of our New Exploration Licensing Policy 36 blocks came in offer as stated by them, in which companies of the country, PSUs and other outside companies participated. We want transparency in this process. India's' NELP system is the clearest, fully transparent and the cleanest in the world. I can say that this is the reason why the number of companies coming to participate is small because no irregularity is likely to be committed due to transparency and all efforts are being made in this regard. Bidding for Eighth round

was held at a time when economy of whole world was downturn. In spite of that our bidding round was excellent. Foreign companies as well as Indian companies participated in it and Union Government also earned profit. Further work is going on in this direction.

[English]

DR. K.S. RAO: Madam, the question is not of awarding fresh blocks. The question is of awarding the relinquished areas relinquished by the public sector companies of the Government of India having found that it will not be remunerative for them to go ahead with the things. Now, these things are awarded to a private or foreign investor, or outsiders. It is for the foreign investors or outsiders to take a risk of further going down and exploring. They are able to take that risk, whether they are able to get or not get the oil. I can understand that. ONGC, a public sector company which has relinquished it having found that there was no remunerative oil or gas available, how could it be remunerative for another public sector company of the Government of India, be it Indian Oil Corporation or some other Indian company? Does it mean that ONGC, a public sector company, has not done the correct work or do they want the Indian Oil Corporation or other consortium of the Indian public sector companies to lose? What is the policy involved in it is the question.

I wish to know from the hon. Minister what exactly is the intention in allowing the Government of India's undertakings once again to take the relinquished blocks, which have been left by another company of the Government of India?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Firstly, I wish to inform the hon. Member and the House that it is not only the public sector undertakings which are relinquishing the blocks, but also there are private companies which are giving up their blocks. It is not fair to say that only Government companies give up their blocks and private people take it. Out of 35 blocks that I had mentioned, 23 were from PSUs, and 12 were from private companies who gave back their blocks. The people who get the blocks, as I said, are not returning the blocks because they could not find oil. They are returning the blocks also, at times, even after they found oil but they do not need the other area of that block. So, they return that area of that block and they keep only that area of the block where they found oil or gas. If anyone else, private,

public, international, or domestic, whoever has interest in that block, can bid for it and take the block. So, there is no restriction from stopping anybody who can bid for a block which has been relinquished, be it private or public. The public sector undertakings are not giving the blocks back because they have not found the oil. They might have given it back because they could not drill the number of wells which has been stipulated in the seven-year period or eight-year period. They might have given back the block because they found oil in a specific area, and the other areas is not required. These are the issues involved. As I said, it is a very completely transparent process where private or public companies are entitled to bid for those blocks which have been given back.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the public sector also explores oil. After oil is discovered by ONGC, why does it give the information regarding its discovery to the private sector and tells them to explore oil? A policy should be formulated in this regard. I would like to know from the Minister as to what is the ratio of exploration of oil by the private operators as compared to the discovery of ONGC? Whether private companies have been more successful than public sector companies in the exploration of oil?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, the hon'ble Member has again raised the same issue. There are no such standards which may guarantee hundred percent exploration of oil. There are many instances which I can cite. There is a private company named Ken Energy in Rajasthan which has explored oil. Our country contributes 25 percent of the total crude oil as on date. The block from which the oil has been explored was owned by the Shell Company earlier. Shell Company is much bigger a company than Ken Energy. It is one of the biggest companies of the world. When this block was with Shell Company they tried hard but they got no oil there. They gave this block to this small company which got success and found oil there. There is not a single case where PSUs discovered oil and gave it to some private company. There is nothing like that. If oil has been explored, it has been explored by PSUs only in many places in Mumbai, Gujarat and Assam. If the hon. Member has any specific instance, he may bring it to my notice. I will give complete reply to that.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The hon. Minister has been repeatedly saying one word that the policy is best in India, that the policy is transparent, the policy is very good and that it is so stringent that people from outside detest that. He is beating his own drum. I do not mind, he is a new Minister, he can do it. But the fact of the matter is that there is a growing concern in the country, founded or unfounded, that with regard to oil industry, oil exploration, private sector is prospering more than the public sector. That is a fact of the matter and that is a grave concern. And the concern is also that oil exploration being a very sensitive area, why it should gradually slip out of our hand. It may be because of the inefficiency of the public sector or it may be because of the failure of the Government to monitor the functioning of the public sector. The functioning of the public sector comes under the purview of the Ministry of Petroleum. If they have not done well, they are not to be blamed only, the monitoring and supervision has to be blamed also.

Therefore, my pointed question is and I repeat that question, in how many cases public sector has failed? In how many cases, private sector has succeeded? And what is the ratio and whether the Government has looked into or asked explanation from the public sector why they are not doing their job well? The fact of the matter is that the ONGC is shrinking. What was the position of the ONGC three years back, what was the position of the ONGC five years back? Today the participation of the ONGC is not of the same order. That gives rise to a serious concern. I want a straight response from my young and energetic Minister.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, I am very much honoured that the Senior Minister has complimented me.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am not a Minister, I am a Member.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Sorry, you will, one day. ...*(Interruptions)* I reiterate that the policy of the Indian Government with regard to exploration is as transparent as can be and one of the best in the world. As far as, what you have pointed out, why public sector undertakings have not been given that much encouragement or are not doing that well, you are right. They have not been doing that well because initially before 1999 when this exploration policy was not in use, we used to have nomination of blocks. We used to give

nomination of blocks to ONGC, Oil India and our PSUs to go, drill and excavate oil and try and find gas. But we have seen that this sector is very risky. There is a lot of capital investment that is required, you need huge amount of money to pump in, to take the risk to whether to drill, to explore, to do the survey and you do not know whether there will be oil available. So, it is a conscious decision of this Government and the policy has been framed in such a way that you want people across the world, you want private sector investment in this sector so that the best technologies come in, the risk capital comes in, companies with money do come in set shop here to try and explore the sedimentary basin of this country, which, as I have said, is only half explored and the other half needs to be explored. We want these companies to come. The process is very transparent. We have given a level playing field. The PSUs have got equal opportunity to compete with these people and improve their standards and if they can, being domestic, home grown companies, with better information and with better environment they can easily beat these companies and get the oil. That is where the status of it stands. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Madam, what is the present ratio between the public sector and the private sector? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: I will give the details.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He is avoiding the question.

MADAM SPEAKER: Question number 385, Shri Premchand—Not present.

Question number 386, Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia.

Overcharging of Medicines

*386. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:
SHRI K. SUGUMAR:

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

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) proposes to strengthen its enforcement activities and has sought the approval of the Planning Commission for setting up State level cells to keep a close tab over drug prices across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cases of overcharging of medicines have been detected in duty free zones;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check overcharging of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):
(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) proposal for 'Creation of NPPA Cells in States' to closely monitor drug prices, availability, violation of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCD, 1995) across the country is one of the components of the new schemes for 11th Five Year Plan for strengthening of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), which was sent to the Planning Commission in November, 2007 seeking their "in principle" approval to the schemes. While conveying their "in principle" approval for one of the components of Scheme in March, 2008 the Planning Commission has mentioned that the other components proposed for strengthening and monitoring of prices of drugs and pharmaceuticals, including the proposal for 'Creation of NPPA Cells in States' would be taken up after the finalization of the draft Pharmaceutical Policy. Since the draft Pharmaceutical Policy is under consideration, this Department is actively pursuing with the Planning Commission for delinking the matter of grant of "in principle" approval from that of finalization of the new Pharma Policy and requesting them to again consider the proposal of new schemes for strengthening of NPPA. However, the Planning Commission is yet to accord "in principle" approval for the remaining components of the Schemes for strengthening of NPPA.

(c) and (d) Some of States such as Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim and Union Territory of Daman and Diu have a different scheme of excise duty exemption. Some cases of overcharging in the sale of medicines manufactured in these States have come to the notice of NPPA. A list of overcharging cases including those relating to duty free zones are available on the website of NPPA *i.e.* www.nppaindia.nic.in.

(e) The NPPA also initiates action for overcharging based on complaints from State Drug Controllers (SDCs) as well as individuals, verification of Price lists submitted by the companies and suo-motu procurement of samples

of scheduled packs. To ensure compliance of the notified prices, NPPA calls for the control samples of the batches subsequent to the notification and the price list of the companies in respect of the formulations where the companies were found to be overcharging.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, where is the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers?...(*Interruptions*) Is he in this country or has he gone abroad?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: The Minister has gone missing. Where is the Minister?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: We have not seen the face of the Minister. Who is he?...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: He is there.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister of State of the same Department is here to reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, this Parliament must know where the Minister is. ...(*Interruptions*) He is a Member of this House. ...(*Interruptions*) Has he taken leave of absence from the Chair? Where is the Minister? ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister of State concerned is here to reply. Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)...*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing is going into the record.

(*Interruptions*)...*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let your own Member ask his Supplementary. The Minister of State is here and he is capable of answering the question. Let the Member put his question.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: We have not seen the Minister.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Yashwantji, do not stoop to this level. ...(*Interruptions*) The Minister of State can answer the question.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam, I understand the sentiments of the hon. Members. The Minister is currently out of the country and that is why he could not be present in the House. Hon. Members expressed their concerns and I understand it. Normally the Ministers remain present but currently he is out of the country. It has been the practice that the junior Ministers may reply to the questions. All the Ministers including the Parliamentary Secretary, as per the rules of the Lok Sabha, can answer the question with the authority of the Ministers concerned. He has been fully authorized to answer the question. Please allow him. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, is the Minister abroad on an official visit?...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister of State is here to reply. Let him reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: The Minister was a Minister during your regime also. He is quite competent to answer the question. So, let him answer the question.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, has the Minister taken leave of absence from the House? Have you received a communication from the Minister? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: We respect the Chair. The Chair is supreme. We want to know whether the hon. Minister has taken the consent of the Chair to go abroad. The Chair is supreme.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, is the Minister abroad on an official visit or a private visit? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: All these issues can be raised after the Question Hour is over. Please do not waste the precious Question Hour. The junior Minister can reply to the question. Please allow him. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: It is the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. ...(*Interruptions*)

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Chair is supreme.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Do not stoop to this level. I am sorry to say this. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.
(Interruptions)...*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The house is in session
...(Interruptions). Hon'ble Minister is not present here, what does it signal? ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: All of you may please be seated. The leader of the Opposition is speaking. Please sit down. Shri Jagdambika Pal ji, please be seated.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, I am on my legs because the leader of the House himself replied that

[English]

he currently out of this country.

[Translation]

I would like to ask the leader of the House

[English]

why is he perpetually absent from the House? It is not a question of currently being outside the country

[Translation]

when the House is in Session, the leader of the House knows about it, he is a veteran leader ...(Interruptions) Madam Speaker, when the House is in session, the Minister is accountable to the Parliament first and later to some other assignment. If there is any other responsibility, it is conveyed to the Speaker, her permission is sought and it is made clear by the Minister that MOS will give reply on his behalf or the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will respond in his absence. Only then he leaves from the House. But he is such a Minister whose face has not been seen by the MPs till date. He is the Minister whose face has not been seen by you also. One year is about to be completed but he never came to Parliament for giving a reply. We know that he never attended the cabinet meeting. That is why we want to know from the leader of the House that just by saying that

*Not recorded.

[English]

He is currently out of this country.

[Translation]

he cannot be freed from his responsibility. He should tell us whether the Minister is missing and this Parliament is looking for the missing minister, where he has hidden himself and when he will show his face. After that this question will be taken up. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Often he has come. There are regular rules that if a Member remains absent continuously, his membership ceases. He is a regular Member and therefore, it is not correct that he has never come. It is not true. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: He is away holidaying in Maldives. ...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. I have to say something.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have to say that I have authorized Shri Jena to answer the Questions in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: This is not what we wanted. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have permitted.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam Speaker, where is the Minister? ...(Interruptions) For what reason is he not present in the House? ...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Irregular Practices by LPG Distributors

385. SHRI PREMCHANDRA GUDDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumers are encouraged/compelled by the gas agencies to buy other items on taking new domestic LPG connection;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cases of compulsory/forced purchase by consumers have been received in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that in order to enhance customer service, add value to their customers and to provide safe and reliable products of assured quality, they are allowing their LPG distributors to sell products such as Fuel efficient LPG Stoves, Suraksha LPG hoses, Flame retardant kitchen aprons, Portable Fire extinguishers, Kitchenware (such as Pressure cookers, non stick kitchenware, Induction cookers etc.), Flame type LP Gas lighters and also leading brands of kitchen/household items. This business initiative has been named as "Non Fuel Business activity" by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), "Beyond LPG" by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and "Allied Retail Business" by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL).

There is no compulsion on the customers to buy LPG stove of any brand or any other items from LPG distributors. The customers are at their liberty to buy LPG Stoves from any source of their choice. Customers are being informed of this through advertisements in print and electronic media, besides incorporating the above message on LPG refill cash memos as well as intimation letters to prospective customers.

(c) and (d) Whenever OMCs receive complaint on forced sale of any product/hotplate to the consumers at the time of releasing of new connection, these are investigated. If the complaints is established, action is taken against the erring LPG distributor in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

OMCs have reported that based on the established complaints of forced sale of any product other than LPG by their LPG distributors, action has been taken in 9 cases in the country during the period between April, 2009 to February, 2010 as per provisions of MDG/Distributorship Agreement.

Modernisation of PSUs

*387. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:
SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the country at present which have become sick;

(b) the number of PSUs which are running in losses during the last three years and the extent of their losses;

(c) whether loan or any other liability is also pending against the said PSUs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any action plan has been initiated for modernisation of PSUs incurring losses or those on the verge of incurring losses; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) As per the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA), a loss making unit is considered 'sick' if the industrial company is registered for not less than five years at the end of any financial year and its accumulated losses are equal to or have exceeded their net worth. As per this definition, there were 64 sick Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) as on 31.03.2009. The details are enclosed as Statement-I.

However, according to the Government Resolution, constituting Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE), a company is considered 'sick' if it has accumulated losses in any financial year equal to 50% or more of its average net worth during 4 years immediately preceding such financial year and/or a company which is a sick company within the meaning of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA). Based on this definition, there were 73 sick CPSEs as on 31.03.2009 as given in enclosed Statement-II.

(b) to (d) There were 38 Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), which were incurring losses

continuously during the last 3 years. The combined loss of these CPSEs stood at Rs. 4,303 crore, Rs. 3,679 crore and Rs. 4,075 crore during 2008-09, 2007-08 and 2006-07 respectively. An amount equal to Rs. 21,687 crore was pending, for repayment as long term loans against these CPSEs as on 31.3.2009. CPSEs wise details of losses during the past three years, and the long term loans pending against them are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(e) and (f) The number of loss making CPSEs has been continuously declining over the years. It came down from 105 CPSEs in 2002-03 to 54 in 2008-09. It is the concerned administrative Ministries which take steps for upgradation and modernization of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) on a case to case basis. The Government constituted the BRPSE in 2004 to advise the Government for strengthening, modernization, revival and restructuring of public sector enterprises on proposals submitted by the administrative Ministries/Departments controlling these CPSEs. Out of these 38 cases incurring losses continuously during the last three years, the BRPSE has considered and recommended the cases of 27 CPSEs for revival/restructuring (Statement-IV). The remaining cases are with the concerned administrative Ministries.

Statement I

Ministry-wise list of 64 'Sick' CPSEs, based on the definition of SICA

(as on 31.03.2009)

Sl.No.	Name of Enterprises
1	2
Ministry of Agriculture	
1.	State Farms Corporation of India Limited
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers	
2.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited
3.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited
4.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited
5.	IDPL (Tamilnadu) Limited
6.	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Limited

1	2
7.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited
8.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited
9.	Madras Fertilizers Limited
10.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited
11.	Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Limited
12.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited
13.	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited
Ministry of Civil Aviation	
14.	Airline Allied Services Limited
15.	Air India Charters Limited
16.	Air India Air Transport Services Limited
Ministry of Coal	
17.	Eastern Coalfields Limited
18.	Bharat Coking Coal Limited
Ministry of Communications & Information Technology	
19.	I T I Limited
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	
20.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	
21.	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Development Corporation Limited
22.	North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited
Ministry of Environment & Forests	
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Isl. Forest & Plant. Development Corporation Limited

1	2
	Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises
24.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited
25.	Hindustan Cables Limited
26.	Burn Standard Company Limited
27.	HMT Watches Limited
28.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited
29.	Cement Corporation of India Limited
30.	HMT Machine Tools Limited
31.	Triveni Structural Limited
32.	NEPA Limited
33.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Limited
34.	HMT Chinar Watches Limited
35.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited
36.	Tyre Corporation of India Limited
37.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Limited
38.	Andrew Yule & Company Limited
39.	HMT Bearings Limited
40.	Scooters India Limited
41.	Instrumentation Limited
42.	Sambhar Salts Limited
	Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation
43.	Hindustan Prefab Limited
	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
44.	National Film Dev. Corporation Limited
	Ministry of Micro Small & Medium Enterprises Indus
45.	National Small Industries Corporation Limited
	Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
46.	Bienco Lawrie & Company Limited

1	2
	Ministry of Railways
47.	Konkan Railway Corporation Limited
48.	Bharat Wagon & Engineering Company Limited
	Ministry of Shipping
49.	Hindustan Shipyard Limited
50.	Hooghly Dock And Port Engineers Limited
51.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited
	Ministry of Steel
52.	Hindustan Steelworks Construction. Limited
53.	Bharat Refractories Limited
54.	MECON Limited
55.	J & K Mineral Development Corporation Limited
	Ministry of Textiles
56.	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited
57.	National Textile Corporation Limited
58.	British India Corporation Limited
59.	Birds Jute & Exports Limited
	Ministry of Tourism
60.	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited
61.	Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited
62.	Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited
63.	Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Limited
	Ministry of Water Resources
64.	National Projects Construction Corporation Limited

Statement II

Ministry-wise list of 73 'Sick' CPSEs, based on the definition of BRPSE

(as on 31.03.2009)

Sl.No.	Name of the Ministry/ Department/CPSE
1	2
Department of Heavy Industry	
1.	Hindustan Salts Limited
2.	Tyre Corporation of India Limited
3.	HMT Bearings Limited
4.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited
5.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Company Limited
6.	NEPA Limited
7.	Richardson & Cruddas Limited
8.	Cement Corporation of India Limited
9.	HMT Machine Tools Limited
10.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited
11.	Triveni Structural Limited
12.	Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Limited
13.	Hindustan Cables Limited
14.	HMT Watches Limited
15.	Instrumentation Limited
16.	Andrew Yule & Company Limited
17.	HMT Limited
18.	HMT Chinar Watches Limited
19.	Burn Standard Company Limited
20.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corporation Limited

1	2
21.	Sambhar Salts Limited
22.	Braithwaite and Company Limited
23.	Scooters India Limited
Ministry of Textiles	
24.	Birds, Jute & Exports Limited
25.	British India Corporation Limited
26.	National Textiles Corporation Limited & its subsidiaries
27.	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited
Department of Fertilizers	
28.	Madras Fertilizers Limited
29.	Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Limited
30.	Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited
31.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited
32.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited
Department of Pharmaceuticals	
33.	Hindustan Antibiotics Limited
34.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited
35.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited
36.	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Limited
37.	IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Limited
38.	Bihar Drugs & Organic Chemicals Limited
Department of Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals	
39.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited
40.	Hindustan Fluorocarbons Limited
Ministry of Coal	
41.	Eastern Coalfields Limited
42.	Bharat Coking Coal Limited

1	2
	Ministry of Steel
43.	MECON Limited
44.	Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited
45.	Bharat Refractories Limited
46.	J&K Mineral Development Corporation Limited
	Department of Shipping
47.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited
48.	Hooghly Dock & Port Engineers Limited
49.	Hindustan Shipyard Limited
	Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation
50.	Hindustan Prefab Limited
	Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
51.	State Farms Corporation of India Limited
	Ministry of Water Resources
52.	National Projects Construction Corporation Limited
	Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas
53.	Biecco Lawrie Limited
	Department of Food & Public Distribution
54.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited
	Ministry of Railways
55.	Konkan Railway Corporation Limited
56.	Bharat Wagons & Engineering Company Limited
	Ministry of Civil Aviation
57.	Air India Charters Limited
58.	Airline Allied Services Limited

1	2
59.	Air India Air Transport Services Limited
60.	National Aviation Company of India Limited
	Department of Telecommunications
61.	ITI Limited
62.	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
	North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation
63.	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corporation Limited
	Ministry of Environment & Forests
64.	Andaman & Nicobar Isl. Forest & Plant. Dev. Corp. Ltd
	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
65.	National Small Industries Corporation Limited
	Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
66.	Artificial Limbs Mfg. Corporation of India
	Ministry of Tourism
67.	Assam Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited
68.	Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited
69.	Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited
70.	Ranchi Ashok Bihar Hotel Corporation Limited
71.	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited
	Ministry of Science & Technology
72.	Central Electronics Limited
	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
73.	National Film Development Corporation Limited

Statement III*Ministry-wise Long term loan pending against 38 CPSEs which are loss making continuously for 3 years*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of Ministry/CPSE	Losses			Long Term Loan due as on 31.03.2009 2008-09
		2008-09	2007-08	2006-07	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers					
1.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited	-3.52	-10.69	-4.69	87.01
2.	IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Limited	-2.76	-2.76	-1.2	0
3.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited	-388.96	-298.24	-351.16	3973.5
4.	Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Limited	-0.61	-0.61	-0.71	2.73
5.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited	-215.04	-105.84	-62.37	686.84
6.	Madras Fertilizers Limited	-145.38	-134.85	-114.78	643.34
Ministry of Civil Aviation					
7.	Air India Air Transport Services Limited	-0.98	-1.12	-0.23	0
8.	Airline Allied Services Limited	-81.83	-59.16	-85.36	0
9.	Hotel Corporation of India Limited	-18.61	-24.97	-12.71	0
Ministry of Communications & Information Technology					
10.	ITI Limited	-668.18	-358.38	-405.26	1010.36
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution					
11.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited	-21.87	-21.36	-21.22	0
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region					
12.	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.	-2.01	-2.46	-2.47	30.02
Ministry of Environment & Forests					
13.	Andaman & Nicobar Isl. Forest & Plant. Dev. Corp. Ltd.	-16.83	-16.68	-13.4	83.69

1	2	3	4	5	6
Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises					
14.	Burn Standard Company Limited	-157.59	-151.29	-151.86	1132.56
15.	Hindustan Cables Limited	-445.37	-435	-310.68	1626.66
16.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited	-890.26	-789.48	-653.06	2770.13
17.	HMT Bearings Limited	-11.07	-20.72	-7.16	8.96
18.	HMT Chinar Watches Limited	-69.48	-49.04	-39.91	258.79
19.	HMT Machine Tools Limited	-37.17	-40.5	-149.78	65.79
20.	HMT Watches Limited	-164.05	-146.95	-195.81	0
21.	NEPA Limited	-46.08	-37.67	-44.47	0
22.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Limited	-30.3	-59.6	-37.62	307.26
23.	Scooters India Limited	-27.65	-22.47	-22.5	15.58
24.	Triveni Structurals Limited	-46.98	-50.8	-46.85	0
25.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited	-18.44	-20.45	-37.5	223.05
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting					
26.	National Film Development Corporation Limited	-11.13	-2.76	-5.27	27.88
Ministry of Railways					
27.	Bharat Wagon & Engineering Company Limited	-8.63	-13.62	-24.14	-8.25
28.	Fresh & Healthy Enterprises Limited	-12.05	-18.14	-0.19	35.15
29.	Konkan Railway Corporation Limited	-80.1	-145.79	-233.28	-90
Ministry of Science & Technology					
30.	Bharat Immunologicals & Biologicals Corp. Limited	-3.52	-4	-3.43	0
Ministry of Shipping					
31.	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited	-51.89	-51.89	-72.97	467.42
Ministry of Steel					
32.	Hindustan Steel Works Construction Limited	-6.88	-26.72	-83.5	1458.26
33.	J & K Mineral Development Corporation Limited	-0.3	-0.2	-0.18	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
Ministry of Textiles					
34.	Birds Jute & Exports Limited	-7.84	-5.04	-4.63	60.88
35.	Handicrafts & Handloom Exports Corp. of India Limited	-0.47	-7.09	-2.67	0
36.	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited	-583.67	-505.17	-794.49	6809.4
Ministry of Tourism					
37.	Utkal Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited	-1.39	-1.21	-1.19	0
Ministry of Water Resources					
38.	National Projects Construction Corporation Limited	-24.34	-36.62	-76.56	0
Total		-4303.23	-3679.34	-4075.26	21687.01

Statement IV

Action Plan for revival/restructuring of CPSEs, incurring losses continuously for last 3 years

(as recommended by BRPSE)

SI.No.	Ministry/CPSE
1	2
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers	
1.	Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Limited
2.	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Limited
3.	IDPL (Tamil Nadu) Limited
4.	Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Limited
5.	Madras Fertilizers Limited
Ministry of Railways	
6.	Bharat Wagon & Engineering Company Limited
7.	Konkan Railway Corporation Limited
Ministry of Textiles	
8.	Birds Jute & Exports Limited
9.	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited

1	2
Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises	
10.	Burn Standard Company Limited
11.	Hindustan Cables Limited
12.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited
13.	HMT Bearings Limited
14.	HMT Chinar Watches Limited
15.	HMT Machine Tools Limited
16.	HMT Watches Limited
17.	NEPA Limited
18.	Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Limited
19.	Triveni Structurals Limited
20.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited
Ministry of Steel	
21.	Hindustan Steel Works Construction Corporation Limited

1 2

[English]

		Financial Performance of NTC
	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution	
22.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited	*388. SHRI P. LINGAM: SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
	Ministry of Shipping	Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:
23.	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited	(a) the details of the National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills in various States and the financial performance of each of them during the last three years;
	Ministry of Communications & Information Technology	
24.	ITI Limited	(b) whether the Government has any plan to revive the closed/sick NTC mills; and
	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting	
25.	National Film Development Corporation Limited	(c) if so, the details of the revival plan?
	Ministry of Water Resources	
26.	National Projects Construction Corporation Limited	THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) The details and financial performance of the working NTC mills during the last three years is indicated in the enclosed Statement.
	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region	
27.	North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.	(b) No, Madam. There is no plan to revive the closed unviable mills of NTC. (c) Does not arise in view of above.

Statement

Sl.No.	State-wise Name of Mills	2007-2008			2008-09			2009-2010 (Prov.)		
		Total Income Rs. Lakhs	Net Cont. as % of Wages/ Salaries	Cash Profit/ Loss Rs. Lakhs	Total Income Rs. Lakhs	Net Cont. as % of Wages/ Salaries	Cash Profit/ Loss Rs. Lakhs	Total Income Rs. Lakhs	Net Cont. as % of Wages/ Salaries	Cash Profit/ Loss Rs. Lakhs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
KERALA										
1.	Alagappa	2242.00	63.86	-223.00	2701.66	64.74	-228.65	3246.33	94.02	-49.93
2.	Cannanore S&W mills,	2193.00	62.07	-233.00	1272.20	60.44	-154.81	1603.15	70.82	-122.55
3.	Kerala Lakshmi	1668.00	30.24	-357.00	2130.04	55.74	-251.08	2536.56	80.56	-120.41
4.	Vijay Mohini	2253.00	34.69	-224.00	832.17	22.47	-264.41	1839.54	87.62	-58.12
MAHE										
5.	Cannanore Spg.& Wvg. Mills.	1136.00	43.95	-240.00	624.14	22.86	-278.97	1556.13	84.14	-84.69
ANDHRA PRADESH										
6.	Tirupathi	772.00	60.56	-63.00	1082.59	92.21	-19.26	1068.87	84.07	-41.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
TAMIL NADU										
7.	Cambodia	2087.00	47.25	-323.00	2198.53	46.84	-259.33	2905.90	88.61	-80.38
8.	Rangavilas	2220.00	60.46	-235.00	2322.77	58.60	-251.01	3511.73	81.05	-146.28
9.	Pankaja	1765.00	59.42	-209.00	1572.61	44.33	-268.88	2560.60	85.45	-99.22
10.	Pioneer	1614.00	43.06	-216.00	1673.15	45.61	-198.70	2312.34	84.66	-83.10
11.	Kaleeswarar'B'	2573.00	79.72	-123.00	2128.04	58.20	-199.73	2788.41	99.87	-15.12
12.	Coimbatore S&W	3164.00	86.09	-99.00	4855.41	87.96	-90.68	5537.35	102.48	18.94
13.	Coimbatore S&W	1648.00	24.68	-376.00	1608.20	17.34	-423.34	1150.75	22.94	-381.57
MAHARASHTRA										
14.	Tata	2481.00	14.37	-884.00	2558.59	25.23	-1145.76	3308.79	69.06	-699.81
15.	Podar	1249.00	12.11	-574.00	1801.35	6.22	-813.12	2971.47	75.64	-351.12
16.	Indu NO.5	1138.00	13.79	-441.00	1584.13	30.65	-574.18	2707.43	80.88	-262.29
17.	Barshi	1243.00	60.45	-122.00	1337.43	64.86	-103.45	1627.97	105.75	19.54
MADHYA PRADESH										
18.	New Bhopal	854.00	20.52	-369.00	992.54	21.37	-560.72	2318.61	93.65	-31.25
19.	Burhanpur Tapti	841.00	40.67	-178.00	943.97	44.11	-401.72	1991.85	121.62	69.19
WEST BENGAL										
20.	Arati	218.00	12.73	-107.00	205.13	-13.88	-349.52	1342.12	78.43	-42.02
OVERALL		33359.00	29.92	-5596.00	34424.65	123.55	-6837.32	47723.54	49.50	-2561.52
21.	New Minerva, Hassan (Karnataka)	*Setting up of these four new Green field Mills is in progress and production activities have not yet begun.								
22.	New Finlay, Achalpur (Maharashtra)									
23.	New Rajnagar, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)									
24.	Technical Textiles at Beawar (Raj)									

Performance of NACIL

*389. SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the share of the private airlines and that of the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) in the overall domestic civil aviation sector;

(b) the details of growth recorded by the private sector airlines vis-a-vis national carrier since implementation of the open sky policy;

(c) whether steps have been taken by the Government to improve the performance of NACIL so as to give a tough competition to the private airlines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The details of market share of NACIL and private scheduled airlines (in percentage) in domestic sector in 2009 are as under:

Airline	2009
NACIL	17.5
Jet Air	17.9
Jet Lite	7.5
Air Deccan	—
Kingfisher	23.9
Spice Jet	12.4
Paramount	01.9
Go Air	04.7
Indi Go	13.9
Indus	—
MDLR	0.27

(b) There is no such open sky policy and all airlines are required to follow Route Dispersal Guidelines issued by the Government. The details of passenger growth recorded by NACIL and private Scheduled airlines (in percentage) in domestic sector from 2005 to 2009 are as under:-

Airline	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
NACIL	10.3	1.74	17.72	-18.3	15.78
Jet Air	12.34	14.99	-3.52	-9.44	-10.45
Air Deccan	207.16	158.47	24.85	-32.13	—
Kingfisher	—	349.76	87.29	20.05	-6.88
Spice Jet	—	229.27	4699.49	8.33	33.84
Paramount	—	1631.59	149.33	12.30	31.75
Go Air	—	1710.00	97.46	-23.73	51.21
Indi Go	—	—	686.17	46.53	28.59

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Air India takes continuous steps to improve its competitive performance. The following steps were taken by Air India in this regard:

- (i) More hub & spoke services introduced.
- (ii) Through flight numbers have been given on certain sectors (*viz.* Hyderabad-Mumbai- New York, Kolkata-Delhi-New York, Hyderabad. Mumbai-Frankfurt-Chicago, Kolkata- Delhi-London, Ahmedabad-Mumbai-London) that would improve Air India flight displays on GDS systems thus expected to improve sales.
- (iii) With the new aircrafts inducted in AI's fleet, the new aircrafts have been deployed on all the major international and domestic routes that would enable Air India to offer improved product in the important markets, improve on-time performance and reduce cost of operations.
- (iv) In order to tap 6th freedom traffic, Air India has changed timing of some of the services to offer better connections. Air India offers convenient connections in both directions on following routes:
 - (i) Bangkok-London/Kathmandu via Delhi
 - (ii) Kathmandu-Dubai/Muscat via Delhi
 - (iii) Bangkok-London/New York/Frankfurt/Chicago via Mumbai
 - (iv) Dhaka-London/New York/Frankfurt/Chicago via Mumbai
 - (v) Singapore-Dubai via Mumbai.
 After operationalization of new terminal at Delhi, Air India would be in a better position to attract more number of 6th freedom feeds over Delhi by leveraging its strength of connectivity out of Delhi.
- (v) Air India is also reviewing its network strategy with the help of experts in the field.
- (vi) Air India is taking the software tool for planning and scheduling.

Expansion of Runways

*390. SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of expansion of runways of different airports in the country being undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI);

(b) whether some proposals received from the State Governments for expansion of runways are pending with AAI;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(b) Yes, Madam.

(d) the time frame fixed for completion of the expansion of these runways; and

(c) The State Governments of Maharashtra and Rajasthan have requested Airports Authority of India (AAI) to take over the airstrips at Jalgaon in Maharashtra and Kishangarh in Rajasthan to develop these airports for civil operations, which includes expansion of runways.

(e) the number of runways where proposed expansion has been completed?

(d) Runway expansion work is subject to provision of additional land by the respective State Government.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Details of airports where extension of runways work is in progress and at planning stage are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(e) Details of airports where runway extension work has been completed are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Work in Progress

AIRPORT	Runway length		Status
	FROM(M)	TO(M)	Probable Date of Completion
Chennai	2005	3235	August, 2010
Kolkata	2399	3265	September, 2010

Work in Planning stage

AIRPORT	Runway length		Status
	FROM(M)	TO(M)	
Coimbatore	2990	3810	613 acres of land yet to be handed over by State Govt.
Dibrugarh	1829	2470	5.33 acres of army land yet to be handed over.
Madurai	2286	3810	610 acres of land yet to be handed over by State Govt.
Trichy	2444	3810	439 acres of land yet to be handed over by State Govt.
Jaipur*	2797	3507	No demand from airlines.
Rajahmundry	1829	2286	966 acres of land yet to be handed over by State Govt.
Tirupati	2286	3570	713 acres of land yet to be handed over by State Govt.
Jalgaon	1450	2286	8.95 acres of land yet to be handed over by State Govt.
Kishangarh	1470	3330	405 acres of land yet to be handed over by State Govt.

Note:- (i) Above runway extension works is subject to receipt of land from the respective State Govt./Army.

*(ii) There is a proposal to extend the runway at Jaipur Airport from existing 2797 meter to 3507 meter to handle E category aircraft, subject to demand from airlines.

Statement II*Runway works completed*

AIRPORT	FROM(M)	TO(M)
Amritsar	3289	3658
Aurangabad	2286	2836
Bhopal	2045	2744
Bhubaneswar	2243	2743
Coimbatore	2290	2990
Dehradun	1157	2140
Dibrugarh	1829	1829
Guwahati	2743	3103 **
Indore	2287	2750
Kolkata	2399	2839
Khajuraho	1829	2286
Lucknow	2286	2742
Mangalore	2498	2750
Madurai	1826	2286
Mysore	1200	1740 **
Raipur	1955	2286
Rajahmundry	1829	2286
Silchar	1725	2286
Surat	1525	2250
Trichy	1864	2444
Udaipur	2281	2730
Vijayawada	1745	2285
Vizag	1829	3049
Varanasi	2206	2745 **

**Yet to be Commissioned

Salary to Air India Employees

*391. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India had withheld payment of salaries to its employees for the month of March 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor, and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of this practice and ensure regular payment of salaries to the employees of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) No, Madam. The salary for the month of March, 2010 was paid to the employees of Air India on 7.4.2010. The above postponement was necessitated due to committed March year end payments to Oil Companies/Airports Authority of India/Foreign and Indian Vendors/repayment of loans and interest obligations/Bank loan rollovers. Government is continuously monitoring the financial position and restructuring plan of Air India.

[*Translation*]

Coal Bed Methane

*392. SHRI IJYARAJ SINGH:
DR. SANJAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the use of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) is being popularized with a view to meeting energy requirements;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the annual increase registered in the production of CBM for the last three years;

(d) whether any target has been set for the production of CBM;

(e) if so, details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government to augment production of CBM?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy was approved in 1997

with a view to encourage exploitation and production of gas held in coal seams which is a non-conventional source of energy. The CBM has similar uses as natural gas and is used as industrial fuel, feedstock, domestic pipeline gas, compressed natural gas etc. In order to encourage exploration and production of CBM from coal seams, 23 CBM blocks have been awarded in the first three rounds of CBM. Two CBM blocks have been awarded through nomination basis and one through Foreign Investment Promotion Board(FIPB) route. So far, about 8.39 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF) of CBM reserves have been established in 5 CBM blocks.

(c) Commercial production of CBM commenced in July, 2007 from Raniganj (South) block in West Bengal, operated by M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited(GEECL). The year-wise CBM production from this block during the last three years is as under:

Year	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
CBM Production (MMSCM)**	14.97*	19.78	38.40

*Production commenced w.e.f. 14 July, 2007

**Million Standard Cubic Meter

(d) and (e) Based on the current rate of CBM production, status of ongoing and planned field developments etc., it is estimated that the CBM production in the country is likely to be about 7.41 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) during 2012-13.

(f) The fourth round of CBM was launched with an offer of ten blocks covering an area of 4965 Sq. Km. Bids have been received for 8 blocks.

[English]

New Investment Plans by IOC

*393. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL:

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

(a) Whether the Indian Oil Corporation is in the process of reviewing its future investment plans on account of mounting under-recoveries;

(b) if so, whether the company has decided to prioritise new projects and proposes to take up only those projects where investment requirement is relatively small and the rate of returns are high;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there are apprehensions that the company might have to dilute equity in its upcoming Paradeep Refinery and Petrochemical Project in Orissa at a less than premium price in a bid to raise funds; and

(e) If so, the extent to which the company was compelled to review its investment plans and the extent to which it has achieved success with the renewed initiative?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has reported that the under recoveries to the extent not compensated are partially affecting the future investment plans of IOC.

(b) and (c) The projects are taken up based on the economic viability. There are only two projects that have been deferred, which are:

- (i) Installation of Petrochemicals at Paradip
- (ii) Para Xylene (PX)/Purified Teraphthalic Acid (PTA) at Gujarat Refinery

(d) and (e) The Paradip refinery project is being financed partly from internal resources and partly from syndicated loan already tied up from various banks. Therefore, dilution of equity at a less than premium price to raise funds through equity route is not applicable.

Aircraft/Helicopter Accidents

*394. SHRI P. BALRAM:
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aircraft and helicopters which met with accidents during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for such accidents;

(c) the percentage of accidents due to technical defects, human error and bird hit separately;

(d) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government has paid any compensation, to the aircraft/helicopter accident victims; and

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) 16 accidents occurred during the last three years which involved 06 helicopters and 10 fixed wing aircraft. These accidents occurred due to technical defects, human failure and bird hit.

(c) 21% accidents occurred due to technical defects, 74% due to human failure and 50% due to bird hit.

(d) All accidents are Investigated as per the Aircraft Rules, 1937 and action is taken based on the recommendation emanating from the Investigation reports. 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. Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at all airports having scheduled flights operations to identify sources of bird attraction and to take the necessary steps for prevention of bird strikes. In addition, a high power National Bird Control Committee (NBCC) has also been set up by Government to monitor and adopt policy decisions for bird strikes prevention.

(e) Compensation is paid to crash victims in accordance with Carriage by Air Act (Amendment), 2009. As per the Act owner/operator is liable for all the compensation. No liability arises under the Act on the part of the Government.

(f) Does not arise.

Live-in-Relationship

*395. DR. KRUPARANI KILLI:
SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

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

(a) whether a recent judicial pronouncement has upheld 'Live-in-Relationship' and it is no longer construed as an offence;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether this is likely to affect the mind of youth, leading to erosion of moral values and country's ethos; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) It has come to the notice of the Government through newspapers that the Supreme Court of India, while hearing SLP (Criminal) 4010 of 2008 (So Khushboo vs. Kanniammal and others), has observed that 'Live-in-Relationship' between adults is not an offence. The matter is subjudice and the pronouncement of the Court is still awaited.

It is not correct to say with any degree of exactitude as to whether it will affect the minds of youth leading to erosion of moral values and country's ethos or not, as it depends on one's perception and value judgment.

FDI Limit in Aviation Industry

*396. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the present limit of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in aviation industry;

(b) whether the Government proposes to make some changes in FDI limit permissible under different sectors in the aviation industry;

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

(d) whether the Government has also sought the views of the agencies concerned over the issue of diluting FDI limit in the aviation industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The present limit of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in aviation sector are as under:

Airports:

Greenfield Projects: FDI upto 100% is allowed under the automatic route subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Existing Projects: FDI upto 100% is allowed , however beyond 74% FDI, approval of FIPB required and also subject to sectorial regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Air Transport Services:

- (i) Scheduled Air Transport Service/Domestic Scheduled Passenger Airline: FDI upto 49% and investment by Non-resident Indians (NRI) upto 100% allowed on the automatic route subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation and no direct or indirect participation by any foreign airlines.
- (ii) Non-Scheduled Air Transport Service/ Non-Scheduled airlines, Chartered airlines and Cargo airlines: FDI upto 74% and investment by Non-resident Indian (NRI) upto 100% allowed on the automatic route subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation and no direct or indirect participation by any foreign airlines in Non-scheduled and Chartered airlines. Foreign airlines are allowed to participate in the equity of companies operating Cargo airlines.
- (iii) Helicopter services/seaplane services: FDI upto 100% allowed on the automatic route subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation and approval of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Foreign airlines are allowed to participate in the equity of companies operating Helicopter and Seaplane Services.

Other services under Civil Aviation Sector:

- (i) Ground Handling Services: FDI upto 74% and investment by Non-resident Indians (NRI) upto 100% allowed on the automatic route subject to sectoral regulations-notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation and security clearance.
- (ii) Maintenance and Repair Organizations: FDI upto 100% allowed on the automatic route subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(iii) Flying training Institutes and Technical Training Institutions: FDI upto 100% allowed on the automatic route subject to sectoral regulations notified by Ministry of Civil Aviation and approval of DGCA.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Capital Punishment

*397. SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Amnesty International has called upon India to abolish capital punishment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the countries in the world have abolished the death penalty;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Time and again various individuals/non-governmental organizations have represented to abolish the capital punishment in India.

(c) and (d) As per the information available, the names of the countries whose laws do not provide for death penalty are: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bhutan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Colombia, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherland, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niue, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principle, Senegal, Serbia (including Kosovo), Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan,

Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela.

(e) Under the present scheme of sentencing process, death penalty is inflicted only on dangerous incorrigibles for crimes of heinous nature in rarest of rare cases.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish capital punishment.

Expansion of PNG and CNG Infrastructure

*398. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

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

(a) whether the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) proposes to issue retail expansion licenses for Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for the industrial and power plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the cities identified where PNG is proposed to be provided;

(d) the number of industrial and power units likely to be benefited by the expansion plan; and

(e) the details of investments made for laying the network of pipelines infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to domestic customers and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to vehicles. Further, these entities also supply PNG to commercial and industrial customers, whose consumption of natural gas does not exceed 1,00,000 scmd (standard cubic meters per day). PNGRB plans to cover 333 Geographical Areas (GA's) identified across the country, the list of which is enclosed as Statement.

(d) and (e) The industrial and power units using natural gas up to 1,00,000 scmd in these GA's would be provided natural gas by CGD entities active in these GA's. The investments needed for laying the network of pipeline infrastructure in these GA's would be made by the CGD entities.

Statement

Sl.No.	City Enroute
1	2
1.	Kakinada
2.	Yanam
3.	Rajahmundry
4.	Khammam
5.	Tirupata
6.	Eluru
7.	Suriapet
8.	Guntur
9.	Nalgonda
10.	Vijaywada
11.	Hyderabad
12.	Secunderabad
13.	Sangareddy
14.	Zahirabad
15.	Chittoor
16.	Vishakapatnam
17.	Vizianagaram
18.	Bhimumpatnam
19.	Srikakulam
20.	Paralakhemundi
21.	Khichipuram
22.	Mallavaram
23.	Warangal
24.	Karimnagar
25.	Nizambad
26.	Adilabad
27.	Ramagundam

1	2	1	2
28.	Kottaguddem	57.	Valsad
29.	Duliajan	58.	Navasari
30.	Dibrugarh	59.	Billimora
31.	Shivsagar	60.	Gandevi
32.	Moran	61.	Khambat
33.	Jorhat	62.	Ballabh Vidhyanagar
34.	Silchar	63.	Halol-Kalol
35.	Nawada	64.	Kheda
36.	Gaya	65.	Ahmedabad
37.	Sasaram	66.	Ghandhinagar
38.	Patna	67.	Mehsana
39.	Ara	68.	Sabharkanta
40.	Buxar	69.	Surendranagar
41.	Jehanabad	70.	Rajkot
42.	Arrah	71.	Jamnagar
43.	Ballia	72.	Bhuj
44.	Chandigarh	73.	Kandala
45.	Raipur	74.	Bhavnagar
46.	Durg	75.	Banaskantha
47.	Bhillai	76.	Yamuna
48.	Silvassa	77.	Jagadhari
49.	Daman	78.	Faridabad
50.	Delhi	79.	Gurgaon
51.	Goa	80.	Rewari
52.	Hazira	81.	Rohtak
53.	Sural	82.	Hissar
54.	Ankleshwar	83.	Jind
55.	Bharuch	84.	Sonepat
56.	Vadodara	85.	Panipat

1	2
86.	Karnal
87.	Yamunagar
88.	Ambala
89.	Jammu
90.	Katra
91.	Chota Nagpur
92.	Dhanbad
93.	Girudih
94.	Kodarma
95.	Deoghar
96.	Hazaribag
97.	Bokaro
98.	Homnabad
99.	Bidar
100.	Mangalore
101.	Madikeri
102.	Chamrajanagar
103.	Kollegal
104.	Mysore
105.	Ramanagaram
106.	Bengaluru
107.	Kolar
108.	Kolar gold fields
109.	Mulbagal
110.	Bangarpet
111.	Kanakpura
112.	Ramanagarm
113.	Kunigal
114.	Sri Rangaptnam

1	2
115.	Mandya
116.	Hassan
117.	Saklshpur
118.	Chikmangalur
119.	Madikeri
120.	Mangalore
121.	Suratkal
122.	Udupi
123.	Tumkur
124.	Koppal
125.	Hampi
126.	Chitraduge
127.	Davangere
128.	Gadag
129.	Bellary
130.	Shimoga
131.	Hubli-Dharwad
132.	Charwadmarga
133.	Kasaragod
134.	Kannur
135.	Kalpetta
136.	Khozikhode
137.	Mallapuram
138.	Palakad (Palghat)
139.	Thrissur
140.	Ernalyulam
141.	Kochi
142.	Kottayam
143.	Alapuzha

1	2
144.	Kollam
145.	Thiruvanthapuram
146.	Kasarakod
147.	Betul
148.	Chindwara
149.	Indore
150.	Dewas
151.	Ratlam
152.	Mandsaur
153.	Hoshangabad
154.	Bhopal
155.	Sehore
156.	Raisen
157.	Vidisha
158.	Shahdol
159.	Jhabua
160.	Dhar
161.	Dahud
162.	Ratlam
163.	Shahjapur
164.	Ujjain
165.	Indore
166.	Gwalior
167.	Vijaypur
168.	Guna
169.	Raghogarh
170.	Shivpuri
171.	Datia
172.	Solapur

1	2
173.	Osmanabad
174.	Karmala
175.	Shaund
176.	Latur
177.	Ahmadnagar
178.	Shirdi
179.	Nashik
180.	Pune
181.	Lonavala
182.	Khopoli
183.	Matheran
184.	Wadgaon
185.	Panvel
186.	Kalian
187.	Thane
188.	Shahpur
189.	Murbad
190.	Tarapur
191.	Umargaon
192.	Kolhapur
193.	Ratnagiri
194.	Satara
195.	Alibag
196.	Mumbai
197.	Chandrapur
198.	Gadchiroli
199.	Yavatmal
200.	Wardha
201.	Nagpur

1	2
202.	Amravati
203.	Rourkela
204.	Chattrapur
205.	Khordha
206.	Bhubaneshwar
207.	Jajapur
208.	Bhadrak
209.	Ananapur
210.	Kamakhyanagar
211.	Baleshwar
212.	Baripada
213.	Puddicherry
214.	Mahe
215.	Rajpura
216.	Nangal
217.	Patiala
218.	Mandi Govindgarh
219.	Sangrur
220.	Ludhiana
221.	Jalandhar
222.	Amritsar
223.	Bhatinda
224.	Pathankot
225.	Hoshiarpur
226.	Udhampur
227.	Dabwali
228.	Kota
229.	Bhiwadi
230.	Banswari

1	2
231.	Dungarpur
232.	Udapur
233.	Chittorgarh
234.	Bhilwara
235.	Jaipur
236.	Jodhpur
237.	Jhunjhunu
238.	Bikaner
239.	Sriganganagar
240.	Ajmer
241.	Badmer
242.	Jaisalmar
243.	Chennai
244.	Kanchipuram
245.	Tiruvannammalai
246.	Kallakkurichichi
247.	Dharmapuri
248.	Cudalore
249.	Salem
250.	Perambalur
251.	Namakkal
252.	Karur
253.	Erode
254.	Tiruchchirapalli
255.	Thaikavvur
256.	Karakal
257.	Dindigul
258.	Padukkottai
259.	Madurai

1	2
260.	Virudunagar
261.	Aruppukottai
262.	Kovilpatti
263.	Tirublveli
264.	Tuticorin
265.	Periyar
266.	Coimbatore
267.	Udhagamandalam
268.	Tiruttani
269.	Hosur
270.	Krishnagiri
271.	Agartala
272.	Jhansi
273.	Lucknow
274.	Auraiya
275.	Dibiyapur
276.	Phaphund
277.	Babarpur
278.	Mainpuri
279.	Etawah
280.	Jagdishpur
281.	Shaharanpur
282.	NOIDA
283.	Greater NOIDA
284.	Ghaziabad
285.	Hapur
286.	Garhmukteshwar
287.	Moradabad
288.	Agra

1	2
289.	Mathura
290.	Badayun
291.	Shahjahanpur
292.	Barielly
293.	Unnao
294.	Kanpur
295.	Aligarh
296.	Hathras
297.	Firozabad
298.	Khurja
299.	Bulandshahar
300.	Dadri
301.	Meerut
302.	Modinagar
303.	Muzzafarnagar
304.	Allahbad
305.	Ghaziour
306.	Mirzapur
307.	Bhadohi
308.	Mau
309.	Jaunpur
310.	Sultanpur
311.	Azamgarh
312.	Akbarour
313.	Faizabad
314.	Shahiahanpur
315.	Roorkee
316.	Haridwar
317.	Kashipur

1	2
318.	Ramnagar
319.	Rampur
320.	Rudrapur
321.	Haldwani
322.	Kathaodam
323.	Kbaragpur
324.	Medinpur
325.	Medinaour
326.	Tamluk
327.	Kaora
328.	Alipur
329.	Kolkata
330.	Haldia
331.	Bankura
332.	Asansol
333.	Durgapur

Setting up of Aviation Universities

*399. SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of aviation universities operating in the country as on date;

(b) the role of the Ministry in setting up of aviation universities;

(c) whether any proposals have been received from the State Governments for establishment of aviation universities in the respective States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Setting up of Aviation University does not fall within the purview of Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Civil Aviation had earlier received requests from Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The State Governments were advised to take up the matter with the Ministry of Human Resources Development. No further request has been received from the State Governments in this regard.

[*Translation*]

Encroachment of Railway Land

*400. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of encroachment of railway land which have come to the notice during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to evict illegal occupants from Railway land; and

(c) the mechanism adopted by the Railways for prevention of encroachment on railway land/property?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to safeguard its land boundaries and take action to remove encroachments. In the last three years, 10490 number of encroachments were noticed. Whereas removal of encroachments is taken up as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971, protection of Railway land/property from encroachments is done by providing boundary walls, fencing, tree plantation, etc. at vulnerable locations on a programmed basis.

[*English*]

Bellary Thermal Power Station

4335. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has completed only 5% work of Unit-2 of Bellary Thermal Power Station in Karnataka since November 2008.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the work that still pending now;

(c) whether due to this delay, the Unit-2 which is scheduled to be commissioned in November 2010 will be getting delayed by at least 6 months;

(d) if so, the excess amount involved in this project; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that BHEL completes the project early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Madam. The ongoing work for 1x500 MW Unit-2 of Bellary Thermal Power Station being carried out by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is progressing satisfactorily. The completed work of Unit 2 of Bellary Thermal Power Station which commenced in November, 2008, exceeds 5%. Nearly 60% of Boiler erection work has been completed, and work on areas like Turbine, Generator and Balance of Plants (BOPs) is also progressing well.

Work on Coal Handling Plant could not be taken up as per schedule due to change in specifications and layout required by Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd., after six months of award of contract.

As per Joint Action Plan agreed to in a meeting held in January, 2010 in Central Electricity Authority, the Unit has been planned for synchronization by March, 2011.

(d) There is no excess amount involved at present, as it is a fixed price contract.

(e) The Department of Heavy Industry regularly monitors the progress of implementation of various power projects by BHEL, including of Bellary Unit-2, to ensure that the company puts in adequate efforts to minimize the slippages in commissioning of the projects.

Facilities at the Airports

4336. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several new facilities have been provided at some of the metro airports last year;

(b) if so, whether these facilities were dedicated to the public within the prescribed schedule of time;

(c) the amount spent on the publicity and accommodation for the VIPs who participated in these programmes; and

(d) the ratio of this expenditure as compared to the expenses incurred on the renovation of services in the aviation sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) No public money was spent on the publicity and accommodation for the VIPs.

(d) Does not arise.

Retirement in PSUs

4337. SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the average age of retirement in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) whether the Government plan to roll back the age of superannuation from 58 to 60 years for the employees of HMT Ltd. and all its subsidiaries;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to bring the officers of HMT Ltd. at par with other PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) The age of retirement in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is 60 years, except for few CPSEs where the age of retirement is 58 years.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) None of the HMT Group of Companies, except HMT International Limited, fulfils the conditions as laid down in Department of Public Enterprises O.M. No. 18(1)/2007-GM-GL-80 dated 20th April, 2007 for enhancement in the age of retirement from 58 to 60 years.

(d) Does not arise.

Chopper Training Facilities

4338. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places in the country where heliports, helipads and chopper training facilities are located in the country;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up more of the same at various places in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Flying training facilities for helicopters are available at Rotary Wing Academy, HAL, Bangalore and Simulator training facility is available at Deihl. There are 21 Helipads in the country of which 18 are surface helipads and 03 rooftop helipads. 06 surface helipads are in Jammu and Kashmir at Katra, Sanjhi Chhat, Amarnath, Baital, Panchtaml and Pahalgham; 04 in Uttarakhand at Phata, Kedarnath, Augustmuni and Sadrinath; 03 in Maharashtra at Mumbai; 02 in Andhra Pradesh at Ravva and Gadlmoga; 02 in Gujarat at Surat and Junagarh and 01 in Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow. 02 rooftop helipads are located at Mumbai and 01 at Bangalore.

(b) and (c) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has received proposals for setting up training facilities at Hyderabad; Simulator facilities at Bangalore and Helipads at Deihl, Mumbai and Pune.

(d) Simulator facility at Bangalore is likely to be set up by July 2010. Helipads at Delhi, Mumbai and Pune are still in the initial stage.

[Translation]

Air Services in Himachal Pradesh

4339. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of flights available presently from Delhi to Kullu and Kangra for promoting tourism in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether services of existing flights are not sufficient;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of present flight services from Delhi to these two cities along with schedule showing the day and time of each flight;

(d) whether the Government is likely to consider to make available facilities for landing of aircraft during nights; and

(e) 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) to (c) The details of current scheduled domestic operations to Kullu and Dharamshala are as follows:

Alliance Air

Delhi (Dep 0645)- Kullu (Arr 0805/Dep 0825)- Pathankot (Arr 0910/Dep 0930)-Delhi (Arr 1110) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Delhi (Dep 0645)-Kullu (Arr 0805/Dep 0825)- Delhi (arr 0950) on Sunday.

Kingfisher Airline

Delhi (Dep 0650)- Kullu (Arr 0805/Dep 0840)- Delhi (Arr 1000) on daily basis. Delhi (Dep 1040) - Dharamshala (Arr 1205/Dep 1230)-Delhi (Arr 1400) on daily basis.

The 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. The airlines provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability while complying with Route Dispersal Guidelines.

(d) and (e) No, Madam. Night operation to this airport is not technically feasible due to terrain conditions.

Production of Vehicles

4340. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector as well as private sector car manufacturing companies have stopped or reduced production of vehicles for physically challenged persons;

(b) if so, the plan of the Government for supplying the said vehicles; and

(c) the number of said vehicles manufactured by the said companies in public Sector as well as private sector during 2007-08, 2008-09, and 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Association of Automobile Manufacturers, (SIAM) has informed that no OEM in India is producing such cars as specifications required to meet the needs of various kinds of disabilities differ considerably and no single model can meet the requirements. Moreover, since the demand for such vehicles is low, making them available "off the shelf" is not economically viable. However, most OEMs are providing option of automatic transmission which addresses needs of some physically challenged persons. As regards public sector companies, it may be mentioned that subsequent to the disinvestment of Maruti Udyog Ltd. (MUL), there are no car manufacturing companies in the Public Sector.

The Government has been advising the car manufacturers to consider manufacturing at least one or two models of their cars suitable to be driven by the physically challenged persons. The Government of India is also providing excise duty concession on vehicles meant for physically challenged people.

[English]

Notary Public

4341. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE:

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

(a) the number of Notaries Public appointed by the Union government during the last three years in the country, State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra and West Bengal;

(b) whether a number of cases for appointment of Notary Public are pending with the Government for more than three years;

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

(d) the time by which the pending cases of appointment of Notary Public is likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Statement-I showing the number of Notary Public appointed by the Union Government during the last three years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. Statement-II is enclosed.

(d) Appointment of Notaries is a continuing process and as such, no time limit can be fixed. However, every effort is being made to speed up the process of clearing the pending applications.

Statement I

State/Union Territory	No. of Notaries Appointed
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-
Andhra Pradesh	176
Arunachal Pradesh	-
Assam	-
Bihar	12
Chhattisgarh	3
Delhi	89
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-
Daman and Diu	-
Goa	4
Gujarat	421
Himachal Pradesh	2
Haryana	294
Jammu and Kashmir	-
Jharkhand	6
Kerala	386
Karnataka	282

1	2
Lakshadweep	-
Meghalaya	-
Maharashtra	950
Manipur	-
Mizoram	-
Madhya Pradesh	28
Nagaland	
Odisha	6
Punjab	294
Puducherry	71
Rajasthan	184
Sikkim	-
Tamil Nadu	358
Tripura	-
Uttar Pradesh	519
Uttarakhand	3
West Bengal	19

Statement II

State/Union Territory	No. of pending applications
1	2
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-
Andhra Pradesh	94
Arunachal Pradesh	-
Assam	-
Bihar	6
Chhattisgarh	5
Delhi	46
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-

1	2
Daman and Diu	-
Goa	3
Gujarat	253
Himachal Pradesh	1
Haryana	134
Jammu and Kashmir	-
Jharkhand	9
Kerala	84
Karnatka	155
Lakshadweep	-
Meghalaya	-
Maharashtra	384
Manipur	-
Mizoram	-
Madhya Pradesh	4
Nagaland	-
Odisha	4
Punjab	132
Puducherry	-
Rajasthan	138
Sikkim	-
Tamil Nadu	93
Tripura	-
Uttar Pradesh	413
Uttarakhand	3
West Bengal	34

*[Translation]***Allotment of Oil Blocks to ONGC and IOC**

4342. SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN
SINGH:

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

(a) whether oil blocks were allotted to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and the Indian Oil Limited for exploration of crude oil before the year 1990 and thereafter;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the basis on which oil blocks were allotted during the said periods;

(c) the number of the oil blocks alongwith the estimated quantum of oil reserve in each of the oil blocks; and

(d) the break of oil production by the said companies from the oil blocks allotted to them before and after the year 1990 during 2008-09 and 2009-2010 separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was awarded blocks for hydrocarbon exploration before 1990 on nomination basis under Petroleum Exploration Licensing Policy. ONGC was allotted 85 blocks prior to 1990 and 212 blocks after 1990 on nomination basis before the advent of New Exploration Licensing Policy. ONGC is licensee in 23 blocks during the Pre-NELP regime. Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) ONGC has been allotted 92 blocks as operator.

Recently, under the seventh round of NELP bidding Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has been awarded 2 exploration blocks as operator. However, no discovery has been made from the blocks allotted to IOC.

Before the advent of NELP, National Oil Companies were allotted exploration blocks on nomination basis by the Government.

Since Pre-NELP/NELP regime, oil blocks are awarded on the basis of International Competitive Bidding process to the successful bidders.

The basin wise position of oil reserves in nomination blocks and blocks operated by ONGC as on 01-04-2009 are given below:

Basin (Nomination PEL)	Oil Reserves (MMT)
1	2
CAMBAY	126.03
UP, ASSAM	88.81

1	2
AAFB	2.72
KG ON	1.9
CAUVHRY	4.48
CAMBAY OFFSHORE	1.02
MUMBAI OFFSHORE	302.66
KUTCH OFFSHORE	0.26
K.G. OFFSHORE	2.20

NELP blocks	Oil Reserves (MMT)
Kankadurga field	2.32
Padmawati field	1.64
West Patan field	0.10

(d) ONGC's crude oil production (including condensate) during 2008-09 and 2009-10 from the fields put on production is as under:-

Year	Crude oil production (MMT)	
	From the Fields put on production before 1990	From the Fields put on production after 1990
2008-09	23.651	1.715
2009-10	23.052	1.804

[English]

Setting up of a New Airport in Punjab

4343. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to set up a new airport in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, on at proposal received from M/s Bengal Aerotropolis Project Limited for setting up of

a Greenfield airport at Machhiwara in Ludhiana District, Government of India has granted site clearance for the same under Visual Flight Rule (VFR) condition.

Maulana Azad Education Foundation

4344. SHRI S.D. SHARIQ:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-governmental organisations which received financial assistance from the Maulana Azad Education Foundation during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether any assessment has been made regarding the functioning of MAEF;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the corrective measures initiated by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the other steps taken by the Union Government to implement educational schemes and plans for the benefits of the educationally backward minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) During the last three years, and the current year, the Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) has sanctioned financial assistance to 280 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) amounting to Rs. 37.25 crore. Year wise break up is as under:-

Year	Number of NGOs	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2007-08	51	6.60
2008-09	124	17.28
2009-10	105	13.36
2010-11	NIL	0.00

State-wise list is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes Madam. Evaluation studies by Indian Institute of Public Opinion and Organization and Research Group (ORG) Private Limited were carried out in the years 1999 and 2006 respectively. Broadly, these agencies, inter alia, recommended enhancement of corpus fund of MAEF, computerization of vital data, proper utilization of funds etc.

Based on these recommendations, the size of the corpus fund of the Foundation has been enhanced, the major activities in the organization have been computerized and monitoring and inspecting procedure has been streamlined.

(d) The Prime Minister's new 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities focuses on enhancing opportunities for education amongst other things. Under this programme, the following educational schemes have been implemented/launched:

- (i) Improving access to School Education.
- (ii) Greater Resources for teaching Urdu.
- (iii) Modernizing Madrasa Education.
- (iv) Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-Means scholarships are being provided to encourage students belonging to minority communities to pursue studies at primary level and at higher level. Under Maulana Azad National Fellowship for Minority Students, fellowship in the form of financial assistance is to be provided to students belonging to minority communities to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil and Ph.D.

In addition, scholarships are provided to girls students under Maulana Azad National Scholarships for Meritorious Girl Students. The Maulana Azad Education Foundation also extends financial assistance for infrastructural development in educational institutions run by Non-Government Organizations.

Further, under Free Coaching and Allied Scheme for the persons belonging to the minority communities assistance is provided to students by way of coaching for various jobs and for various entrance examinations.

Statement*Summary of Grant-in-aid sanctioned to NGOs during last three years and current Year*

Sl.No.	State/U.T	Year-wise Grant in-Aid Sanctioned							
		2007-2008		2008-2009		2009-10		Total	
		Amount (Rs. in lakh)	No. of NGOs	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	No. of NGOs	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	No. of NGOs	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	No. of NGOs
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0	25.00	2	0.00	0	25.00	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	45.00	2	205.50	12	213.50	11	464.00	25
3.	Assam	0.00	0	40.00	4	10.00	1	50.00	5
4.	Bihar	0.00	0	30.00	1	33.00	3	63.00	4
5.	Delhi	2.50	1	0.00	0	0.00	0	2.50	1
6.	Gujarat	45.00	2	100.00	6	38.00	4	183.00	12
7.	Haryana	25.00	2	40.00	3	10.00	1	75.00	6
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0	0.00	0	1.00	1	1.00	1
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	10.00	1	15.00	1	0.00	0	25.00	2
10.	Jharkhand	20.00	1	15.00	1	0.00	0	35.00	2
11.	Karnataka	15.00	1	195.00	10	142.50	10	352.50	21
12.	Kerala	55.00	2	90.50	5	30.00	2	175.50	9
13.	Madhya Pradesh	30.00	2	27.50	3	50.00	5	107.50	10
14.	Maharashtra	75.00	6	390.20	30	349.00	26	814.20	62
15.	Manipur	25.00	2	15.00	2	33.00	3	73.00	7
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0	15.00	1	0.00	0	15.00	1
17.	Nagaland	0.00	0	13.50	1	15.00	1	28.50	2
18.	Rajasthan	0.00	0	10.00	1	15.00	1	25.00	2
19.	Tamil Nadu	63.00	3	87.00	4	47.50	4	197.50	11
20.	Uttar Pradesh	249.00	26	409.50	36	349.30	32	1007.80	94
21.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0	5.00	1	0.00	0	5.00	1
	Total	659.50	51	1728.70	124	1336.80	105	3725.00	280

Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme

4345. SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

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

(a) the status of Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme;

(b) whether the EBP programme has since been implemented by all the identified States and Union Territories;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of such petrol and diesel sold so far and the price of such blended fuel;

(d) the current stipulation regarding the quantity of ethanol which can be mixed with petrol and diesel;

(e) whether the Government proposes to enforce 10 percent mandatory ethanol blending in petrol; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas launched the 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme subject to commercial viability with effect from 1st November, 2006 in the entire country except for North East States, Jammu and Kashmir and Island Territories.

The programme was adversely affected due to shortfall in supply of ethanol, and certain state specific issues.

In order to implement the EBP Programme on a sustainable basis, a proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(b) No Madam. The EBP Programme has so far been implemented only in 14 states and 3 UTs out of notified 20 States and 4 UTs due to constraints explained above.

(c) The quantum of petrol sold for the period from Nov. 2006 to Feb. 2010 has been 1250.36 Crore litres. The selling price of ethanol blended petrol is same as that of Motor Spirit (MS).

(d) The Government has stipulated blending of ethanol with MS to the extent of 5%.

(e) and (f) 10% mandatory blending of ethanol is subject to successful implementation the 5% EBP Programme and sufficient quantity of ethanol being available to sustain that level of blending.

Removal of Duties on Life Saving Drugs

4346. SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Policy envisages availability of good quality of medicines at a reasonable price;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to remove duties on life saving drugs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The salient features of the Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy 2006 which is at present before the Group of Ministers for a decision are; Strengthening of Drug Regulatory System, Strengthening of patent office infrastructure, Focus on Research and Development, Human Resource Development in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Rationalization of Excise duty on pharmaceuticals, Streamlining System of Bulk Procurement of Drugs by Government, Promotion of Generic Drugs, Strengthening of Pharma CPSEs, Schemes for providing accessibility of drugs to the poor especially BPL families, Schemes of interest subsidy for implementation of Schedule M (of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945) for Good Manufacturing Practices, Greater thrust on Pharma Exports, Restructuring and strengthening of NPPA, Modified system of drug price control by bringing specified essential medicines under price control with enhanced margins, Regulation of Trade margins on generic-generic drugs etc.

(c) and (d) The National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 which is at present before the Group of Ministers (GOM) for a decision proposes to exempt all anti-Cancer and anti-HIV/AIDS medicines from excise and custom duties etc. and it is expected that the benefit would be passed on to the consumers. Drugs for other life threatening

diseases, requiring life long treatment, whether part of National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 or outside it, would also be identified and brought under the public-private partnership model so as to make them available at reasonable prices.

Infrastructure at the Airports

4347. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increasing number of private airlines have strained the existing infrastructure at most of the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to augment and develop infrastructure, including the air traffic handling capacity, passengers amenities etc. at airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam. (b) Does not arise.

(c) The Airports Authority of India (AAI)/Joint Venture Companies (JVC) have undertaken/initiated measures to deal with the anticipated expansion of air traffic in the country by augmenting the infrastructure at all the airports under its management, like increasing the capacity of terminal building, constructing more parking stands for aircrafts and providing longer runways.

[Translation]

Crude Oil Supply from Saudi Arabia

4348. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of crude oil from Saudi Arabia is being increased manifold;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which supply is proposed to be increased;

(d) whether the prices of petroleum products in the country is likely to go down as a result thereof; 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) The quantum of crude oil imported from Saudi Arabia by the domestic oil companies during the current year and in the last three years are given below:

Year	Quantum (MMT)
2009-10 (Prov.) (Apr-Jan., 10)	22.3
2008-09*	25.5
2007-08	27.0
2006-07	24.6

*Data from RIL (SEZ) Refinery is not available.

MMT - Million Metric Tonne.

Source: Oil companies.

(d) and (e) Pricing of petroleum products is based on the import parity/trade parity pricing mechanism, which, in turn is based on the prices in the international markets. Prices of petroleum products in the country are not influenced by supply of crude oil from any country.

Facilities in Durgam Express

4349. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI M.B. RAJESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any complaints regarding non availability of water, food and other basic amenities in Durgam trains; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to ensure better fair and adequate passengers amenities/facilities in Durgam trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Some complaints regarding non-availability of water, food and other basic amenities in Durgam trains have come to notice. Suitable action has been taken to redress the complaints. All the newly introduced Durgam Express trains have provision for meals and water in AC as well as Non-AC class except those which are overnight trains. Special monitoring for Durgam trains is being done by Railways/Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation

(IRCTC) to ensure provision of good quality on-board catering services.

New Air Routes Allotted to Private Airlines

4350. KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of domestic and international new air routes allotted to private airlines during the last three years;

(b) whether operation of Air India flights was not possible on those air routes which have been allotted to private airlines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The details

of international air routes allotted and new domestic routes started by private airlines during the last three years from 2007-08 to 2009-10 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Operation of flights and routes to be operated are decided by the airlines themselves on the basis of commercial inputs and operational feasibility. The flight schedules are approved after receipt of slot clearance from the airport operator concerned, who examine the feasibility to handle the flights at that time. As per the existing guidelines for grant of permission to operate Scheduled International air transport services by the Indian Scheduled carriers, Aeronautical Information Circular (AIC) No. 8/2009 dated 17th July, 2009, due consideration shall be given to the operational plan submitted by National Aviation company of India Limited (NACIL) before allocation of the traffic rights to other eligible applicants. Therefore, first right of refusal is always available with Air India, which mount services on international sectors as per its Commercial judgement.

Statement

Domestic Routes Started by Private Scheduled Airlines During the last three years from 2007-08 to 2009-10

Delhi-Dehradun-Delhi	Daily
Chennai-Salem-Chennai	Daily
Kolkata-Jamshedpur-Kolkata	Twice Daily
Mumbai-Nanded-Latur-Mumbai	4 flights/week
Mumbai-Nasik-Mumbai	Daily
Mumbai-Sholapue-Mumbai	3 flights/week

International Routes Allocated to Private Airlines During the last three years from 2007-08 to 2009-10

Airline	Route	Remarks
1	2	3
Jet Airways	Ahmedabad-London-Ahmedabad	4 flights/week
	Amritsar-London-Amritsar	7 flights/week
	Bangalore-Brussels-Bangalore	7 flights/week
	Chennai-Singapore-Chennai	7 flights/week
	Chennai-Kuala Lumpur-Chennai	7 flights/week

1	2	3
	Chennai-Brussels-New York & VV	7 flights/week
	Chennai-Dubai-Chennai	7 flights/week
	Calicut-Muscat-Calicut	7 flights/week
	Calicut-Sharjah-Calicut	7 flights/week
	Cochin-Muscat-Cochin	7 flights/week
	Cochin-Baharin-Cochin	7 flights/week
	Cochin-Doha-Cochin	7 flights/week
	Cochin-Kuwait-Cochin	7 flights/week
	Cochin-Sharjah-Cochin	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Doha-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Kuwait-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Singapore-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Bangkok-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Riyadh-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-London-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Kathmandu-Delhi	14 flights/week
	Delhi-Dhaka-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Dubai-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Abu Dhabi-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Brussels-Toronto & VV	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Hong Kong-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Tehran-Brussels & VV	7 flights/week
	Hyderabad-Dubai-Hyderabad	7 flights/week
	India-Colombo-India	7 flights/week
	Kolkata-Bangkok-Kolkata	7 flights/week
	Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Dhaka-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Singapore-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Bangkok-Mumbai	7 flights/week

1	2	3
	Mumbai-Hong Kong-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-London-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Muscat-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Dubai-Mumbai	14 flights/week
	Mumbai-Doha-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Abu Dhabi-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Bahrain-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Brussels-Newark & VV	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Shanghai-San Francisco & VV	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Jeddah-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Riyadh-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Kuwait-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Kathmandu-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Nairobi-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Johensberg-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Trivandrum-Sharjah-Trivandrum	7 flights/week
	Trivandrum-Muscat-Trivandrum	7 flights/week
	Trivandrum-Damman-Trivandrum	7 flights/week
	Trivandrum-Kuwait-Trivandrum	7 flights/week
	Bangkok-Gaya-Varanasi-Bangkok	7 flights/week
Jet Lite	Amritsar-Bangkok-Amritsar	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Kathmandu-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Colombo-Male & VV	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Colombo-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Kuala Lumpur-Singapore-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Singapore-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Islamabad-Delhi	3 flights/week
	Delhi-London-Delhi	7 flights/week

1	2	3
	India-Kyrgyzstan-India	7 flights/week
	India-China-India	14 flights/week
	India-Colombo-India	21 flights/week
	Mumbai-Karachi-Mumbai	2 flights/week
Kingfisher Airlines	Bangalore-Dubai-Bangalore	7 flights/week
	Bangalore-Colombo-Bangalore	7 flights/week
	Bangalore-Singapore-Bangalore	7 flights/week
	Bangalore-Bangkok-Bangalore	7 flights/week
	Bangalore-London-Bangalore	7 flights/week
	Bangalore-Male-Bangalore	7 flights/week
	Chennai-Colombo-Chennai	7 flights/week
	Chennai-Kuala Lumpur-Chennai	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Kathmandu-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-London-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Hong Kong-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Bangkok-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Delhi-Dubai-Delhi	7 flights/week
	Kolkata-Bangkok-Kolkata	7 flights/week
	Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata	7 flights/week
	Kolkata-Chittagong-Kolkata	14 flights/week
	Mumbai-Hong Kong-Mumbai	4 flights/week
	Mumbai-London-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Male-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Singapore-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Kathmandu-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Bangkok-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Dubai-Mumbai	7 flights/week
	Mumbai-Colombo-Mumbai in lieu of Bangalore-Colombo-Bangalore	7 flights/week

[*English*]

Cleaning up of Union Carbide Plant

4351. SHRI SANJAY BHOI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive plan for cleaning up and decontaminate the affected items and areas of the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been undertaken to monitor the effect of the Bhopal disaster especially on the children; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The High Court of Madhya Pradesh is hearing a Public Interest Litigation filed in W.P. No. 2802 of 2004 on environmental remediation of the former Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) plant site. The Government of M.P., in consultation with the Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board submitted a three-phase Roadmap to the High Court of M.P. giving details of the activities to be undertaken for the removal/disposal of the toxic wastes, which was approved by the High Court. The High Court constituted a Task Force in 2005 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals for monitoring the progress of removal of the toxic wastes lying in and around the UCIL plant site. Out of an estimated total quantity of 390 MT of toxic wastes lying at UCIL plant site, 40 MT was disposed off in Treatment, Storage & Disposal Facility (TSDF) at Pithampur, Indore in M.P. in June, 2008. M.P. High Court vide order dated 16th December, 2008 had ordered for incinerating the remaining 350 MT of toxic wastes at Ankleshwar in Gujarat which was appealed against in the Supreme Court by the Government of Gujarat on grounds of technical problems and adverse public opinion. Supreme Court vide its order dated 28th January, 2010 has endorsed the decision of the Task Force for incinerating the waste at Pithampur, M.P. after trial run and stabilization work of the incinerator at Pithampur is completed. The various clearances are being given by the State Government to the incinerator at Pithampur to make it operational for trial run and stabilization. In order to carry out the detoxification/ dismantling of the plant and remediation of the

contaminated soil and groundwater in and around the UCIL plant site at Bhopal, three research institutes under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) namely Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) are carrying out the detailed studies.

(c) and (d) Immediately after the Gas Leak Disaster in December, 1984, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) initiated research Projects to document the short term and long term health effects of gas exposure to the population of Bhopal. ICMR had carried out long term epidemiological studies and clinical- research studies during 1984-1994 for which two technical reports on Population Based Long Term Epidemiological Studies and Population Based Long Term Clinical Studies were published by ICMR. The Council had studied health effects of MIC/ toxic gas in children at the time of exposure with the objective to study the Health Effects of toxic gas inhalation in children (1-5 years old) and pulmonary effects of toxic gas in children 6 to 15 years old. Health Effects of MIC gas were studied in 1412 children from severely affected areas who were actually exposed to gas, compared with 1268 children from control/unexposed areas. By 1988, 42 per cent of the affected children were healthy and 44 per cent were still suffering from morbidity; the corresponding figures for the controlled group were 69 per cent and 22 per cent. Overall, the affected group did not show evidence of progressive morbidity. After completion of a decade [1985-1994] the epidemiological studies were handed over by ICMR to M.P. Government for continuation of monitoring of the possible health effects on long term basis and the Centre for Rehabilitation Studies (CRS) under Bhopal Gas Rehabilitation Department at Bhopal is continuing with monitoring of health effects of exposed population.

[*Translation*]

Opening of New CNG Stations

4352. SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to open new CNG stations at Jalaun, Jhansi, Bhognipur and Kanpur Dehat areas of Uttar Pradesh; 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) Government has authorized M/s Central Uttar Pradesh Gas Limited (CUGL), a Joint Venture (JV) of GAIL (India) Limited, BPCL & Government of Uttar Pradesh, for city gas distribution network for inter alia Kanpur. CUGL would be opening new CNG stations in Kanpur, including Kanpur Dehat.

According to Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006, PNGRB grants authorization to CGD entities to lay, build, operate or expand city or local natural gas distribution networks, which operates CNG stations in authorized area. PNGRB plans to cover Jhansi geographical area.

As of now, the geographical areas of Jalaun and Bhognipur have not been considered for city gas distribution network.

[English]

Construction of Airports in Lakshadweep

4353. SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to states:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct airports at Androth and Minicoy Islands of Lakshadweep; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Travel Packages for Buddhist Circuits

4354. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:
SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce certain new travel packages for Buddhist circuits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of such trains that would pass through Orissa region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has planned to operate monthly tour packages covering important Buddhist pilgrimage destinations such as Nagarjuna Konda, Ajanta and Ellora Caves, Srasvasti, Sanchi, Kushingar, Rajgir, Bodhgara, etc. on demand basis.

(c) Presently, two rail tour packages are operated by IRCTC in Orissa covering Buddhist pilgrim destinations, like Dhaulagiri, Khandagiri, Udaygiri, Lalitgiri and Ratnagiri. These packages are offered through regular train service.

[Translation]

Setting up of A Monitoring Authority for FPI

4355. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the food processing industry in the country not complying with international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up an authority to examine the functioning of food processing industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) No Madam, the food laws in India prescribes various conditions for food processing industries which include sanitation and hygiene, adequate infrastructural facilities, use of potable water for food processing, quality standards, measures for prevention of adulteration, etc. Besides, inspection of food processing industries at regular intervals has also been prescribed under these laws, which is done at periodical intervals by enforcement agencies under these laws. Wherever deviations are observed, penal/legal actions are taken against the defaulters as per relevant provisions under these laws.

The standards prescribed from time to time for various commodities of food under various laws take into account the international standards.

(c) and (d) In order to enforce food related laws in the country, the government has established Food Safety & Standards Authority of India with a mandate to lay down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto under the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, which is under various stages of implementation.

Increase in Prices of Steel

4356. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel producers have proposed 30 per cent increase in the prices of steel, based on the assessment of 55 per cent rise in the prices of coal and 30 per cent rise in the prices of iron-ores during 2010-11;

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

(c) the likely impact of such an assessment on the price rise of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Steel is a deregulated sector and each steel producer decides on the market price of its own product depending upon various factors such as, cost of input materials, movement of steel price in the international market and domestic supply demand scenario. Therefore, no proposal need to be submitted by steel producers to the Ministry of Steel for any change in their product price.

(c) No assessment in this regard has been submitted to the Ministry of Steel.

[English]

Electrification of Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur Rail Line

4357. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for electrification of Jaipur-Swai Madhopur route has been done;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said work is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. However, the proposal for electrification of Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur rail line has not been found feasible/viable on operational considerations.

[Translation]

Import of Ethanol

4358. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI K. SUGUMAR:

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

(a) whether duty free ethanol is being imported in the country;

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

(c) whether Indian Ethanol producers are being paid only Rs. 21.50 by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs);

(d) the comparative details of the purchase of imported ethanol and domestic ethanol by oil marketing companies;

(e) whether a demand is being raised for increasing prices of domestic ethanol after the termination of contract for purchase of ethanol on 31 Oct, 2009; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government regarding increasing prices of ethanol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No Madam. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are not importing any ethanol for the Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme.

(c) Ethanol price was finalized through public tenders floated jointly by OMCs in 2006 in a range of Rs. 17.23/

litre to Rs. 21.50/ litre upto 31.10.2009. Meanwhile, Government approved a uniform ex-factory rate of Rs. 21.50/litre in October 2007 for a period up to October 2010.

(d) OMCs are not importing any ethanol for the EBP Programme. However, the domestic procurement of ethanol for the period from Nov 2006 to Oct 2009 was 58.7 crore litres.

(e) and (f) During the year 2006-09, supply against demand for EBP was deficient to the extent of 60%. As such, the Programme was adversely affected. The contract for supply was up to October 2009.

In order to implement the EBP Programme on a sustainable basis, a proposal is under consideration of the Government.

A Group of Ministries (GoM) has been constituted in order to resolve various issues relating to the implementation of EBP Programme including pricing of ethanol.

Chair Car in Passenger Trains

4359. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to make any provision of chair car in passenger trains of short distance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which outline of this provision is likely to be prepared; and

(d) the extent to which people are likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Attachment of chair car coaches in passenger carrying trains is a continuous process subject to operational feasibility, commercial viability and availability of resources. During the year 2009-10 approximately 28 Chair Car coaches have been added in different trains on regular basis.

[English]

Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology

4360. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:
SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has set up Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT) at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu:

(b) if so, the details alongwith the services provided in the Institute;

(c) whether it is proposed to upgrade the Institute as world class and expand the same further in the near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Paddy Processing Research Centre (PPRC) was started in 1967 and was upgraded to a National Level Institute *i.e.* Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT) on 19.2.2008. The followings are the services offered by IICPT:-

- Research and Development for indentifying technologies for preservation, processing and value addition of raw agricultural commodities
- Human resource development for food processing sector by offering B.Tech., M.Tech. and Ph.D. programs in food processing
- Testing food and organic samples in NABL accredited laboratory of the institute
- Incubation facilities for new and experienced entrepreneurs and self help group members on food processing businesses
- Short term training on analytical instruments handling
- Consultancy services to stake holders for establishing new food processing businesses or modernization of existing businesses
- Consultancy and turnkey project services for creating new food sample testing laboratories

- Outreach activities though out the country for popularizing food processing technologies and to create awareness on the benefits of venturing in food processing career and businesses.
- Project guidance for research students in related disciplines

(d) and (d) Yes, Madam. The Institute is being upgraded as world class institute by improving upon its infrastructure facilities, research and teaching facilities and by collaborating with many international institutions. The infrastructure development include administrative block, five R&D blocks, staff quarters and student hostels and international laboratories with modern equipments for research and teaching. The institute has already entered into MoUs with the University of Manitoba, Canada and University of Nebraska, Lincoln, USA. The institute is also proposing to enter into MoUs with related universities like the MC.Gill University and University of Saskatchewan, Canada; and Colorado State University, Oklahoma State University and University of California, Davis, USA. The institute proposes to send their students for short term trainings to the Universities with whom they have already signed MoUs.

Infrastructural Facilities at the Airports

4361. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airports Authority of India (AAI), Air India, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and private airlines have been told to provide infrastructure facilities at various airports to meet the increasing traffic during the Commonwealth Games, 2010;

(b) if so, the plans drawn by various organizations including private airlines for Commonwealth Games, 2010;

(c) whether the Government has issued or likely to issue some policy framework for the Games; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to coordinate and oversee arrangements at

airports for Commonwealth Games, 2010 comprising the representatives of the M/o Youth Affairs and Sports, Organizing Committee Commonwealth Games 2010, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation- Security (BCAS), Air India (NACIL), Delhi Police, Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) and Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL). All the agencies have been assigned to work in coordination to facilitate & provide infrastructure facilities to meet the increasing traffic during Commonwealth Games, 2010. AAI, MIAL and DIAL would provide infrastructure facilities to meet the increasing traffic during Commonwealth Games, 2010 at airports. Air India has been assigned to be the official carrier for Commonwealth Games, 2010 and would make arrangements related to flying of athletes, delegates and officials on its scheduled flights and also charter flights; would open special facilitation counters and booking offices at airports and Games village. In addition, Air India is also promoting special holiday packages for the international and domestic passengers for the Commonwealth Games 2010. In view of the constitution of the Task Force and plans made, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has not issued any policy frame work for the Commonwealth Games.

Extension of Rail Services

4362. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have entered into any agreement with Nepal in extending its rail services;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the amount involved, therein;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed in completing the projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) Memorandum of Understanding has been signed in February, 2010 between the Government of India and Government of Nepal regarding development of railway infrastructure at 5 border points along the Indo-Nepal border. The details of these lines with cost involved as per the survey reports is as under:

Sl.No.	Proposed rail links		Distance (in Km)	Latest estimated cost (in Rs. cr)
	From	To		
1.	Jognai	Biratnagar (Nepal)	18	243
2.	Jayanagar	Bijalpura (Nepal) and its extension to Bardibas	68	447
3.	Nepalganj Road	Nepalganj (Nepal)	12	149
4.	Nautanwa	Bhairahawa (Nepal)	15	176
5.	New Jalpaiguri	Kakarbhita via Panittanki (Nepal)	46	358

(c) to (e) Out of the above works, Jogbani-Biratnagar new line and Jayanagar to Bijalpura Gauge Conversion & its extension upto Bardibas have been prioritized to be taken up in first phase. Detailed Engineering Survey for Jogbani-Biratnagar has been completed. Detailed engineering survey for Jayanagar-Bardibas has also been taken up. The time frame is yet to be fixed.

[Translation]

Supreme Court under RTI Act

4363. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
DR. BHOLA SINGH:
SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring office of the Supreme Court under the purview of the Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court of India already falls within the purview of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

[English]

Investment in Cold Chain Infrastructure

4364. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:
SHRI VARUN GANDHI:
SHRI BHUSAHEB RAJARAM
WAKCHAURE:
SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any action plan to increase the capacity of cold storages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the said purpose during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to include investment made in agri-infrastructure concerning supply chain and cold storages under priority lending and also promote private sector investment in setting up of storages;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. To increase the capacity of the cold storages in the country, Government is operating several

Plan Schemes under which financial assistance is provided for setting up of cold storages/cold chain facilities. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has also a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th 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. Other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processing Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes.

(c) The scheme of MFPI is project based and not state wise. Rs. 210 crore has been allocated by MFPI for the purpose of development of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan. Details of project wise/state wise funds released during 11th Plan are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (f) The investment made in cold chain facilities has not been included under priority lending by banks. However, in the Union Budget 2010-11, Government has announced to allow external commercial borrowings for cold storage or cold room facilities including for farm level pre-cooling for preservation or storage of agricultural and allied produce, marine products and meat, as a part of the farm to market initiative and to promote private sector investment in setting up of cold storages. In addition, Government has also announced project import status at a concessional customs duty of 5% with full exemption from service tax to the initial setting up and expansion of cold storage, cold room including farm pre-coolers for preservation or storage of agriculture and related sectors produce and full exemption from custom duty to refrigeration units required for the manufacture of refrigerated vans or trucks.

Statement

Details of Project Wise/State wise funds released during 11th Plan

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	State	Implementing Agency	Project cost	Approved Amount of grant-in-aid	Amount of grant-in-aid released
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	M/s Creamline Dairy Products Ltd.	23.86	9.75	7.32
2.	Bihar	M/s Ganga Dairy Ltd.	22.60	10.00	2.50
3.	Gujarat	M/s Hi-Tech Frozen Facilities Pvt Ltd.	16.83	7.19	5.39
4.	Haryana	M/s Suri Agro Fresh Pvt. Ltd.	23.52	9.84	7.39
5.	Karnataka	M/s Atharvass Traders Pvt Ltd.	28.61	10.00	2.50
6.	Maharashtra	M/s Freshtrop Fruits Ltd.	32.75	10.00	7.50

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Rajasthan	M/s Jhunsons Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.	17.73	7.33	5.49
8.	Tamil Nadu	M/s Farm Fresh Banana	15.54	6.057	4.53
9.	Uttarakhand	M/s Bio Life Foods Pvt. Ltd.	17.71	9.81	7.39
10.	West Bengal	M/s Ascon Agro Products Exporters & Builders Pvt. Ltd.	21.27	6.96	1.74
Total			220.42	86.937	51.73

Petroleum Retail Outlets for STs/SCs

4365. SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of petroleum products have been sanctioned or running on State Highways and National Highways by Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes; and

(b) the details of petrol pumps / retail outlets running in Punjab situated on Highways and the number out of them allotted to Scheduled Castes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) As on 1.4.2010, 2666 Retail Outlets (ROs) of public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs.), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) belonging to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes categories are functioning on State Highways and National Highways.

(b) As on 1.4.2010, 945 ROs of OMCs are functioning on State Highways and National Highways in the state of Punjab out of which 124 ROs belong to Scheduled Castes category.

Utilization of Funds

4366. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 5 percent of Plan funds are spent for development of minorities as reported in media;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure better utilization of funds pertaining to the welfare of Minorities in the country?

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) Out of the annual plan allocation of Rs. 1740 crore in 2009-10, over 98%, that is Rs. 1710.89 crore were released to the State Governments, UT administrations and implementing agencies for implementation of various plan schemes/ programmes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Preparatory work has been initiated for achieving higher utilization of the annual plan allocation during 2010-11.

Development of Airports in West Bengal

4367. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) the steps being taken by the Government for the development of Purulia, Balurghat and Cooch Behar airports, West Bengal and for inter connectivity of these airports with various parts of the country; and

(b) the time by which these airports will be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Cooch Behar is an operational airport of Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has already developed Cooch Behar airport in West Bengal for operation of ATR-42 type of aircraft operations alongwith a new Terminal Building for handling 100 passengers at a time. Presently, there are no scheduled flight services through Cooch Behar Airport and no Airline Operator has so far indicated willingness to start scheduled services. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by Government. The Feasibility Report of the Consultant for revival of Balurghat Airport has indicated that there is no scope or potential for development of this airport. Further there is no demand from any Airlines for operation of regular scheduled flights to this airport. The Government, therefore, do not have any proposal (or development of this airport. As per the records, there is no airport at Purulia and the Government does not have any proposal for development of an airport at Purulia.

[*Translation*]

'Doctor on Train' Scheme

4368. PROF. RAMSHANKAR:
SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI BAL KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI M. SRINIVASULU REDDY:
SHRI SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have since approved the scheme 'Doctor on Train';

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether any extra facilities will be provided in the coaches for rendering medical assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the manner in which the passengers will be charged for availing the facilities; and

(f) the time by which the scheme is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes Madam. Railways have started a pilot project to provide doctor on Duronto Trains.

(b) One General Duty Medical Officer and one para-medical staff with medicine and medical equipments including life saving resuscitation equipments will be deputed on Duronto Trains to begin with on pilot basis. This scheme has been started on Pilot basis for one year.

(c) and (d) Necessary Medical equipments, whatever feasible, will be provided on trains alongwith a Doctor and a paramedic staff.

(e) For the present, no charges will be levied on passengers for providing medical services on train.

(f) Doctors have already been provided on 9 Duronto Trains.

[*English*]

Unmanned Railway Crossings

4369. SHRI SOMEN MITRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration to revise the guidelines for manning of unmanned level crossings to control accidents on the level crossing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are contemplating to allow private participation in manning and maintenance of the unmanned level crossings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. The manning criteria has been revised in April, 2010.

(b) The criteria for manning of level crossings as per revised guidelines is as under:-

Category-I: All level crossing gates where Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) is more than 3000.

Category-II: (Restricted visibility): All level crossings gates having less than 800 metres visibility for road users and where Train Vehicle Units (TVUs) is more than 2500.

(c) and (d) Yes, railways are exploring possibility of manning and maintenance of unmanned level crossing through private participation *i.e.* involvement of industrial Houses, and local Panchayats. However, no such proposal has been received for manning and maintenance of unmanned level crossing.

Mega Food Parks

4370. SHRI M. ANANDAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has invited French companies to invest to Mega Food Parks and in development of cold chains in the country:

(b) if so, the details of proposed Mega Food Parks to be set up in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the subsidy and other incentives being provided for the establishment of cold storage in different States?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Madam. During my visit to France I had an opportunity to meet the French Industry Representatives and held discussion with them regarding business in Food Processing Sector. During the course of my inter-action, I had invited French companies to invest in India and also to participate in Mega Food Park Scheme. I had also proposed that the Industry from France should open their units in the Mega Food Park Projects in India.

Mega Food Parks are being showcased as an investment destination to attract Foreign Direct Investment from any country including companies from France. FDI is under 100% automatic route for most of the processed food items. FDI may come for setting up of Cold Chain and Mega Food Park and/or processing units in the Mega Food Parks. It intends to bring new technologies, processes and products as well as O&M support.

(b) In the first phase 10 Mega Food Parks out of total 30 proposed to be set up during 11th Plan Period are being set up in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

(c) 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 11th 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. Other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processing Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes.

In the Union Budget 2010-11, Government has announced to allow external commercial borrowings for cold storage or cold room facilities including for farm level pre-cooling for preservation or storage of agricultural and allied produce, marine products and meat, as a part of the farm to market initiative and to promote private sector investment in setting up of cold storages. In addition, Government has also announced project import status at a concessional customs duty of 5% with full exemption from service tax to the initial setting up and expansion of cold storage, cold room including farm pre-coolers for preservation or storage of agriculture and related sectors produce and full exemption from custom duty to refrigeration units required for the manufacture of refrigerated vans or trucks.

[Translation]

Storage Facility in LPG Plants of ONGC

4371. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is adequate storage of LPG in LPG plants of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) in the country; and

(b) if so, the status and storage capacity of these plants during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is producing LPG from natural gas and condensate at the processing facilities at Uran in the State of Maharashtra and Hazira, Ankleshwar and Gandhar in the State of Gujarat. The total LPG tankage

at these locations is about 29,543.4 Tonnes.

ONGC does not store large quantity of LPG in their plants as LPG produced from their plants is handed over in bulk to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for further bottling/transportation.

(b) The details of storage capacity and closing stock of LPG by ONGC during the year 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

(Figs. in Tonnes)

	Total storage capacity	Closing stock at the end of financial year			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Hazira	12150	3217	3218	3713	3154
Uran	2430 + 10800 (hired tanks from BPCL)	5361	3511	2908	3270
Ankleshwar	2543.4	145	336	288	235
Gandhar	1620	975	568	528	402
Total	29543.4	9698	7633	7437	7061

Note : (i) The safe operating capacity is approximately 80% of the total capacity.
(ii) Closing stock figures rounded-off.

Decontrolling of Life Saving Drugs

4372. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE:

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

(a) the details of life saving drugs decontrolled by the Government during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for decontrolling the said drugs;

(c) whether the prices of these drugs have increased much after decontrolling them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the prices of drug have also increased despite rebates given in customs and excise duties; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/being taken to control the increasing prices of life saving drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (f) Life saving drugs have not been defined in the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO,95). Government/ National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) fixes/ revises the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the First Schedule of DPCO, 1995 and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs. During the last three years there is no change in this Policy and hence no drug has been decontrolled. The prices of Scheduled formulations are fixed or revised in accordance with the paragraph 7 of the DPCO, 1995 which take into account

custom/excise duties as may be applicable. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA.

Prices of Non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected.

However, NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations based on the reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by the individual manufacturers. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the 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. This is an ongoing process.

[English]

Criteria for Supply of Fertilizers

4373. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any criteria for supply of fertilizers to all the States of the Country during Kharif and Rabi seasons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):
(a) and (b) The criteria for supply of fertilizer to all the states of the country during Kharif and Rabi seasons is to ensure that the availability of fertilizers is adequate to meet the requirement as assessed by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Government of India.

With the aim of ensuring availability of fertilizer vis-a-vis requirement through out the country, Department of Fertilizer is taking various policy initiatives, some of which are:

(i) Each state in consultation with the fertilizer suppliers is required to prepare a monthly supply plan district-wise within overall availability at state

level for ensuring availability of fertilizers in all parts of the state;

(ii) The supply of fertilizers by manufacturers/suppliers is being monitored through a web-based Fertilizer Monitoring System which is able to track production, imports, dispatch, arrival and sales up to the district level;

(iii) The state governments have been advised (i) that the State Institutional agencies will coordinate with manufacturers and importers of fertilizers for streamlining the supplies (ii) to review the railway rake points in their states and take up the issues with the Railways for improvements, if any, required to ensure availability of fertilizers in every nook and corner of the State.

(iv) The Government has introduced a Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy in respect of Phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers w.e.f. 1.4.2010, which has replaced the outgoing Concession Scheme for P&K fertilizers. Under the NBS, State Governments have to play more proactive role to co-ordinate with the manufacturers/importers to tie 'up supplies of fertilizers as per the requirement of States.

(v) Under the NBS, 20% of the decontrolled fertilizers produced/imported in India will now be in the movement control under the Essential Commodities Act 1955(ECA). Department of Fertilizers will regulate the movement of these fertilizers to bridge the supplies in under-served areas. The State governments should accordingly put in place administrative and monitoring mechanism to take advantage of the same. The supply plan would continue to be monitored as at present.

(vi) Manufacturers of customized fertilizers and mixture fertilizers will be eligible to source subsidized fertilizers from the manufacturers/importers after their receipt in the districts as inputs for manufacturing customized fertilizers and mixture fertilizer for agricultural purpose under NBS. There would be no separate subsidy on sale of customized fertilizers and mixture fertilizers. To encourage soil and crop based usage of such fertilizers, the State governments need to facilitate the same.

**Rail Cum Road Bridge over Brahmaputra
and Sariaghat**

4374. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have conducted any survey for construction of second Rail-cum-road bridge over Brahmaputra and Sariaghat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the survey is likely to be carried out and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) A survey for second rail bridge adjacent to existing Saraighat rail-cum-road bridge was completed in 2008-09. As per the survey, the cost of the proposal was worked out as Rs. 300.67 crore.

Operation of Touts

4375. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railways are aware of operation of touts who reportedly buy a large number of tickets in fictitious names and sell them at a premium, allegedly in connivance with some departmental staff;

(b) if so, the number of such cases apprehended

by the Railways during the last three months, Zone-wise and Division-wise; and

(c) the action being taken to prevent such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Some cases of touts/anti-social elements purchasing tickets in fictitious names and selling them at a premium do come to notice.

(b) The zone-wise number of cases of transferred reservation during the last three months *i.e.* January, 2010 to March, 2010, are given in the enclosed Statement. Persons travelling on others' tickets in reserved accommodation are apprehended en route and charged by the ticket checking staff in the running trains, division-wise figures of such passengers are not segregated.

(c) Regular and surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial and the Vigilance Departments at the reservation offices, at stations, and in trains. Persons, so detected travelling on others' tickets are charged as per rules. Railway staff, if found indulging in malpractices in connivance with touts, are taken up under the Discipline and Appeal Rules. Campaigns are also launched to educate the public to desist from purchasing tickets from unauthorized persons. Touting activities occur due to a gap between the demand and supply. To bridge this gap, special trains are run, new trains introduced and the run of the existing trains extended and their load augmented. In addition, the facility of e-ticketing has been introduced for easier booking of reserved tickets.

Statement

The zone-wise number of cases of transferred reservation during the three months i.e. January, 2010 to March, 2010, are as under:

Railway	January, 2010	February, 2010	March, 2010	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Central	339	305	261	905
Eastern	0	0	0	0
East Central	0	0	0	0
East Coast	1	0	0	1
Northern	7	71	44	122

1	2	3	4	5
North Central	5	13	13	31
North Eastern	0	0	0	0
Northeast Frontier	8	8	6	22
North Western	22	21	17	60
Southern	2362	1523	1318	5203
South Central	109	110	134	353
South Eastern	14	11	34	59
South East Central	0	0	0	0
South Western	680	656	669	2005
Western	125	123	141	389
West Central	61	47	35	143
Total	3733	2888	2672	9293

Multifunctional Complex

4376. SHRI K.P. DHANAPALAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to start multi-functional shopping complex and guest house in Cochin International Airport in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, Cochin International Airport Limited (CIAL), an entity established with equity participation from the Government of Kerala, NRIs, Industrialists, Financial Institutions and airport service providers, with over 10,000 shareholders from 29 countries, has planned to set up a Shopping Mall in the main Airport Approach Road in front of the Terminals. CIAL has also constructed 13 Guest Rooms for the use of bonafide passengers traveling through Cochin International Airport.

Railway Projects in Kerala

4377. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of land required for development of railway projects in Kerala;

(b) the details of land acquired and handed over to railway in the states during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways have received complaints regarding land acquisition in Kerala;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Land required for development of Railway projects under new line, gauge conversion and doubling in Kerala is 618.29 hectare.

(b) Land required for the projects in the State of Kerala is acquired by the State Government and handed over to Railways. Details of land acquired and handed over to Railways during the last three years is as under:

Year	Area of land (in Hectare)
2007-08	21.31
2008-09	1.67
2009-10	0.65
Total	23.63

(c) and (d) The compensation for the land is decided and disbursed by the State Government. Railways only make payment of the compensation amount to the State Government on demand.

(e) to (g) Complaints received in this regard pertain to the amount of compensation and extent of acquisition. Complaints pertaining to compensation are dealt with by the State Government. As regards complaints pertaining to extent of acquisition, Railway undertake necessary survey to minimize the acquisition.

Bird Hit Incidents

4378. SHRI C. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bird-hit incidents in the airports in the country airport-wise during the last two years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any action to thwart such incidents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) A list of airport-wise bird hit incidents in India reported during the last two years is enclosed as Statement.

(b) The main reasons and contributory factors for bird strike incidents are; presence of slum clusters, garbage dump, dairy farms and abattoirs in the vicinity of the airport; grass and water logging inside the airport; improper garbage disposal and major construction activities in and around aerodromes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The Major steps taken to reduce bird-hits are as under:-

- (i) A high power National Bird Control Committee (NBCC) has been set up by Government to monitor and adopt policy decision for bird strikes prevention.
- (ii) Grass cutting and checking water logging inside airports.
- (iii) Scaring and shooting birds.
- (iv) Wire meshing of hangars.
- (v) Garbage dumping in covered bins and its early removal.
- (vi) Regular joint inspection of areas around airports.
- (vii) Establishment of modern abattoirs.

Statement

Sl.No.	Airport	2008	2009
1	2	3	4
1.	Agra		
2.	Agartala	1	
3.	Aizwal		
4.	Allahabad		
5.	Ahmedabad	21	34
6.	Amritsar	2	
7.	Aurangabad	2	1
8.	Ambala		
9.	Baghdogra	1	
10.	Belgam	1	
11.	Banaglore	26	15
12.	Badodra	3	
13.	Bhavnagar		2
14.	Bhopal	2	
15.	Bhubaneshwar	5	3
16.	Bhuj	1	
17.	Calicut		1

1	2	3	4
18.	Coimbatore	1	6
19.	Chandigarh	2	1
20.	Cochin		8
21.	Chennai	14	18
22.	Delhi(IGI)	67	67
23.	Diu	1	
24.	Dimapur		
25.	Fursatganj		
26.	Guwahati	2	2
27.	Goa	3	9
28.	Gwalior		
29.	Hyderabad	25	4
30.	Hubli		1
31.	Indore	3	2
32.	Imphal		
33.	Jabalpur		
34.	Jalandhar		
35.	Jamnagar		
36.	Jaipur	9	15
37.	Jammu		2
38.	Jodhpur	1	
39.	Jorhat		
40.	Jamshedpur		
41.	Kanpur		
42.	Khajuraho		
43.	Kulu		
44.	Kamalpur		
45.	Kolhapur	1	
46.	Kolkatta	10	12
47.	Leh		
48.	Lucknow	3	4

1	2	3	4
49.	Lilabari		
50.	Madras		
51.	Mangalore	2	3
52.	Madurai	2	
53.	Mohanbari		
54.	Mumbai	58	54
55.	Nagpur	6	9
56.	Nasik Road		
57.	Neyveli		
58.	Patna	1	4
59.	Pinjore		
60.	Pune	8	5
61.	Port Blair		1
62.	Raipur		5
63.	Raikot	3	4
64.	Rajamudary		
65.	Ranchi		
66.	Srinagar	1	
67.	Silchar		
68.	Trichi		
69.	Trivandrum	1	2
70.	Tezpur		
71.	Tirupati		
72.	Udaipur		
73.	Vadodara		3
74.	Varanasi		
75.	Vizag	5	4
76.	Vijaywada	1	
77.	Diu		
78.	Salem		1

Financial Status of Cotton Corporation of India

4379. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the financial status of Cotton Corporation of India; and

(b) the financial amount spent by the corporation for development activities, State-wise, including Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) is a wholly owned undertaking of the Government of India. The Authorized Share capital is Rs. 75.00 crore and the paid up share capital is Rs. 25.00 crore, consisting of 25 lakh shares of Rs. 100/- each. The profit after tax and dividend paid (excluding dividend tax) during the last 5 year are as follows:-

Sr.No.	Financial Year	Profit After Tax (Rs. in crores)	Dividend paid (Rs. in crores)
1.	2004-2005	27.04	5.41
2.	2005-2006	14.55	5.00
3.	2006-2007	15.51	5.00
4.	2007-2008	22.55	5.00
5.	2008-2009	66.78	13.41

(b) The Corporation undertakes developmental activities in the form of Integrated Cotton Cultivation (Contract Farming). State-wise details of financial amount spent under Development Activities (Contract Farming Programme), including in the State of Gujarat for last three years 2007-08 to 2009-10 is as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4
Punjab	0.06	0.41	0.49
Haryana	0.62	0.43	0.54
Rajasthan	0.47	0.75	0.55
Gujarat	0.68	1.44	1.51

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	0	0.93	1.73
Maharashtra	1.28	2.85	3.35
Andhra Pradesh	3.90	5.90	4.24
Karnataka	0.38	0.35	0.35
Tamil Nadu	0.04	0.004	0
Odisha	0.32	0	0
Total	7.43	13.064	12.76

[*Translation*]

Development of Pharmaceutical Industry

4380. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN
SINGH:

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

(a) whether any evaluation of the development of pharmaceutical manufacturing industry in the country has been made by the Government;

(b) if so, the latest status, the method and the basis on which such evaluation is made;

(c) the total contribution of pharmaceutical industry in the Gross Domestic Product of the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether the Government has made any study regarding obstacles in the way of self-sufficiency in the Pharma manufacturing sector;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the Government has decided to bring out a white paper for making the country a Centre of Research and Development in the field of pharma manufacturing by the year 2020; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be brought out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) While there has been no formal evaluation

regarding the Development of pharmaceutical manufacturing industries in the country in the recent past by this Department, periodic interaction and review provides information regarding the development of the Pharma manufacturing industries in the country and its problems.

(c) The total contribution of chemicals and chemicals products (which includes Pharmaceuticals) in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the last three years is as follow:

(Rs. in crores-Current price)

Year	Chemicals & Chemicals products	GDP
2006-07	75137	3941865
2007-08	82524	4540987
2008-09	96996	5228650

(d) and (e) Government from time to time identifies and reviews problems hindering the Pharma manufacturing sector. Based on such information and interaction with industry, specific schemes are drawn up for assisting the industries with regard to meeting such obstacles. Recently example is the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme in collaboration with the Department of Micro Small Medium Enterprises or assisting small scale units for meeting the mandatory requirement of Schedule 'NT Drugs and Cosmetics Acts. Other such schemes include schemes for assistance for Testing Labs, WHO-GMP Compliance for Central Pharma Units, assistance to manufacturers through the Intellectual Property Cell set up by this Department through Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council (Pharmexcil), and such others.

(f) and (g) No such white paper for making the country a Centre of Research and Development in the field of Pharma manufacturing by the year 2020 has been formally brought out. However, the Department has prepared a 'Pharma Vision 2020' for making India one of the leading destinations for end-to-end drug discovery & innovation and for that purpose provides requisite support by way of world class infrastructure, internationally competitive scientific man-power for Pharma Research and Development, Venture Fund for research in the public and private domain and such other measures. The paper envisages the programme in public-private partnership with 2020 as the terminal year of the programme.

[English]

Accidents in Burnpur Unit of IISCO

4381. SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of accidents have taken place at the Burnpur unit of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the loss of life and property and the compensation paid to the dependents of the victims; and

(c) the details of the companies to which the contracts were given for the construction works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Details of fatal and non fatal accidents which occurred in 2007, 2008 and 2009 at IISCO Steel Plant (ISP) Burnpur are as given below:

Category	2007		2008		2009	
	Regular Employee	Contract Labour	Regular Employee	Contract Labour	Regular Employee	Contract Labour
Fatal	Nil	4	3	1	-	3
Non Fatal	17	Nil	12	8	6	4
Total	17	4	15	9	6	7

There was no loss of property of IISCO Steel Plant, Burnpur unit due to these accidents. The reasons for the accidents were inter-alia due to fall from height, impact of moving objects/machinery, rail-road fatalities, burns/explosion, gas poisoning, electrocution and suffocation.

In case of contract labour, compensation is covered under Employee State Insurance (ESI) and paid by ESI Corporation. In case of regular employees, compensation is paid as per Company Policy/workmen Compensation Act.

(c) The work for Modernisation & Expansion at ISP is under implementation and the work has been awarded to the following major companies:

- McNally Bharat, Kolkata
- Gipkokos/Mcnally Bharat/BEC
- Outotec GmbH, Germany/L&T
- POSCO E&C/Nagarjuna
- SMS-Oemagl Bridge & Roof
- Siemens VAI, Austria
- Shapoorji Pallonji
- Nagarjuna Construction
- SMS Meer, Germany/Techno Fab
- Danieli & C, Italy/Shriram EPC
- BHEL

Installation of Scanners at Airports

4382. SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to install imaging scanners for full body Scanning at the airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the airports where Government proposes to install such scanners;

(c) the cost involved in purchasing one scanner:

(d) whether the Government has examined privacy angle in this matter;

(e) if so, whether Government has obtained information regarding safety of health with the use of such scanners; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATE): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Installation of Body Scanners is in process at IGI Airport in Security Hold Area on a trial basis.

(c) The cost will be borne by the airport operators.

(d) Yes, Madam.

Screening of passengers will be done remotely and non obtrusively also ensuring that female passengers will be scanned by female officers. The images shall not be stored, to ensure privacy of passengers.

(e) and (f) Although manufactures have claimed safety of use, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) which is regulatory body of this Ministry will obtain clearance certificate regarding exposure to radiation from Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) before finally clearing the proposal technically.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion Work in Rajasthan

4383. SHRI KHILADI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways has completed the work of gauge conversion in the country;

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether the work of gauge conversion on Mohari-Tantpur railway line in Rajasthan has been started;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(e) whether it is proposed to extend this railway line up to Roopwas (Bharatpur); and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Since 1992,

gauge conversion of 16,917 Km has been done. As on 01.04.2010, there are about 9,500 Km of Meter/Narrow Gauge lines, out of which works are in progress for about 6000 Km. Further, gauge conversion of 450 Km of Narrow Gauge lines has been proposed in the Railway Budget 2010-11.

(b) Indian Railways Vision 2020 entails conversion of all Meter Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines to Broad Gauge except heritage lines. This would, however, depend upon availability of resources.

(c) Gauge conversion of Mohari-Tantpur is not sanctioned.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Demand and Supply of Petroleum Products

4384. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN SINGH:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

(a) whether several public sector companies have taken a decision to invest their capital in crude oil and

gas sector in foreign countries in order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the names of such oil companies alongwith the names of countries where these companies have invested money and the amount of capital investment made by these companies till the end of March 2010;

(c) the average dividend earned on this capital investment during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the estimated average rate of dividend on total capital invested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) through its wholly owned subsidiary ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), Oil India Limited (OIL) and other midstream and downstream Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) namely GAIL (India) Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) through its subsidiary Bharat PetroResources Limited (BPRL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have made investments in Exploration and Production (E&P) projects abroad to meet the requirements of oil and gas and to ensure energy security for the country. The details of investment made by the PSUs in various countries are as follows:-

PSUs	Countries	Name of Countries	Investment as on 28.02.2010
OVL	15	Vietnam, Russia, Sudan, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Syria, Egypt, Cuba, Niegria Sao Tome Principe JDZ, Brazil, Nigeria, Columbia and Venezuela	Rs. 53,710 Crore
OIL	8	Iran, Libya, Gabon, Nigeria, Yemen, Sudan, Timor Leste & Egypt	Rs. 456.60 Crore
GAIL	2	Myanmar & Oman	Rs. 358.84 Crore
BPRL	7	Brazil, Oman, Australia, East Timor, U.K., Mozambique & Indonesia	Rs. 1427.3 Crore (Exchange value taken as Rs. 50/- per dollar)
IOC	6	Iran, Libya, Gabon, Nigeria, Yemen, Timor Leste	Rs. 476.7 Crore (Exchange value taken as Rs. 50/- per dollar)
HPCL	2	Oman & Australia	Rs. 28.92 Crore

(c) Only OVL has acquired producing assets abroad while other PSUs have exploration blocks which are still under various phases of exploration and have not generated income. OVL investments are principally made by way of participation in production sharing agreements as well as through wholly-owned subsidiaries. Hence dividends are not deemed a suitable measure of the returns. The consolidated profit after tax of OVL is given below:

(i) 2006-2007: Rs. 1663 Crore

(ii) 2007-2008: Rs. 2397 Crore

(iii) 2008-2009: Rs. 2807 Crore

(d) The Return on Capital Employed is given below:

(i) 2006-2007: 30.35%

(ii) 2007-2008: 57.45%

(iii) 2008-2009: 35.20%

Production of Crude Oil by Cairn India Ltd.

4385. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether crude oil produced in Rajasthan by Cairn India Ltd. is being exported due to non-availability of processing facilities in the oil refineries;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the total quantity of indigenously produced crude oil exported till the end of March 2010;

(c) whether this crude oil is being sold comparatively at cheaper prices in international market due to its being of substandard quality; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Discontinuation of Train

4386. SHRI RADHEY MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 31Up/32Down train from Varanasi to Ballia has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said train is likely to be re-started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Express train running between Ballia and Varanasi via Rasra-Mau was discontinued upon conversion of the section from Meter gauge to Broad gauge.

(c) At present, there is no proposal to restart the said train as Ballia and Varanasi are well connected by 17 pairs of trains.

[English]

Promotion of FPI

4387. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:
SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:

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

(a) whether the Eleventh Five Year Plan's strategy for promoting a dynamic food processing infrastructure from farm to market has taken any concrete shape during the first two and half years of the Plan period;

(b) if so, the amount spent on research and development activities of FPI till March 2010; and

(c) the steps taken for standardization of processed food, packing and improvement in shelf life, detection of biological and chemical contamination for significant growth of FPI?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Madam. Government has taken major initiatives to provide impetus to food processing sector. There has been a quantum jump in the fund allocation for 11th Plan

Schemes including the Scheme for Infrastructure Development. The total plan allocation for 10th Plan was Rs. 650.00 crore out of which Rs. 180.00 crore was earmarked for Infrastructure Development, whereas total fund allocation for 11th Plan Scheme is Rs. 4,031.00 crore out of which Rs. 2,613.00 crore is earmarked for Infrastructure Development Schemes. The Infrastructure Development Scheme has 3 components and break-up of component wise fund allocation is as follows:

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| 1. Mega Food Park Scheme | - | 1575.00 crore |
| 2. Settingup and Modernization of Abattoirs | - | 828.00 crore |
| 3. Integrated Cold Chain Facilities | - | 210.00 crore |

The details of scheme guidelines, objective of each scheme, pattern of assistance and deliverables are available at the website of the Ministry at www.mofpi@nic.in.

As a result of concerted efforts and focused approach the food processing sector is growing at an average rate of approximately 13.5% per annum. The level of processing has gone up by about 4% from existing 6% in 2005 to 10% in 2009 and value addition by 6% from 20% to 26% in the same period.

Government have approved 30 Mega Food Parks, 30 Cold Chain and 50 Abattoirs to be set up during the 11th Plan Period. In the 1st phase, 10 projects in each component have been approved to be assisted. Ministry has approved 6 Mega Food Parks, 10 Cold Chain and 10 Abattoirs till date which are at different stages of progress. After implementation of these Infrastructure projects, it would provide a complete supply chain solution. It is expected that processing level and value addition will increase considerably and there will be a reduction of wastage of farm produce. Farmers will get remunerative prices thereby increasing their income. Employment opportunity will be increased in rural areas. Entrepreneurs will get adequate supply of desired variety of raw materials and consumers will have a choice of wide variety of quality processed food products.

(b) The amount spent on Research and Development activities of FPI till March 2010 (11th Plan Period) is Rs. 4,27,41,565/-.

(c) Standardization of processed food and other safety aspects is being regulated by newly formed Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under

the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. As per information gathered from FSSAI, the standards of various food products including processed food are prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955 by the Central Government after consultation with Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS) and after previous publication by notification in the Official Gazette. These Rules include maximum level of contaminants and labeling of processed foods including declaration of best before date/use by date on the label. The setting of standards takes into account the industry demand, consumer interests and international Standards.

[Translation]

Cold Drinks of Inferior Quality

4388. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:
SHRI C.R. PATIL:
SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some vendors have been caught selling cold drinks, water and other eatables of inferior quality by Railway administration at New Delhi Railway Station recently;

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

(c) whether the Railways are aware of the fact that this nefarious activity is going on in full swing with the collusion of railway staff and officers at various railway stations and in the trains in the country; and

(d) if so, the effective steps to be taken by the Railways to curb such illegal practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No such incident has come to the notice of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. However, random checks are conducted to ensure the sale of unapproved and non branded and adulterated cold drinks and packaged drinking water does not take place in railway stations and trains. The Food and Health Inspectors of Zonal Railways regularly take samples for verification under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA).

*[English]***Demand of 5 Kg. Cooking Gas Cylinders**

4389. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demand of 5 kg. cooking gas cylinders per month in the country and the prices at which it is sold;

(b) whether there is any proposal to sell these cylinders at market-determined prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The average monthly demand of 5 kg. domestic LPG cylinder in the country is about 221.23 Metric Tonnes or 44,246 cylinders. The Retail Selling Price (RSP) of 5 kg. domestic LPG cylinder varies from market to market and in Delhi it is priced at Rs. 119.45.

(b) and (c) Government has given approval to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for marketing 5 kg. non-domestic LPG cylinders on pilot basis in the cities of Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bangalore.

Aircraft used by NACIL

4390. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aircraft being used by National Aviation Company of India Limited could be used for a particular period;

(b) if so, whether a comparison of how long the aircraft are used in India versus international usage has been made; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) There is no age limit by way of flight hours or flight cycle or calendar years for which an aircraft could be used. However, the maintenance of aircraft becomes more expensive with age as special inspection and modifications for ageing aircraft are undertaken to ensure that the aircraft continues to be airworthy. The present average age of NACIL's fleet is 7.1 years.

Legal Education

4391. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has held consultation with the Vice-Chancellors of all National Law Schools to improve legal education in the country to global standards;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda and points raised during such consultations;

(c) whether any plan/strategy has so far been finalized by the Government after such consultations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, this Department is organizing a Seminar on 1st and 2nd May, 2010 in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on National Consultation for Second Generation Reforms in Legal Education.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Opening of Closed Private Petrol Pumps

4392. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether international price of oil touched a peak of US\$ 145 a barrel, the private companies engaged in retailing oil products closed their petrol pumps in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether implementation of Kirit Parekh report on decontrol of oil prices would lead to opening up of closed private petrol pumps of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Essar which would lead to drastic erosion of the market share including huge financial losses to Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) oil companies; and

(d) if so, the action being proposed by the Government to have a level playing field and protect the interest of the oil PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) As per the Resolution of 8th March 2002, Government granted authorization for marketing transportation fuels to four private companies namely, M/s. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL), M/s. Shell India Marketing Pvt. Limited (SIMPL) and M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL).

The private sector oil companies are free to take pricing decisions on commercial considerations. When the international prices of crude oil started rising, the sale of Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel at the retail outlets (ROs) of the private companies came down due to the difference between retail prices offered by the ROs of the private and public sector oil companies leading to temporary closure of some of the ROs of some private oil companies.

(c) and (d) 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 recommended, *inter-alia*, that the prices of Petrol and Diesel should be market-determined, both at the refinery gate and at the retail level. The Government has not taken a decision on implementation of the Expert Group's recommendations.

All India Judicial Service

4393. SHRI NAMA NEGESWARA RAO:
SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has requested all States and UTs to fill the vacancies of Judicial Officers in District Courts by promoting them from lower courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of vacancies of District Judges;

(c) whether the Government proposes to create All India Judicial Services in the same manner as IAS, IPS and IFS etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The filling up of vacant posts of District Judges, judges/magistrates in the District and Subordinate Courts is the concern of the respective High Courts and the State Governments. As such, the information on the number of vacancies of District Judges is not maintained in the Department of Justice.

(c) to (e) The recommendations of the Law Commission of India in its 1st 8th and 11th reports, the directions of the Supreme Court of India in its judgment of 13.11.1991 in W.P. No.1022 of 1989 - in the matter of All India Judges Association and others Vs. Union of India & ors., and the guidelines recommended by the First National Judicial Pay Commission, on the matter of setting up of All India Judicial Service, has been under consideration of the Government.

Formation of an All India Judicial Service was discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices held on 16th August, 2009 where it was, *inter-alia*, decided "The State Governments, in principle, concurred with the proposal of formation of All-India Judicial Service. However, before giving effect to the formation of All-India Judicial Service, a comprehensive deliberation be held.

Later in the "National Consultation for strengthening the judiciary towards reducing pendency and delays" held on 24th-25th October, 2009 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, it was, *inter-alia*, resolved 'Commend for consideration the establishment of a All India Judicial Service through an open competitive examination ensuring the best possible selection'.

Since the All India Judicial Service would be common to the Union and the States and requires consent of the State Governments and High Courts, their views/comments were sought. So far, only 17 State Government/UTs and 14 High Courts have sent their views.

Court Fee Structure

4394. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether court fee structure has not been revised since 1966 in the Supreme Court and all tribunals set up under central legislations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether advocate has to pay only Rs. 3 to file his Vakalatnama and Rs. 5 for his appearance before the court; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to revise the court fee structure?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) As intimated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Supreme Court Rules, 1966 relating to payment of Court Fee for filing cases in the Supreme Court of India have been revised from time to time.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The Law Commission of India has been requested to examine the issue of revision of court fee structure. Report/recommendations of the Commission is awaited.

Production of Gas from KG Basin

4395. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gas production from the ONGC field in KG basin is delayed inordinately;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that ONGC commences gas production without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Under the Production Sharing Contractor (PSC) regime, oil and gas is being produced from Rawa Field in Krishna Godavari (KG) basin, operated by Cairn Energy. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is one of the Consortium Partners in this field with 40% Participating Interest. Further, ONGC as an Operator, has made 6 gas discoveries in the deepwater block KG-DWN-98/2 in KG basin, which are under appraisal. So far, there is no delay on part of the Contractor vis-a-vis the timelines stipulated in PSC.

However, under nomination regime, ONGC's integrated development of G-1 and GS-15 fields in K.G. Offshore, having targeted Project Completion by 15.4.2006, has been delayed. The Engineering and construction contract awarded to M/s Clough Engineering Limited, Australia for integrated development of above fields was terminated on 4.6.2007 due to their non-performance and the matter was under litigation.

(c) The discoveries made by ONGC under the PSC regime will be developed in accordance with the PSC timelines.

With regard to G-1 and GS-15 Fields, ONGC resorted to legal recourse. After rigorous and protracted efforts, an out of court settlement with M/s Murray and Roberts (who are now the controlling stake holders in Clough group of companies) could be reached in December, 2009. The settlement Agreement was signed on 8.12.2009 and implemented on 24.12.2009. The process is on for securing the project materials and documentation and the project is expected to be completed by May 2011.

[Translation]

Consumption of Phosphoric and Potash Fertilizers

4396. SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of Phosphoric and Potash containing fertilizers has been affected after increase in their prices during the last three years and the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (b) The consumption (Sales) of major Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizer like DAP, MOP and NPK during last three years namely 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is as under:

(lakh metric tonnes)

Product	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
DAP	75.67	99.03	103.92
MOP	28.28	40.94	46.74
NPK	65.54	71.22	82.03

It may be observed from the above table that consumption of Phosphoric and Potash containing fertilizer

has increased continuously during last three years. It may also be stated that there has been no increase in price of P&K containing fertilizer during last three years.

Operation of Air Services from Small Airports

4397. SHRI ARJUN ROY:
SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start operation of air services from small airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds spent on this work, airport-wise; and

(d) the current status of starting air services from Kushinagar airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At present air services are available to/from 81 airports in the country, which also includes small airports. During the last three years the air services have been started from Dehradun, Nanded, Latur, Nasik, Sholapur, Salem & Pathankot airports.

(c) The following amount have been spent on development of these airports in last three years (Rs. in crores): Dehradun-Rs. 53.45, Sholapur-Rs. 0.09, Salem-Rs. 0.55 and Pathankot-Rs. 4.70.

(d) At present there is no airport at Kushinagar.

[English]

Memu Train from New Delhi to Rewari

4398. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce superfast passenger train (MEMU) from New Delhi to Rewari;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said trains are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) At present there is no proposal to introduce MEMU service on Delhi/New Delhi-Rewari section.

Prices of Medicines

4399. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of medicines falling under National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) have been reduced after reduction in excise duty in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any modification has been issued by NPPA in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total percentage of likely reduction in the prices of medicines;

(f) whether the prices are likely to be fixed uniformly for all the States; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (g) Consequent upon reduction in excise duty on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals vide Notification No.4/2008-CE dated 1st March, 2008 from 16% to 8% and reduction of abatement from 42.5% to 35.5% vide Notification No.14/2008-CE(NT) dated the 1st March, 2008 of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue), NPPA vide S.O. No.418 (E) dated the 3rd March, 2008 revised the equivalent Maximum Retail Price (inclusive of all taxes) of all Scheduled formulation packs downwards by 4.58%. With respect to non-Scheduled formulation NPPA vide Guidelines No. 2/2008 dated the 10th March, 2008 advised all the manufacturers and marketing companies to ensure the reduction of MRP (inclusive of all taxes) by 4.58%.

Subsequent to further reduction in excise duty by the Government vide Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue Notification No.58/2008-CE dated the 10th

December, 2008 from 8% to 4%, NPPA vide S.D. No. 2856(E) dated the 10th December, 2008 revised the equivalent Maximum Retail Price (inclusive of all taxes) of all Scheduled formulation packs downwards by 2.84%. With respect to non-Scheduled formulations NPPA vide Guidelines No. 5/2008 dated the 10th December, 2008 advised all the manufacturers and marketing companies to ensure the reduction of MRP (inclusive of all taxes) by 2.84%.

The new MRP would be uniformly applicable in all the States, wherever the excise duty has actually been paid to the Government.

S.D. No. 418(E) dated the 3rd March, 2008, S.D. No. 2856 (E) dated the 10th December, 2008, Guidelines No. 2/2008 dated the 10th March, 2008 and Guidelines No. 5/2008 dated the 10th December, 2008 are available at NPPA website www.nppaindia.nic.in.

Inspection of Railway Safety

4400. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 19 gauge conversion projects in Tamil Nadu have been completed more than 10 months back but are yet to be inspected by the Commissioner of Railway Safety;

(b) if so, the details of the projects which have been completed but not inspected so far in Tamil Nadu;

(c) the main reasons for not carrying out inspection of these lines; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Railways for early inspection of these lines?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Funding for Higher and Technical Education

4401. SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR ALIAS KUSHAL TIWARI:
SHRI RAM SUNDAR DAS:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to fully fund the higher education, technical and vocational education for the students belonging to the minority community;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to meet all the expenses of such students of the minority community desirous of obtaining higher education; and

(d) 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) No, Madam.

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

(c) No, Madam.

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

[English]

Suburban Rail Services between Mumbai and Konkan

4402. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for rail inter connectivity between Central Western and Harbour line of suburban services with Navi Mumbai and extend the same to Konkan Railway line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There is no proposal to extend connections of suburban lines to Konkan Railway. Rail connectivity already exists from Western & Central Railways to Konkan Railway line via Vasai Road-Panvel-Roha route and Kalyan/Diva-Panvel-Roha route respectively.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fuel Consumption by Railways

4403. SHRI S. SEMMALAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways procured fuel from oil marketing firms at any discount;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total fuel consumption by the Railways for traction and non-traction purpose; and

(d) the total quantum of money outgo during the last three years for the same?

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

(b) The detail of discount is as under:

Year	Discount (in Rupees)
2007	1125.27 per kilolitre
2008	150.00 per kilolitre
2009	300.00 per kilolitre

(c) The detail of total fuel consumption is as under:

(in kilolitres)

Year	Traction	Non-Traction	Total
2006-07	2211531	39949	2251480
2007-08	2284061	43729	2327790
2008-09	2352583	43729	2396312

(d) The total quantum of money outgo during the last three years is as under:

(Rupees in crores)

Year	Traction	Non-Traction	Total
2006-07	6731.06	178.32	6909.38
2007-08	7382.12	210.87	7592.99
2008-09	8704.29	217.96	8922.25

Urban Haats

4404. SHRI BAL KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of urban haats during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the inadequacies/slippages in the implementation of this scheme noticed during the said period;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the physical and financial progress made by these haats;

(d) if so, the outcome of such assessment made and whether the Government has proper monitoring and control mechanism in place regarding implementation of this scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Except for delay in implementation of few projects no other major inadequacy was brought to the notice during the review meetings.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. As per the assessment made, 18 Haats have become functional across the country. The status of the Urban Haats is being assessed by the field units of this Department located in different parts of the country. Based on the Inspection Reports received further grants are released.

Photo Identity Card

4405. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many voters have two to three voter identity cards in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement any centralized Electronic Privacy Information Centre (EPIC) system to streamline the process and avoid duplicacy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total number of voters in the country till date, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government proposes it mandatory to have voter ID card; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Greenfield Airports

4406. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI T.R. BAALU:
SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:
SHRI P. BALRAM:
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has developed greenfield airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated and spent for this purpose as on date;

(d) the demands still pending with the Ministry for such airports; and

(e) the future action plan prepared in this regard for the remaining period of Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Two new international Greenfield airports at Shamshabad near Hyderabad and Devenahalli near Bangalore developed by M/s Hyderabad International Airport Limited (HIAL) at a cost of Rs. 2920 crores and Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) at a cost of Rs. 2021.65 crores respectively, became operational in the year 2008, under Public Private Partnership model. Airports Authority of India has also taken up the construction of a Greenfield airport at Pakyong in Sikkim at a project cost of Rs. 309 crores and Rs. 42.37 crores has been spent upto March 2010.

(d) and (e) So far, Government of India has granted 'in-principle' approval for setting up of greenfield airports at Mopa in Goa; Navi Mumbai and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra; Shimoga, Gulbarga, Hassan and Bijapur in Karnataka; Kannur in Kerala; Durgapur in West Bengal; Datia/Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh and Paladi/Ramsinghpura near Jaipur in Rajasthan. As per the new Greenfield Airport Policy promulgated in 2008, the promoter seeking to develop the airport has to submit the proposal to the Government for consideration by the Steering Committee. Application for setting up of Greenfield airport are received from time to time, which are considered by the Steering Committee/competent authority for grant of 'in principle' approval after they have completed necessary formalities of obtaining pre-feasibility study report, site clearance, clearances from regulatory agencies, etc.

[Translation]

Investigation of Satyam Scam

4407. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has completed the investigation of Satyam scam;

(b) if so, the current status thereof;

(c) the number of officers found guilty in it and the amount involved in the scam; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against guilty officers/employees?

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 (d) The investigation of Satyam scam by the CBI with regard to diversion of funds from the company is still in progress. Based on the investigation already completed, CBI has filed a charge-sheet in the Court on 7.4.2009 against 9 accused which include Chairman, Managing Director, CFO, Auditors, a director and officials of Satyam. After further investigation, a supplementary charge-sheet was filed on 24.11.09 in which name of global head of internal audit of Satyam was also included. A separate charge-sheet was filed by the

CBI on 71.2010 against the then Chairman, Managing Director, CFO, Vice President (Finance) and auditors of the company for filing false income tax returns with fraudulent and dishonest intention of cheating the shareholders. As the investigation by CBI is still in progress, it is not possible to quantify the amount involved in the scam.

Requirement of Urea and DAP

4408. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:

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

(a) whether 136 lakh tonne urea and 68 lakh tonne DAP is required in the country for the coming Kharif crop;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has decided to supply adequate quantity of fertilizers to the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the activities of the hoarders are likely to be increased after decontrolling the fertilizers;

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

(f) whether the Union Government has given instructions to the State Governments for the storage of fertilizers in order to prevent the scarcity and black marketing of fertilizers in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):
(a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The requirement of urea and DAP for Kharif 2010 Crop season has been assessed at 136.65 LMT and 68.75 LMT respectively.

(c) The state wise requirement of urea & DAP for the current Kharif crop season is given in the enclosed Statement. Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partially movement control of the Government. All other fertilizers like DAP, MOP, NPK etc. are decontrolled since

1992 and may be imported freely. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by market forces of demand and supply.

Fertilizer companies have already filed their production and import plans for Kharif 2010. The availability of fertilizers in all the states in Kharif 2010 would be adequate to meet the requirement.

Department of Fertilizers monitors availability of major fertilizers like Urea, DAP, MOP and NPK as per the requirement through Web based fertilizer Monitoring System (FMS) at State level. State Governments are responsible for equitable distribution of fertilizers within the state in such a manner that no pocket in the state faces shortage of fertilizer.

(d) and (e) State Governments, under Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) and Fertilizer (Movement Control) Order, 1973 are empowered to check hoarding of fertilizers and take action against the persons involved under Essential Commodities Act.

(f) and (g) A buffer stock of 6.25 LMT of urea is maintained in major urea consuming states to meet exigencies of demand. State Governments have also been advised to tie up supplies with the fertilizer companies through their state level institutions like Markfed etc.

Statement

Assessed Requirement of Urea & DAP During Kharif 2010

(In '000 tonnes) KHARIF 2010		
State	Urea	DAP
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1350.00	600.00
Karnataka	800.00	600.00
Kerala	90.00	20.00
Tamil Nadu	450.00	200.00
Puducherry	16.50	5.20
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.50	0.70

1	2	3
Gujarat	925.00	480.00
Madhya Pradesh	625.00	600.00
Chhattisgarh	450.00	225.00
Maharashtra	1425.00	1000.00
Rajasthan	560.00	350.00
Goa	3.78	2.60
Daman and Diu	0.36	0.08
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.97	0.87
Haryana	850.00	320.00
Punjab	1250.00	600.00
Uttar Pradesh	2510.00	1085.00
Uttarakhand	120.00	25.00
Himachal Pradesh	35.00	0.00
Jammu and Kashmir	75.00	45.00
Delhi	2.20	2.00
Chandigarh	0.00	0.00
Bihar	900.00	200.00
Jharkhand	140.00	70.00
Orissa	400.00	160.00
West Bengal	500.00	250.00
Assam	120.00	15.00
Tripura	21.60	1.00
Manipur	37.00	7.40
Meghalaya	3.75	2.40
Nagaland	0.45	0.30
Arunachal Pradesh	0.57	0.08
Mizoram	2.20	1.66
All India	13664.88	6869.29

*[English]***Transportation of Foodgrains by Rail**

4409. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to create an agri-rail project that would enable farmers of rural and remote areas to connect with the markets at affordable and subsidized costs for freight charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether rail transportation cost of food grain and fertilizers has gone up over 50 percent in five years;

(d) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to reduce the rail transportation cost of food grain and fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) For collection and distribution of agri products, a policy for creation of perishable cargo centres with cold storage and/or temperature controlled facility and with agri-retail outlets at selected rail heads has been issued on 14.01.2010 as pilot project.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) 'Inflation concession' of Rs. 100/- per wagon on booking of foodgrains for domestic use has been provided with effect from 1st April, 2010.

Supply of Subsidized LPG Cylinders

4410. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to supply only six cylinders with subsidy in a year to those consumers paying income tax whereas persons willing to get more than six cylinders may have to pay the market price of the cylinder:

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the decision likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

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

Bifurcation of GAIL

4411. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to bifurcate Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL);
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether there is a tie-up between GAIL India Ltd. and any private company;
 (d) if so, the details thereof;
 (e) whether GAIL has any plan to enter into the field of power generation; and
 (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Madam.

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. GAIL is having participating interest in Exploration & Production (E&P) and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks in partnership with following private Companies:

1. Arrow Energy, Australia
2. Bengal Energy International Inc., Canada
3. Daewoo International Corporation, Korea
4. Energy Infrastructure Group (EIG), Sweden
5. Eni S.P.A., Italy
6. Geo Global Resources, Canada
7. Hardy Exploration and Production Inc. (HEPI), Chennai

8. Hallworthy Shipping Limited, UK
9. Jubilant Oil and Gas Private Limited (JOGPL), Noida
10. Korea Gas Corporation (Ko Gas), Korea
11. Nitin File Protection Industries Ltd., Mumbai
12. Oilex Oman Limited, Oman
13. Petrogas E&P LLC, Oman
14. Tata Power, Mumbai
15. Videocon Industries Limited, Mumbai

Further, GAIL has the following Joint Venture Companies:-

1. Mahanagar Gas Limited
2. Petronet LNG Limited
3. Fayum Gas
4. Shell Compressed Natural Gas Egypt
5. Natural Gas Company "Nat Gas"
6. China Gas Holding Limited

(e) and (f) Presently, GAIL is associated with three gas-based power Companies, namely, Gujarat Industries Power Co. Ltd. (GIPCL), Gujarat State Energy Generation Ltd. (GSEG) & Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL). GAIL has invested in GIPCL in the year 1991 and the present investment of GAIL is Rs. 85.59 lakh (0.38% equity stake). In 2001, GAIL invested Rs. 20.76 crore in GSEG with 12.86% equity; major promoter of the plant is Gujarat State Petroleum Corp. Ltd. (GSPC). GAIL and NTPC formed a Joint Venture Company RGPPL in 2005, wherein GAIL is having 28.33% stake. The project has a generation capacity of 2150 MW along with an integrated 5 million tonnes per annum (mmtpa) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal located at Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra. Further, GAIL and IFFCO are jointly exploring the possibility of setting up a 200-250 MW gas based power plant at Bettiah, Bihar for which Feasibility Study has been completed. GAIL has commissioned 4.5 MW wind energy project in Kutch, Gujarat for captive use.

Sale of Poor Quality of Petrol

4412. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:
SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:

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

(a) whether cases of under wightment and poor quality of petrol and diesel to the consumers by retail outlets have been brought to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the number of such cases brought to light during the last three years;

(c) the action initiated against the erring retail outlets; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel. Details of suspected cases of adulteration and short delivery of product detected by the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to check adulteration in petrol and diesel during the last three years is as under:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (Apr-Feb, 10)
Adulteration case	154	197	111	42
Short delivery	994	907	1025	905

Action has been taken in line with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against the Retail Outlet dealers found indulging in adulteration and short delivery.

(d) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under MDG and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for

serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives viz., Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Revision of MDG etc.

Retail Price of SSP

4413. SHRI M. VENUGOPALA REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given any instructions to the manufacturers of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) fertilizer to keep the retail price below Rs. 230 per bag so that farmers can use it as an alternative to Di Ammonium Phosphate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the manufacturers of SSP thereto; and

(d) the manner in which it is likely to be beneficial for the farmers and the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Nutrient Based Subsidy with effect from 1.5.2010 has been announced for Single Super Phosphate (SSP). As per the scheme, it is expected that under Nutrient Based Subsidy, the retail price of SSP will be much below Rs. 230 per bag prevailing currently, so that farmer can use it as an alternative to Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP).

(c) SSP industry is expected to provide SSP at affordable price under Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy as subsidy for SSP under Nutrient Based Subsidy is encouraging.

(d) The farmers will be able to get SSP at the affordable prices.

Corporate Governance Norms in PSUs

4414. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for bringing and to follow corporate governance norms in various Public Sector Undertakings/Enterprises by keeping the affairs more transparent and accountable; and

(b) the degree of success achieved in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government had issued the "Guidelines on Corporate Governance for Central Public Sector Enterprises" (CPSEs) in June, 2007, which were voluntary in nature. The Government has since reviewed the matter and has now decided to implement the "Guidelines on Corporate Governance for all CPSEs" on a mandatory basis.

[Translation]

Introduction of New Trains

4415. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce Garib Rath, Rajdhani, Shatabdi and Express trains from Ajamgarh railway station in Uttar Pradesh to New Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bangaluru;

(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) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Pending Cases in Supreme Court

4416. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:
SHRI P.K. BIJU:
SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

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

(a) the number of cases filed in the Supreme Court in the year 2009;

(b) the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court till date;

(c) the average number of cases heard by Supreme Court every year; and

(d) the steps taken for expeditious disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) 77,151 cases were filed in the Supreme Court in the year 2009.

(b) 54,864 cases were pending in the Supreme Court as on 1.4.2010.

(c) The Registry of the Supreme Court has informed that it does not compile data relating to average number of cases heard by the Court every year. However, information relating to the institution and disposal for the last three years is furnished below:

Year	Institution			Disposal		
	Admission matters	Regular matters	Total	Admission matters	Regular matters	Total
2007	62281	6822	69103	56682	5275	61957
2008	63346	7006	70352	61219	6240	67459
2009	69171	7980	77151	64282	6897	71179

(d) A statement indicating the steps taken by the Supreme Court to reduce the backlog of pending

cases is enclosed.

Statement

Steps taken in recent past to reduce arrears and expedite disposal of cases in Supreme Court

1. Grouping and Tagging

Detailed particulars of the matters coming to Supreme Court are entered in the Computer. Consequently, the appeals/petitions arising out of the same order/judgment or same subject matter/cause are tagged and are heard and decided together. Wherever the previous matters have already been disposed of, the subsequent matter is heard by the same Court, which shortens the hearing and expedites disposal. Earlier 10 or more matters were treated as group matters, in order to identify more group matters and to list them for early hearing and disposal, it was directed by the competent authority that five and more matters on identical issue be treated as a group matter. As a result of this, more group matters have been identified and such group matters are listed below the part-heard matters so that maximum of such group matters are heard and disposed of by a common order.

2. Categorization

Different subject categories including sub-categories have been named for the matters likely to be filed in this Court and category number is given against each matter at the time of registration. Each category has been allocated to one or more Judges and matters of that category are listed only before those Judges. Judges hearing matters on a particular subject, develop sort of expertise in those subjects which reduces the time taken in disposal of the matter.

3. Classification

Appropriate catchwords are fed in the Computer while registering a case, so that identical matters are heard and decided by the same Court. This is yet another measure which increases disposal.

OTHERS:

4. A large number of matters have been taken up for final disposal instead of adopting the usual course of granting leave and hearing them in due course, This course of action expedites hearing and has increased disposal.

5. Group matters are given top most priority in listing that maximum cases may be heard and decided by a common order.

6. Constitution Bench/larger Bench are sitting regularly to decide important question of law and as a result, a large number of matters involving common issue are being disposed of expeditiously. In the year, 2006, Five Judges Constitution Bench held sitting for 44 days to hear 292 constitution Bench matters and Nine Judges Constitution Bench held sittings for 5 days to hear 33 connected matters. In the year 2007, Constitution Bench consisting of five Judges held sittings for 27 days and two Constitution Bench matters involving Constitutional issues of national importance were heard and disposed of. In the year 2008, Constitution Bench consisting of five Judges held sittings for 15 days and disposed of four Constitution Bench matters. In the year 2009, so far, Constitution Bench consisting of five Judges sat for 7 days and three Constitution Bench matters were finally heard.

7. Number of matters being listed before each Court on Misc. Days has been increased (upto 72), which has resulted in increased disposal.

8. All the fresh matters are listed within 10 to 14 days of registration and many of them are disposed of at the preliminary hearing.

9. In order to ensure quick disposal of regular Tax matters which normally have huge revenue applications, two Benches have been constituted to deal exclusively with those matters. A large number of regular matters have already been disposed of by these Benches.

10. Cases of certain categories such as Matters of Senior Citizens, Matrimonial Matters, Corruption cases, Matters of Undertrial Prisoners, Matters of Workmen who are out of Job and Old Cases, including the Cases in which litigation in the lowest forum started long ago but the matter reached this in Court only recently are being heard on priority basis.

11. In addition to Regular Court hearings, three Judges hear Misc. applications including Bail. Applications in Chambers once a week, which expedites disposal of the cases.

12. As many as Ten Division Benches including two D.B. Dealing with specified criminal matters, are now dealing with criminal cases on the admission side in order to expedite hearing of such matters.
13. A Bench of two Judges sit throughout the vacation, to hear urgent matters, If need be, urgent matters are also heard at the Residence of Judges after working hours and during holidays.
14. During summer vacation of 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009, additional Benches were constituted to hear old and urgent regular hearing matters in addition to urgent miscellaneous matters from Mondays to Fridays.
15. The Courts of Registrars have been established under the new amendments in the S.C. Rules. At present, two Registrar's Courts are working and dealing with 300 matters everyday.
16. Additional powers have been delegated to Hon'ble Judge sitting singly in Chamber as well as to Registrars, so that Courts are able to concentrate only on ready matters requiring hearing on merit.
17. Five more Final Disposal matters are being listed before each Bench on Mondays w.e.f. 25.02.2008.
18. In order to ensure uniformity and consistency in the matter of admission of Tax matters which normally involve huge revenue implication, one Bench is assigned to exclusively deal with admission of such matters.
19. As many as eight Division Benches are now dealing with services matters and labour matters and admission side., in order to expedite hearing of such matters.
20. Five Lok Adalats have been conducted in the Supreme Court during the period.
21. Various steps have been taken since 2007 to bring down the pendency, such as streamlining and simplifying the procedure, shedding and pedantic approach. Infructuous cases and cases covered by the earlier decisions are being identified and listed before the Hon'ble Court for disposal. Cases involving cognate issues are also listed before the same Hon'ble Court. The Court

management was evolved keeping in view the goal setting, statistical analysis, causes of delay and case flow management.

22. In the year 2008, old cases upto year 2003 were exclusively listed before three regular Courts earmarked for that purpose with a view to accelerate disposal of old cases. Similarly in the year 2009, two regular Courts have been earmarked to deal with hearing of old cases upto the year 2004 and the cases are listed before these Courts according to the oldest pendency.
23. During the Summer Vacation in the year 2008 (from 19.05.2008 to 04.07.2008), 339 urgent matters were listed before the Vacation Benches out of which 285 were disposed of. Similarly, in the Summer Vacation 2009 (from 18.05.2009 to 05.07.2009), 695 urgent matters were listed before the Vacation Benches out of which 257 were disposed of. That apart. 206 old regular hearing matters were also listed during Vacation out of which 104 regular old matters were heard and disposed of.

As a result of the above referred steps, despite full Judge-strength not being available to the Supreme Court, there has been consistent increase in disposal. 35,300 cases were disposed of by this Court in the year 2000, whereas disposal in the year 2009 was 71,179, cumulative increase being as much as 101.6 in a period of 9 years.

However, the institution during this period surpassed the increased disposal and was as much as 77,151 in the year 2009,' as against 37,111 in the year 2000. The cumulative increase in 9 years being 107.89%.

Railway Projects in Orissa

4417. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:
SHRI JAYARAM PANGI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing and pending railway projects *viz.* laying of new railway lines, doubling of rail lines, gauge conversion and electrification of railway tracks in Orissa alongwith the target fixed for their completion;

(b) the amount allocated and spent thereon till date, project-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Railways to complete these projects according to targeted dates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The details of ongoing and pending new lines, gauge conversion and doubling projects with targets, wherever fixed, are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Latest Anticipated Cost	Anticipated Expenditure incurred upto 31.03.2010	Targets wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5
NEW LINE				
1.	Lanjigarh Road-Junagarh (56 kms)	170.00	109.31	2010-11.
2.	Khurda Road-Bolangir (289 kms)	700.00	105.8	Khurda Road-Begunia section is targeted for 20.10.11.
3.	Haridaspur-Paradeep (82 kms)	594.34	193.51	-
4.	Angul-Sukinda Road (98.7 kms)	638.50	34.38	-
5.	Talcher-Bimlagarh (154 Kms)	810.78	37.98	-
GAUGE CONVERSION				
1.	Naupada-Gunupur (90 Kms)	168.88	163.09	Naupada-Parlakhimindi completed. Balance in 2010-11.
DOUBLING				
1.	Rajathgarh-Barang (20 kms)	243.35	213.65	2010-11.
2.	Sambalpur-Rengali (22.7 kms)	106.54	93.42	Sambalpur-Sasan completed. Balance targeted for 2010-11.
3.	Jharsuguda-Rengali (25.6 kms)	150	65.45	-
4.	Cuttack-Barang (12 kms)	170.07	130.48	2010-11.

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Khurda Road-Barang 3rd line (35 kms)	211.91	142.44	2010-11.
6.	Sambalpur- Titlagarh (182 kms)	762.74	76.2	-
7.	Raipur-Titlagarh (203 kms)	691.67	67.05	-
8.	Bimlagarh-Dumitra (18.3 Kms)	99.00	31.97	2011-12.
9.	Banspani-Joruli (9 Kms)	90.88	1.06	2011-12
10.	Banspani-Daitari- Tomka-Jakhapura (180 km)	1142.6	0	-
11.	Barbil-Barajamda (10 km)	51.21	34.71	2010-11
12.	Padapahar- Banspani (32 km)	144.36	133.36	18 km completed and balance targeted for 2010-11.
13.	Champajharan- Bimlagarh (21 km)	149.9	0	-
14.	Delang-Puri (29 km)	133.71	0	-
15.	Sambalpur-Talcher (174.11 km)	679.27	0	-

Electrification of Daitari-Banspani, Haridaspur-Paradeep and Angul-Sukinda rail lines are being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited under New Lines.

(c) Necessary funds are being provided to complete the projects as per the fixed targets. The projects are being monitored regularly.

Allocation of CBM Blocks

4418. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has accorded its approval for allocation of an additional 80 Sq. Km. of adjacent area in the CBM block SP(W)-CBM-2001 to M/s Reliance Industries Ltd, without going in for an auction under the forthcoming Coal Bed Methane round; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Do not arise.

Indian Institute of Handloom and Textiles

4419. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala had submitted a detailed project report for setting up of an Indian Institute of Handlooms and Textiles in Kerala during the current Five Year Plan period by upgrading the existing infrastructure facilities available in the Institute of Handlooms and Textile Technology, Kannur;

(b) if so, the main reasons for delay in clearing this project if any; and

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

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

(b) and (c) A proposal for setting up of Indian Institute of Handloom Technology by strengthening of existing Institute of Handloom Technology had been received from Government of Kerala in June, 2009. The proposal was examined with reference to the guidelines of Diversified Handloom Development Scheme (DHDS),

but not acceded to. As per the guidelines of the scheme, one time financial assistance is provided by the Government of India to the State Government for the setting up of new Indian Institute of Handloom Technology; whereas proposal of the State Government of Kerala appeared to be strengthening of existing Institute of Handloom Technology. The State Govt. has been asked to submit a revised proposal with reference to the guidelines of DHDS, which is still awaited.

[*Translation*]

Railway Projects in Rajasthan

4420. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of railway projects sanctioned by the Railways for Rajasthan during the last three years alongwith fund sanctioned for each project; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to complete the pending rail projects within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The following projects have been included in Railway Budget during the period from 2007-08 to 2009-10:

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Length (in Kms) up to March 2010	Anticipated cost	Anticipated Expenditure	Proposed Outlay in 2010-11
1.	Banaguram-Ras new line	27.8	144.57	0.01	50
2.	Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur gauge conversion	299.2	742.88	3.78	30
3.	Jaipur-Ringus-Churu & Sikar-Loharu gauge conversion	320.04	653.54	2.25	30
4.	Sadulpur-Bikaner & Ratangarh-Degana gauge conversion	394.35	695	579	100
5.	Suratpura-Hanumangarh-Sriganganagar gauge conversion	240.95	449	0.5	30
6.	Alwar-Harsauli doubling	34.86	90.79	65.75	15
7.	Harsauli-Rewari doubling	39.35	110.95	72.28	37

(b) The availability of funds for the projects have increased considerably over the last few years due to increase in budgetary support, provision of funds through internal generation, additional funds for National Projects, participation by State Governments and beneficiaries and implementation of projects by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. through extra-budgetary resources. Interaction has been done with the Industry for private participation in projects.

Basic Amenities at Mairwa Railway Station

4421. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a lack of passenger amenities at the Mairwa Railway Station under the North-Eastern Railways especially of drinking water;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to provide basic amenities at this Railway Station;

(c) whether Mairwa Railway Station does not have any rest-room and waiting room; and

(d) if so, the time by which the said facility is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Mairwa is a 'B' category station and all Minimum Essential Amenities including drinking water facility have been provided as per norms. As a measure of further augmentation of amenities, a work for provision of additional hand-pumps and lavatory has been taken up.

(c) Waiting hall of 69.80 sqm is already existing at the station which is adequate for the present level of passenger traffic.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Medical Facilities at Railway Stations

4422. DR. K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to provide dispensaries/medical facilities at various railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the criteria on which the railway stations are selected for providing these medical facilities on railway stations?

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

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and Ministry of Railways for development of healthcare infrastructure along the rail network of country. These health care infrastructure facilities viz. diagnostic centers, outpatient centers, inpatient medical treatment centers, etc. shall be developed by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

(c) The vacant railway land, which is not required for immediate operational use have been identified for this purpose.

[Translation]

Exercising of Franchise by Armed Forces Personnels

4423. SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure in vogue for the Jawans and Officers of the three wings of defence forces exercise their franchise till now;

(b) the percentage of the jawans and officers who exercised their right to vote;

(c) whether this percentage has been very low;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to simplify the said procedure?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) In terms of sub-section (a) of section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 read with sub-sections (3) and (8) of section 20 of Representation of the People Act, 1950, and rule 18 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the army personnel, including jawans and officers, are classified

under the category of `service voters` and are permitted to vote either in person or through postal ballot or through proxy.

Voting by the Postal Ballots

The procedure for voting by postal ballots and their return laid down under the provisions of rules 23, 24, 25 and 27 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961. For efficient management, the postal ballots for the service voters are centrally dispatched, within 48 hours of the finalization of the lists of contesting candidates on the last date for withdrawal of candidatures from the District Headquarters by & team under the supervision of the Returning Officer of the Constituency. The Election Commission has issued detailed instructions for smooth management of postal ballot papers.

Proxy Voting

'Service Voters' who opt to vote by proxy under Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 are categorized as 'classified service voters'. The procedure for appointment of proxy for this purpose is detailed in rules 27M to 27Q of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961. There are standing instructions with regard to the procedures to be followed by the Returning Officer of a constituency while dealing with postal ballots/proxy voters of defence personnel.

The statistical data of Postal Ballots available with the Election Commission includes various other categories apart from that of the service electors from the three wings of Defence forces. Hence, it will not be possible to obtain the percentage of the service electors who have exercised their right to vote. Further, as per the provisions of rule 92 of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the packets of unused ballot papers with counter foils attached thereto, the packets of used ballot papers whether valid, tendered or rejected, the packets of the counterfoils of used ballot papers, the packets of the marked copy of the electoral roll or, as the case may be, the packets of the declarations by electors and the attestation of their signatures, *inter-alia*, shall be kept in safe custody of District Election Officer and as per the provisions of sub-rule (1) of rule 93 of Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, while in the custody of the District Election Officer the

records mentioned above shall not be open to inspection or produce before any person or authority except under the order of a competent court.

The Election Commission has issued instructions that the District Election Officer shall also take proactive steps to facilitate enrollment of armed forces personnel and to spread awareness about proxy voting facility among them.

Introduction of Air Services

4424. SHRI DEORAJ SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start Jabalpur Nagpur-Mumbai and Mumbai- Nagpur-Jabalpur air service;

(b) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce air services from Bhopal to Kolkata and Jabalpur to Gwalior; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam. However, Air India currently operates daily morning and evening direct air services between Mumbai and Nagpur.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Air India does not have plans to introduce direct flights from Bhopal to Kolkata due to capacity constraints. However, Air India operates direct air services between Gwalior and Jabalpur on day 2, 4 and 6 with ATR aircraft.

Derailment of Passenger Train

4425. SHRI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the eight coaches of 2121 Bilaspur Passenger train got derailed due to blowing up of the railway lines in the West Singhbhum district of Jharkhand by the Maoists in November, 2009 wherein some people were killed and many were injured; and

(b) if so, the details of casualties reported and the concrete steps being taken by the Railways to contain the menace of the Maoists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. On 19-11-2009 at 21.10 hrs., while the Train No. 321 Up Tata-Bilaspur Passenger (and not 2121) was on run between Posoita and Manoharpur stations on Tatanagar-Rourkela section of Chakradharpur Division, its both locomotives and 8 coaches derailed due to bomb blast on the track by miscreants.

(b) As a result of the accident, 2 passengers lost their lives, 8 sustained grievous injuries and 19 passengers suffered simple injuries. Law and order being a state subject, Railways primarily depend upon assistance and co-operation of State Governments to protect railway passengers and railway property. However, following measures are being taken to ensure safe and secure journey to the passengers:-

1. Nominated trains are escorted by Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP) on the vulnerable sections/areas.
2. All concerned are alerted to take adequate preventive and precautionary measures to maintain extra vigil.
3. Deployment of Police personnel is made at strategic points, besides regular deployment.
4. In addition, checks are also conducted by Gazetted Officers.
5. Close co-ordination is maintained with Government Railway Police (GRP) and District Police.
6. Intelligence Wings of Railway Protection Force are utilized to gather information on regular basis about the activities of extremist groups in coordination with State Police, Intelligence agencies.
7. An integrated security system has been approved to strengthen surveillance mechanism over 202 sensitive and vulnerable stations of Indian Railways.

8. Recently, a high level co-ordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, senior officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 21.01.2010 at Rail Bhawan to improve security on Railways.

Railway Projects in Maharashtra

4426. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the railway projects received from the Maharashtra Government during the last three years;
- (b) the details of the projects approved, so far;
- (c) whether some projects are running behind schedule due to paucity of funds; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways for allocation of sufficient funds for completing these projects in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) As per the available records, 16 proposals for taking up new projects were received from Government of Maharashtra during the last 3 years. Out of these proposals, following 03 projects have taken up:-

- (i) Gauge conversion of Akola-Khandwa as part of Ratlam-Khandwa-Akola included in Budget 2008-09.
- (ii) Doubling and electrification of Udhna-Jalgaon included in Budget 2008-09.
- (iii) Wardha-Nanded new line included in Budget 2008-09.

Out of the remaining proposals, surveys have been completed for 3 proposals and another 4 proposals have been taken up for survey.

(c) and (d) The projects are getting prolonged due to resource constraints. These are being progressed as per the availability of resources. Measures have been taken for generating additional funds for expediting completion of projects.

Private Companies Engaged in Cooking Gas Business

4427. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private companies are also engaged in cooking gas business in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of gas companies which have been issued licences, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the agreement entered into between the cooking gas companies and the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000, vide Notification dated 26-04-2000 permits parallel marketing of LPG by parallel marketer carrying on any or all of the business of importing, storing, bottling, marketing, distributing and/or selling LPG under the Parallel Marketing System (PMS).

The parallel marketer, subject to fulfillment of the condition prescribed in the said LPG Control Order are free to operate and are not required to seek authorization or licence from the Government.

As per information available with the Government, few private companies including M/s. SHV Energy (P) Limited, M/s. TotalGaz, M/s. Caltex and M/s. Shell Gas (LPG) India are selling domestic LPG in the country under the PMS.

[English]

Rail over Bridges

4428. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals pending with the Railways for construction of Rail Over Bridges during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise including Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of requests received from various State Governments for construction of ROBs, State-wise during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by Railways for early execution of pending ROBs?

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 House.

Increase of Quota

4429. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any requests to increase the quota of AC 1st, AC 2nd and 3 tier in Konkan Kanya Express and introduction of Mumbai CST-Sawantwadi new train;

(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) and (b) Request for increase in quota of AC 1st, AC 2nd and 3AC classes in all trains of the Konkan Railway has been received. Requests have also been received for introduction of Mumbai CST-Sawantwadi new train.

(c) Train No. 0111/0112 Konkan Kanya Express is running with the maximum permissible load and hence it is not feasible to augment its load further with a view to provide more accommodation in the Air-conditioned classes. Moreover, reservation quotas defined in various trains are reviewed on periodical basis keeping in view the demand pattern and adjustments made wherever required. The requests regarding introduction of new train between Mumbai CST-Sawantwadi have been examined and presently it is not feasible to introduce a new train owing to terminal and operational constraints. However, whenever there is additional demand on the route of 0111/0112 Konkan Kanya Express train, special trains are run and extra coaches are attached to other trains to clear the extra rush subject to operational feasibility.

'Southern Splendour' Train

4430. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have introduced 'Southern Splendour' Train;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the additional facilities available in this train;

(c) whether the Railways proposed to introduce more such trains in other parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) No, Madam. However, the rake of luxury tourist train 'Golden Chariot' which is running in association with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) is also operating in a Pan-South India circuit covering Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry. This tour package is being marketed as 'Southern Splendour' by KSTDC.

(c) to (e) There is a proposal from Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board (PHTPB) for running a luxury tourist train. The Memorandum of Understanding has been signed in this regard between Indian Railways and PHTPB.

Late Running of 1MNR Meerut Shuttle Train

4431. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that 1MNR Meerut Shuttle Train which used to run between Meerut Cantt. to New Deihl is now frequently getting delayed badly after its extension up to Rewari and thereby causing undue difficulties to the daily commuters and other passengers of the said train; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to avoid such undue delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) During March 2010, 1MNR Rewari-Meerut shuttle arrived right time on 12 occasions and was late upto 30 minutes on 11 occasions. 2MNR Meerut-Rewari shuttle arrived right time on 6 occasions and was late upto 30 minutes on 13 occasions.

(b) Punctuality drives are launched from time to time and the running of trains is closely monitored by deputing officials on footplate. Action is taken to address the factors responsible for loss of punctuality of trains.

Multi Functional Complex

4432. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of railway stations in Bihar selected for setting up multi-functional complex; and

(b) the status of work in progress in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Rajgir station in Bihar has been selected for development of multi-functional complex during 2009-10. M/s IRCON have already been entrusted with the development of this work. In addition, four more stations in the State of Bihar viz. Jamalpur, Katihar, Patna Sahib & Raxaul have been proposed for development of multi-functional complex during 2010-11.

Doubling of Railway Line

4433. SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for track doubling of Kanyakumari-Madurai-Chennai section;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) On Kanyakumari-Chennai route, double broad gauge lines are already provided on Chennai-Chengalpattu and Madurai- Dindigul sections. Doubling of Chengalpattu-Villupuram by gauge conversion of the existing metre gauge line and Villupuram-Dindigul sections have been taken up and these works would be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. An outlay of Rs. 43 crore and Rs. 60 crore respectively is proposed for these doubling works during 2010-11. Doubling of Madurai-Kanyakumari is not sanctioned.

[Translation]

ROB in Allahabad Region

4434. SHRI KAPIL MUNI KARWARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various proposals of constructing a rail over bridge over highly congested railway crossing falling under the Allahabad region are under the consideration of the Railways; and

(b) if so, the time by which such projects are likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. There are two Road Over Bridge (ROB) under construction in and around Allahabad city over North Central Railway.

(b) In case of ROB at Km. 818/15-17 near Naini, physical work will start after monsoon in Railway portion. The work will be completed by March 2012 and in case of ROB at Km. 1341/10-12 near Iradatganj, Railway portion has been completed. The approach portion of ROB is being constructed by the State Govt. The progress is 50%. The work will be completed by March 2011.

[English]

Textile Mills in Odisha

4435. SHRI JAYARAM PANGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to formulate a scheme to improve the conditions of small textile mills of the country, particularly in Odisha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMTI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Textiles does not propose to formulate any specific scheme to improve the conditions of small textile mills, particularly in Odisha.

[Translation]

Increase in Railway Coaches

4436. SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to increase the number of coaches from 12 to 16 in Patna Rajdhani Express;

(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) to (c) One AC two tier coach has been attached in 2309/2310 Rajendra Nagar (Patna)- New Delhi Rajdhani Express on regular basis w.e.f. 22.12.2009. Now, this train is running with a load of 14 coaches which is considered adequate for the present level of traffic.

Deployment of Railway Protection Force

4437. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the locations other than railway stations where the personnel of Railway Protection Force (RPF) were deployed in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) whether RPF personnel are deployed for the security of VIPs;

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

(d) whether RPF personnel are deployed for security of bungalows in Delhi and out of Delhi; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) During the last three years, personnel of the Railway Protection Force were deployed at following locations in Delhi other than Railway Stations: Railway Hospitals, National Rail Museum, Rail Bhawan, Northern Railway Headquarters, COFMOW, Passenger reservation centers, Railway Colonies in Delhi.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Railway Protection Force personnel are deployed for security of VIPs in coordination with the Government Railway Police and the State police as per security requirements.

(d) and (e) Railway Protection Force personnel are deployed for security of senior Railway officials as per security requirements.

Advertisement for Gas Agencies in Rajasthan

4438. SHRI BADRI RAM JAKHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of companies which have given advertisements for gas agencies in Rajasthan during the last two years alongwith the district-wise details thereof;

(b) the number of gas agencies opened on the basis of the said advertisement in the State and the number of agencies for which applications are still pending, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) During the last two years, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have advertised 87 locations for setting up of LPG distributor in the State of Rajasthan and the selection of the same is in progress as per policy.

In addition to this, notice inviting applications for selection of LPG distributors under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) have been issued on 17.10.2009 by OMCs for establishing 192 new LPG distributors in the State of Rajasthan. Out of which Letter of Intent (LoI) for three locations have already been issued. The selection for the balance locations is in progress. The district-wise details are available with the Director (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

The selection of LPG distributorships is made by OMCs themselves, in terms of laid down guidelines. The setting up of LPG distributors is a continuous process and involves identifying of a suitable location, arranging land for construction of godown/showroom 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.

[English]

Train Service between Bhiwani and Haridwar

4439. SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce a train service between Bhiwani and Haridwar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Farrakha Express train service between Bhiwani junction and Maida town has been discontinued;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Railways to revive this train service;

(f) whether the Railways propose to bring Bhiwani junction under Delhi division instead of Bikaner division in order to improve operational efficiency;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) 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) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The service of Farakka Express has been short terminated at Delhi w.e.f. 01-07-2005 to improve its punctuality. At present, there is no proposal to restore its service between Bhiwani and Delhi.

(f) No, Madam.

(g) and (h) Do not arise.

Doubling of Railway Lines in Southern States

4440. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Railway lines in Southern States which have been doubled during the last three years, State-wise and Zone-wise;

(b) the details of the railway lines in Southern States on which doubling works are in progress alongwith time schedule for the completion of each project, State-wise, Zone-wise; and

(c) the amount spent to each project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Southern States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh are covered under Central, Southern, South

Central, South Western and East Coast Railways. Details of rail lines doubled during the last three years *i.e.* 2007-08 to 2009-10 in these five Zonal Railways are as under:-

Sl.No.	Rail Line	Length In Km)	Railway Zone
1.	Pakni-Mahol	17	Central
2.	Diva-Kalyan 5th & 6th line	11	Central
3.	Ernakulam-Mulanturutti	17	Southern
4.	Kayankulam-Mavelikara	8	Southern
5.	Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 3rd line	27	Southern
6.	Dindigul-Kodaikannal Road-Madurai	62	Southern
7.	Guntur-Mangalagiri-Krishna Cannal	27	South Central
8.	Pullampet-Hastavaram-Bhakarapeta	42	South Central
9.	Kadapa-Kamlapuram	23	South Central
10.	Samalkot-Kakinada Port	15.6	South Central
11.	Bidadi-Ramanagaram	14	South Western
12.	Gollahalli-Tumkur	42	South Western
13.	Hubli-Hebsur	19	South Western
14.	Dharwad-Mugad	15	South Western
15.	Mahanadi bridge	3	East Coast
16.	Khurda Road-Delang	15	East Coast
17.	Sambalpur-Sason	18	East Coast
18.	Kesinga- Titlagarh	13	East Coast
19.	Jharsuguda Bye-pass	9	East Coast

Details of the ongoing doubling projects in the aforesaid five Zonal Railways alongwith anticipated expenditure on each project upto 31.3.2010 is already available in the Railway Budget documents for the year

2010-11. Railways have huge throwforward of projects with limited resources. The time of completion for projects wherever fixed is indicated as under:-

Sl.No.	Project/Section	Railway Zone	Target date of completion, wherever fixed
1	2	3	4
1.	Attipattu-Korukkupettai 3rd line (18 km)	Southern	Korukkupet-Ennore (12 km) commissioned. Ennore-Attipattu (6 km) is targeted for completion during 2010-11.
2.	Irugur-Coimbatore (18 km)	Southern	All works completed except 65 metre length, target is 30.6.2010.
3.	Calicut-Mangalore (221 km)	Southern	Work on 218 km completed. Netravati-Kankanadi (3 km) target is 2010-11.
4.	Cheppad-Kayankulam (7.76 km)	Southern	Target is 2010-11.
5.	Mavelikara-Chengannur (12.30 km)	Southern	Target is 2010-11.
6.	Cheppad-Haripad (5.28 km)	Southern	Target is 2010-11.
7.	Arsikere-Birur (44.28 km)	South Western	Target is 2010-11.
8.	Dharwad-Kambarganvi (26.68 km)	South Western	Dharwad-Mugad completed. Balance target is 31.3.2011.
9.	Ramanagaram-Mysore (91.5 km)	South Western	Ramanagaram-Sethihalli (18 km) and Mysore.Naganahalli (8 km) are targeted for completion during 2010-11.
10.	Gooty-Renigunta (Phase-II) (151.04 km)	South Central	65 km completed. Further, 62 Km. is targeted for completion during 2010-11.
11.	Raichur-Guntakal (81.1 km)	South Central	20 km is targeted for completion during 2010-11.
12.	Kottavalasa-Simhachalam 4th line (16.69 Km)	East Coast	Target is 2010-11.
13.	Rajatgarh-Barang (20 km)	East Coast	Target is 2010-11.

1	2	3	4
14.	Sambalpur-Rengali (22.7 km)	East Coast	Sambalpur-Sason completed. Balance targeted for 2010-11.
15.	Cuttack-Barang (12 km)	East Coast	Target is 2010-11.
16.	Khurda Road- Barang 3rd line (35 km)	East Coast	Target is 2010.11.

Export of Handloom and Handicrafts

4441. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of handloom and handicrafts produced in the country is increasing;

(b) if so, the details of the States' share in percentage terms regarding export of handloom and handicrafts separately in the country;

(c) whether the Government is providing proper training and adequate financial assistance to increase export of handloom and handicrafts in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the assistance provided during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) So far as handicrafts sector is concerned, the exports of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets have increased by 3.05% during 2009-10 in comparison to the exports of corresponding year of 2008-09.

Due to absence of separate ITC (HS) codes for handloom products, the export data on handlooms is not available. The Ministry of Finance have now notified the codes for handloom products. The Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata has incorporated these codes in the basket of export commodities. Therefore, the data for exports of handloom products is likely to be available in future.

(b) State-wise data of handicrafts exports is not compiled and maintained.

(c) Yes, Madam. In the case of Handicrafts Sector, the measures include financial assistance for participation in fairs/exhibitions abroad; organising Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fairs twice a year; organising Thematic exhibitions, organising programmes for packaging and export procedures, organising Buyer-seller-Meet and brand image promotion of Indian Handicrafts abroad. As far as Handloom Sector is concerned, assistance is provided under the Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme for development of exportable range of handloom products and international marketing by way of participation in international fairs and exhibitions.

(d) The financial assistance is not sanctioned State-wise. The assistance is provided to the implementing agencies. The details of financial assistance provided during each of the last three years for promotion of exports of handloom and handicrafts is as under:

Financial Assistance provided for promotion of exports of Handlooms & Handicrafts

Sl.No.	Year	Financial assistance provided to Handlooms (Rs. in lakh)	Financial assistance provided to Handicrafts (Rs. in Lakh)
1.	2007-08	235.14	958.72
2.	2008-09	274.91	1465.56
3.	2009-10	384.29	1582.14

Investor Protection Fund

4442. SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of Investor education and protection fund during the last three years;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to educate the investor;
- (c) whether the Government has identified any benefits accrued to investors due to this programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED): (a) Under the provisions of section 205C, the following amounts are required to be credited to the Investor Education and Protection Fund by the companies:

- (i) Amounts in the unpaid dividend accounts of companies;
- (ii) The application moneys received by companies for allotment of any security and due for refund;
- (iii) Matured deposits with companies;
- (iv) Matured debentures with companies;
- (v) The interest accrued on the amounts referred to in clauses (i) to (iv);
- (vi) Grants and donations given to the Fund by the Central Government, State Governments, Companies or any other institutions for the purposes of the Fund; and

The interest or other income received out of the investments made from the Fund. At present, no separate fund has been created by the Government and the amounts collected towards Investor Education and Protection Fund are credited into the Consolidated Fund of India. The Ministry gets a budgetary allocation for investor protection initiatives every year and expenditure on various activities is being met out of this allocation.

(b) The Government has taken the following steps to educate the investors:

- (i) The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has created the website www.iepf.gov.in for providing simple, user friendly educational and awareness content to all the investors.

This website is presently available in English and Hindi. The efforts are being made to make this website available in other regional languages.

(ii) The Ministry has created the website www.watchoutinvestor.com for providing information to all the investors about such persons and entities, who have been indicted under different economic laws of the country.

(iii) The Ministry has also created the website www.investorhelpline.com for providing online investor grievance redressal facility to the investors.

(iv) The Ministry undertakes investor awareness programmes in partnership with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) and Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India (ICWAI), specifically targeting investors in tier II and tier III cities.

(v) The Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to voluntary organizations for undertaking investor awareness related activities.

(vi) The Ministry also undertakes multi-lingual media campaigns through print electronic media to reach out to investors across the country.

(c) and (d) The IEPF initiatives have benefitted the investors in a number of ways. the investor awareness camps, multilingual media campaigns and the content available at the website www.iepf.gov.in have taken the message of prudent investment decision making to a large section of the population. The registry of economic offenders at the website www.watchoutinvestor.com has also helped the investors in knowing about the persons and entities who have been found guilty of economic offences so that they can be cautioned in making investments; with such entities. The investor grievances redressal mechanism at the website www.investorhelpline.com is also serving as a useful electronic platform for the investors.

[Translation]

Security Plan in Railways

4443. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are preparing a plan to tighten security to ensure safe running of trains in the terrorist, Maoists, Militants and insurgent groups affected zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the loss of revenue as well as loss suffered by the passengers and the Railways caused by terrorist and naxal attacks in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, zone-wise;

(d) the zone-wise details of the compensation provided by the Railways to the families of the victims during the said period; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Indian Railways to protect the railway property from militant, Maoists and insurgent groups attack?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Policing on Railways is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (GRP), which functions under the control of State Government concerned. Whenever any specific information is received regarding Terrorist/Militant/Maoist activities, Local Police/Government Railway Police (GRP) and Civil Authorities are requested to provide security to the Railway track, Railway passengers and Railway infrastructure to avoid any untoward incident. Concerned Zonal Railway authorities are also intimated for necessary action on their part.

In addition to action taken by civil and police authorities, following measures are taken by Railways for security of passengers:-

1. Integrated Security scheme consisting of CCTV Surveillance system, access control system, personal and baggage screening system and Bomb detection and disposal system has been finalized for 202 important stations and the same is under implementation.
2. Commando Training is being imparted to selected RPF staff to deal with insurgent attacks.
3. Sniffer Dog Squads in Divisions and Zones are being augmented.

4. Under modernization scheme, security gadgets are being procured and the weaponry is being upgraded.

5. Strength of RPF is being augmented. 5134 posts have been sanctioned. In addition to it, 3 RPSF Bns. One Commando Training Centre and 12 Mahila Companies have been approved in Budget 2010-11.

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

(e) The other steps being taken by the Railways to protect the railway property from Militant, Maoists and insurgent groups are give as under:-

1. A high level co-ordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, senior officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 21.01.2010 at Rail Bhavan, New Delhi to improve security in Railways.
2. Close co-ordination is maintained with GRP and Civil Police at District and State level to share intelligence inputs.

Decline in Export of Steel

4444. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of steel declined by 36.1 per cent and remained at 20.9 lakh tonnes during April to December, 2009; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to give impetus to export of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Yes, Madam. Export of finished steel (alloy + non-alloy) has declined by 36.1% during April to December 2009.

(b) Exports are based on commercial decisions of the individual producers/traders based on the opportunities available on the international market. The Government, however, supports the industry on a continuous basis with World Trade Organization (WTO) compatible schemes in order to create a level playing field for the industry. Some of the major fiscal steps to help the industry in export of steel are-

- (i) Export duty on all steel products is 'NIL'; and

- (ii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) Scheme is extended to some of the steel products.

[English]

Import Duty on Chinese Power Equipments

4445. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and BHEL on the one hand and Power Ministry on the other have divergent views for and against the imposition of import duty on Chinese Power Equipments;

(b) if so, the basic difference and the reason for these views; and

(c) the details of the final decision taken in this regard in consultation of Ministry of Finance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) As part of decision making in Government of India on issues such as imposition of Customs Duty on imported power equipment, consultations are held with stakeholder Ministries/Departments. During the pre-budget 2010 exercise, the proposal to impose import duty on power equipment was examined and it was decided not to make any changes in the present duty structure.

Modernisation and Expansion of Sail

4446. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans have been formulated for the modernization and expansion of Steel Authority of India Ltd. by 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of those modernization and expansion plans; and

(d) by when SAIL will be expanded and modernized to compete the steel sector worldwide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has undertaken Modernization and Expansion plan at Bhilal Steel Plant (BSP) in Chhattisgarh, Bokaro Steel Plant (BSI) in Jharkhand, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) in Orissa, Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) and IISCO Steel Plant (ISP) in West Bengal and Salem Steel Plant (SSP) in Tamil Nadu. The Modernization and Expansion plan envisages increasing hot metal production from installed capacity of 13.82 million tonne per annum (MTPA) to 23.46 million tonne per annum (MTPA) in the current phase.

Expansion of Salem Steel Plant (SSP) is in advance stage of completion and the facilities are expected to be completed progressively by June' 2010. For other plants, the packages/facilities are under various stages of execution. The current phase of Modernization and Expansion is expected to be completed by 2012-13.

[Translation]

Defects in Sleepers

4447. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time since when trains are being run at controlled speeds due to defects in sleepers on the bridge over the Ganga river between Chauka Ghat and Ghagrahat stations under North Eastern Railway;

(b) 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) Trains are running at restricted speed since 22-09-2008 on bridge No.391 on Ghaghara river between Ghaghara Ghat and Chowka Ghat Stations.

(b) Speed restriction of 50 kmph has been imposed due to corrosion in steel channel sleepers.

(c) Work of replacement of steel channel sleepers is under progress.

[English]

Import of Petroleum Products

4448. SHRI P.K. BIJU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had made any agreement recently with other countries for importing petroleum products in the country; 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) Government has not made any agreement with other countries for importing petroleum products. However, based on domestic requirements, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.) import petroleum products from time to time.

Amendments in Special Marriage Act

4449. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend Special Marriage Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to abolish the 30 days period notice for court marriage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) The Law Commission of India has recommended certain amendments in the Special Marriage Act, 1954 in its 212th 217th and 227th reports which have been circulated to the State Governments and the Union territories for seeking their views/comments thereon as the subject matter of the said Reports falls under List III-Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

(c) and (d) The Government is considering a proposal to amend the Indian Penal Code and the Special Marriage Act, 1954 inter alia to omit the words "for a period of not less than thirty days" in section 5 of the Special Marriage Act, 1954.

Air India Shut Down Offices in Pakistan

4450. SHRI RAJAI AH SIRICILLA:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:
SHRI P. BALRAM:
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has shut down its offices in Pakistan recently;

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

(c) the losses likely to be incurred due to this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India has decided to close its offices at Lahore and Karachi in Pakistan as it does not have operations to/from these stations. The tentative date fixed for winding up the offices in Pakistan is 31.05.2010.

(c) No losses are likely to be incurred by Air India due to closing of offices at Lahore and Karachi. It would, infact, save the cost being incurred on maintenance of offices at these stations.

[Translation]

ROBs in Bikaner Division

4451. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any representation for construction of railway over bridges at railway crossing on eastern side of Sadalpur station of Bikaner division and on eastern side of Ratangarh railway station; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

Schemes of FPI

4452. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being run under the Food Processing Industries through which assistance is provided to various Government and non-governmental organisations in the country;

(b) the details of amount disbursed during the last three years, organization-wise;

(c) whether the functioning of the organisations in respect of the implementation of the schemes has been satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the names of such organisations against which action has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing various plan schemes for promotion and development of food processing sector in the country *viz.* (i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development with major components *i.e.* Mega Food Park, Cold Chain, Modernization of Abattoirs and Value Added Centres, (ii) Setting up of Technology

Upgradation/Modernisation/Expansion of FPI, (iii) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards and R&D (iv) Scheme for Human Resource Development, (v) Scheme for Strengthening of Institution and (vi) Scheme for Upgradation of Quality of Street Food.

(b) The details of financial assistance extended to various government and non-governmental organisations in the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No adverse reports have been received so far against the organizations assisted.

(d) Does not arise

Statement

The details of grant in aid released to State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) during the year 2007-08

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	State Nodal Agency	Amount
1.	Bihar	Department of Industries	7.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation	5.00
3.	Karnataka	Technical Consultancy Services organization of Karnataka.	5.00
4.	Punjab	Department of Industries and Commerce	10.00
5.	Rajasthan	Department of Industries	-
6.	Sikkim	Department of Industries	10.00
7.	Puducherry	Department of Industries	-
Total			37.00

The details of grant in aid released to State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) during the year 2008-09

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	State Nodal Agency	Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Department of Industries	6.57
2.	Bihar	Department of Industries	2.50

1	2	3	4
3.	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corporation	2.50
4.	Gujarat	Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Ltd.	7.50
5..	Himachal Pradesh	Department of Industries and IT	7.50
6.	Haryana	Department of Industries & Commerce	5.00
7	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	2.50
8.	Karnataka	Technical Consultancy Services Organization of Karnataka.	5.00
9.	Kerala	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation	2.50
10.	Madhya Pradesh	The Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd.	12.50
11.	Maharashtra	The Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd.	12.50
12.	Meghalaya	The Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	5.00
13.	Mizoram	Mizoram Food & Allied Industries Corporation Ltd.	2.50
14.	Nagaland	Department of Industries & Commerce	5.00
15.	Orissa	The Agriculture Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd.	5.00
16.	Punjab	Department of Industries & Commerce	2.50
17.	Sikkim	Department of Industries	2.50
18.	Tripura	Department of Industries & Commerce	2.50
19.	West Bengal	Department of Food Processing & Horticulture	12.50
20.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	Directorate of Agriculture	2.50
Total			106.57

The details of grant in aid released to State Nodal Agencies (SNAs) during the year 2009-10

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/UT	State Nodal Agency	Amount
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Department of Industries	2.50
2.	Himachal Pradesh	Department of Industries and IT	10.00
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	10.00

1	2	3	4
4.	Karnataka	Technical Consultancy Services Organization of Karnataka	5.00
5.	Kerala	Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation	5.00
6.	Meghalaya	The Meghalaya Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	5.00
7.	Mizoram	Mizoram Food & Allied Industries Corporation Ltd.	7.50
8.	Nagaland	Department of Industries & Commerce	5.00
9.	Orissa	The Agriculture Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd.	2.50
10.	Tripura	Department of Industries & Commerce	10.00
Total			62.5

State-wise details of NGOs assisted during last three years for setting up of FPTC

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		No	Amount	No	Amount	No	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands						
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	2.00	1	2.47	8	33.07
3.	Arunachal Pradesh						
4.	Assam	2	8.00				
5.	Bihar			1	2.00	-	1.13
6.	Delhi						
7.	Gujarat						
8.	Haryana	1	1.994	1	1.461	5	19.9
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	2.00				
10.	Jammu and Kashmir						
11.	Karnataka	1	7.204			4	15.6
12.	Jharkhand	1	1.60			-	0.85
13.	Kerala						
14.	Maharashtra	5	11.00	1	4.4	20.66	
15.	Madhya Pradesh	12	21.607	10	20.2	5.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Manipur						
17.	Mizoram	1	7.50				
18.	Meghalaya						
19.	Nagaland						
20.	Orissa	1	2.00	-	2.00	5	19.12
21.	Punjab	1	1.624				
22.	Rajasthan						
23.	Tamil Nadu	2	3.686				
24.	Tripura						
25.	Uttar Pradesh	8	22.755	2	6.077	-	1.00
26.	West Bengal	2	4.00	1	2.905	3	12.00
27.	Uttarakhand			1	3.904		
28.	Puducherry					1	11.00
	Total	37	88.97	18	47.817	34	147.33

Details of Institutes/Universities assisted during the year 2009-10 for creation of infrastructure facilities for Degree/Diploma courses in Food Technology/Food Processing

Sl.No.	Name of the Unit	Amount of Grant (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
1.	Dr. Balahaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra	25.00
2.	Sharadchandraji Pawar College of Food Science and Technology, Chiplun, Maharashtra	25.00
3.	College of Indigenous Food Technology, Council for Food Research and Development, Konni, Kerala	25.00
4.	Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune, Maharashtra	25.00
5.	Govt. College for Women, Jammu	20.66
6.	University Polytechnic, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, U.P.	25.00

1	2	3
7.	Department of Post Harvest Technology, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka	16.65
8.	Haldia Institute of Technology, Haldia, West Bengal	24.99
9.	Techno India, Kolkata, West Bengal	25.00
10.	Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences, Dwarka, New Delhi	34.10
11.	Peace Education Society, Rajamundhry, Hyderabad	25.00
12.	Banaras Hindu University, Banaras	33.12
13.	PSG College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu	21.875
14.	Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur, U.P.,	16.55
15.	Periyar University, Salem, Tamil Nadu	37.5
16.	Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora, J&K	37.5
17.	Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, Kolkata, W.B.	25
18.	Centre of Food Technology, University of Allahabad, Allahabad	26.31
19.	Sambalpur University, Sambalpur, Orissa	37.5
20.	Dept. of Livestock Products Tech., Guru Angad Dev Vet. & Animal Sciences Univ.	19.37
Total		526.125

Assistance for EDPs

Name of Organisation	State	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
Adarsha Rural Development & Training Society,	Andhra Pradesh	0.9
CAP Foundation	Andhra Pradesh	5
APITCO Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh	5
Adarsha Rural Development & Training Society,	Andhra Pradesh	1
EDII Ahmedabad	Andhra Pradesh	5

1	2	3
Gramajeevan	Andhra Pradesh	0.11
National Institute of Medium, Small & Micro Enterprises, Hyderabad.	Andhra Pradesh	6.67
National Institute of Medium, Small & Micro Enterprises, Hyderabad.	Andhra Pradesh	5
NEITCO	Arunachal Pradesh	
Agro Horticulture Society, Nagaon	Assam	4
NEITCO	Assam	5
Eight Brothers	Assam	1
Institute of Entrepreneurship Development Patna	Bihar	4
Vikas Viklang Kalyan Sangh	Bihar	0.25
Fuhari Vikas Sansthan, Mdhubani	Bihar	0.1
Asian Society for Entrepreneurship Education & Development	Bihar	0.225
Gramdeep, Madhubani	Bihar	1
EDII Ahmedabad	Bihar	5
CITCON	Chhattisgarh	1.19
CITCON	Chhattisgarh	1.2
CITCON	Chhattisgarh	5
MITCON Consultancy Services Ltd.	Goa	
Regional Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Chandigarh.	Haryana	0.7
Rampur Samaj Sewa Samiti	Haryana	1
Mewat	Haryana	5
Kavita Bal Vikas Shiksha Samiti	Haryana	1
Regional Centre for Entrepreneurship Development, Chandigarh.	Haryana	1.25
Lord Krishna Educational Foundation, Sonapat	Haryana	0.25

1	2	3
North India Technical Consultancy Organisation	Haryana	1
Himachal Consultancy Organisation, Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	1
Himcon Consultancy Organisation	Himachal Pradesh	3
HIMCON	Himachal Pradesh	2.25
Himachal Harijan Kalyan Sanstha	Himachal Pradesh	1
Himachal Consultancy Organisation, Shimla	Jammu and Kashmir	3
EDII Ahmedabad	Jammu and Kashmir	2.5
CAP Foundation	Jharkhand	
Adarsha Rural Development Society	Karnataka	1
Gagruthi Rural Development Society	Karnataka	1
M.K. Education Trust	Karnataka	1
EDII Ahmedabad	Karnataka	5
AIWC	Kerala	1
KITCO Ltd.	Kerala	5
AIWC	Kerala	0.15
National Institute of Medium, Small & Micro Enterprises, Hyderabad.	Kerala	5
Youth Life Line Education Society, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	1
Youth Life Line Education Society, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	0.46
Panchal Education Society, Bhopal.	Madhya Pradesh	0.19
Saket Samajosthan Sansthan, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	0.23
Sarvam Kalyan Parishad, Damoh	Madhya Pradesh	0.24
Human Welfare Organisation	Madhya Pradesh	0.23
Swargwasi Dada Patil Bahhuddeshiya Sanshta	Maharashtra	0.14
Shri Nilkantheshwar Seva Sanstha	Maharashtra	1.25
MITCON	Maharashtra	5
Shri Nilkantheshwar Seva Sanstha	Maharashtra	2
Saraswati Bahuudeshiya	Maharashtra	1
MITCON Consultancy Services Ltd.	Maharashtra	1.17

1	2	3
MITCON Consultancy Services Ltd.	Maharashtra	1.38
MITCON Consultancy Services Ltd.	Maharashtra	5
Akhil Maharashtra Education Society, Pune	Maharashtra	1
Shri Natraj Shaikshanik Sanskritik Wa Krida Sanstha, Amarawati	Maharashtra	0.1
Shree Vaishnavi Mahila Wa Adiwasi Vikas Sanstha	Maharashtra	0.102
SAMATA	Maharashtra	0.25
SIM Charitable	Maharashtra	0.25
Dongar Tukai Gram Pratisthan, Parbhani, Vikas Maharashtra.	Maharashtra	1
Shri Vivekanand Vyayamshala va Krida Mandal, Parbhani	Maharashtra	2
Shri Vivekanand Vyayamshala wa Krida Mandal	Maharashtra	0.25
ASSOCHAM	Meghalaya	
ASSOCHAM	Nagaland	
NEITCO	Nagaland	
Sahayoga India	Orissa	1
Nari Mangal Mahila Samity	Orissa	1
Centre for Development	Orissa	1
Facsimile	Orissa	5
Orissa Multipurpose Development Centre	Orissa	0.13
Maa Durga Rural Women's Udyog	Orissa	1
Perpetual Reconstructive Institute For Youth Activity	Orissa	1
Orissa Project & Marketing Development Centre, Cuttack	Orissa	3
CHARMS	Orissa	0.13
IMMS	Orissa	1
APITCO Ltd.	Orissa	5
Small Industries Product Promotion Organisation Ltd.	Puduchery	
EDII Ahmedabad	Rajasthan	

1	2	3
Sikkim Consultancy Centre	Sikkim	2
ASSOCHAM	Sikkim	2
NEITCO	Sikkim	0.425
Trust for Rural Poors	Tamil Nadu	1
RAAWT	Tamil Nadu	1
MASS	Tamil Nadu	2
NEEDS	Tamil Nadu	1
Women & Child Development Society	Tamil Nadu	1
Association for Rural Development	Tamil Nadu	1
Anthyodaya Foundation for Rural Development	Tamil Nadu	0.96
Fathima Educational and Rural Development Trust, Trichy	Tamil Nadu	1
Public Welfare Trust	Tamil Nadu	0
Small Industries Product Promotion Organisation Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	5
CARD	Tamil Nadu	0.24
National Institute of Medium, Small & Micro Enterprises, Hyderabad.	Tripura	
NEITCO	Tripura	
UPICO	Uttar Pradesh	2.5
UPICO Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	5
National Institute of Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development.	Uttar Pradesh	0.98
UP Industrial Consultants Ltd. Kanpur.	Uttar Pradesh	5
National Institute of Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development.	Uttar Pradesh	1.16
National Institute of Entrepreneurship & Small Business Development.	Uttar Pradesh	1.17
Welfare Association for Downtrodden	Uttarakhand	0.75
Himachal Consultancy Organisation, Shimla	Uttarakhand	4
Welfare Association for Downtrodden	Uttarakhand	5

1	2	3
Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship	Uttarakhand	2.45
IIE Dehradun	Uttarakhand	5
WADA	Uttarakhand	2.5
Deolpara Swami Vivekanand	West Bengal	0.25
Santiniketan Society for Youth Empowerment	West Bengal	1
Ichapur Brahmanpara	West Bengal	2
Santiniketan Society for Youth Empowerment	West Bengal	0.15
Ichapur Brahmanpara Silpa Niketan	West Bengal	0.15
KALPATARU	West Bengal	0.25
Kamadebpur	West Bengal	0.14
Dhakuria Pratyasha Sangh	West Bengal	0.25
Barakpore Sahayogi	West Bengal	0.15
Aradhana Social Welfare Society	West Bengal	1
West Bengal Consultancy Organisation	West Bengal	5
Harijan Sewak Sangh	West Bengal	0.25
Alukaranbarh Sebha Sangha, Medinipur	West Bengal	0.25

The details of financial assistance given to each of the food testing labs during the current plan period is as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Institute	Amount (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
2007-08		
1.	Council for Food Research and Development, Konni	124.00
2.	Pradeshik Cooperative Dairy Fed. Ltd., U.P.	38.00
3.	I.I.T. Kharagpur	131.88
4.	Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad	85.19
5.	M/s APAIDC, A.P.	90.00
6.	M/s Maarc Labs Pvt Ltd., Pune	7.61
7.	Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidalya, West Bengal	120.85
8.	M/s MARKFED, Punjab	71.58

1	2	3
9.	Junagadh University, Junagadh	187.22
10.	Navsari Agriculture University, Gujarat	137.40
2008-09		
1.	Shriram Institute of Industrial Research, Delhi	29.0895
2.	University of Allahabad, Allahabad	46.61826
3.	Sipra labs Ltd., Hyderabad	132.472
2009-10		
1.	Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Jharkhand	25.00
2.	Guru Jambheshwar University, Hissar	50.00
3.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore	78.985
4.	Sima Labs, New Delhi	72.72
5.	Sipra Labs, Hyderabad	132.472
6.	AES Laboratory, Noida	66.5
7.	Gujarat Laboratory, Ahmedabad	26.00
8.	Council of Food Research & Development, Konni	137.52
9.	Chennai Mettex Labs Pvt. Ltd., Chennai	100.00
10.	Spectro Analytical Labs Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	46.2
11.	Microchem Laboratory, Thane	63.55
12.	Reliable Laboratories, Thane	100.00
13.	Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam	81.08

[English]

Noise Pollution by Aircraft

4453. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by the residents residing nearby major airports due to frequent noise pollution on landing and takeoff of aeroplanes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps were taken to put sound barriers alongwith the runways so as to facilitate the nearby residents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Public Interest Litigations have been filed by some associations in the Delhi High Court on the issue. The matter is subjudice.

(c) and (d) Construction of sound barriers along Runway 29/11 at Delhi airport has been initiated by Delhi International Airports Limited (DIAL).

(e) Does not arise.

Jobs to Manual Scavengers

4454. SHRI P.K. BIJU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether manual scavengers are still employed in the Railways;

(b) if so, the details of total number of scavengers employed by the Railways, zone-wise;

(c) the details of time period of the scavengers working in the Railways;

(d) the nature of their job whether permanent or casual;

(e) the benefits like health available for them; and

(f) the steps taken by the Railways to eradicate the night soil carrying activities in the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (f) No, Madam. There is no manual scavenging being practised in any establishments under the control of the Ministry of Railways.

All old dry latrines requiring manual scavenging have been converted either to sanitized latrines with proper septic tank systems, to bio-latrines or aqua privy latrines which do not require manual scavenging. Further, for having an effective waste disposal system, concrete washable aprons on platform tracks and controlled discharge toilets in select trains have also been provided.

Awareness about Drug Pricing

4455. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has recently started a nation-wide consumer campaign to create awareness about drug pricing and the availability of low cost off-label drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the prices differentiate between generic and branded drugs have increased manifold and doctors are mostly prescribing branded drugs in nexus with the manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to ensure that the manufacturers of branded drugs do not sell drugs at higher prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) National Pharmaceuticals Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been undertaking a publicity campaign about drug pricing and availability of medicines at low cost for creating awareness among the consumers under the joint campaign between Department of Pharmaceuticals, NPPA and Department of Consumer Affairs under 'Jago Grahak Jago' campaign both through print and Electronic media.

(c) and (d) The prices of all drugs including generic and branded drugs are regulated under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO,95). As per provisions contained therein, the prices of 74 bulk drugs and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. NPPA fixes or revises prices of scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the OPCO, 95. The NPPA monitors the prices of all formulations including imported scheduled formulations under price control. Under the OPCO, 95 no person can sell any formulation (medicine) of price controlled category to a consumer at a price exceeding the price notified/approved by the NPPA. In case, a company is found selling at prices higher than the price notified/approved by the NPPA, action is taken against them as per the provisions of the OPCO, 95.

In respect of drugs-not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 *i.e.* non-scheduled drugs, manufacturers fix the prices by themselves without seeking the approval of Government INPPA. Such prices are normally fixed depending on various factors like the cost of bulk drugs used in the formulation, cost of excipients, cost of R&O, cost of utilities/packing material, sales promotion costs, trade margins, quality assurance cost, landed cost of imports etc. However, as a part of price monitoring activity, NPPA regularly examines the movement in prices of non-scheduled formulations. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the manufacturer is asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the OPCO, 95 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

However, Rajasthan Government has issued guidelines for prescription of generic medicines in the State Government hospitals. Such orders are expected to add to generic drug prescriptions country.

[Translation]

Washing of Railway Coaches

4456. DR. SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sultanpur railway station has a capacity of washing 11 coaches only, resulting in difficulty in washing of Sadbhavana Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Railways to develop a capacity of washing 24 coaches at a time; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The washing pit line at Sultanpur station presently has a capacity of accommodating 11 coaches. Pit line of adequate capacity is a must for Primary/secondary maintenance. Sadbhavana Express (Train No. 4013/4014), though with 18 coaches, is given 'terminal attention' at Sultanpur. Under the extant policy, exterior washing of trains is not required to be carried out during such terminal attention and the scope is restricted only to the cleaning of interiors of the coaches.

(c) and (d) Based on current traffic/maintenance workload at Sultanpur, there is no immediate proposal for extension of the pit line to accommodate 24 coaches.

[English]

Mixing of Jatropha Oil in Diesel

4457. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to mix Jatropha oil in diesel with a view to increase the availability of diesel and to reduce its prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The National Policy on Bio-fuels has been notified by the Government in December 2009, which has laid down detailed guidelines about introduction of bio-fuel including bio-diesel made from Jatropha.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy effective from 1.1.2006. Under this scheme Oil Marketing Companies would purchase bio-diesel for blending with High Speed Diesel (HSD) to the extent of 5% at identified 20 purchase centres across the country.

Since Bio-diesel was not available at the declared price by OMCs, blending of bio-diesel with High Speed Diesel could not be set in motion.

[Translation]

ROBs in Barmer Region

4458. SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposal pending with the Railways regarding construction of Rail Over Bridges and opening up of railway crossings (manned and unmanned in the Barmer region of Rajasthan; and

(b) the present status of each of such proposals and the time by which said work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) (i) Proposal for construction of ROB in lieu of LC No. C 323/A at Km. 831/300-400 of Jodhpur-Samdari-Barmer-Munabao section of Jodhpur Division of North Western Railway is under process on 'Out of Turn' basis as cost sharing work.

(ii) Proposals for reopening of following 05 'D' class LCs on Jodhpur-Samdari-Barmer-Munabao section of North Western Railway are under correspondence with State Government (Rajasthan):

(a) At Km. 948.545

(b) At Km. 901.735

- (c) At Km. 883
 (d) At Km. 806.875
 (e) At Km. 800/7-8

In terms of Railway Board's policy, no new unmanned LC can be opened. Conversion of 'D' class LCs into unmanned 'C' class LCs also amounts to new unmanned LCs. However, the proposal of (new, not in lieu of Level Crossings) limited/normal height subway would be considered, if technically feasible, on deposit terms.

[*English*]

Meerut Shuttle Train

4459. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to change all the existing old racks of 1-MNR Meerut Shuttle Train to new pull and push DMU type racks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the old racks of the said train have been replaced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the time by which the old racks of the said train are likely to be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Induction of Push-Pull type rake is a continuous exercise subject to availability of stock and operational feasibility. Two rakes out of total three rakes of 1MNR/2MNR Meerut-Rewari shuttle train have been replaced with Push-Pull type rakes from 29.7.2009 and 22.2.2010 respectively.

[*Translation*]

Bhagalpuri Silk

4460. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any special scheme for promoting Bhagalpuri Silk;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government is also taking initiatives to showcase the Bhagalpuri silk at various fairs and exhibitions; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Tasar silk is mainly produced and transacted in Bhagalpur region. The Government of India through the Central Silk Board has established following units in Bhagalpur for providing support for the development of silk in the region:-

- (i) Raw material bank Sub Depot - to provide market support for the tasar cocoon producers.
- (ii) Textile Testing Laboratory to provide quality testing service to the local silk manufacturers.
- (iii) Basic Seed Multiplication-cum-Training Centre to produce and supply quality tasar seed to the tasar cocoon producers in the region.
- (iv) Certification Centre to undertake voluntary quality certification of silk goods meant for exports. This centre is also promoting silk mark which is a quality assurance label for pure silk.

CSB is presently implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme *viz.* "Catalytic Development Programme (CDP) with the assistance of State Governments, covering all the States including Bihar. Under this CDP, an amount of Rs. 43.90 lakhs and Rs. 171.35 lakhs has been released to Government of Bihar for the development of silk industry in Bihar including Bhagalpur during the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively. Under these schemes, 4 Master weavers/Dyers have been sent to Bhagalpur to provide on the spot training to the local weavers/dyers. 34 certified improved handlooms have been supplied to local weavers in Bhagalpur. 5 existing looms have been upgraded with accessories for improving the production.

The Vanya Silk Market Promotion Cell and Silk Mark Organization of India sponsored by the Central Silk Board are regularly organizing silk expos at all the major metro cities, wherein all types of silk and silk products are being displayed by the silk traders from all parts of India including Bhagalpur. During the year 2009-10, 16 such Silk Expos were organized in the metro cities and during 2010-11 it is planned to organize 17 Expos. Silk Manufacturers from Bhagalpur are participating in these expos regularly.

[*English*]

Signalling System in Ghaziabad-Kanpur Section

4461. SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project for modernising of train signalling system between Ghaziabad-Kanpur section is running behind its original schedule;

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

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

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

(b) Initial technical complexities needed resolution and safety validation of system from an independent assessor. During the course of execution of project, additional work of 3rd line between Ghaziabad-Aligarh, Panki-Bhaupur and yard remodeling of four important stations have come up. Resolution of certain issues related to integration of these works with this project took more time.

(c) The project is likely to be completed by December, 2011.

Rail Overbridges in Gujarat

4462. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:
SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal for construction of 15 Railways Over Bridges (ROBs) at the busy level crossing; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal and the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The proposal was for construction of 15 Road Over Bridge (ROB) on Annuity based PPP (Public Private Partnership) Model. Railways have approved construction of 5 ROBs in the first phase and informed Government of Gujarat. The work of construction of 5 ROBs in lieu of level crossing would be sanctioned on receipt of the firm proposal from Government of Gujarat which is still awaited.

Railway Crossing in Bhiwani

4463. SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received representation from public and public representatives for construction of manned railway crossing on various sections in Bhiwani (Haryana); and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken thereon by the Railways alongwith the present status of each case?

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

(b) The proposals for manned level crossing at Km.27/5-6 at village Barwa on Rupana, Km.32/1-2 village town Swanimandi at near Mansadevi temple, Km.36/0-1 at village Gandawas in the West of village, Km.43/6-7 at village Motipura in West of village and Km.46/1-2 village Jhumpakala and Khurd have been received. As per policy, railway may consider to provide Limited/normal Height Subway at technically feasible locations on deposit terms, since proliferation of level crossing gate is not advisable on safety consideration. At the same time, subway works out cheaper on life cycle cost basis.

[Translation]

Jobs on Compassionate Ground

4464. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of applications for the appointment on compassionate ground are pending in West Central Railway, Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the cases of compassionate appointment is likely to be provided to concerned people; and

(c) the details of norms/criteria fixed by the Railways for the appointment on compassionate grounds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) As per available figures, 22 cases for appointment on compassionate ground are pending in West Central Railway, Jabalpur. 03 cases are pending on account of litigation and the remaining cases are under process. The cases, other than those pending on account of litigation, are likely to be finalised by May, 2010.

(c) Compassionate appointment is considered in favour of one eligible dependent family member of Railway servants who die in harness or retire prematurely on account of medical decategorisation.

Closed NTC Mills

4465. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the payments are being made to the workers and officers of National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills lying closed from the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has failed in finding a permanent solution in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The details of payments made to the workers and officers of National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills lying closed for the last three years are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Salary & wages paid	Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) amount paid
2007-08	2.76	155.32
2008-09	2.80	70.66
2009-10	4.44	82.43

(c) and (d) NTC is making all possible efforts to reduce idle man-power and effect restructuring. However, payment of salary and wages cannot be stopped till employees opt for MVRS or retire from service. Moreover, even in closed mills, minimum care-taking staff is essential for protecting the properties. Efforts on the part of Government/NTC continue in turning around the company from sickness.

[*English*]

Licence Fee for Book Stalls

4466. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have increased the licence fee which is recovered from book stalls at railway stations;

(b) if so, whether due to increase in licence fee, the unemployed graduate book stall holders are compelled to abandon the stalls as they are unable to carry the burden of licence fee; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Railways to protect these book-stall holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The Licence fee of bookstall licensees has been Increased from 50% to 12%, with effect from 25.07.2006 except the bookstalls run by philanthropic and social organization, which still remains at 2.50%.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

Revival of Steel Industry

4467. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking fresh measures to check job losses and revive the manufacturing sectors in the steel industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the targets fixed for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) While the Public Sector Steel Companies undertake rationalization of manpower from time to time to remain globally competitive, improve productivity and cut costs, companies like SAIL, RINL and NMDC Ltd. are adding fresh capacity by way of undertaking major capacity expansion and modernization activities. SAIL is expanding its hot metal production capacity from 13.82 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 23.46 MTPA, for completion by 2012-13. Similarly, RINL is also undertaking a capacity expansion from 3.0 MTPA of liquid steel to 6.3 MTPA for completion by 2011-12. NMDC Ltd. is also setting up of a 3.0 MTPA integrated steel plant at Nagarnar, Chhattisgarh. These are expected to add to creation of new employment opportunities in the coming years.

(c) No targets for employment creation have been fixed for the current year.

Railway Projects

4468. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last decade several projects were included in the Railway Budgets for which the rate of return in the Reconnaissance Engineering Cum Traffic Survey for new broad gauge line was above than 4 per cent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases in which the Reconnaissance Engineering cum Traffic Survey for new broad gauge line has mentioned that in spite of the facts that rate of return being less than 14 percent the concerned projects may be considered on grounds of Railways being itself a beneficiary; and

(d) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) During the period from 2000-01 to 2009-10, a total of 62 new line projects were included in the Railway Budgets, out of which 13 projects were having Rate of Return more than 4%.

(c) and (d) New line projects are taken up as per the policy enunciated by National Transport Policy, 1980. New line projects are also taken up on socio-economic considerations for the development of the backward and remote areas.

NTC Showrooms

4469. SHRI P. LINGAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation proposes to revamp its defunct showrooms in different parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the showrooms of NTC in different States and the showroom identified for revival in the first stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The National Textile Corporation (NTC) has 92 showrooms in different parts of the country as per list enclosed as Statement. The Company is in the process of formulating a plan for revamping some of its showrooms.

Statement

List of NTC Showrooms

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Showrooms
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Tamil Nadu	22
3.	Karnataka	7
4.	Kerala	4
5.	Maharashtra	6
6.	Gujarat	4
7.	Delhi	10
8.	Haryana	3
9.	Chandigarh (U.T)	1
10.	Punjab	1
11.	Uttar Pradesh	1
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
13.	Rajasthan	8
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2
16.	Jharkhand	2
17.	West Bengal	7
18.	Orissa	2
19.	Assam	1
20.	Bihar	6
Total		92

Proficiency Test for Pilots

4470. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new directive (Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has made it mandatory for serving pilots and Air Traffic Controllers to go through a proficiency test In English language;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), Section 7, Series G, Part III, making it mandatory only for serving pilots to go through proficiency test in English language. The CAR is available on the official website of DGCA.

(c) The requirement regarding language proficiency In English language for Pilots is in accordance with the norms prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

Amendment in RPA

4471. DR. KRUPARANI KILLI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government contemplates to amend the Representation of Poeples Act to declare 'paid news' as an electoral malpractice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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.

Use of LPG by BPL Families

4472. SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN:
RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:
SHRI ARJUN ROY:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage BPL families to progressively use LPG in place of kerosene and other conventional methods;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Government proposes to implement the proposal;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to waive off the Rs. 1,400/- security deposit and the regulator cost for BPL consumers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government in this regard including proposal, if any, for providing LPG dealership in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) As per the "Vision 2015" adopted in 2009 for LPG sector, a target has been given to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (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 undercovered areas. To ensure that growth of LPG usage is evenly spread, OMCs are assessing/identifying locations in a phased manner under "Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitruk Yojana" (RGGLVY).

RGGLVY scheme which primarily aims at providing LPG to the rural households, including BPL families has been launched on 16.10.2009 and subsequently advertisements inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been released 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 in the 15th phase of implementation of this scheme and 763 locations in the States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu in the 2nd phase. The selection of the same is in progress as per policy.

The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme has since been approved by the Government and it has been decided to utilize 15% of CSR funds of six major Oil PSUs namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), GAIL (India) Limited and Oil India Limited (OIL) for extending one time

financial assistance of Rs. 1400/- to cover the security deposit for one LPG cylinder and one Pressure Regulator to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families applying for new LPG connection at RGGLVY distributors.

Frequency of Local Train

4473. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to increase the service of local trains between Howrah and Kharagpur station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said service is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. It has been announced in Railway Budget 2010-2011 to introduce a number of trains.

(c) Trains announced in Railway Budget are introduced during the course of the financial year.

Punctuality Status of Air India Flights

4474. SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the punctuality status of Air India flights in all the seasons during the last one year;

(b) how it compares with flights operated by other airlines in the country;

(c) the details indicating comparative status of punctuality of Air India flights with those of other Airlines; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of Air India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The details of on Time Performance in respect of departures of various scheduled domestic airlines during the year 2009 are as follows:

Airlines	On Time Performance (%)
NACIL(I)	75.2
Jet Airways	77.8
JetLite	75.1
Kingfisher Airlines	83.3
Spicejet	79.9
Go Air	80.6
Paramount Airways	87.5
IndiGo	85.1

(d) Some of the measures taken by the Airline to bring about improvement in on-time performance are: (i) Prune and consolidate flights, with a view to sustaining undisrupted and Punctual operations; (ii) Continuous review of aircraft routing, delays, crew allocations etc. by senior executives with a view to achieving optimum utilisation of crew and substantial savings.

Air India Flight

4475. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Air India flight operating from Calicut-Trivandrum-Doha has been re-scheduled as Calicut-Doha directly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to reinstate the flight to its earlier schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Air India or its subsidiary, Air India Express, does not operate on the route Calicut- Trivandrum- Doha. However, Air India Express operates on routing Kochi-Thiruvananthapuram-Doha with two flights per week. In addition, two new flights on routing Kozhikode-Doha have been introduced.

[Translation]

Stoppage at Duraundha Railway Station

4476. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to provide a stoppage to Train No.5104 and 5105 at Duraundha Railway Station in North Eastern Railways;

(b) if so, the time by which this 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) to (c) 5104 Manduadih-Gorakhpur Express runs via Bhatni and does not run via Duraundha. As such provision of stoppage of 5104 Manduadih-Gorakhpur Express at Duraundha is not feasible.

Stoppage of 5105 Chhapra-Gorakhpur Express at Duraundha is neither commercially justified nor operationally desirable.

[English]

Railway Projects in Jharkhand

4477. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of on going and new railway projects undertaken by the Railways in backward and rural regions of Jharkhand during the last three years, project-wise;

(b) the details of funds allocated, released and expenditure incurred on these projects during the said period

(c) whether there is any delay in the completion of any project;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating time and cost overrun of these projects, alongwith the reasons therefor, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Details of 19 ongoing projects, expenditure incurred on them during last three years with targets wherever fixed is as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	KM	Approx. Expenditure during last 3 years 2007-08 to 2009-10 (in crore)	Target wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5
NEW LINES				
1.	Deogarh-Dumka	72.25	132.61	Deoghar-Gormara completed. Balance target is 2010-11
2.	Deogarh-Sultanganj, Banka-Barahat and Banka-Bhitiah.	147	144.98	Deogarh-Chandan section in 2010-11
3.	Gaya-Chatra	97	1.12	
4.	Giridih-Koderma	102.5	137.25	Koderma-Nawadih completed, Nawadih-Dhanwar in 2010-11

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Koderma-Ranchi	189	328.1	Barkakhana-Khajju in 2010-11
6.	Koderma-Tilaiya	68	20.06	-
7.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka	130	101.89	Mandarhill-Hansdia and Rampurhat-Pirargaria in 2010-11

GAUGE CONVERSION

1.	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extension to Tori	113	18.29	Ranchi-Lohardaga gauge conversion completed
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DOUBLING

1.	Bimlagarh-Dumitra	18.3	31.96	
2.	Chandrapura-Rajabera-Chandrapura-Bhandaridah	10.6	5.00	-
3.	Goelkera-Manoharpur 3rd line (Chakradharpur-Bondamunda section)	40	1.36	-
4.	Muri-North outer cabin/Muri-Doubling of section with provision of 2nd bridge over Subarnarekha	1	0.60	-
5.	Padapahar-Banaspani	32	137.51	2010-11
6.	Rajkharsawan Sini-3rd line	15	4.49	-
7.	Tinpahar Sahibganj as PH-1 of doubling of Tinpahar-Bhagalpur	37.81	0.34	
8.	3rd line between Dangoaposi and Rajkharswan	75	-	*
9.	Sini-Adityapur 3rd line	22.5	-	*

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Sahibganj-Pirpainti	22.59	-	*
RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION				
1.	Pandabeswar-Sainthia-Pakur including Khana Sainthia	205	-	*

*New projects proposed in Budget 2010-11.

(c) to (e) There is delay in Ghormara-Dumka New Line project due to failure of contractor and Law & Order problems. The targets for projects are generally fixed on yearly basis based on the availability of resources and progress and many of the project get completed in phases. Ongoing projects undergo cost escalation on account of various reasons like change in the standard of construction and technology, scope of work, inflation etc. With the present availability of funds and large throwforward of ongoing projects, it is not possible to fix and maintain many targets.

[*Translation*]

Mobile Reservation Centres

4478. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of mobile railway reservation centers in the country, state-wise;

(b) whether the Railways are considering to provide railway ticket reservation facility in rural areas of the country through mobile reservation centres;

(c) if so the amount spent by Railways for the implementation of mobile reservation centres scheme zone-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the details of the revenue earned by the Railways through this scheme from the date of launching mobile reservation centres till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Two mobile vans have been introduced from January 2010-One each in Delhi and Kolkata on pilot project basis.

(b) It is proposed to introduce mobile ticketing vans

for issuing reserved and unreserved tickets in both urban and rural areas.

(c) The scheme has been commenced with two pilot projects - one in Kolkata and one in New Delhi. These being pilot projects, railways have used departmental vehicles and hired vehicles to serve the locations within the cities for checking telecom connectivity. Actual costs have not yet been worked out. These costs would include cost of hiring of vehicles, the cost of providing connectivity through V-SAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) equipment in mobile vans deployed in rural areas where connectivity through GSM/GPRS (Global System for Mobile Communications/General Packet Radio Service) service provider may not work. This will also include the recurring cost of deployment of staff, payment of allowances, cost of generator, UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) etc. It would become possible to accurately determine these costs only after the scheme becomes fully operational.

(d) Revenue earned upto 15.4.2010 from launch of two pilot projects are as below:

Kolkata	—	Rs. 24,95,409/-
New Delhi	—	Rs. 13,62,658/-

[*English*]

Preservation of Minority Languages

4479. SHRI SANJAY BHOI:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to preserve and translate important Government decisions, announcements into minority languages;

(b) If so, whether this proposal would include dying minority languages of Andaman Islands;

(c) if so, whether any survey has been undertaken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith 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 (d) Formulation of a scheme for promotional activities for linguistic minorities is in process as per approved modalities.

Re-organisation of ECoR System

4480. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:
SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request from the Government of Orissa for re-organization of East Coast Railway (ECoR) system with a view to extend the jurisdiction of certain Divisions to meet the requirements of various industrial projects coming up in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain trains proposed to be extended up to Jeypore Railway Station in Koraput district of the State under ECoR system; and

(d) the time by which the re-organization is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Representations have been received from various dignitaries including Chief Minister of Orissa for extending the jurisdiction of East Coast Railway by including areas from adjoining Divisions/Railways.

(c) Jeypore station is situated on Koraput-Jagadapur section. It has been announced in Railway Budget 2010-11 to extend 8447/8448 It has Bhubaneswar-Koraput Hirakhand Express upto Jagadapur.

(d) The proposal has been examined and not considered feasible.

Trains Introduced in Railway Budget 2009-10

4481. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the Railway Budget 2009-10 some new trains were introduced including Durg-Jaipur (weekly) and Kolkata-Bikaner Express (weekly) via Nagore and extension of trains 2993-2994 Mumbai-Jaipur Express to Deihl (Tri-weekly) and 2985-2986 Sealdah-Jaipur to Ajmer (daily);

(b) if so, the said trains are introduced as per schedule;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which these trains are likely to be introduced?

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

(b) Yes, Madam. 8207/8208 Durg-Jaipur Express has been introduced from 22.01.2010 and 2495/2496 Kolkata-Bikaner Express from 30.12.2009. 2993/2994 Bandra-Jaipur Express has been extended upto Delhi Sarai Rohilla from 30.08.2009. 2987/2988 Sealdah-Ajmer Express has been introduced from 12.09.2009 for six days a week and daily from 12.12.2009.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Aviation Pact with Nepal

4482. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government has entered into any pact with Nepal to extend air services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Nepal on 9th September, 2009, the capacity entitlements for the designated airlines of each side had been enhanced from 6000 seats per week to 30,000 seats per week in order to extend air services between the two countries. Further, the designated airlines of each side are now entitled to operate any number of services to/from 21 tourist destinations in India.

[*Translation*]

Promotion of Silk Textiles

4483. KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any special scheme for promoting and marketing of textile products made from silks produced from various States at National and International level; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Government through Central Silk Board in an effort to promote Vanya silks (Tasar, Eri and Muga Silks) has established "Product Design, Development and Diversification"- (P3D) Cell and "Vanya Silk Marketing and Promotion Cell" - (VSMPC) to design and develop marketable products through R&D and collaborative efforts. These schemes have been formulated under the support service sector component of the Catalytic Development Programme being implemented by the Central Silk Board in collaboration with different States during XI Plan. Under this scheme varieties of designer Vanya silk apparels, home furnishings, life style products, denims and knitwear products of different combinations, structure and textures have been developed in collaboration with National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Bangalore, Army Institute of Fashion and Design, Bangalore and NIFT-TEA Knitwear Fashion Institute, Tiruppur. These improved silk products provide better value realisation to vanya silk producers mainly in the States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Assam and other North Eastern States. The newly developed eri silk knitwear products have been launched in knitwear clusters like Ludhiana and Tiruppur. Further efforts are also being made to promote tribal motif in different silk products and replace the zari with golden yellow coloured muga silk of Assam in Kanchipuram sarees. All the newly developed silk products are being displayed in Silk Expos organised by Central Silk Board in different cities so as to promote the demand for these products in Domestic and Export markets.

Further the Central Silk Board is organising Expos in various cities through the Silk Mark Organisation of India (SMOI) wherein the silk manufacturers from different States are being promoted to sell their pure silk products.

SMOI is also participating in international exhibitions to promote pure silk products from India. The Central Silk Board has established Vanya Silk Shoppes in Bangalore and Delhi to provide a market platform to vanya silk manufacturers from rural areas to have direct access to the consumers of metro cities.

The Government through Central Silk Board is supporting the States in identifying various prominent traditional silk designs in different silk weaving clusters in the country for documenting the traditional knowledge (TK), design genesis, technology used, finishing practices, etc. so as to enable them to get GI registration.

The Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC), Mumbai undertakes activities relating to promotion of exports of natural silk goods from India and acts as the registering authority for silk exporters.

The office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms has also been providing financial assistance to the State Governments and Handloom agencies under the Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme to conduct National Handloom Expos, Special Handloom Expos, District Level Events etc., where all Handloom products including silks from various States are sold. The National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDC) and Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) hold National Level Special Handloom Expos exclusively for silk products of various States. The Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) and Handicrafts & Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Ltd. (HHEC) also assist their member exporter to participate in various international textile exhibitions where all handloom products including silk are displayed/sold.

[*English*]

Allocation for Computerization in Railways

4484. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of stations earmarked for computerization during the current year, Zone-wise; and

(b) the details of budgetary allocation made for computerization purpose during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Railways do not earmark stations in advance for computerization. PRS

(Passenger Reservation System) projects are sanctioned based on the requirement. In addition, whenever requests are received from public representatives, etc, those are considered for sanction. During current year 2010-11, till 10.4.2010, total of 17 locations have been sanctioned, zone-wise details are as under:

Eastern Railway	:	13
Southern Railway	:	2
West Central Railway	:	2

(b) During the current financial year (2010-11), allocation of Rs. 9.10 Crore has been proposed in the Budget for the work of new locations of Passenger Reservation System to come up on Indian Railways.

Advanced Passenger Information System

4485. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in installation of Advanced Passenger Information System (AIPS) at various airports in the country;

(b) whether this facility is available at Goa airport also;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the AIPS will be made operational at Goa airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) in its first phase has become operational at six international airports namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Cochin.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) and (d) The second phase of implementation of APIS involves its extension to all the international airports in the countries including Goa. However, since it involves creation of major infrastructural set up, definite timeline cannot be fixed in this regard.

[Translation]

Delay of Trains

4486. PROF. RAMSHANKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that inordinate delays in arrival of trains from Tundala Junction to Agra Cantt. is causing inconvenience to the passengers;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to solve this problem;

(c) whether any proposal for the upgradation of railway track between Tundala Junction and Agra Cantt. is under consideration;

(d) if so, the time by which it is proposed to be implemented;

(e) whether the Railways are aware that there are heaps of garbage on both the sides of the railway track between Yamuna river bridge and Agra Cantt. which is hurting the image of Agra city from tourism point of view; and

(f) if so, the action proposed by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. At times, trains running late get delayed due to unscheduled crossing/precedence on single line section between Etmadpur-Jamuna Bridge-Agra City and platform constraints at Agra Fort.

(b) Doubling between Tundla-Jamuna Bridge has been sanctioned to overcome the problems of late running of trains due to unscheduled crossing and precedence on single line section.

(c) and (d) The target for completion of the Agra Cantt-Tundla doubling is March 2011.

(e) and (f) The garbage dumped is from the inhabitants of the city. In this regard, the matter has been pursued with the Divisional Commissioner, Agra Zone.

[English]

Cancellation of LPG Connections

4487. SHRI SOMEN MITRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether LPG consumers membership stands cancelled on their getting pipeline gas connections in Delhi and other cosmopolitan towns;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware about the difficulty when the consumer shift his residence from a pipeline gas zone to no-pipeline gas zone to get LPG connection and cylinders supply; and

(c) whether the Government will issue guidelines to LPG distributors not to cancel the LPG connection membership of a consumer on being a member of pipeline cooking gas so that he can book LPG cylinders on being shifted to a no-pipeline gas zone of a city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) As per provisions of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000, as amended vide Notification dated 10.09.2009, existing consumer of domestic LPG on being provided/obtaining Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connection is required to surrender his/her LPG connection within sixty days from the date of his/her obtaining PNG connection. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are expected to cancel the connection thereafter. When a LPG consumer surrender his/her LPG connection for the reason of his obtaining PNG connection, he/she is provided with Termination Voucher from the LPG distributor which is valid for life and against this Termination Voucher, he/she can re-claim his/her LPG connection anywhere in India. No difficulties in this regard have come to the notice of the Government.

New Trains between Chennai and Tirupati

4488. SHRI C. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any increase in the number of trains running between Chennai and Tirupati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have any propoaal to introduce a train from Chennai-Tambaram to Tirupati via Kancheepuram and Arakkonam; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. At present 4 pairs of train services are running between Chennai and Tirupati as compared to 2 pairs of trains during the year 1996.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to introduce a train from Tambaram to Tirupati due to operational & resource constraints.

[Translation]

Losses Shared by Private Refineries

4489. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to pass on some burden of losses being suffered by public sector oil marketing companies in the sale of LPG and kerosene oil to other refineries including Reliance Industries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Cyber Cafe at Railway Station

4490. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cyber cafes have been opened at certain major railway stations of the country;

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

(c) whether these cyber cafes are being closed down now;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of cyber cafes closed down till date; and

(f) the scheme formulated by the Railways to make alternate use of the space allotted to these cyber cafes?

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

(b) Twenty six cyber cafes were opened for operation by franchisee. A statement showing details is enclosed.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. All twenty six cyber cafes have been closed as franchisees are not finding enough customers for financial viability of their cafes.

(f) The vacated space will be used for passenger amenities.

Statement

List of Cyber Cafe

Sl.No.	Name of Station	Detail of Zonal Railways
1	2	3
1.	Nagpur	Central
2.	Pune	
3.	Asansol	Eastern
4.	Howrah	
5.	Sealdah	
6.	Patna	East Central
7.	Puri	East Coast
8.	Chandigarh	Northern
9.	Lucknow	
10.	Ludhiana	
11.	New Delhi	
12.	Jhansi	North Central
13.	Gorakhpur	North East
14.	Jaipur	North Western
15.	Jodhpur	
16.	Ajmer	
17.	Bangalore	South Western

1	2	3
18.	Ernakulam	Southern
19.	Coimbatore	
20.	Guntur	South Central
21.	Hyderabad	
22.	Secunderabad	
23.	Vijayawada	
24.	Mysore	South West
25.	Ahmedabad	Western
26.	Mumbai Central	

[English]

National Railway Projects

4491. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Rangiya-Murkongselek gauge conversion, Azra-Bymihat and Dimarpur-Kohima new railway line project which were declared as national projects;

(b) the amount allocated and spent on these projects during the last three years; and

(c) the time by which the said projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Status of the projects alongwith expenditure incurred in last three years and target of completion are as under:-

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of project	Approx. Expenditure incurred in last 3 years	Status and Target
1	2	3	4
1.	Rangia-Murkongselek with linked fingers Gauge Conversion	208.37	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge works etc. taken up. The project is targeted for completion by March, 2013.

1	2	3	4
2.	Azra-Byrnihat New Line	0.54	Survey work suspended in Assam portion due to obstruction by local people. State Government desired for change of alignment. Accordingly, survey has been taken up for alternate alignment from Tetelia to Byrnihat. The project is targeted for completion by March, 2014.
3.	Dimapur-Zubza (Kohima) New Line	2.39	Final location survey completed for 40 km length. However, State Government has asked for change in alignment in first 18 km length. The modified alignment has been examined and found feasible. It is with State Government for approval. The project is targeted for completion by March, 2015.

Merger of Steel PSUs

4492. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to merge the steel PSUs like Bharat Refractories Ltd. (BRL) with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Sponge Iron India Limited (SIIL) with National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Bharat Refractories Limited (BRL) has been merged with Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) with effect from 1.04.2007 by an Order NO.24/8/2008-CL-III, dated 28.7.2009 of the Ministry of Company Affairs (MCA). The Order of MCA was filed by SAIL with the Registrar of Companies on 27.8.2009. Thus, the process of amalgamation of BRL with SAIL has been completed and BRL stands dissolved on and from the appointed

date *i.e.* 1.4.2007. BRL has been renamed as "SAIL Refractory Unit (SRU)".

The Union Cabinet had approved the merger of Sponge Iron India Limited (SIIL) with National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) in its meeting held on 22.5.2008. After approval of the Government, the two companies have completed all the requisite statutory compliances and the competent authority of MCA has recently passed an order approving the scheme of merger of SIIL with NMDC. A certified copy of the Order of MCA has to be filed with the Registrar of Companies, Hyderabad by both NMDC and SIIL for effecting the merger. With the filing of the requisite documents with the Registrar of Companies by NMDC and SIIL, the merger process will be completed.

Food Quality Monitoring Laboratory

4493. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has requested for financial assistance for setting up of Food Quality

Monitoring Laboratory (FQML) at Konni, Pathanamthitta District, Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has requested to release second instalment of Rs. 2.5 crores and an additional fund of Rs. 15 crores for the completion of this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has approved the proposal of Council for Food Research & Development for setting up of Food Quality Monitoring Laboratory by at Konni, Kerala with a grant-in-aid of Rs. 5.00 crore.

(c) to (e) Council for Food Research & Development requested for release of the second installment. Since during the 11th plan the grant is released in three installments, the Project Approval Committee has directed to release the grant in three installments. Accordingly, the second installments of Rs. 137.52 lakh was released on 23/3/2010. Council for Food Research & Development has not submitted any request for release of additional fund of Rs. 15.00 crore.

Passenger Load Factor

4494. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether passenger load factor on Delhi-Vadodara-Delhi route is more than the available capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in spite of more demand of seats on this lucrative sector, the Air India is using smaller ATR type aircraft;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to deploy Airbus or Boeing Aircraft in view of heavy load factor on this sector?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) At present, Alliance Air, which is a subsidiary of National Aviation Company of India Ltd. (NACIL), is operating 06 air services on Delhi-Vadodra-Delhi route with 70 seater CRJ aircraft.

(e) At present, IndiGo is operating daily air service on Delhi-Vadodra-Mumbai-Vadodra-Delhi route with Airbus A 320 aircraft. In addition, Jet Airways is operating daily air services on Delhi-Vadodra-Delhi route with ATR 72 aircraft.

Price of Petroleum Products

4495. SHRI M. ANANDAN:

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

SHRI SURESH ANGADI:

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

(a) the present rates of diesel, petrol cooking gas and kerosene in each State and Union Territory;

(b) the difference of rates of various oil products in each of the State and the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of subsidy is being provided on different petroleum products during the last three years and the current year;

(d) whether there is any proposal for uniformity of rates in all the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The details of the current retail selling prices of Petrol, Diesel, Domestic OPG and PDS Kerosene in the State capitals and Union Territories are given in the enclosed Statement. The retail selling prices of petroleum products vary from State to State on account of variations in the inland freight, Sales Tax, VAT and local taxes being levied by the respective State Governments/local authorities.

(c) The Government is providing fiscal subsidy of Rs. 0.82 per litre on PDS Kerosene and Rs. 22.58 per cylinder on Domestic LPG from the fiscal budget under the 'PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002' to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies

(OMCs). A provision of Rs. 2900 crore has been made in the fiscal budget of 2010-11 for subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG. The details of the fiscal subsidy paid under this Scheme during the last three years are given below:

(Rs in crore)			
	PDS Kerosene	Domestic LPG	Total
2007-08	978	1663	2641
2008-09	974	1714	2688
2009-10	956	1814	2770

As the retail selling prices of the four sensitive petroleum products are not maintained in line with international prices, the OMCs incur under-recoveries. The product-wise under-recoveries incurred by the OMCs on sensitive petroleum products during the last three years 15 given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Product	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Petrol	7,332	5,181	5,151
Diesel	35,166	52,286	9,279
PDS Kerosene	19,102	28,225	17,364
Domestic LPG	15523	17.600	14.257
Total	77,123	1,03,292	46,051

*Gross under-recoveries without considering oil bonds/budgetary support and upstream assistance.

The above under-recoveries have been compensated under a burden sharing mechanism involving all stakeholders *viz.*, Government, oil PSUs and the consumer.

(d) and (e) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Statement

Details of current Retail Selling Prices of Petrol, Diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene

State	City	Retail Selling Prices			
		Petrol Rs. /Ltr	Diesel Rs. /Ltr	Domestic LPG Rs. /Cyl.	PDS Kerosene Rs. /Ltr
1	2	3	4	5	6
Maharashtra	Mumbai	52.20	39.88	313.45	9.27
Delhi	Delhi	47.93	38.10	310.35	9.32
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	52.13	38.05	315.95	8.44
West Bengal	Kolkata	51.67	37.99	328.70	9.75
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	51.10	39.09	439.85	9.45
Gujarat	Gandhinagar	51.40	40.05	327.05	9.00
Goa	Panjim	48.70	38.27	335.95	9.72
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	48.80	39.29	317.35	9.32
Gujarat	Ahmedabad	51.37	40.02	324.25	9.00
Haryana	Ambala	47.36	34.21	314.35	8.94

1	2	3	4	5	6
Chandigarh	Chandigarh	47.32	35.36	317.00	9.07
Uttaranchal	Dehradun	49.52	38.25	309.25	10.02
Rajasthan	Jaipur	50.55	37.40	313.00	10.00
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu	50.74	36.75	331.35	9.51
Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	52.35	37.95	333.05	9.83
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	51.16	37.46	311.15	9.60
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	49.88	36.30	322.75	8.75
Punjab	Jalandhar	53.18	35.18	324.50	9.16
Karnataka	Bangalore	54.26	40.15	325.20	9.30
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	53.63	39.17	305.90	9.75
Kerala	Trivandrum	50.27	38.97	330.15	9.32
Puducherry	Puducherry	46.21	36.74	292.60	9.30
Odisha	Bhubaneshwar	47.70	37.95	333.80	9.34
Jharkhand	Ranchi	47.86	37.42	333.20	9.15
Bihar	Patna	49.56	37.43	321.15	9.56
Assam	Guwahati	50.17	36.46	314.45	8.70

Modernisation of Burnpur Unit of IISCO

4496. SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Burnpur Unit of The Indian Iron and Steel Company Ltd. (IISCO) has been modernised;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the original cost of modernisation;

(c) whether the modernisation work has been delayed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the latest estimated cost of the project; and

(e) the time by which the said modernisation work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (e) Yes, Madam. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has undertaken modernization and expansion of its Burnpur unit of IISCO Steel Plant (ISP) which envisages increase in the installed hot metal capacity from 0.85 million tonne per annum (MTPA) to 2.91 million tonne per annum (MTPA).

The original "in-principle" approved cost for modernization and expansion of Burnpur unit of IISCO Steel Plant (ISP) in July, 2006 was Rs. 8871 crores (net of cenvat) and the further estimated cost in July, 2008 is Rs. 14,443 crore (net of cenvat). Due to unforeseen soil conditions there has been increase in volume of civil and structural work. However, the implementation of various packages like design and engineering, civil and structural work, supply of equipment are in progress.

The facilities/packages under ISP expansion shall be progressively completed by June' 2011.

Food Processing Units in West Bengal and NER

4497. SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:
SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:

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

(a) the number of food processing units functioning in West Bengal and the Northern Eastern States, State-wise as on date;

(b) the financial assistance given to these units for development and generation of employment in those States during the last three years for setting up of food processing units;

(c) the number of proposals received and cleared during the above period; and

(d) the time by which remaining proposals are likely to be cleared?

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 West Bengal and North Eastern States is not centrally maintained by the Ministry. However, as per

competitiveness report on "Enhancing Competitiveness of Indian Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, Government of India, the total number of registered food processing units in West Bengal and North Eastern States are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the States	Number of registered Food Processing Units
1.	West Bengal	1,147
2.	Assam	897
3.	Tripura	50
4.	Nagaland	16
5.	Meghalaya	13
6.	Manipur	12

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 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. The details of the financial assistance extended under the Scheme to the units in West Bengal and North East States during last three year are as under:-

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the State	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	Approved	Financial Assistance	Approved	Financial Assistance	Approved	Financial Assistance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
West Bengal					9	229.96
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	1	17.67	0	0
Assam	2	61.81	17	176.79	8	81.83
Manipur	2	77.62	3	45.51	6	126.74
Meghalaya	1	29.57	2	159.57	2	47.28
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	1	11.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nagaland	0	0	4	178.205	0	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tripura	1	26.12	1	13.86	0	0
Total	6	195.12	28	591.605	26	496.81

Earlier all the applications for such grants were received by the Ministry through the State Nodal Agencies. These applications were then Centrally processed and grants disbursed directly by the Ministry. From 2007-08, the receipt of applications, their appraisal, calculation of grant eligibility as well as disbursement of funds has been completely decentralized. Under the new procedure, an entrepreneur/applicant can file application with the neighborhood Bank branch/Financial Institution (FI). The Bank/FI would then appraise the application and calculate the eligible grant amount as per the detailed guideline given to them by the Ministry. The Banks/FIs appraisal report and its recommendation for the release of grant is transmitted to the Ministry through e-portal established for this purpose. After the recommendation is received from the Bank/FI, the Ministry sanctions the grant and transfer the funds through the e-portal depending upon the availability of the funds. State-wise number of proposals received and cleared during the above period is given below:-

Name of the State	No. of proposals received	No. of proposals cleared	No. of proposals pending
West Bengal	55	9	46
Arunachal Pradesh	3	1	2
Assam	52	27	25
Manipur	11	11	0
Meghalaya	7	5	2
Mizoram	1	1	0
Nagaland	6	4	2
Sikkim	0	0	0
Tripura	4	2	2
Total	139	60	79

(d) The proposals received from the West Bengal and North Eastern considered during current year upto the extent of Budget Estimate allocation.

[Translation]

Increase in Revenue by Petroleum Sector

4498. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

(a) whether due to massive changes effected recently in the tax structure of petroleum products, the contribution of petroleum sector in revenue generation for the Government is likely to increase;

(b) if so, the details of the contribution of petroleum sector to the central revenues during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10;

(c) the estimated amount to be contributed by petroleum sector during the fiscal year 2010-11; and

(d) the estimated amount of subsidy likely to be given by the Government to petroleum sector during 2010-11?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Finance has informed that the additional revenue gain due to recent changes in duty rates is estimated to be around Rs. 26,000 crore for the full financial year.

(b) The details of the contribution of petroleum sector to the Central Exchequer during the years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April-December 2009) are given below:

Particulars	2007-08	2008-09	(Rs. crore)
			2009-10 (April-December 2009) (prov.)
Customs Duty	12626	6299	2638
Cess on Crude Oil	6924	6758	4896
Excise Duty	54761	54117	39931
Royalty	3064	3146	2607
Corporate Tax	16319	12031	4489
Dividend	7646	4504	948
Tax on Dividend	1850	1077	116
Petroleum Profit	4152	4710	4652
Others (includes Service Tax)	944	870	740
Contribution to Central Exchequer	108286	93512	61017

(c) The contribution of the petroleum sector to the Central Exchequer during the year 2010-11 will, *inter-alia*, depend upon the rates of taxes and duties applicable.

(d) The amount of subsidy for petroleum products will depend on the international oil prices, level of domestic retail prices, rates of taxes and duties on petroleum products, etc. A provision of Rs. 2900 crore has been made in the fiscal budget of 2010-11 for subsidy on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG.

[English]

Irregularities in Corporate Sector

4499. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of the early warning system set up by the Government, a number of alleged financial irregularities in the companies have come to light;

(b) if so, the total number of companies functioning in Government and semi-Government sectors and the total amount involved in the alleged financial irregularities;

(c) the names of such companies whose matters have been referred to courts till March 2010 for disposal; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities in future?

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 (d) Ministry has devised an Early Warning System (EWS) based on 10 risk parameters to generate alerts regarding possibility of existence of unusual trends in the financial statements of the companies. This system, which is essentially a machine driven system, is applicable to all types of companies.

Identification of companies through the EWS is a continuous process. To start with, based on the identified risk parameters, certain companies have been identified. The concerned Registrars of Companies have been

advised to carry out technical scrutiny of documents filed by these companies to check any irregularity. No such company's matter has been referred to courts so far.

Orders for Aircraft from Boeing Company

4500. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has placed the orders for aircraft to United States Boeing Company;

(b) if so, whether the schedule for delivery has been revised by the M/s. Boeing Company;

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

(d) the extent to which the cost of the aircraft will increase due to such delay in delivery by the Boeing Company;

(e) whether Air India has also made any study to assess the impact of delay on their business/planning; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (b) Yes, Madam. Erstwhile Air India Limited and its subsidiary Air India Charters Limited had placed orders with M/s. Boeing in December, 2005 for purchase of 68 aircraft viz. 8x B777-200LR, 15x B777-300ER, 27x B787-8 and 18x B737-800 (for Air India Express) after obtaining approval from the Government. The deliveries of B787-8 aircraft have been delayed by about 30 months due to delays in the prototype experienced by Boeing.

(d) Only the deferment of the delivery of three B777-300ER aircraft at the request of NACIL may attract additional cost, the extent of which cannot be estimated presently.

(e) and (f) The delay to the B787s has compelled NACIL to continue the use of old A310 aircraft which were scheduled for replacement consequent to the induction of the B787s. After merger with erstwhile Indian Airlines, this capacity gap is being further plugged with the use of A319 capacity on some of the markets to support the requirement for capacity.

Catering Services in Trains

4501. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of trains in which catering services are being provided to passengers, zone-wise; and

(b) the details of catering services being provided in such trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Details of trains in which catering services are provided to passengers, zone-wise are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Rajdhani, Duronto and Shatabdi Express trains are premium Express trains of the Indian Railways where the catering services are provided to the passengers as a part of total service package and the catering charges are included in the ticket fare. The passengers are provided with morning tea, breakfast, lunch, Hi-tea/evening tea and dinner according to the train timings. Besides one litre bottle of packaged drinking water is provided to the passengers on complementary basis for every 20 hrs.

In case of other Mail/Express trains, where pantry car is provided, the catering services which includes breakfast in standard casserole meal tea & coffee and a-la-carte items are made available to the passengers on payment. In trains where pantry cars are not provided, the catering services are made available to the passengers through Train Side Vending on payment.

Statement

(a) Details of trains in which catering services are provided to passengers, zone-wise:

Sl.No.	Railways	Rajdhani	Duronto	Shatabdi	Jan Shatabdi	Mail Express	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Central	0	0	0	2	35	37
2.	East Central	1	1	0	2	16	20
3.	East Coast	0	0	0	1	21	22
4.	Eastern	2	5	1	0	13	21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Noth Central	0	0	1	0	0	1
6.	North Eastern	0	0	0	8	8	8
7.	Northeast Frontier	0	0	0	0	22	22
8.	Northern	13	1	8	4	12	38
9.	North Western	0	0	0	0	6	6
10.	South Central	0	1	0	0	14	15
11.	Southeast Central	0	0	0	1	6	7
12.	South Eastern	0	1	1	4	60	66
13.	Southern	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	South Western	0	0	1	1	9	11
15.	West Central	0	0	0	1	1	2
16.	Western	3	0	1	0	15	19
Total		19	9	13	16	238	295

Laying of Broad Gauge Rail Line

4502. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway propose to lay a broad gauge railway line between Needamangalam and Mannargudy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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) Yes, Madam.

(b) Needamanglam-Mannargudi (13.25 km) new line is proposed to be at an anticipated cost of Rs. 78.44 crore.

(c) The work is expected to be completed during 2011-12 as per the availability of resources.

New LPG Connections

4503. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:
SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA:

PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI
BAVALIA:
SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE:

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

(a) the total number of people applied for the LPG connections especially in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar and Delhi during each of the last two years, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) the details of LPG connections provided to each State during each of the last two years and the persons remaining in waiting list date-wise, State-wise, agency-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the time by which the waiting list for LPG connections is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The enrolment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. New LPG connections are made available as soon as possible and in any case, within a period of sixty days. During the year 2007-08, 2008-09

and between April 2009 to February 2010, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have released 194.462 lakh LPG connections in the country including 5.523 lakh, 4.785 lakh, 8.200 lakh and 22.941 lakh LPG connections in the States of Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively. The State-wise, district-wise and agency-wise details are available with the Directors (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

OMCs have reported that there was a waiting list of 1,99, 828 as on 01.3.2010. The state-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement. The waiting list is expected to be liquidated within sixty days.

Statement

State-wise Number of Waiting List as on 01.03.2010.

Sl.No.	State/UTs	Number of waiting list for new LPG connections
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	55211
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	3357
4.	Bihar	4221
5.	Chhattisgarh	0
6.	Delhi	4700
7.	Goa	0
8.	Gujarat	0
9.	Haryana	4000
10.	Himachal Pradesh	19506
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0
12.	Jharkhand	8622
13.	Karnataka	0
14.	Kerala	12342
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4000
16.	Maharashtra	37000

1	2	3
17.	Manipur	1520
18.	Meghalaya	0
19.	Mizoram	1994
20.	Nagaland	0
21.	Orissa	4296
22.	Punjab	10250
23.	Rajasthan	12500
24.	Sikkim	0
25.	Tamil Nadu	0
26.	Tripura	2854
27.	Uttar Pradesh	8064
28.	Uttarakhand	3891
29.	West Bengal	1500
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
31.	Chandigarh	0
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
33.	Daman and Diu	0
34.	Lakshadweep	0
35.	Puducherry	0
Total		199828

[Translation]

Profit Earned by the Steel Companies

4504. SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR *ALIAS* KUSHAL
TIWARI:
SHRI RAM SUNDAR DAS:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by the steel companies during 2008-09 and 2009-10, year-wise; and

(b) the revenue earned by the Government from the steel sector during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) The profit earned

by the steel companies under Ministry of Steel during 2008-09 is given below:

		(Rs. in crore)	
Name of the Company		2008-09	2009-10 (Apr.-Dec., 2009)
Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)	Profit After Tax (PAT)	6175.00	4669.00
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)	Profit After Tax (PAT)	1335.57	464.45

(b) The revenue earned by the Government from these companies during the said period is as under:

		(Rs. in crore)	
Name of the Company		2008-09	2009-10 (Apr.-Dec., 2009)
Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL)	Contribution to public exchequer	12395.00	7378.00
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL)	Contribution to public exchequer	2293.00	1177.00

[English]

Central Vigilance Commission

4505. SHRI BAL KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways received a large number of complaints for investigation from Central Vigilance Commission (CVC);

(b) if so, the total number of complaints and the nature of complaints; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways to investigate and report the cases to CVC alongwith the reasons for delay?

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

(b) A total of 255 CVC referred cases were dealt with during 2009.

(c) Complaints received for investigation through the CVC were investigated. The investigation mechanism

involves enquiries which are conducted by Zonal Railways/Production Units. This usually takes some time. evc is apprised of the progress of the cases. Disciplinary action as deemed fit under Railway Servants (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1968 are initiated against delinquent officers/staff. All efforts are made to complete investigation expeditiously.

Airports Managed by AAI

4506. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports managed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) at present;

(b) the number of airports which are operational;

(c) the number of airports which earned profit and made losses during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the performance of loss making airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India (AAI) manages 115 airports in the country including 23 Civil Enclaves.

(b) 82 airports including 23 Civil Enclaves are operational.

(c) The number of profit making airports during the last three years *i.e.*, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are 11, 13 and 09 respectively. The number of loss making airports during the last three years. *i.e.*, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are 104, 102 and 106 are respectively.

(d) AAI has taken various steps to increase non-traffic revenue at these airports. AAI has awarded Ground Handling contracts and contracts for setting up Flying Schools. Action for city side development at select non-Metro airports has also been initiated.

Regional Directorate

4507. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open two new offices of Regional Directorates at Ahmedabad and Guwahati; 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 KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government proposes to set up two new Regional Directorates. One Regional Directorate would be set up in the North Western Region in Gujarat (Ahmedabad) and the other in the North Eastern Region in Assam (Guwahati). Various factors such as accessibility of the office, development of the area, geographical location, number of corporate entities, potential for growth, etc., have been taken into consideration while deciding to open the new offices.

Import of LNG from Qatar

4508. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

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

(a) whether Qatar has agreed to supply four million tone more LNG to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been reached between the two countries in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the rate at which the Qatar has agreed to supply the gas;

(f) whether Qatar has asked for higher prices;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) and GAIL (India) Ltd. have been pursuing import of LNG from Qatar. During the recent visit of Deputy Premier and Minister of Energy and Industry of Qatar, the Qatari side has indicated availability of additional volumes of LNG at mutually agreed commercial terms and conditions. The matter is being followed up by PLL and GAIL.

(c) No Madam. Agreement on volume, price and other terms & conditions is yet to be reached.

(d) to (g) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(h) As import of LNG involves huge financial implications, agreement on such deals is preceded by protracted discussions, as all aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of parties involved. As such, no definite time frame can be indicated at this stage.

Development of Delhi Airports

4509. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any final estimate/cost for the developing Delhi's both airports *i.e.* domestic and international by the GMR led consortium so far;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's observation thereon;

(c) the amount received as development fee from departing domestic and international passengers from Delhi by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) so far till 31st March, 2010;

(d) whether the Government has reduce the period to receive development fee by DIAL; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) M/s Delhi International Airport (P) Limited (DIAL) have recently furnished firmed up project cost estimate for development of IGI airport, Delhi as Rs. 12,718 crore. This project cost is towards completion of the Phase-I of the airport development which inter-alia includes the development/construction of Terminal-1, Terminal-2, Integrated Terminal- T3 and associated buildings, runway, taxiway, apron and lighting, payment to Delhi Metro for Metro Airport Expressway, new ATC Tower and associated facilities, etc. The firmed up project cost as given by DIAL are subject to scrutiny by the Independent Auditors appointed by Airports Authority of India.

(c) As per the latest available report, DIAL has collected an amount of Rs. 563.98 crores up to February 2010 as Development Fee.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

Inspection of Pharma Companies

4510. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had ordered for inspection of the accounts of the pharma companies as recommended by Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the findings of inspection reports and the action is being taken to punish the guilty?

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 Serious Fraud Investigation Office recommended the inspection of the accounts company.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Derailment of Rajdhani Express

4511. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI BALKRISHNA KHANDERAO SHUKLA:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently, the Maoists blew off a rail track on Grand cord rail line, due to which eight bogies of Delhi-Bhubaneshwar Rajdhani Express got derailed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action plan that the Railways have chalked out to protect the railway tracks in view of the growing Maoist attacks;

(c) whether any latest technique is being adopted by the Railways that can minimize the manpower and oversee the entire train operations by a centralized computer control system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred by the Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Yes, Madam. On the night of 22.3.2010, during Bandh call, CPI(Maoists) blasted Railway track between Kastha and Paraiya Railway Stations in Mughalsarai Division over East Central Railway in which 9 coaches alongwith engine and generator car of 2443 Up Bhubneshwar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express got derailed. No casualty/injury to any passenger or Railway employee was reported in this incident. Government Railway Police/Gaya has registered a case vide crime no. 52/10 u/s 147, 148, 149, 307, 427 IPC and 150, 151 of Railways Act, 17 Criminal Law Act and 3/4 Explosive Substance Act.

'Policing' on Railways is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned, which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). Whenever any specific Information is received regarding

Naxalitel Maoist movements such as Bundhs, threats etc., Local Police/Government Railway Police (GRP) and Civil Authorities are requested for security of the Railway track, Railway passengers and Railway infrastructure to avoid any untoward incident.

The following security arrangements are also made for the security of passengers by Railways:-

- (1) An integrated security system has been approved to strengthen surveillance mechanism over 202 sensitive and vulnerable stations of the Indian Railways.
 - (2) Strength of RPF is being augmented 5134 posts have been sanctioned. In addition to it, 3 RPSF Bns., One Commando training Centre and 12 Mahila companies have been approved in Budget 2010-11.
 - (3) Multi Agency Centre (MAC) at Central level and Subsidiary Multi Agency Centre (SMAC) at State levels have been established.
 - (4) Close co-ordination is maintained with GRP and Civil Police at District and State level to share intelligence. Moreover, close coordination is maintained with the Union Home Ministry on day to day basis.
 - (5) A high level co-ordination meeting with the State Home Secretaries, senior officials of Ministry of Home Affairs, Intelligence Bureau and Railways was held on 21.01.2010 to discuss various issues related to security in Railways.
- (c) No, Madam.
- (d) Does not arise.

EPC Projects Executed by PSUs

4512. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) projects executed by PSUs in Petroleum Industry during the last three years; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Engineers India Limited (EIL) has executed two major Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) projects in domestic market.

(b) No foreign exchange was earned from these projects.

Export of Petroleum Products

4513. SHRI P. BALRAM:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

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

(a) the quantity of various petroleum products exported during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the export of petroleum products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total foreign exchange earned by the Government from such export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The quantity of various petroleum products exported during the last three years and the current year is given below:

Period	Export (TMT*)
2006-07	33,624
2007-08	40,779
2008-09	38,902
2009-10 Apr., 09-Feb., 10 (Prov.)	44,063

*TMT-Thousand Metric Tonne

(b) and (c) Our refineries export petroleum products which are surplus, after meeting the domestic demand. Increase in export of petroleum products in future will depend on several factors viz. growth of domestic

demand, global supply-demand of petroleum products, global economic situation etc.

(d) The total foreign exchange earned from export of petroleum products during the last three years and the current year are as under-

Year	Foreign currency (Million US\$)
2009-10 (Prov.) (Apr., 09-Feb., 10)*	25,654
2008-09	27,225
2007-08	27,555
2006-07	17,908

*The data relating to the SEZ Refinery of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) is up to January 2010.

Distribution and Marketing of Gas

4514. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to take over the distribution and marketing of gas at the delivery end from RIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government and the Contractor gives marketing freedom to the Contractor, subject to the Gas Utilization Policy framed by the Government. The EGoM constituted to decide issues pertaining to commercial utilization of gas under NELP has decided that the Contractor would sell gas from NELP to consumers in accordance with marketing priorities determined by the Government. Hence, the gas production from KG D6 is being sold in accordance with Government's priorities and decisions made by the Government in this regard.

Demands of Small and Medium Scale Pharma Companies

4515. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether small and medium scale pharma companies have brought to the notice of the Government their demands;

(b) if so, the details of the demands raised during the last three years;

(c) the reasons for delay in addressing these demands; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to consider these demands and safeguard the interests of small and medium scale pharma companies?

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

(a) and (b) The small and medium scale pharma companies and their associations send their representation to the Government from time to time. Some of main issues highlighted in their representation relate to removal of the criteria for participation in the tenders based on ORG ranking and turn over clause imposed under the procurement policy of various Government department/organizations, providing for financial assistance to SSI units in implementation of Schedule 'M' and Good Laboratories Practice requirement etc.

(c) and (d) The Department of Pharmaceuticals and Ministry of MSME are coordinating their efforts for assisting medium and small pharma units. The Department of Pharmaceuticals, in collaboration with the Development Commissioner, MSME of the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) introduced a Capital Subsidy Scheme for Financial Assistance to pharma SSI units for upgradation and compliance of schedule 'M' standards as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940. Under this scheme, 15% capital subsidy is provided up to a loan of Rs. 1.0 crore as per the guideline of the scheme. Further several awareness workshops were organized to help them understand requirement for technical upgradation and to make them schedule "M" compliant. Ministry of MSME is implementing the ISO-9000/ISO14001//HACCP Certification Reimbursement Scheme. Under this scheme reimbursement of charges for

acquiring ISO-9000/ISO14001//HACCP certification to the extent of 75% of the cost subject to a maximum amount of Rs. 75000/- is provided. The Government has launched various scheme under National Manufacturing Competitive Programme (NMCP) to support for MSMEs including Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Industries to enhancing their productivity and competitiveness.

Department of Pharmaceuticals has recently requested Government of Haryana to safeguard the common interest of SSI units for removing restriction turnover clause while inviting tender for procurement of Medicines for Government Supply.

Rail Accidents

4516. SHRI P. KUMAR:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI PURNMASI RAM:
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:
SHRI L. RAJA GOPAL:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several railway accidents have taken place since 2008;

(b) whether any enquiries have been conducted to look into the causes of rail accidents;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon;

(d) whether human error is one of the major reasons for rail accidents;

(e) whether Railways propose to educate and train railway men, for prevention of rail accidents, maintenance of track and rolling stock, signalling and interlocking at regular intervals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Number of train accidents has shown a declining trend during the last few years. While, 115 consequential train accidents on account of Collisions, Derailments, Fire in Trains, Manned

Level Crossing accidents and other Miscellaneous accidents occurred on Indian Railways in 2008-09, 100 such accidents took place in 2009-10.

(b) and (c) Out of 115 train accidents in 2008-09, 22 have been inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety and the balance 93 accidents were inquired into by the departmental committees. Out of 100 train accidents in 2009-10, 21 have been inquired into by the Commission of Railway Safety and the balance 79 accidents were inquired into by the departmental committees. Cause-wise analysis of these train accidents during 2008-09 and 2009-2010 is as under:

Causes	2008-09 (April, 2008 to March, 2009)	2009-10 (April, 2009 to March, 2010)
Failure of railway staff	75	66
Failure of other than railway staff	13	14
Failure of Equipment	-	01
Sabotage	13	11
Combination of factors	04	01
Incidental	04	03
Could not be established conclusively	04	02
Under investigation	02	02
Grand Total	115	100

Recommendations/findings of the Commission of Railway Safety/Departmental Enquiry Committees are examined by the concerned Departments for necessary follow-up action, if considered feasible.

(d) Yes, Madam. Human error is one of the major reasons for rail accidents. However, negligence of Road users while negotiating unmanned level crossings is also responsible for a large number of incidents at unmanned level crossings.

(e) and (f) Special attention has been given for training of railway staff in general and safety category employees in particular for their induction training, refresher courses and promotional courses at Zonal Railway Training Institutes. Zonal Railways closely monitor

the performance and alertness of the running and operating staff. Safety drives are also launched at frequent intervals for this purpose. All possible steps are also undertaken on a continuing basis to prevent accidents by way of replacement of over aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of tracks, roiling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, etc.

[*Translation*]

Use of Hindi in Courts

4517. SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:
SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA:

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

(a) whether a number of cases are pending as the relevant documents of the cases are either in Hindi or regional languages whereas the arguments in High Courts and Supreme Court take place only in English language;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to include Hindi and other regional languages for argument and judicial proceedings in High Courts and Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Grants to NGOs

4518. SHRI SANJAY DINA PATIL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to reduce grants-in-aid in the forthcoming financial year for the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working for Minorities; and

(b) 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 KHURSHEED): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Cotton Mill in MP

4519. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh to set up a cotton mill in Nimad area in the State where cotton is being cultivated at large scale; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government thereon and the time by which the mill is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any proposal from Government of Madhya Pradesh to set up a cotton mill in Nimad area.

Substandard Services of Private Airlines

4520. SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA:
SHRIMATI DEEPA DASHMUNSI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding substandard services of private airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against the said private airlines on the basis of such complaints during the last three years; and

(c) the number of public representatives who have made such complaints and the details of airlines against whom action has been taken during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Complaints of scheduled domestic airlines have been received from passengers regarding missing/lost baggage, refund of tickets in case of delays/cancellation, misbehaviour by airlines staff, denial of facilities like wheel chair, meals/snacks in case of delayed flights, etc. As per the available records, number of complaints received during the last three years are as follows:

Airlines	No. of Complaints Received		
	2007	2008	2009
NACIL(I)	17	01	05
Jet Airways	11	09	29
Jet Lite	27	13	13
Air Deccan	105	20	09
Kingfisher Airlines	07	05	24
Spicejet	18	12	21
Go Air	15	07	12
Paramount	03	Nil	05
IndiGo	13	09	19
MDLR	02	Nil	12

Amongst these complaints, 36 complaints were from the public representatives.

Being regulatory body for airline operations, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has taken up these complaints with the airlines for suitable redressal.

All the scheduled domestic airlines have been advised to display their citizen charter on their respective websites various facilities offered to the passengers, both in terms of free and chargeable, in a conspicuous manner so that passengers are aware of these before booking air tickets. Airlines also refund the tickets as per regulations issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation, in case of cancellation of flight.

[English]

User Development Fee

4521. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India is charging user development fee at the rate of Rs. 150/- for domestic passengers and Rs. 1000/- for international passengers at Jaipur airport and sought the permission of the Government to charge similar fee at other non-metro airports;

(b) if so, the names of the other airports to be covered under the above scheme; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (c) Yes, Madam. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is charging User Development Fee (UDF) at the rate of Rs. 150/- per embarking domestic passenger and at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per embarking International passenger at Jaipur Airport with effect from 01.01.2010, with the approval of the Government. AAI has also sought permission of the Government/Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) for the levy of User Development Fee at other airports *i.e.*, Amritsar, Udaipur, Varanasi, Trichy, Visakhapatnam, Mangalore, Ahmedabad, Trivandrum, Aurangabad, Dehradun, Srinagar and Surat. User Development Fee has been proposed under the provisions of Section 22A of the AAI Act, 1994 and Rule 89 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 to facilitate investments in modernization/expansion of the airports.

Consumption of Steel

4522. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita consumption of steel per annum in the country as compared to the global average;

(b) whether the per capita consumption of steel is low in the country;

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

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to boost the production of steel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) As per the data released by the World Steel Association for the year 2008, the per capita consumption of finished steel in India is 45 Kg while the global average is 190 Kg.

(b) The per capita steel consumption in India is lower compared to global average. However, it has recorded an average growth of 7.9% during the period 2005-06 to 2009-10.

(c) Steel consumption depends on various factors such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the Gross Domestic Capital Formation, industrial production, level of urbanization and the overall structure of the economy in terms of shares of industry, agriculture and services sectors, to name a few among the major ones.

(d) In a deregulated sector, the Government acts as a facilitator in boosting the steel industry and creating a level playing field. The various extant policy measures application to steel sector are-

- (i) Import duty on all steel products is 5%.
- (ii) There is no export duty on export of steel products.
- (iii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) is applicable on steel sector.
- (iv) Central Excise Duty on steel item is 10%.
- (v) There is an export duty of 10% on export of iron ore lump and 5% on export of iron ore fines.

[Translation]

Kanpur-Jhansi Railway Line

4523. SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to doubling the existing railway lines in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any amount has been sanctioned for doubling the Kanpur-Jhansi railway line in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith fund allocated for the same; and

(e) 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) and (b) Projects related to doubling/multiple lines are taken up to create additional carrying capacity on saturated routes to meet demand of traffic. As on 01.04.2009, there were 126 doubling projects. 35 new doubling projects have been proposed in Railway Budget 2010-11.

(c) to (e) Doubling of Kanpur-Jhansi line is at survey stage and is not a sanctioned work.

[English]

Non Availability of Rakes

4524. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN:
SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited continues to grapple with the problem of coal off-take due to the inadequate availability of rakes from the Indian Railways resulting in piling up of coal stock;

(b) if so, the total requirement of rakes per day and the rakes being provided to the Coal India Limited per day by the Railways;

(c) the reasons for short supply of rakes by the Railways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. Coal loading on Indian Railway grew by 7.23% in 2009-10 from all sources. The Indian Railways have also made sufficient rakes available for loading of coal from Coal India Limited sources in the month of April 2010 (period 1st to 15th April).

(b) As per projection of Coal India Limited, the loading requirement of rakes is to the tune of 190 rakes per day in the month of April 2010. Railways have been supplying rakes as per their demand. However, Coal India Limited has managed to load only 160 rakes per day (approximately) in the period 1st April to 15th April 2010. This was primarily on account of less loading in certain coal fields.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Financial Irregularities in Railways

4525. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 28755 audit objections have shown financial Irregularities amounting to Rs. 10829.67 crores in the CAG report of 2007;

(b) the number of these audit objections have been settled as on date and the number of audit objections added thereto giving a final tally thereof as also of money; and

(c) the reasons for not settling the audit objections and to clear them up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. However, as per records available with Zonal Railways and Production Units, there were 14204 audit objections amounting to Rs. 10363.25 crore outstanding as on 31.03.06.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Arisings of audit objections and clearance thereof is a continuous process wherein the Irregularities pointed out are analyzed for clarifications and compliance and are thereafter closed in consultation with Audit. Most of the audit objections are cleared quickly but in a few cases involving legal Intervention or Information from other government agencies, prolonged corrective action such as recoveries etc., finalization gets delayed. Zonal Railways and Production Units have been instructed to expedite remedial/corrective action, as required and are holding periodical review meetings with Audit to ensure early clearance of the objections.

Statement

(b) Current status of Audit objections which were outstanding as on 31.03.2006 is as under:

(Rs. In crore)

Outstanding on 31.3.2006		Clearance till 31.3.2010		Outstanding as on 31.3.2010	
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
14204	10363.25	8399	8747.28	5805	1615.97

The status of outstanding Audit objections as on 31.3.2010 is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Outstanding on 31.3.2006		Accretion till 31.3.2010		Clearance till 31.3.2010		Outstanding as on 31.3.2010	
Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
14204	10363.25	21892	27484.76	21602	24933.85	14494	12914.16

Extension of Stimulus Package

4526. SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has asked for an extension of the stimulus package for textile sector until the export move into positive territory;

(b) if so, whether the CII has also asked the Government for allocation of atleast Rs. 50,000 crores to clear two quarters subsidy arrears dues pending to textile sector under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Jute Corporation of India

4527. SHRI JAYARAM PANGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entrusted the Jute Corporation of India, the work of procuring jute from the jute growers without any ceiling;

(b) if so, whether the Government compensates the losses incurred by the Jute Corporation of India in its operations of purchasing jute at minimum support price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, State-wise?

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

(b) The Government provides grants to the Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI) to maintain infrastructure for carrying out price support operations for the purchase of raw jute at minimum support price.

(c) The details of the grants provided by the Government during the last three years to JCI to maintain its infrastructure for MSP operations is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amount
2007-08	30.00
2008-09	36.59
2009-10	36.59

Grant Under IHDS

4528. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has considered upon the proposal of Government of Karnataka regarding sanction of Central grant under Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (IHDS); and

(b) if so, the time by which the said amount is likely to be released for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The proposals received from Government of Karnataka under Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme have been considered favourably.

Out of total project cost of Rs. 292.50 lakh sanctioned, the 1st installment of Rs. 74.70 lakh, (out of Rs. 262.066 lakh of Government of India Share) has been released.

Linen Management

4529. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Pilot project has been initiated by the Railways for improved linen management;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the passenger thereto;

(c) whether any modern mechanized automated laundries have been established; and

(d) if so, the additional locations identified for more linen management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) With a view to improve upon the standards of cleanliness and hygiene in the linen supplied to passengers in trains, an automated Mechanized Laundry has been set up at Wadibunder coaching depot of Central Railway as a pilot project. The passenger response through this initiative has been encouraging.

(c) and (d) Zonal Railways have been further advised to identify potential locations and initiate action for setting up of such automated laundries for improved linen management in trains.

Exhibition for FPI

4530. SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is promoting international and national exhibitions in various regions for the development of food processing industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such exhibitions conducted in various places of the country during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Promotion of Food Processing Industry

through international and national exhibitions is one of the major activities undertaken by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the Scheme of Promotional Activities. The promotional activities of the Ministry are basically aimed at the popularisation and development of the processed food sector by creating awareness, attracting investment and bringing all the stake holders at one platform. The scheme has four components:

- (i) Seminars/Workshops.
- (ii) Studies/Surveys.
- (iii) Exhibitions/Fairs.
- (iv) Study Tours.

Participation in national/international exhibitions/fairs is made and assistance is provided for organizing such events with the following broad objectives:-

- (i) To disseminate information regarding food processing industry.
- (ii) To familiarize the existing and prospective entrepreneurs with modern techniques of production and packaging.
- (iii) Development of market and popularisation of products.
- (iv) Attracting investments by focusing attention on the development of Food Processing Industries.
- (v) Bringing all the stake holders at one platform.

The Ministry on its own or in close association with APEDA, CFTRI, and Industry Associations etc. participates in national/ international exhibitions/fairs. The Ministry also provides financial assistance to other organizations/bodies for organising such events. In case of financial assistance to any institution/organization for organizing a fair/exhibition or sponsoring/co-sponsoring of a fair/exhibition, quantum of assistance depends on the merits of the proposal.

Provisions in the Scheme of Promotional Activities relevant for participation in exhibitions/fairs and providing financial assistance for organizing such activities are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) 22 nos. of Exhibitions including Exhibitions-cum-Seminar have been conducted/participated/assisted during

the last two years *i.e.* 2008-09 and 2009-10 as per the Statement-II enclosed.

Statement I

Relevant provisions of Scheme of Promotional Activities of Ministry of Food Processing Industries pertaining to participation in and providing financial assistance for organizing exhibitions/fairs

Eligible Organisations: -

The Ministry on its own or in close association with APEDA, CFTRI, Industry Associations etc. may participate in national/ international exhibitions/fairs. In this regard, assistance is provided for publication of literature, space rentals etc. The quantum of assistance depends on the merits of proposal. State/district level Industry Associations, NGOs and other private agencies to apply through State Nodal Agency in the prescribed format. Government/Academic Bodies, National Level Industries Associations like FICCI, CII, ASSOCHAM, PHD Chamber of Commerce and AIFPA etc, can apply directly in the prescribed format. The proposal duly recommended to be submitted at least 2 months in advance of event. In case an event has taken place before recommendation of SNA, assistance shall not be considered. For participation in fairs/exhibitions abroad, 25% of the actual rental for the space taken by the Government/ Government Organizations may be provided by MFPI subject to a maximum of Rs. 20.00 lakhs in a year.

Criteria:-

The target group must be from processed food sector.

Pattern of Assistance:-

- (i) When Ministry in close association with APEDA, CFTRI, Industry Associations etc. participates in national/international exhibitions/fairs, financial assistance shall be provided for common item of expenditure like space rentals, construction of stall, publication of literature etc.
- (ii) In case of financial assistance to any institution/ organization for organizing a fair/exhibition or sponsoring/co-sponsoring of a fair/exhibition, quantum of assistance shall be decided on merits of the proposal. Sponsoring/co-sponsoring of the event organized by other organizations

would be done by the Ministry without any legal, administrative and financial commitment or responsibility provided at least 50% coverage is given to processed food sector.

Release of Grant:-

In case of post event payment, financial assistance will be released lump-sum in one instalment.

In other cases, the financial assistance will be released in two equal instalments as per the following terms of payment:-

1. First instalment of 50% of the grant will be released on submission of following information/documents prior to the event:-

- (i) Confirmed date of the event/programme.
- (ii) Disclosure of sources of funding.
- (iii) Surety Bond on a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100 or above wherever called for.

- (iv) Confirmation from the organizers that no Utilization Certificate is pending submission by them in respect of previous grant, if any, availed from this Ministry.

2. Second instalment will be released on receipt of complete post event details containing the following documents:-

- (i) Proceedings of the event.
- (ii) Copies/cutting of advertisements/publicity done.
- (iii) List of visitors and participants.
- (iv) Details of sources of income and items of expenditure duly audited by C.A.
- (v) UC for earlier MFPI grant, if received.
- (vi) Suggestions/Queries if any, of participants and visitors.
- (vii) Outcome/recommendations of the event for various stakeholders.
- (viii) Follow up action taken/to be taken.

Statement II

Exhibitions conducted/participated and assisted in the years 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Sl.No.	Name and Date of Event	Place	Applicant organization
1	2	3	4
Year 2008-09			
1.	"Food & Technology Expo 08" from 3rd-5th May 2008 at Pragati Maidan, Delhi.	Delhi	NNS Online Ltd. New Delhi.
2.	"Rashtriya Pragati Mela 2008" from 20th-28th April 2008 at at Haora Dalmia Park Stadium. Kolkata.	Kolkata	Bagnanpratyasha, West Bengal
3.	"IFE-INDIA 2008" from 2nd-4th Dec. 2008 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.	Delhi	Inter-Ads-Montgornary (India) Pvt. Ltd., Gurgaon
4.	Mega event "Second Green Revolution Summit and Expo, Agro Protech 2008" from 24th-26th Sept. 2008 at Science City, Kolkata.	Kolkata	Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Kolkata

1	2	3	4
5.	"Koli Seafood Festival" from 22na to 25th Jan. 2009 at Versova, Mumbai.	Mumbai	Koli Festival Sanstha, Mumbai
6.	"Harihar Kshetra Sonapur Mela (Fair)" from 12th November to 6th December 2008 at Sonapur Saran.	Saran	Sonapur Mela Committee, Saran, Chapra.
7.	"6th Silpa Baniya Mela 2008" from 2nd-11th Jan. 2009 at New Indian Club Play Ground, Baruipur, Kolkata.	Kolkata	Cottage & Small Scale Industries Association, Kolkata.
8.	"National Seminar & Exhibition on Rice" from 28th Feb. to 1st March 2009 at Scientific Convention Centre, 1, Shahmina Road, Opp. Budha Park, CSMMU, Lucknow.	Lucknow	U.P. Rice Millers' Association, Kanpur
9.	"Food & Bev Tech 2008" from 13th - 15th November 2008 at Mumbai.	Mumbai	Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), New Delhi
10.	Joint participation with APEDA in AAHAR - 2009 from 7th - 10th March 2009 at Pragati Maida, New Delhi.	Delhi	Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA), New Delhi.
11.	Participation in "Udyog Mela 2008" from 15th-25th November 2008 at Military Training Ground, Morabadi Maidan, Ranchi.	Ranchi	Jharkhand Small Industries Association (JSIA), Kokar, Ranchi

Year 2009-10

1.	Participation in AAHAR International Fair from 27th-29th August 2009 at Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai.	Chennai	India Trade Promotional Organization (ITPO), New Delhi
2.	"Sumhati Mela" from 29th Jan. to 07th Feb. 2010 at Gournagar, Kailashahar, North Tripura.	North Tripura	Ashray, Kailashahar, Tripura
3.	International Conference-cum-Exhibition "5th Nutraceutical Summit and NuFFooDS; Ingredients & Products Expo" from 28th-30th Oct. 2009 at The Lalit, New Delhi.	New Delhi	Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore

1	2	3	4
4.	Global Convention for Food Business "FOODWORLD-INDIA 2009" from 26th-27th November 2009 at Bombay Exhibition Centre, NSE Complex, Goregaon East, Mumbai.	Mumbai	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), New Delhi
5.	"India Wine Show 2009-International Trade Fair & Conference on Grape Processing Industry" from 26th-30th Nov. 2009 at Dongre Vastigriha Maidan, Nashik.		Nashik Human Service Foundation (HSF), Nashik
6.	"ICFOST 2009"-20th Indian Convention of Food Scientists & Technologists from 21st - 23rd Dec. 2009 at NIMHANS, Bangalore.	Bangalore	Association of Food Scientists and Technologists (India), Mysore
7.	"Horti Food Fest, 2009" from 9th-13th Jan. 2010 at Milon Mela Ground, Kolkata.	Kolkata	Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal, Kolkata
8.	Exhibition-cum-seminar "Agro Protech 2009 and 2E Agri Business Summit: Ensuring Food Security & Global Competitiveness" from 5th-7th November 2009 at Milon Mela Ground, Kolkata.	Kolkata Kolkata	Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Kolkata
9.	"Biennial India International Seafood Show (IISS)-2010" from 19th-21st Feb. 2010 at Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai.	Chennai	The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), Kerala
10.	Participation in "International Food & Drink Expo - India 2009" from December 2-4th, 2009 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.	Delhi	Tarsus Group Pic. through Manch Communications
11.	"ICE Global Chain India Expo" from 11th-12th Nov. 2009 at Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi	Delhi	Global Cold Chain Alliance India, New Delhi.

[Translation]

Chanda Railway Halt

4531. DR. SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chanda Railway Halt in Sultanpur

district had been closed as it was not found commercially viable;

(b) if so, the existing norms prescribed for closure of halt under such circumstances;

(c) whether there is any plan to reopen the said Chanda Railway Halt in future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Chanda halt station was closed, as the average number of passengers at this halt station was only 19 as against the existing yardstick of 50 passengers per day (outward) on main lines.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. Re-opening of Chanda halt station is not commercially viable, at present.

Opening of ICAI Training Centres in Bihar

4532. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Institute of Chartered Accountants of India proposes to open training centres in Bihar; 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 KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India has informed that they already have a centre in Patna, Bihar to provide IT Training to students of Chartered Accountancy Course in terms of the requirements of the Chartered Accountants Regulations.

ROBs in Jabalpur Division

4533. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to build railway over bridges on the Bina-Khurai road at Sagar Gate near Bina station and on National Highway near Makronia railway station on Katni-Bina section under Jabalpur Railway Division of West Central Railways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said projects will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam. Railways proposes to build railway over bridges at Level

Crossing Gate No. 307 'B' at Sagar Gate near Bina station on Katni-Bina section and at Level Crossing Gate No. 30 on National Highway near Makronia Railway Station on Katni-Bina section on 50:50 cost sharing between State Government and Railways.

(b) Despite repeated reminders from the Railway, State Government of Madhya Pradesh has not submitted approval/undertaking for 50:50 cost sharing, consent of closure of level crossing, etc. required as per extant instruction.

Directives Issued by Textile Commissioner

4534. SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Textile Commissioner has issued certain directives in regard to shipment of cotton to certain foreign countries which are creating hurdles in shipment;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Textile Commissioner has not issued any directives in regard to shipment of cotton to certain countries which are creating hurdles in shipment.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above

Alleged Irregularities in Allotment of LPG Agencies

4535. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI ARJUN ROY:

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

(a) whether the public sector oil marketing companies are at liberty to provide LPG distribution agencies as per their commercial assessment;

(b) if so, the provisions made by the Government to check corruption and irregularities by the said companies in the allotment of gas agencies;

(c) whether cases of corruption and irregularities in the allotment of gas agencies have been brought to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon including steps taken to check recurrence of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have commercial freedom to formulate and adopt their own guidelines in respect of governing, regulating, selection of LPG distributor under them. The LPG distributors are directly under the OMCs.

OMCs have formulated transparent system for selection of LPG distributor covering all the stages of selection *i.e.* selection of feasible locations, selection of the candidates, field verification of the credentials of the selected candidates, investigations into complaints if any and their disposal and issuance of the Letter of Intent to the suitable candidate.

No established cases of corruption by the officers of OMCs in selection of LPG distributors have come to the notice of the Government. Cases involving minor procedural lapses, as and when brought out during investigation of complaints are attended to and remedial action taken wherever necessary.

[*English*]

Salary to Air India Employees

4536. SHRI P. LINGAM:
SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India had withheld payment of salaries to its employees for the month of March 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid the recurrence of this practice and ensure regular payment of salaries to employees of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) No, Madam. The salary for the month of March, 2010 was paid to the employees of Air India on 7.4.2010. The above postponement was necessitated due to committed March year end payments to Oil Companies/Airports Authority of India/Foreign and Indian Vendors/repayment of loans and interest obligations/Bank loan rollovers. Government is continuously monitoring the financial position and restructuring plan of Air India.

LPG Dealership to Women in Rural Areas

4537. SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN:
SHRI K. SUGUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch LPG dealership scheme for women to empower the rural women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to double the number of women dealers in rural areas during the next financial year; and

(d) 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 the extant guidelines, 33% of the distributorships in all categories are reserved for women belonging to that category.

In order to increase rural penetration, a new scheme namely Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) has been launched on 16.10.2009. Under this scheme, the spouse of the applicant shall become a co-owner of the distributor once the distributor is commissioned, and thus all LPG distributorships under the scheme shall be jointly in the name of husband and wife.

Vanishing Companies in Maharashtra

4538. SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the companies in Maharashtra which have vanished during the last three years;

(b) the number of companies whose promoters/directors were prosecuted and the number of those punished during the said period;

(c) the number of legal professionals engaged in Maharashtra to fight the cases against such companies;

(d) whether the Government proposes to appoint more legal professionals in Maharashtra to dispose of such cases expeditiously; and

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

THE MINISTER STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) None of the listed companies from Maharashtra has vanished during the last three years.

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

New NTC Mills

4539. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Textile Corporation is going to set up new textile units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the total number of such units likely to be set up in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the details indicating total cost of setting up such units alongwith the combined production capacity likely to be increased after setting up these units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal for National Textile Corporation (NTC) to set up new textile units in the country. However, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), as per the Modified Rehabilitation Scheme, 2008 has approved relocation of 4 Green Field mills in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Rajasthan by relocating the existing NTC mills in the same States. As per BIFR approval, the estimated total cost of relocation is Rs. 580.81 crore. The projected additional capacity after relocation would be 15696 Spindles, 204 Looms and Processing capacity of 80000 Meters per day.

National Judicial Commission

4540. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:
SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up National Judicial Commission to speed up justice in various courts in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Increase in Prices of Forging Quality Steel

4541. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has increased the prices of forging quality steel;

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

(c) whether the forging steel producing companies are becoming sick due to increase in the prices of RINL;

(d) if so, whether the Association of Indian Forging Industry has demanded the Government to roll back the increase in prices due to the negative impact of the price rise;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to take steps to protect the forging steel industry in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Based on commercial consideration, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) has increased the prices ranging from Rs. 90/- to 545/- per tonne with effect from 1.4.2010 of different grades of saleable steel of which some are supplied to forging industries.

(c) to (f) RINL is contributing only 3 million tonnes out of the total steel production of 59.58 million tonnes per annum of the country. There are no reasons for the forging steel industries to fall sick due to marginal price increase by RINL.

[English]

Performance of Oil Exploration Companies

4542. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the performance of various agencies working in the field of oil exploration and petroleum refining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the policy decision taken to meet growing requirement of oil in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (b) The performance of Oil Public Sector Undertakings are reviewed by the Government of India through Quarterly Performance Review (QPR) meetings. The last such reviews were held during February- March, 2010.

(c) In order to meet growing requirements of petroleum goods the Government has envisaged to take following measures:

- (i) Faster exploration of the domestic sedimentary basins to augment domestic availability of oil and gas.
- (ii) Improvement in oil and gas recovery levels in the existing fields.

(iii) Acquisition of equity oil and gas abroad.

(iv) Exploitation of alternative fuel sources such as CBM, Gas Hydrates, Hydrogen and bio-fuels.

(v) Improvement in energy efficiency and conservation.

(vi) Maintenance of strategic reserves in oil and petroleum products.

Result Framework Document

4543. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared a Result Framework Document; and

(b) if so, the details of the vision and mission to transform India into the Global leader in the steel sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Results Framework Document (RFD) 2010-11 has been prepared for the Ministry of Steel. The vision and mission proposed under the RFD are:

Vision: To transform India into a global leader in the steel sector in terms of national production as well as productivity, sustainability and technology adoption in steel making.

Mission

- (i) Fostering policies and initiatives for the growth of the Indian steel industry, with the objective of attaining an annual national production capacity exceeding 100 million tonnes per annum by the year 2012.
- (ii) Promoting the regulatory environment for enabling optimal steel production; particularly regarding the mineral policy and mine allocation regime, tariff and taxation measures, relief and rehabilitation and environmental and forest clearances.
- (iii) Promoting the development of infrastructure required for enhancing national steel production through coordinated efforts, particularly in sectors like Railways, Roads, Ports, Power and Water supply.

- (iv) Enhancing domestic demand for steel through promotional efforts and by enlarging the retail network of steel PSUs.

The RFD 2010-11 is being finalized as per the discussions with the Ad-hoc Task Force constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat.

Air India Operations

4544. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the national carrier Air India has acquired an ATR Aircraft for operation between Cochin and Agatti in Lakshadweep;

(b) if so, whether the said aircraft has not been made operational in the sector till date; and

(c) if so, the proposed date by which the aircraft would be made operational in the said sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (c) No, Madam. Air India does not have the practice of acquiring/leasing aircraft for usage on specific sectors. At present, Air India's subsidiary, Alliance Air, has 7 ATR aircraft in its fleet. The current and planned deployment of ATR aircraft is fully committed within the operational resources of the airline.

Opening of LPG Agencies in Gujarat

4545. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has invited fresh tenders for opening more LPG and CNG agencies in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

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 not issued any advertisement for opening of new LPG distributor in recent past in the State of Gujarat.

Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied through City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks. Government has authorized GAIL (India) Ltd., Gujarat Gas Company Ltd. and Sabarmati Gas Ltd. to operate City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks in various cities of Gujarat. These entities open new CNG stations in their authorized areas depending upon commercial viability. After coming into force of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006, authorizations to City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities to lay, build, operate or expand inter-alia City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks are granted by PNGRB, in accordance with the provisions of PNGRB Act, 2006. PNGRB would be able to issue the said authorizations on notification of Section 16 of the Act by the Government.

Flights from Madurai and Tiruchirapalli

4546. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce flights from Madurai and Tiruchirapalli airports to South East Asian countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the infrastructure facilities in Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli, Salem and Tuticorin airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The designated airlines of ASEAN member states viz. Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Myanmar and Brunei can fly to 18 tourists destinations in India including Tiruchirapalli. However, Madurai is not available as point of call to the designated airlines of any foreign country at present. As far as Indian carriers are concerned, they are free to mount services from any point in India to foreign destinations as per the respective bilateral air services arrangements.

(c) (i) At Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchirapalli airports, the runway's have been extended and are equipped with Instrumental Landing System. Coimbatore, Madurai, Tiruchirapalli, Salem and Tuticorin airports are equipped with Aeronautical Ground lights, navigational aids and all weather operations. (ii) The existing aprons at Coimbatore and Madurai airports have been strengthened/expanded. At Tiruchirapalli, Salem and

Tuticorin, the aprons allow for parking of 7,2 and 1 aircraft respectively. (iii) At Madurai and Tiruchirapalli, construction of new Integrated Terminal Complex has been completed. At Coimbatore airport, there is a proposal for construction of a new Integrated Terminal Building Complex. The Terminal Building at Salem and Tuticorin are suitable for handling 100 and 75 passengers respectively, at a time.

Gauge Conversion in Gujarat

4547. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question Nos. 35 & 91 dated July 2, 2009 regarding gauge conversion between Ahmedabad-Udaipur, Bhiladi-Samadhari gauge conversion work in Gujarat and state:

- (a) whether the gauge conversion work has been started on above railway line;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including budgetary support for the anticipated cost; and
- (c) the status of these railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Gauge conversion of Bhildi-Samdari (223 km) has already been completed and commissioned for goods traffic from 28.12.2009. The line will be commissioned for passenger traffic after authorization by Commissioner of Railway Safety. An outlay of Rs. 24 crore has been proposed for this project in the Railway Budget 2010-11 for residual works and financial adjustments. As regard gauge conversion of Ahmedabad-Himmatnagar-Udaipur, the preliminary activities of preparation of plans and estimates are still in progress and likely to be completed in next 2-3 months. An outlay of Rs. 30 crore has been Proposed for this Project in the Railway Budget 2010-11.

Generation of New Hydrocarbon Assets by ONGC

4548. SHRI P. BALRAM:
SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is working towards generating new hydrocarbon assets such as gas hydrates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the aims and objectives of such assets to utilize in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has been carrying out Research and Development (R&D) activities in new and unconventional energy resources including Gas Hydrates, which is the future source of energy.

ONGC has been working in this field since 1997 and the technology for effective exploitation is at R&D stage worldwide. Presently, all gas hydrate activity is coordinated by National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP). ONGC had carried out operations in east and west coast and has identified prospective areas for gas hydrate investigation. It has also undertaken an in-house technology development for exploitation of gas hydrates.

(c) The objective of developing new and additional resources of hydrocarbon like gas hydrates is to ensure national energy security and reduce the gap between energy demand and supply of the country.

Rationalization of Work Force by SAIL

4549. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) proposes to rationalize its work force;

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

(c) whether the reduction in staff is likely to help SAIL in bringing down the cost;

(d) if so, whether the production capacity of SAIL is likely to be increased; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) The Steel Authority of India Limited had a manpower strength of 116950 as on 01.04.2010. Rationalization of manpower is a continual process in SAIL. With rationalization of

manpower, several systemic changes such as cluster system of working, flexibility in deployment, automated working, adoption of best practices have been fostered, thereby leading to improved efficiency and better work culture.

(c) Manpower rationalization is being undertaken with the objective of remaining globally competitive, improving productivity and bringing down the costs.

(d) With the rationalization of manpower, productivity of SAIL is likely to be increased. Modernization and expansion is also underway in SAIL, which will also lead to increase in production and capacity.

(e) The Modernization and Expansion Plan being implemented by SAIL envisages increase in hot metal production from installed capacity of 13.82 million tonne per annum to 23.46 million tonne per annum in the current phase.

[Translation]

International Flights from Domestic Airports

4550. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to operate the international and domestic flights from same terminals;

(b) if so, the benefits likely to be accrued to the Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Keeping in view the advantages of Integrated Terminals handling both international and domestic traffic, the construction/operationalization of Integrated Terminal buildings at various cities across India has been taken up by airport operators. The Integrated Terminal is already operational at Srinagar, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Trichy and Vishakapatnam. At New Delhi, a new Integrated Terminal T3 will become operational in July, 2010.

There is no direct benefit for the Government in this regard. However, Integrated Terminal Buildings allow the smooth interchange of domestic and international passengers leading to passenger convenience with seamless connections. It ensures coordinated utilization of resources by the airlines and allied services. The integrated infrastructure provides for faster passenger

handling, baggage and cargo transfer resulting in reduction of cost for airlines since volumes of operations can result in economies of scale, aircraft maintenance, catering facilities, etc. It provides for greater flexibility to airlines to respond to delays, cancellations and irregular operations.

Wasteful Expenditure by Public Sector Oil Companies

4551. SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:
SHRI IYARAJ SINGH

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the alleged wasteful expenditure incurred by the Public Sector Oil Companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out cases of negligence in exercising austerity by these companies;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the amount spent on the administrative work at the headquarters of Indian Oil Corporation, Gas Authority of India Ltd. and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) The instructions issued by Government of India from time to time on austerity measures are strictly followed by the Public Sector Oil Companies.

(e) The amount spent by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Gas Authority of India Ltd (GAIL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on the administrative work at their headquarters during the last three years are given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	IOC	GAIL	ONGC
2006-07	58.47	208.00	374.25
2007-08	68.31	358.00	785.74
2008-09	82.34	242.00	568.09

*[English]***Constitution of Panel for Steel Units**

4552. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a panel to sort out issues facing the steel units;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and composition of the panel; and

(c) the time by which the report is likely to be presented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Government has not constituted any specific panel to sort out issues facing steel units. However, in July 2008, Ministry of Steel has constituted an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel). The group is represented by other Ministries/Department of the Central Government such as Industrial Policy & Promotion, Railways, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Mines, Environment & Forests, as well as the Chief Secretaries of the concerned State Governments. The main terms of reference (ToR) of the IMG are to review and coordinate measures for early completion of the major steel capacities and to address various problems concerning: for infrastructure, raw material, environmental clearance and land, water resources and rehabilitation.

(c) Inter Ministerial Group is a standing coordinating body and conducts coordination meetings at regular intervals.

*[Translation]***Misbehaviour by RPF Personnel**

4553. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether six personnel of Government Railway Police (GRP) got into Gorakhdham Express at Ghaziabad and molested the women in ladies coach on 21.03.2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been increase of such cases and also of looting by Railway Protection Force/ Government Railway Police personnel as well;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to check such cases in future; and

(e) the details of disciplinary action taken against the delinquent officials in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 03 Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel of Lucknow were on train escorting duty in train no. 2556 Gorakhdham Exp. Ex. New Delhi to Lucknow. On receipt of information regarding nuisance in ladies compartment, the train was stopped at Khurja Jn. Railway station. A joint team comprising GRP/RPF personnel and Station Superintendent /Khurja Jn. checked the ladies compartment attached to the guard brake and found that 1 Head constable and 2 Constables of GRP/Charbagh/ Lucknow were traveling in the coach and were quarreling with each other on the issue of duty deployment. No lady passenger, travelling in the said compartment, lodged any complaint against the GRP personnel regarding molestation. Above 3 GRP staff have been placed under suspension by GRP authorities.

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

(d) Maintenance of law and order is a State subject and powers to investigate into IPC crimes are vested with Police and GRP.

However, Railway is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort important trains in addition to trains escorted by Government Railway Police (GRP).

Following steps are taken by the Railways to improve security of passengers in Railways and particularly of women passengers:

1. Important mail/express trains are being escorted by GRP and RPF.
2. Regular coordination meetings are held with GRP and State Police at all levels to prevent incidents of passenger offences.
3. GRP/RPF escort parties have been briefed to pay extra attention towards the security of lady passengers.

4. Regular drives are conducted by RPF against male passengers traveling in ladies compartments, anti-social elements creating nuisance in Railways and the offenders are prosecuted under the provision of the Railways Act. 60,400 male persons were prosecuted for traveling in ladies compartment over Indian Railways during the year 2009 in comparison to 58794 persons in 2008.
5. Ladies compartments of suburban trains are escorted by GRP/RPF.
6. Special trains exclusively for lady commuters have been introduced in Metro cities.
7. 10% reservation for women has been made in the recruitment of all ranks of Railway Protection Force to ensure better service to lady passengers.
 1. 12 companies of women RPF personnel are proposed for improving security of women passengers.
 2. One Mahila Battalion is proposed to provide better security to women passengers.

(e) All the 3 GRP (Government Railway Police) Personnel have been placed under suspension.

[English]

Halt of Trains

4554. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways are considering to provide halt of various important trains at Dhenkanal Railway Station (Khurdha Division of Eastern Railways) and Boinda Railway Station (Sambalpur Division of East Coast Railways) in Orissa; and
- (b) if so, the details of trains proposed to be halted at said stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Stoppage of 2879/2880 Bhubaneswar-Lokmanya Tilak

Express has been provided at Dhenkanal from 08.02.2010. Further, 2743/2744 Puri-Surat Express and 8105/8106 Rourkela-Bhubaneswar Express have been introduced from 20.12.2009 and 13.02.2010 respectively having stoppage at Dhenkanal. These are providing additional services for the passengers of Dhenkanal. Stoppage of additional trains at Boinda has been examined but not found feasible at present.

Rail Line Between Guwahati-Jogihappa

4555. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Guwahati-Jogihappa rail line remain underutilized since its inception;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways for utilization of the said railway line;
- (c) whether the Railways are aware of a large scale transport of smuggled timber between Rangia-Rangapara rail section; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Only 2 incidents of smuggling of Timber were reported between Rangiya-Rangapara section of NF Railway in 2009. The details are given as under:

- (i) On 02.01.2009, 877 pieces swan timber like sal, sagon, dhuna etc. valued at Rs. 4,03,656/- were recovered from Train No. Dn. empty stock. The case was jointly detected by RPF, GRP and 172 Field Regiment of Army and 05 persons were arrested. A case vide no. 3 of 3/09 dated 02.01.2009 U/s 140, 141 and 149 of Assam Forest Regulation Act 1891 has been registered.
- (ii) On 03.10.2009, 14 pieces of unclaimed timber wood were recovered by a joint team of RPF

and GRP of Rangiya Division from Train no. 0770 Inter City Express. The recovered property has been handed over to Forest department.

Pantry Cars in Trains

4556. SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any criteria to attach pantry cars in trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of important long distance trains which are proposed to be provided with pantry cars in the current year;

(c) whether the Railways are aware of the fact that Hazrat Nizamuddin-Eranakulam Duronto Express does not have the availability of meals and even water; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures being taken to provide such basic facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Attachment of Pantry Cars to the trains is considered based on various factors such as operational feasibility, priority of the train, journey time, commercial justification, availability of pantry cars, load of the train, etc. among others.

(b) The proposed list of trains to be provided with pantry cars during 2010-11 is not yet finalized.

(c) No, Madam. The Hazrat Nizamuddin-Eranakulam Duronto has provision for meals and water in AC as well as non-AC Class. Further, special monitoring for Duronto trains is being done by Railways to ensure provision of good quality on-board catering services.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-Pak Railway Meet

4557. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint meeting of officials of Indian and Pakistan Railways were held in recent past;

(b) if so, the issues discussed in the said meeting and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No Inter-Governmental Railway Meeting (IRGM) has been held between the delegations of Indian and Pakistan Railways since June, 2008.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel

4558. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether the oil companies have slashed aviation turbine fuel prices for the four metropolitan airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the oil companies have now proposed to revise the ATF in view of the increase in the prices of oil in the international market: and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the impact it will have on the fare structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Government does not control the price of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), as it is a de-regulated product. The methodology adopted in fixing the price of ATF by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) is based on the exrefinery prices of Jet fuel linked to the Import Parity Prices, which are revised by the OMCs on a fortnightly basis. As a result of this, the price of ATF rise and fall in tandem with the international prices.

The details of ATF price for the Domestic Airlines at four Metro Air Fuel Stations (AFSs), as provided by the Indian Oil Corporation, for the period from 1st January, 2010 to 1st April, 2010 are given below:

Date	(Rs. per Kilolitre)			
	Delhi	Kolkata	Mumbai	Chennai
1st January, 2010	38696.60	46909.02	39910.79	42683.33
16th January, 2010	41216.43	49533.84	42535.61	45378.318
1st February, 2010	38956.38	47166.09	40181.39	42948.62
16th February, 2010	37982.22	46164.87	39166.64	41901.40
1st March, 2010	39307.07	47531.40	40546.70	43325.62
16th March, 2010	40268.25	48586.74	41561.45	44400.77
1st April, 2010	40841.40	49294.36	42159.48	45151.98

Ministry of Civil Aviation has informed that the impact of increase of ATF price on airfare cannot be anticipated in advance. As ATF accounts for 40% of the operating cost of Indian Carriers, any increase in ATF price will have an adverse impact on the industry and will increase losses of airlines. Ministry of Civil Aviation has also clarified that the air fares are regulated by the Government.

Export of Cotton

4559. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:
SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic cotton prices have jumped due to surging exports;

(b) if so, the target revised for cotton export; and

(c) the names of countries from where the maximum demand of cotton has emerged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Prices of Indian cotton (Sanker-6 variety) have increased from Rs. 22,400/- per candy (spot prices) in October, 2009 to Rs. 28,800/- per candy on April 16, 2010.

(b) The Cotton Advisory Board on its meeting dated 8.4.2010 has revised projections of cotton exports for 2009-2010 from 55 lac bales to 80 lac bales, Government has decided to have a carry forward stock of 50 lac bales from cotton season 2009-10.

(c) The maximum demand of cotton in the current season has emerged from China/Hong Kong and Bangladesh.

Penal Punishment for Audit firms for Misconduct

4560. SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN:
SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has recommended penal punishment for audit firms in its report submitted to the Government in addition to the Chartered Accountants for misconduct;

(b) if so, other recommendations made by the ICAI in its report; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring the audit firms within the ambit of penal punishment as far as the misconduct of their Chartered Accountants are concerned?

THE MINISTER STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has submitted the first part of its Report, after consideration by its Council, wherein the former has recommended to the Government for amendments in the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, Rules and Regulations framed thereunder so that action can be

taken against firms of chartered accountants themselves, in addition to individual chartered accountants, for misconduct.

(b) Some of the major recommendations among others in the ICAI Report are strengthening mechanism to monitor compliance with ICAI regulatory requirements, seeking empowerment to scrutinize financial statements of public interest entities, introduction of a system by Reserve Bank of India whereby direct external confirmations on specified items like bank balances/ advances/deposits can be given to the statutory auditors by the banks concerned.

(c) The first part of the Report submitted by ICAI is under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Revenue Earned by Bilaspur Railway Zone

4561. KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the contribution in percentage made by the Bilaspur Railway zone, Chhattisgarh to the total revenue earned by the Railways during the last three financial years; and

(b) the facilities provided by the Railways in Chhattisgarh in proportion to the said contribution and the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The percentage of South East Central Railway zone to the total revenue earned by the Indian Railways for the last three financial years is as under:

Year	(Rs. in crore)		
	Total Earnings of Indian Railways	Earning of South East Central Railway (Bilaspur)	Percentage of SEC Railway's Earnings to Indian Railways' Earnings
2007-08	71644.66	4733.23	6.61
2008-09	79837.07	5007.35	6.27
2009-10 (Approx)	86415.84	5340.31	6.18

(b) State wise expenditure accounts is not maintained in Railways. The State of Chhattisgarh is covered by South East Central Railway. Further, the scale of facilities provided on zonal railways is based on the operational requirement of the railway concerned and not linked to their earnings potential. The expenditure incurred by the Railway under Capital and other works expenditure during the three year is Rs. 742.92 crore (2007-08), Rs. 835.76 crore (2008-09) and Rs. 753.48 crore (2009-10 (approx.))

[*English*]

Tatkal Scheme

4562. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for issuing waitlisted tickets under Tatkal scheme;

(b) whether such a situation adversely affects the normal waitlisted ticketholders;

(c) if so, the percentage of berths reserved for tatkal scheme in trains, class-wise; and

(d) the measures taken to ensure that not more than 10 per cent of total tickets in a train would be kept under Tatkal scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Tatkal waiting list serves to utilize Tatkal berths falling vacant due to cancellations. The cancellation of confirmed tickets of general quota is allotted alternatively to general and Tatkal wait-listed passengers. Unutilised reservation quotas released at the time of preparation of reservation charts are also used for clearance of Tatkal Waiting List on priority.

(c) and (d) Tatkal accommodation earmarked in a train varies from train to train and class to class, keeping in view the utilization pattern in that class as well as availability of accommodation. The maximum limit varies between 10% of the accommodation in reserved second sitting class, and upto 300% in sleeper class.

[*Translation*]

Security Lapses at the Airports

4563. SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
PROF. RAMSHANKAR:
SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:

SHRIMATI DEEPA DASHMUNSI:
 SHRI MANICKA TAGORE:
 SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:
 SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI:
 SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some incidents of security lapses at airports have come to light recently viz. a crude bomb or suspicious article was found in an aircraft and a man succeeded in reaching an airport runway breaching the security;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to prevent such lapses;

(c) the number of incidents of security lapses came to light in aviation sector during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the action taken against the persons found guilty in each of the above incidents and steps taken to prevent

the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) There has been a case at Trivandrum airport on 21.03.10. A crude country made bomb of the size of a cricket ball was found in the aircraft (in Kingfisher Airlines Flight No. IT-4731) from the rear cargo hold (ATF) which was noticed by the loading supervisor of a private agency hired by the airlines after unloading of the hold baggage on arrival at Trivandrum. Police has registered a case in this regard and the same loading supervisor who had reported about it has been remanded by the police on suspicion about his involvement.

There has also been a case at IGI Airport, Delhi on 26.02.2010 in which a naked person in an intoxicated condition managed to scale over the perimeter wall and was found on the runway by the Apron Control Staff.

(c) The year wise number of incidents of security lapses is as under region-wise:

Name of the airport	2007	2008	2009	2010 till date
Delhi	08	02	03	03
Mumbai	24	20	28	11
Chennai	-	02	10	06
Kolkata	06	04	09	03

(d) In both the cases at para (b) above, the Central Industrial Security Force(CISF) personnel found to be prima facie guilty, have been placed under suspension and disciplinary action has been taken against them.

All these trespassers/intruders have been handed over to the respective state police for legal action.

[English]

Production Sharing Contracts

4564. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which india's natural gas requirement is likely to meet from the Krishna Godavari Basin finds;

(b) the commercial exploitation of the anticipated natural gas in the KG Basin over the next twenty year annually;

(c) the extent to which country's oil requirement is likely to met from the Cairn Oil fields at full commercial exploitation capacity;

(d) the extent of oil that is anticipated for commercial exploitation in the Cairn Oil fields in Barmer over the next twenty years annually;

(e) the over the life span of both the production sharing contracts (PSC) with the promoters of the KG Basin and Cairn Energy the quantum of profit revenue

cost is likely to be earned by each the Government and the promoters respectively;

(f) the manner in which Government tax profit gas and profit petroleum respectively; and

(g) the manner in which the PSC's are subjected to the scrutiny by Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The estimated Shortfall of natural gas in the country, prior to the production from KG-DWN-98/3, was about 80-90 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD). With the commencement of Production of gas in the block KG-DWN-98/3 of Krishna Godavari Basin from April, 2009 which has reached a production level of about 60 MMSCMD, the needs of large number of customers in the priority sectors are met.

During the year 2009-10, the gas production from D1/D3 Field of block KG-DWN-98/3 was about 14.35 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM), which is about 30% of country's total gas production of 47.48 BCM.

(b) As per approved Field Development Plan (FDP), the recoverable gas reserves in the KG Basin are to the extent of 11.112 TCF which is commercially exploitable over a period of next twenty years.

(c) Under the PSC regime, as per the approved Field Development Plan, the peak oil production from RJ-ON-90/1 block in Rajasthan, operated by Cairn-ONGC Consortium, will be about 1,75,000 barrel per day (bbl). This corresponds to about 25% of country's current total oil production.

(d) The approved FDP envisages production of about 368 Million Barrels (MMbbl) of oil from RJ-ON-90/1 block over a period of 11 years up to 2020.

(e) Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC), the available surplus after the recovery of costs is shared between the Government and Contractor on the basis of pre-tax Investment Multiple (IM) achieved by the Contractor in the previous year, which is the ratio of Cumulative Net Cash Income to cumulative Investment.

(f) The entities are liable to be assessed on revenues earned, for income tax as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(g) The Production Sharing Contracts (PSC) with the Contracting Parties are signed after award of Blocks. For purposes of applicability of Section 42 of the Income tax Act, the signed PSCs are tabled in the Parliament from time to time. PSC activities are also subject to Parliament scrutiny through Parliament questions and also by various Parliamentary committees. Further, the details of activities undertaken by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) including the activities under PSC regime are reported in the annual reports of DGH and Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) which are placed in both Houses of Parliament.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2164/15/10]

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 each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) The "Scheme for Filing of Statutory Documents and other Transactions by Companies in Electronic Mode (Second Amendment), 2009" published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 3314(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2009.

(ii) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Amendment), 2010 published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 68(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th February, 2010.

(iii) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Second Amendment), 2010 published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 177(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2165/15/10]

(2) The Limited Liability Partnership (Amendment) Rules, 2010 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. No. 24(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th January, 2010, under sub-section (3) of Section 79 of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2166/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited and the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2167/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2168/15/10]

(2) 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 Central cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Central cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009., alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2169/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Biecco Lawrie Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2170/15/10]

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Balmer Lawrie & Company Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2171/15/10]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between the MSTC Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2172/15/10]

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2173/15/10]

(3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Steel Authority of India Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2174/15/10]

(4) Memorandum of Understanding between the KIOCL Limited (formerly Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited) and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2175/15/10]

- (5) Memorandum of Understanding between the NMDC Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2176/15/10]

- (6) Memorandum of Understanding between the MECON Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2177/15/10]

- (7) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2178/15/10]

- (8) Memorandum of Understanding between the Manganese Ore (India) Limited and the Ministry of Steel for the year 2010-2011.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2179/15/10]

12.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

1st Report

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad East): Madam Speaker, I beg to present the first report (Hindi and English version) of Committee on Papers laid on the Table and the Minutes relating thereto.

12.01¹/₂ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

7th Report

[*English*]

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR (Bangaon): I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment regarding Action Taken by the

Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-sixth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on "National Commission for Scheduled Castes— Its Mandate and Achievements – A review of its organization and working".

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

6th Report

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam Speaker, I beg to present sixth report (Hindi and English version) of the Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2010-11) of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation).

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

10th and 11th Reports

[*English*]

SHRI HEMANAND BISWAL (Sundargarh): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour:-

(1) Tenth Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants for the year 2010-2011 of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

(2) Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants for the year 2010-2011 of the Ministry of Textiles.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

2nd Report

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry): I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and

Natural Gas on Demands for Grants (2010-11) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COAL AND STEEL**

4th, 5th to 6th Reports

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel:-

- (1) Fourth Report on "Demands for Grants (2010-11)" of the Ministry of Coal.
- (2) Fifth Report on "Demands for Grants (2010-11)" of the Ministry of Mines.
- (3) Sixth Report on "Demands for Grants (2010-11)" of the Ministry of Steel.

12.04 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, ENVIRONMENT AND
FORESTS**

204th to 206th Reports

[English]

SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA (South Goa): I beg to lay the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests:-

- (1) Two Hundred Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- (2) Two Hundred Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Department of Biotechnology.
- (3) Two Hundred Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Department of Space.

12.04¹/₂ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TOURISM AND CULTURE**

156th to 158th Reports

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I lay the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture:-

- (1) One Hundred Fifty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Ministry of Shipping.
- (2) One Hundred Fifty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Ministry of Culture.
- (3) One Hundred Fifty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2010-2011) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

12.05 hrs.

**PAYMENT OF GRATUITY (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2010***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): On behalf of Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Madam Speaker, I want to raise a very serious matter.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right, but this is zero hour. Please sit down. Let us finish this, then, I will call you.

...(Interruptions)

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 22.4.2010.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Madam Speaker, I am very thankful to you that for giving me permission to raise a very serious and important matter. This is the months of April and the heat waves, which used to prevail in the month of June, are prevailing in April and the temperature has risen to 43-44 degree Celsius. You have yourself seen the result of this ...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM SPEAKER: Jagdambika Pal ji please speak on the subject on which you have given the notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): Speaker, this should be expunged.

MADAM SPEAKER: It has been expunged. I have said so.

[English]

Nothing will go on record. Nothing else will go on record except what he is saying on the subject mentioned in the notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North): Madam Speaker, sympathy is being expressed for him ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. He is speaking on the subject of notice. You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Madam, what I am saying is a fact. It is a truth. I do not know why are they so much angry. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You speak on the subject of notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Madam, I am speaking on the subject of notice only. I have spoken the truth. I have not said any such thing. The whole country knows that he became unconscious, it is true and I am not telling lie. I have mentioned this because temperature has risen to 43-44 degrees Celsius in the month of April throughout the country, due to which poor people living in the remote areas of the country, who are not having immunity, who are not getting proper food and pure water, they come in the grip of heat wave. I am giving Government figures that about 80 persons have died. Maximum deaths have taken place in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. About 80 persons have died due to heat wave. We provide financial help to NRHM, National Rural Health Mission from the centre so that medicines can be purchased in the primary health centres of the states to save people from diarrhoea, heat wave and the rising temperature. Unfortunately in Uttar Pradesh, medicines are not available in PHCs and approximately 80 persons have died.

They are not getting even O.R.S ...*(Interruptions)* I am speaking on the subject only.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now conclude your speech.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Even electricity is not there. Today, all the ponds have dried, canals have also dried. Water is not coming upto the tail end. There is no electricity in the whole state and due to heat wave and extreme temperature, people are dying in summer season. People are dying due to negligence of State Government also. Families are becoming orphans. But no compensation is being paid to them, no help is provided to them. This is a very serious issue and this is not a political matter. I am not raising this subject for any motive. Owing to seriousness of this important issue. I want to draw the attention of this august House towards the whole country. ...*(Interruptions)* I want that Dara Singh Chauhan ji does not mitigate the importance of this subject. This is a very serious subject, because all the persons who are dying are poor, who are not getting proper nutrition. They are malnourished, who suffers from loose motion, diarrhoea. Most of them are children whose whole life is awaiting them. Due to heat wave these children in villages suffer from loose motion, diarrhoea and die ultimately.*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: So, I urge upon the Government to take effective action so that ponds are filled with water. Water should be released in canals.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I am concluding.

Madam, I am thankful to you giving me an opportunity to speak on such serious issue. I would like that you may please give an instructions to the State Government to give compensation to the families whose members have died due to heat stroke.

DR. TARUN MANDAL (Jaynagar): Speaker Madam, I would like to bring a very serious issue to the notice of the House. Slums and houses of the poorest of the poor people are demolished by bulldozers in the name of development projects in our country. I think it is gross injustice to them. They people are common citizens of our country.

There is a Barapulla Nala area near Nizamuddin station of Delhi and just a few days back 358 families have been shifted from there on the grounds that on elevated road will be constructed there. We people are also reading in newspaper that there will be a parking way for commonwealth Games. Some days back the Government had committed to the people that slums can be removed from these areas if any school, hospital or any big road is constructed there. But they have not been removed for any above said work and even no arrangement has been made for the rehabilitation of displaced people. Nothing has been done on behalf of the Government of Delhi State, Municipality or the Central Government. Nothing has been done for the people who want to fill up the forms for rehabilitation. The entire family with their children are lying in open field in such scorching and dry weather.

Madam, there are a lot of schemes for poor persons in our country. There is Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission for the people living in urban areas. So I think that its benefit should be given to these people

*Not recorded.

and they should be provided homes under this scheme. But not a single person has got home there. This has happened in not only in the slums of Delhi but it is happening in ot her slums of Delhi also. In addition to it this is happening also in other big cities of country. Everybody knows that poor people have also human rights and they should be given shelter, education, food and employment.

I would like to say through you that the Government schemes should be implemented for the settlement and slums of poor people who have migrated from villages to cities. But not a single scheme of the Government is working in this direction. So I would like to say that the people displaced from the area or Barapulla Nala should be rehabilitated and the relief should be given to them.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri P. Lingam associates himself with this issue.

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (Mahesana): I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important issue. The World Health Organization and some health institutes and scientists have revealed from their research works about side effects of cell phone and have advised to keep the children away from cell phones otherwise their brains are likely to affected and they are prone to brain cancers on the long run. As per the research works headache, tiredness, giddiness, memory loss, skin disease, irregular heart beats etc. diseases get developed. There are billons of cell phones used by people in the world. Sticking cell phone to ears causes excessive heat in mind and body. Excessive use of cell phones causes cardiac problems; Alzheimer disease and paralysis are likely to be caused by excessive use of cell phones. Not only cancer disease is likely to be caused by radiation from mobile towers but skin disease, insomania, memory loss, eye swelling, joints pain like diseases have taken people in the grip living around these towers.

Madam, I would like to submit to the Government through you, that warning should be issued to the people about ill-effection health by excessive use of cell phones. An effective policy should chalked out for installation of mobile tower and licensing system should be implemented. Unauthorized and unlicensed tower installed in citizens area should be removed and it should be looked into. Committees should be constituted right from I center to district level for construction of tower. The Government should take appropriate step for not installing the mobile towers in residential areas in any condition and should take concrete action to tackle the ill-effects caused by cell phones.

[*English*]

SHRI P.K. BIJU: Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

I would like to raise an important issue regarding the reduction of kerosene quota towards the State of Kerala. The Central Government has decided to cut 4,404 kilolitres of kerosene from the regular quota to Kerala that was distributed through the Public Distribution System, for the months of April, May and June. The allotted quota of kerosene to Kerala State was 23,160 kilolitres but that has presently been reduced to 18,756 kilolitres. This decision is anti-people, undemocratic and unacceptable. This move is against the "Aam Aadmi" and the federal character of the Centre and the States.

Madam Speaker, the PDS in Kerala is a model scheme in our country. The Food and Civil Supplies Minister has openly admitted this in the Parliament. At the same time, the Ministry of Public Distribution and Civil Supplies tried to destabilize the Public Distribution System in Kerala. Last year, the Central Government deducted the allotted APL rice quota from 1,13,000 metric tonnes to 17,000 metric tonnes. Simultaneously, the Central Government increased the APL rice price from Rs. 8.90 to Rs. 12.96 and later to Rs. 15.65.

Such deduction in essential commodities disrupts the common man's living. The decision to deduct 4,404 kilolitres of kerosene from the normal quota will affect the farmers and fishermen as well as the non-electrified household people in Kerala. The houses that have not been electrified yet get only 7 litres of kerosene per card per month and this will be further reduced due to the Central Government's decision. The small and marginalized farmers will be badly affected by this decision as they use kerosene in pumps for irrigation. Fishermen use kerosene as fuel for their fishing boats. Deduction in kerosene supply will affect their fishing and alter their day to day life....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI P.K. BIJU: I am going to conclude. This is not the first time that it has been made. The Central Government reduced all the welfare measures in respect of Kerala – even in the fund allocation under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme and also in respect of rice quota. So, I urge upon the Central Government not to burden the common man. I urge upon the Central

Government to immediately withdraw this decision and reinstate the deducted kerosene quota to Kerala State....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Madam, I would like to associate myself with the statement made by Shri P.K. Biju in the House today.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please send your slip to the Table.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (Kannur): Madam, I would also like to associate myself with the statement made by Shri P.K. Biju today in the House.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please send your slip to the Table.

[*Translation*]

SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to put forth my views and draw the attention of the Government on this important issue. There is reservation in the Central Government services for schedule castes and schedule tribes since independence and since the promulgation of the Constitution. There is reservation for the people of this class in all public sector undertakings and banks in besides the offices of Central Government and Ministries. But it is a matter of great concern that reservation quota could not be filled up despite implementation of this provision since Independence. There is provision for special recruitment drive to fill up the backlog. I would like to make you aware that first of all this reservation policy was implemented by honourable Babu Jagjivan Ram in the Ministry of Railways. There is a need to start a special recruitment drive to meet this backlog. But it is a matter of great regret that special recruitment drive could not be launched for the people of this class in any institute, any bank, any university and office despite announcements to that effect made several times. Due to this there is strong resentment among people of this category. In the last year's budget Honourable Minister of Railway had announced to fill of backlog vacancies but till date no action has been taken thereon. I would like to draw attention of the honourable Prime Minister through you that special recruitment drive may please be launched for schedule castes and scheduled tribes by his personal interference.

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL (Jhanjharpur): I associate myself with him.

MADAM SPEAKER: If you want to associate yourself with him, you can send your name to the table of the House.

Sir, Virender Kashyap, your notice did not come to me, however, as it is a matter of atrocity on dalits, so I am allowing you but you please speak in brief.

SHRI KAMAL KISHOR 'COMMANDO' (Bahraich): Madam, I associate myself with the views of Shri Puniyajee.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam, I associate myself with the matter put forth by Shri Puniyajee.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Madam, I associate myself with the matter put forth by Shri Puniyajee.

12.25 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Alleged atrocities on Dalits in the district of Hissar

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a very important issue and drawing attention of the Government to it. Madam the way in which atrocities were committed on dalits and houses of dalits had been burnt during last few days in Mirchpur village of Hisarpur district and when some youth set on fire the houses of dalits, not only their slums were burnt but a handicapped girl named Suman whose father's name is Tarachand, were caught in fire and burnt alive. I would like to draw attention of the Government that it has been seen in Haryana during the last many years that law and order position is converted into caste based conflicts and the Haryana Government is not able to prevent atrocities on dalits there. Similarly I think some youths of upper castes passing from there, get provoked by the mere backing of a dogs, abuse dalits and return after some time and make all out attacks on their villages and burn their slums. But the local administration there do not control them completely. Similarly, it is evident from the cases of atrocities on dalits in Haryana which came to light during last four days that the Haryana Government has the tendency to declare any general law and order

problem there as a conflict between dalits and upper castes. This matter should not have been made into a conflict between dalits and upper castes. Similarly I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the cases of violence based on caste frenzy as witnessed in the Dulina episode that took place in 2002. In that episode too five dalits were killed. Their hutments were burnt. Similar incidents happened in Harsaula and Gohana episodes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now you conclude please.

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: That's why, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards atrocities being meted out to the dalits in Haryana, Government should take notice of it and it should take action treating these matters as caste based ones ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Madam, this is a very serious issue and the Government should take cognizance of it seriously. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: The hon'ble members, who want to associate themselves with this matter, may send their names. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: The following hon'ble members associate themselves with the matter raised by Shri Virender Kashyap, Shri Hansraj G. Ahir, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal and Shri Virendra Kumar.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Rest of the matters shall be taken up at the end of the day.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam, Government should give statement in the House. Why is the Government silent about the atrocities on dalits? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, I understand that a large number of hon. Members wish to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Rural Development, therefore, I would seek your permission as also of the House to take it up immediately and we may skip the Lunch Hour.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, the hon. Members are aware of the fact that anything which is said during the 'Zero Hour' comes to the concerned Ministry and then we respond. You do not respond to the 'Zero Hour'. There is no notice to any Minister, and you do not respond that way, but I will convey it to the concerned Minister...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: He said that he would bring it to the notice of the concerned Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: If the House agrees, we will dispense with the Lunch Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Discussion on the Demands for Grants.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Madam, with great difficulty my 'Zero Hour' notice has come today...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I have said that we would take them up later in the evening.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: After the discussion is over? Madam, this discussion will continue till 8 o'clock in the evening.

MADAM SPEAKER: I have announced. Your name is there, we will take it up in the evening.

12.27 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377, today, and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over slips at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters 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.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Need to undertake a fresh survey for the construction of Stage-2 of Kandi canal in Punjab

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (Anandpur Sahib): The Kandi canal extension is proposed to be constructed from Hoshiarpur to Balachaur with a view to provide irrigation facilities to the Barani area of Kandi Tract for Hoshiarpur and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar districts.

The construction of Stage-2 of this canal is to be carried out in Tehsil Balachaur of District Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar in Lok Sabha Constituency of Sri Anandpur Saheb which I represent. The project is being financed by Government of India under Central Loan Assistance through A.I.B.P. Scheme.

It is learnt that the route surveyed and determined as of now for its construction will not serve the principal purpose/need of this canal as the canal, if constructed, according to this route, will provide the irrigation facility to only those lands which are already under irrigation by virtue of tube wells being there and the Barani land of the Kandi Tract shall remain un-irrigated in spite of all the expenditure incurred. As such, an ill-conceived mapping would cause lasting damage to both un-irrigated as well as irrigated tracts.

I would request the Hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources to enquire into the facts concerning the construction of Stage-2 of the Kandi canal and by ordering a fresh survey of the route so that the basic purpose to irrigate Barani land of the poor farmers of Kandi area is fulfilled and their problems mitigated.

(ii) Need to provide a special package for setting up more Primary Health Centres in Warangal Parliamentary Constituency, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA (Warangal): I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House regarding the problems being faced by people all over the country, particularly in my Warangal Constituency in getting adequate and proper medical facilities in Andhra Pradesh.

Many people are facing a lot of health related problems. Several diseases like Chickengunya, Malaria and other fluoride related diseases and other unknown diseases spread across the Andhra Pradesh. Already the Government had made rapid surveys on malaria, Chickengunya and other diseases and spent huge amounts in this regard. But people particularly children

and old-aged persons continue to be affected by these diseases. Despite this, thousands of people died in Telangana region due to unknown diseases also.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to intervene in the matter to ensure implementation of the survey reports of the Government particularly in the Telangana region of my constituency like Warangal by announcing a special package to set up more and more primary health centres in the remaining Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(iii) Need to release remaining funds for Brihan Mumbai Storm Water Drainage Project in Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD (Mumbai South Central): Madam, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards Brihan Mumbai Storm Water Drainage Project.

Madam, Union Government have approved Brihan Mumbai Storm Water Drainage Project in order to save people of Mumbai from flood. For this project Union Government had sanctioned 1200 crore rupees. The first instalment of Rs. 500 crore has been received from the Union Government and its utilization certificate was submitted by Brihan Mumbai, Metropolitan Council to Union Government in September, 2009 but rest of the amount of Rupees 700 crore of the project has not yet been received from the Union Government.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to release the remaining amount of rupees 700 crores early.

(iv) Need to develop old Godavari Bridge, known as Havaloc Bridge, as a tourist spot linking Rajahmundry and Kovvur in Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Railways regarding development of Old Godavari Bridge, known as Havelock Bridge, as Tourist Spot and Development of an Integrated Tourism Development Project at Rajahmundry & Kovvur in Andhra Pradesh.

The historical Old Godavari Bridge is Asia's largest rail-cum-road bridge on the river Godavari linking kovvur and Rajahmundry which is considered to be an engineering feat. Since this first rail Bridge outlived its purpose by serving for more than 100 years, train services on this bridge were suspended from the year 1997 with the commissioning of Third Godavari Bridge. Today, the

First Godavari Bridge still stands as a monument of human endeavor and skill. The bridge spans a length of 2.74 Kms. Since the bridge has been abandoned, it has been decided by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to explore the possibility of converting the same as Tourism Spot on Build, Operate and Transfer basis in Public Private partnership mode through the Tourism Department for which, the Ministry of Railways consented to hand over the bridge to the Tourism Department along with the surrounding properties belonging to Railways towards Rajahmundry and Kovvur. But, no concrete action has been initiated on this issue.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh is ready to bear some incidental expenses like the entire cost of the development and maintenance of the bridge and its associated structure, the entire responsibility for ensuring the safety of the structure and proper maintenance and repairs. Moreover, the State Tourism Department has agreed to pay the lease rent of Rs. 1.00 lakh per annum payable to the Railways towards utilization of the bridge and the associated land.

I urge upon the Government to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Department of Tourism, Government of Andhra Pradesh and hand over the bridge to them for development of the area as a tourist place.

(v) Need to provide stoppage of trains at Unjha and Mehsana Railway stations in Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (Mahesana): Sir, geographically Mahesana is the biggest district located in centre of North Gujarat.

Mahesana is world famous industrial city for its milk and ONGC business.

After that, Unjha, which is famous as the biggest spice city of Asia, is known for trade and migration place.

The traders and Management officials from all over the country visit Mahesana and Unjha. From thjis place students and people also go to Hyderabad, Banglore, Trivendrum, Kolkata, Delhi and Jaipur etc. including places for the studies.

Stoppage of following trains is not given at Mahesana and Unjha stations. To encourage social, economic, industrial, educational and migration activities in Mahesana and Unjha, stoppage of following trains should be given.

	Train No.	Name of the Train
1.	6509/6510	Banglore Express
2.	6209/6210	Banglore Express

3.	9269/9270	Porbandar-Muzaffarpur
4.	6533/6534	Yashwantpura
5.	6311/6312	Kochuweli Express.

(vi) Need to provide special financial package to the drought affected Vidarbha region of Maharashtra

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Hon'ble Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of Government towards the severe drought and famine in Vidharbha region and expect the Government to take immediate remedial measures to bailout local people, particularly farmers from this alarming situation. Like previous year, this year also Vidarbha region is continuously affected with drought. Due to delay in monsoon and scant rainfall there is relatively less production of crops of farmers this year. Somewhere crops has been ruined completely out of more than 20 thousand villages of states declared drought affected this year by the State Government, more than 14 thousand 59 villages affected from drought are of Vidarbha region. Farmers are suffering due to this. Announcement of drought has been made but the situation has been worsened for not giving any relief to farmers. Farmers are hopeful for food security, health and financial assistance from the Government. According to the data released by reliable sources, in the last quarter, 194 farmers have committed suicides in the Vidarbha region. After the declaration of drought by the Government farmers are feeling themselves helpless for non-implementation of any concrete scheme for giving relief from drought. The farmers of drought affected region of Vidarbha are facing serious crisis of livelihood. There has been severe crisis of fodder and water for their cattle. Due to shortage of monsoon rains water is not available in rivers and water bodies for irrigation instead in turn crisis of water supply has been created due to exploitation of these water bodies by industries. Central Government announced financial assistance of Rs. 1200 crore to the drought affected Bundelkhand region in their budget of 2010-11. The situation in Vidarbha is getting alarming.

Keeping in view the increasing number of suicides of farmers due to drought in Vidarbha, the central Government should issue necessary instruction to State Government to give relief to the farmers, traders and common people of this region for providing fodder, shelter and water to cattle. Government should announce a special package to provide huge financial assistance. Central Government should also send an investigation team to ascertain the difficult situation.

(vii) Need to have a uniform power tariff for Industries being run by Indian and foreign companies in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country

[English]

SHRI C. SIVASAMI (Tiruppur): Industries in Tamil Nadu are paying power usage charge at the rate of Rs. 4.85 per unit whereas the foreign companies which started their industries in the State are paying cheaper rate for their power usage. Also, the industries and the domestic power users are facing three to four hours of power cuts daily whereas the foreign companies are getting uninterrupted power supply.

Already the Industries in Tamil Nadu are in a very bad shape due to huge global competition. Now the industries in Tamil Nadu are to face its severe competition inside India itself with these foreign companies.

Hence, to safeguard the interest of indigenous industries, the Government of India should provide same benefits to the Indian Industries as have been provided to foreign companies or announce a common tariff for power usage to both, the Indian companies and the foreign companies who run their industries in India.

12.30 hrs.

**GENERAL BUDGET (2010-2011)—
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—Contd.**

Ministry of Rural Development

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 81 to 83 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Only those cut motions, slips in respect of which are received at the Table within the stipulated time, will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board

shortly thereafter. In case any member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table immediately.

Motion moved:

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in

the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment 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. 81 to 83 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development.”

Demands for Grants—Budget (General) for 2010-11 Submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. & Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants an Account voted by the House on March 12, 2010		Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the vote of the House	
	1	2	3	
	Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)	Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)
Ministry of Development				
81 Department of Rural Development	43620,42,00,000	3,91,00,000	94259,74,00,000	3,91,00,000
82 Department of Land Resources	444,30,00,000	—	2221,50,00,000	—
83 Department of Drinking Water Supply	1763,96,00,000	—	8819,82,00,000	—

[Translation]

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE (Beed): Madam Speaker, the Samajwadi Party is to start the discussion on Demands for Grants of this ministry, and if you allow me, I can start the discussion.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam, it had been decided in the BAC that the discussion on Demands for Grants of the ministry will be started by Samajwadi Party.

MADAM SPEAKER: Toofani Saroj ji will start.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, Toofani Saroj ji is yet to arrive, therefore, Munde ji too being from a large party may be allowed to start, if he so wishes, to which have no objection.

MADAM SPEAKER: That is okay.

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Ministry of Rural Development. Today, despite our population being over 100 crores, 70 percent of it live in rural areas. I and my party think that unless there is

development for 70 percent people living in the rural areas, it will be wrong to assume that India has made progress. The basic problems of a village have not been solved even after 63 years of independence. Just as food, clothing and shelter are necessary for human beings to sustain their life, in the some manner drinking water, access to roads and electricity are needed to sustain villages which are not worthy of being called as such without them. Today, villages are in the dark while cities are in the light.

Madam Speaker, today, UPA Government is in power. Through Smt. Indira Gandhi had given a slogan of poverty alleviation, Rajiv Gandhi also talked of poverty and this Government also talks of common man, yet it forgets that common man lives in villages. One may therefore, say that for the 70 percent population which is dependent on the Ministry, has not been provided with as much funds in the budget as ought to have been allocated to it. On a closer look it will be seen that the budget has nothing for the common despite Government's priority and all talk of the common man. There are a number of big projects but the same do not reach to the villages.

Madam Speaker, first of all I wish to discuss Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana. When Atal ji became Prime Minister, there was no road in four lakh villages. If sometime history of villages would be written in this country, then it will have the name of Atal Bihari Vajpayee that he gave roads to the villages. ...(*Interruptions*) why it makes you feel bad? During his six years tenure, there was a provision to spend Rs. 60 thousand crores from which two lakh thirty thousand villages were connected with roads. The development of the villages is not possible unless the infrastructure does not reach villages. What is the status of Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana today, it no longer enjoys the priority that it used to during the tenure of Atal Bihar Vajpayee. It had been decided in the scheme that a village with a population of five hundred would be connected with main road while a village with a population of three hundred in hilly areas and those with a population of two hundred fifty people in forest areas would be connected with the main road, but despite passage of five years of UPA, today there are nearly one lakh fifty thousand such villages which have no roads. Joshi ji would agree with me, I am not denying his efforts but I want to ask him that there are also villages with a population of less than five hundred-four hundred, three hundred, two hundred, these would be connected or not?

Madam Speaker, through you, I want to say that we will have to take next step now, whether the Government is ready to connect the villages having a population of two hundred fifty with the main roads. The second phase of the scheme should be started otherwise these villages would never be connected with roads. The villages situated in hilly and forest areas with sufficient population, should also be connected with roads.

Madam Speaker, we shall have to change our planning, our provisions, as the villages with a population of 100 and 250, where 20 percent population resides, have not seen a road till date. Will they remain aloof from the development of the country despite being a part of the country and have these been considered revenue villages? I welcome the good step of the Government to consider the village situated in the forest areas as revenue villages as they were not considered revenue villages earlier. I welcome this decision of the Government. I also want to say that the revenue villages situated in the forest areas do not have a population of more than 200 and 250. They, therefore, cannot become part of Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana within the framework of the existing policy. You do take decisions but you don't make schemes for their implementation. Therefore,

the villages situated in hilly and forest areas have not been connected with the roads so far. I hope, when the minister will reply to the debate in the House on the ministry, he will reply to my questions and will announce that the villages with a population of 500 to 250 and with a population of 150 or 100 in hilly and forest areas will also be provided with roads. If the villages in forest areas declared as revenue villages are considered to be so, it is the responsibility of the Government that it provides them with roads, electricity and water. It is the responsibility of the Government to provide them road, electricity and water. Unless and until you have a plan to connect the village with population of 500 and 300, there is no possibility for them of getting justice. There is one more problem regarding Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana that there was a scheme to connect them with the main road but only the villages, which are at a distance of 15 or 20 kilometers and having old roads are being reconstructed again under this scheme and the funds are being spent on this.

Madam, I appreciate Hon'ble Minister there is a lack of roads in Naxalite area that and the whole amount of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been transferred to 100 Naxalite affected areas of our country, I think that Naxalite problem is a very big problem and therefore priority should be given to roads there. But to transfer fund of those villages to Naxal affected areas is not fair. I know that Naxalite movement is going on in eight states and 100 districts. I agree that the development work should be done on priority basis there but the whole fund of budget, to construct roads, should not be diverted in naxalite areas. It is not fair. So I demand that Naxal affected districts should be provided separate fund. Separate provision of fund should be made for that area. You should demand separate fund from Hon'ble Finance Minister for this purpose. We should be careful after the incidence of Dantewara. It is correct that we should start operation there to solve that problem but without development it is not possible. We should think why a person living in a village is using pistol. If we have to solve naxalite problem then we should make development in that those Adivasi districts which face Naxalite problem. Development in that area is the only problem. There is no alternative of development. My question is whether the Government will take steps in this regard? I am sure that you will reply my this question in debate.

Madam, another important scheme for the development of village is Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Scheme. I would definitely thank the Government because

this scheme is made on the lines of E.G.S. Scheme being run in Maharashtra. This scheme continued for 25 years in Maharashtra but for those people living in villages and having no land, no livelihood for people the Central Government have made a scheme called NREGA which is renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Scheme. This NREGA scheme is better. I welcome this scheme and 40 thousand crores of Rupees have been given for this scheme. I think this is a good step. But the money is not being spent as per the provision of this scheme. Last year the provision was for Rs. 35 thousand crore, but till now only 20-22 thousand crores of rupees have been spent. What is the reason for this; will the Government make any self-appraisal in this regard? Will the Government will think over it? Initially this scheme introduced 100 districts, then it was introduced in 200 districts. I want that this should be implemented in all the districts. If you make a provision of funds and that is not utilized then there will not be any development of villages ...*(Interruptions)* This is my suggestion to you. You are Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and you should think about villages ...*(Interruptions)* The biggest condition in NREGA scheme is that in this scheme labourers are required to get their names registered. This is not being done in many states. I do not want to go to figures. There is lot of difference from state to state. In a state like Rajasthan five thousand crores of Rupees have been spent. This has happened during the tenure of Vasundharaji but you will not accept it. But states like Madhya Pradesh are getting very much benefit from this scheme. But there are many states where the fund of this scheme is not being utilized, so we should think about this scheme.

In my state, Maharashtra as EGS Scheme is there, so there is NERGA scheme, while in Rajasthan five thousand crores of rupees have been spent. In my state Maharashtra only three hundred fifty crores of rupees have been spent during last year and two hundred crores of rupees have been spent during the last year and two hundred crores of rupees have been spent tow years back. In Maharashtra only been spent during the last five years but is four states ten thousand crores rupees have been spent in each of then. This is the difference. That is why is this discrimination in not being done away with our scheme continued for twenty five years as per the ruler of NREGA, for this you will have to change your attitude. You have raised the wages upto Rs. 100 preciously it was Rs. 65. Now every person working in the field is getting Rs. 150-200 then why should he will work at Rs. 100? That is why labourers are not available

there. We have made all the things under employment scheme like dam, checks, Roads etc. we also made Catiliver, we have tried to improve the land also. Now we don't have any pending work. We will have any pending work. We will have to think as to how this fund should be utilized in other way for the employment opportunity in for the employment opportunity in villages.

After introduction of this scheme in Maharashtra the EGS scheme has been withdrawn. Who is going to do the rest of the half of the work of that scheme. Rs. two thousand crores have been spent on the work that have been completed in Maharashtra. The rest of the works are pending because EGS scheme has be withdrawn and it is not coming under the harms of NREGA. Whether you will discuss with the Government of Maharashtra or will ask then to send a proposal for as to how the rest of the work will be completed? Shall we discuss it with Government of Maharashtra or seek proposals from them about how to complete the incomplete works? Leave this topic, the labourers have not got their wages for the last two years. They get coupons of foodgrains in rationing but they have not got foodgrains. The Government say that this scheme has been discontinued and there is no such provision is NAREGA. This is the problem. For this reason, lacs of labourers have not got wages so far. The Government only says that NAREGA does not have any such provision. Whether the Congress Government consider Maharashtra as part of India or not? If money is not spent under NAREGA, it will definitely cause problems over there.

No money can be spent there under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. Famine had hit this area in 1970 and EGS scheme was formulated. This was a very good scheme. So far 15 to 20 thousand crore rupees have been spent under EGS scheme and assets created. We had laid a mud road in 1970. It is not a matteled road. You have treated/showed it as a connectivity road. By treating all these roads as matteled ones an injustice has definitely been done to Maharashtra. Will you give an opportunity to Maharashtra? Under core scheme it was decided that you will construct a new road. If we have mattedled roads, don't give them to us but do give us an opportunity which may make possible beginning of work under NAREGA in Maharashtra.

There is one more scheme for the development of villages. I consider this scheme as an important scheme. This scheme is meant for the poor. A person who has no land to till or is landless, Indira Awas Yojana is meant

for him. I welcome the step you have taken of enhancing this amount to Rs. 35000/- for plain areas and Rs. 38000/- in the hilly areas under Indira Awas Yojana.

But this will not do. Money is not spent under Indira Awas Yojana Scheme. There is a reason behind this. Kindly understand why is the money not spent under it. The Government provide budget. We expect that this budget should be enhanced. Even the money of the budget is not spent. We give money for the construction of the houses. The Union Government provides grants and the state Government also provide their money. For example in Maharashtra the State Government provided Rs. 35000/- and made available the house of Rs. 70000/. But condition is that the piece of land should be his own or it should be provided by the state Government. You provide money for the construction of house but not for the land. One thousand square yard land is required under Indira Awas. You are spending crores of rupees for Indira Awas, but the scheme has no provision for providing land for construction of houses under the Indira Awas. These houses are mainly for the Dalits and tribal people. The Dalit people have no money to buy land for their houses. The lease is required but the Government do not provide money for the lease. If you announce today that the poor will be provided with houses, but it will require the land. For this the Central Government and the State Governments should provide fifty-fifty percent grants. Then houses will be constructed for them. The people who have sky over and the earth below will arrange money for constructing their own houses.

Many schemes were formulated for the cities. Jawahar Lal Nehru Renewal Mission also came up. Today population is on the rise in the cities. What are the reasons for increase of population in the cities. When we became independent and first census was conducted in 1951, the population of the cities was 31 percent. Today urbanization has taken place. In the survey of 2001, urban population was 46 per cent. Now we assume that 48 percent population is living in the cities. You know that we have been elected and our constituencies have been changed because the strength of the MPs of Lok Sabha in cities have increased and it has decreased in villages on the basis of population. Why is it happening? The man in the villages is running towards cities leaving their villages out of poverty and unemployment. Would you not like to check this migration of rural people to cities and problem of unemployment? You talk about common man and the villages. But do we have any programme for ensuring that people of villages remain in villages.

Providing home or road there would not make any difference. If we want proper development of the villages we cannot do this until we remove poverty and unemployment from the villages. NAREGA is the scheme of the people who earn their livelihood by working hard daily. But there are thousands of unemployed graduates in the villages today. The hands of the Youth of this country want to work, they have a desire to work but they lack employment? Whether we shall bring any scheme for the unemployed rural people? If this does not happen, they will also take guns in their hands. If you provide employment to the unemployed in the villages, they will not run towards cities. If a poor person gets rid of poverty in the village itself, he will not come to the cities and poverty will not be transferred in the cities.

A lot of money is spent on mono rail, metro rail, over-bridges, ring road, and ponds in the cities. If you spend this amount in villages, there would have been no need of constructing bridges after bridges. Kindly check urbanization. Its extent is 48 per cent now and experts say that in the coming years the population will decrease in the villages and it will rise and reach upto 55 per cent. We talk about the countries like America. They have the same infrastructure in their villages which they have in their cities. Our rural population is deprived of infrastructure. This was about road and water. Where is electricity? Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme was launched. This scheme is also for big villages having population of five hundred but what are we doing for small villages, which are in dark.

Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important issue. In power sector, every state itself is not self-sufficient. There is load shedding in every state. We supply electricity to Delhi and Mumbai. There is nearly eighteen hours load shedding in villages. Due to this, villagers irrigate their land through diesel engine. Now price of diesel has also been increased, what will they do? Nearly eighteen hours load shedding is taking place in villages while in cities it is available round the clock. Will you pay attention to rural India or not? When electricity is not made available, I have a suggestion in this regard.

We have heard about solar energy. Government are going to buy solar energy. Government has brought a scheme of subsidy a 10 rupees per unit. Why don't you provide solar energy and fulfill the need of electricity of each house in every village ...(*Interruptions*) this can be done. What's the problem in this ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go in record.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Munde, please address the chair.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Lal Singhji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: I am talking about villages ...*(Interruptions)* rural Development Minister, Shri Joshi has mentioned about electricity ...*(Interruptions)* if you don't want electricity, then I have no objection ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Munde please address the chair. You sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: I said the solar energy, which is used by Government should be used in villages. This is my suggestion. You do not want to concede with this suggestion of village development. Whether you implement it or not but at least you should listen. Congress is not ready to listen about villages ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Lal Singh ji, please be patient.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: Madam Speaker, I would like to say that you give electricity either by solar energy or by any other means. Electricity is not available in any state. Today load shedding takes place first in villages. Development is not possible without electricity. All the villages are in dark today and certain efforts should be made for their electrification.

Madam Speaker, I would like to say one more thing that extension of cities is increasing. But people live in villages also. We have brought Indira Aawas Yojana for poor, but extension of villages should be done. After Independence, the condition of our villages has not been changed. Their condition has not changed. My suggestion is whether you want to change the condition and the

fate of our villages or Not? If you want to change the condition and fate of villages, their extension is necessary. Today boundaries of cities are increasing. Municipalities of cities are converting into municipal corporations and metropolitan cities are coming up whereas villages are same as they used to be. Whether we will not plan for all villages as per their population in the year 1951 and as on date and the extent to which their extension is required, all this needs to be assessed and planned for. Whether two percent loan will be given to those farmers who want to construct pledge their own houses? Whether he will take loan of one to five lakhs for construction of his house? Whether he will repay that loan? Today we are constructing jungles of concrete in cities. For that we can get whatever amount we want, but whether we will bring any scheme to construct houses in villages. Government may not choose to provide grant, but it should certainly bring some scheme for constructing house in villages, for retention of villages and increasing boundaries of villages. Today, the population of villages has doubled. Two to four brothers are living in the same house because they cannot construct a new one. I think it is a very big problem.

Rajiv Gandhi Ji once said in an institution in Hyderabad that out of a rupee released from here, only 16 paise reach there. But today not even 10 paise reach there, leave alone 16 paise. This corruption should be stopped. There is total corruption in this individual beneficiary scheme. Joshi Ji, you think about it and consider it. Funds under these schemes are not spent till December. Expenditure are made in last months *i.e.* January, February and March to achieve the target. If you consider about these for the last ten years, then you will find that those schemes do not reach them. Now, the number of BPL is also continuously increasing. You have neglected villages and will you pay attention towards them? There are other problems also.

There are no toilets in the villages. Even after so many years of independence 60 per cent people do not have toilet and women have to go in dark to relieve themselves. It is a failure of us all. I am not blaming anyone. Whether we will make any plan to ensure that every house gets toilet? If we make a scheme for this purpose, then, I think, we would be helping the villages upto an extent. My demand is that the budget should have 70 percent of funds for rural development. Joshi ji, I am helping you. When 70 percent people are living in the villages, then, 70 percent budget should be spent in the villages, but this is not happening.

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down
...(*Interruptions*)

You please address the chair.

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: Madam, where and when was this BPL list prepared? It was prepared at the house of Sarpanch. The law says that whole of the village together in a general body meeting will prepare the list, but this has not happened. All the schemes including Indira Aawas Yojana are availed through BPL and there are a lot of irregularities in the BPL list. Will we go again in general body of the village alongwith the BPL list? In fact, the number of poor is more, but when and how this list was prepared? The list contains whatever was given by *Sarpanch* and Gram Sewak in written form. The list should be decided in the general body meeting of the village where common man of the village is present and we should make efforts for this. It would not be appropriate to work on the basis of the old list as there are people who are poor but whose names do not appear in the list. Will BDO or Education officer will go to the villages and hold a meeting in the similar fashion as was conducted in census? The APL persons who have risen above their names should be removed from the list and those who are really poor should be included in the list. We should make efforts for this. A number of things have been said in President's Address reply to General Budget, about the schemes for rural development. We are talking about poor, about poverty, but the soul of the country are 70 percent people living in the villages who are poor and if you talk of them you will be disappointed. For that, study your schemes, act in a time bound manner, make changes in the existing schemes by introducing new schemes. These things will continue, but whether Rural Development Minister can assure us of three things—water, electricity and road in three years out of five years. Your Government has four years with you, can you assure us that within these four years, these things will reach every village? If you cannot do this, then, there is no worth in this discussion. If you do not do this, the people will get angry and they will definitely release it. You have again got the opportunity and have come back in power, we have no objection to that, but if you use that power in not talking about the common man, to increase the ambitious of the common, to give them development by taking proper steps, then, we will welcome it. If you do not do that then we will oppose.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

TOKEN CUT MOTION

[*English*]

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (Hatkanangle): I beg to move:

THAT THE DEMAND UNDER THE HEAD
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(PAGE 194) BE REDUCED BY RS. 100

Need to construct roads in hilly Teshils like Sahuwadi and Panhala in Kolhapur district of Maharashtra under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (26)

[*Translation*]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

I strongly believe that all the Governments in power have neglected the villages. After independence congress party has been in power for maximum time period.

12.59 hrs.

[*DR. M. THAMBIDURAI in the Chair*]

Due to their policies, cities developed but the poor living in villages became poorer. All policies formulated by the Government were city-oriented and the villages were neglected.

13.00 hrs.

The population of the country is continuously increasing, on the contrary agriculture land is decreasing in comparison to population. The Government is not concerned about it. The total land available in our country, one third land out of that is barren land. At present there is 32 crore 90 lakh hectare land in our country out of which 12 crore 95 lakh 70 thousand hectare land is barren. In Uttar Pradesh alone 80 lakh 61 thousand hectare land is barren. 3 crore 70 lakh hectare cultivable plain land is available there. That land can be made agriculture land, but the Government is not paying any attention to this. If 2500 rupees per hectare *i.e.* a total of 9250 crore rupees are spent then that barren land can be made cultivable land.

There are approx 12 crore farmers in our country. Suppose there are five dependents on a farmer, then a total of 60 crore persons solely depend on agriculture. If our Government may take interest, then all the barren

land of the country can be transformed into cultivable land. At many places there is land which is dependent on rain water. If it rains then cultivation takes place over there and there is no rain, there is no cultivation. The Government is not paying any attention to this.

I would like to talk about health also. No doctor or nurse is available in villages at night. All the arrangements made by the Government are for cities only. As compared to cities not even 15 percent of medical facility or arrangement for treatment of children is available in villages. Today also 10 lakh children are not able to celebrate their first birthday, while vaccination facility is available for the past 25 years. But at present also, approximately 1000 people die of T.B and 16500 people die of diarrhoea everyday. It is true that funds for National Rural Health Scheme has been slightly enhanced and this time 22,300 crore rupees have been earmarked for this purpose. But this fund is negligible.

Recently we read in the newspaper that Government would arrange for free treatment of serious ailments like heart diseases, kidney transplant and cancer. But these are false promises. The fact is that patients suffering from heart diseases, kidney transplant and cancer and who cannot afford treatment expenses, they seek help from their local MP to get funds from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund then they get written reply that their (his) quota of persons has got exhausted. I also got a written reply stating that after compliance the recommendations made by me, my quota of 24 has been over, from now onwards no financial assistance will be given on my recommendations. On the one hand Government says that it will provide free treatment for the ailments like kidney transplant, heart diseases and cancer and on the other hand, we get such replies.

80 percent of the total number of Members of Parliament sitting here get elected from villages. It is their responsibility that they should help villages. Villagers are also hopeful that their MP will help them. If any child falls ill seriously in a village, then the parents of that child gives a copy of estimate of treatment to their MP in the hope that he will help in getting them the funds for their child's medical treatment. If that MP is not able to do so and the child of that poor person dies because of the ailment and people go to console them then what else they have to say other than that MP has not done anything for them. This is the situation with the present Government. Ditto with the previous Government and also with the NDA Government also. Earlier to that all the recommendations made by a Members of Parliament used to receive due consideration from the Government.

Sir, I would like to submit through you that instead of giving one lakh rupees, you can give 80 thousand rupees. Hon'ble Bansal Ji, you also please listen. Instead of providing one lakh rupees for treatment you may provide 70-80 thousand rupees but you should consider all the recommendations made by the MP and should give money to patients on every recommendation. This is a very important issue, you are bringing disgrace to KPs in their contiously. I would like to say that stop giving false statements in the newspaper in the name of health and instead, face the reality, talk about providing help in reality.

The same situation is prevailing in the field of education also poor children are being provided 'khichdi' as their mid-day-meal in the schools. Can you bring rural children and urban children on the same platform by feeding khichdi to them? One has boarded mail train and another has boarded passenger train, and then how can you talk about equality? The person who has boarded express train will arrive earlier than the person who has boarded passenger train. It is my personal opinion about education that instead of providing khichdi as mid day meal the Government should pay attention towards the basic problems of a village. At present also children of villages have to walk 2-3 kilometres to go to school. There is lack of schools, toilets, teachers, medicines, so please stop providing this khichdi and make arrangement of teachers, hospitals etc. There are 24 lakh temples in this country and there are only 14 lakh schools in this country. The system, where there is corruption, there is plundering and pillaging in mid day meal, children are falling ill frequently, so please stop providing this mid day meal and utilize that money in the education in villages.

The Prime Minister of our country says that we like to register 9% growth rate by the end of 11th five year plan and 10% growth rate in 12th five year plan. But this growth rate, whether it is 9% or 10% will have no meaning until you provide proper meal to the poor people of village. According to the Tendulkar Report of the expert committee constituted by planning commission, there are 37.2% poor people in our country, but data of State Government is double than this. According to the data of Tendulkar Report also there are 41.80% poor people in the rural area and 25.7% poor people in the urban area. If we see the total there are 83 % poor in the country out of total 110 crore people of the country, there are 62 crore people residing in such states which are least developed states. These backward states are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, where one third of the total population of the country lives. Today there are conditions of drought everywhere, water level has plummeted to lowest levels.

We belong to eastern Uttar Pradesh, there has been no rain fall there for the last 3-4 years. There is acute shortage of water in western Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh, Varanasi, Gazipur, Balia and Bahraich districts. I would like to say that if you are concerned about rural development then you will try to bring water in villages. I would like to say why this naxalism came in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha and Maharashtra? The policies that were followed increasingly widened disparities resulting in the rise of Naxalism. Why did naxalism not raise its head in Delhi? Why did it make its way in those regions and states only? It is because while, for example, scions of the rich families in Delhi go to India Gate to have Ice-cream to digest their meal.

Children of lakhs of poor women in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, like kalawati Bihar have to sleep with empty stomach, and such a scenario is bound to give rise to naxalism, terrorism and terror. I would like to say through you that this inequality should be removed. Instead of increasing GDP, economic growth of rural areas should be brought about. Arrangement should be made to provide meals to poor people.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Attention should be paid towards the education and the construction of roads for the people in villages. A Members of Parliament who may be willing to be elected again does have a concern for the development of villages. He is concerned about the construction of small roads in villages. You give him opportunity to work for just about two kilometres in a year even as you tend to overspend in a number of other schemes like NARGEA, MANREGA etc. in van.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sanjay Singh to speak. Nothing else will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY SINGH (Sultanpur): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Supplementary Demands of Department of Rural Development. Just now Hon. Munde Ji, who unfortunately, is not present in the House at the moment, had said a lot of things which are not true. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had dreamt an India of 21st Century. Two-three decades ago, only Fiat, Ambassador and Mahindra jeep were available in automobile sector in our country while today cars from a lakh to crores of rupees are running on the roads of the country. In IT and telecome sector, where a person had to wait day long to talk after booking a call and even then the call was not connected, but today from labourer to rich, every person has a mobile phone in his pocket. Today, it is the best paid sector in India.

Before I speak about rural development, I wish to express my gratitude towards hon. Prime Minister and Smt. Sonia Gandhi for the sensitivity shown by them for rural areas and rural India. Lakhs of crores of rupees are being spent for rural development. Certainly, we can say that the development of India is possible only through the streets of villages. Agriculture-intensive India has prepared all the schemes for development of its rural areas. Today, Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana and a number of schemes for drinking water are going on under those schemes. Government of India can make schemes, can allocate budget, but we all know that the implementation of these schemes is the responsibility of our State Governments. I wish to give a suggestion to the hon. Minister regarding Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Today, Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is available to connect the settlements with a population of one thousand or five hundred. If we really wish to benefit the country by this scheme, then there are a number of villages on the banks of rivers which are in the form of small groups (mohallas) or are settlements of 50 or 100 houses which are in uneven areas being on the banks of the rivers.

Roads are required there for better connectivity. Hon. Minister should think about it. Today a road constructed under Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is required to be maintained for five years only but keeping in view the quality of the roads being constructed, I think they are required to be maintained after five years. I think that it would be very nice if you make provisions in this regard after due deliberation. Just now, my another colleagues Shri Munde Ji had said all the things regarding BJP.

Nek ne toh nek jana, bad ne bad jana mujhe,
Har kisi ne apne hi rutabe mein pahachana mujhe.

Today, every scheme has merits and demerits. If we see reality and do not ignore ground realities, I think the changing picture of India, definitely it is an achievement of UPA-I and UPA-II that a miraculous change is taking place in villages. It is true that the funds are being misused. I have read in newspapers that from north-east to Jammu and Kashmir from South to Assam and Gujarat, everywhere these schemes have a number of demerits. They are being talked about. Hon. Mundeji was saying that there is BJP Government in Madhya Pradesh, the Chief Minister of the state opened the cases of corruption against the officers and punished those officers who misappropriated funds in rural development schemes. I am not saying that these scams are party based. The scams are taking place where we are not making serious efforts for its implementation. It would be better to speak its implementation. It would be better to speak about Uttar Pradesh a bit later otherwise the whole of the time would be wasted in that matter. I want to tell that the UPA Government has allocated more than Rs. 66,000 Crore for rural development. More than Rs. 46,000 crore have been allocated for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Rs. 48,000 crore have been allocated for rural infrastructure programme under Bharat Nirman. Earlier, Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 30,000 was allocated for a house under Indira Vikas Yojana while today Rs. 45,000 are being allocated and Rs. 48,000 being are allocated for hilly areas. Rs. 10,000 crore have been allocated under the scheme. Grant fund for backward areas has been increased by 26 per cent as compared to the earlier budget and Rs. 7300 crore have been allocated today. The state minister has been raising a voice regarding Bundelkhand and the Government of India provided relief from the drought by allocating Rs. 1200 crore. I mean to say that today the UPA Government is very sensitive and is making every effort for rural development oriented programme. I want to say same thing regarding Indira Awas Yojana in Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, unfortunately the corruption on party lines has been the only aim in the implementation of these schemes. The funds being given under Indira Awas Yojana is provided for handicapped and natural calamities but the funds are being used only in Ambedkar Gram Yojana. It is unfortunate that all think that they have to sit and pray that their village is included in the list of Ambedkar Gram Yojana. Only then there would a possibility. The handicapped were benefited in 2002 but after the year 2002 no handicapped has benefited for

even a single penny under Indira Awas Yojana. It is irony of the beneficiaries of the Ambedkar Gram Yojana and Indira Awas Yojana that they are being deprived of their right and the funds meant for these schemes is being misutilised and we are helpless.

So today, as far as the arrangement for providing drinking water is concerned, it has been provided for in 'MNREGA' Indira Awas Yojana and drinking water projects that the suggestions should be invited from M.Ps. But, till date only the legislators and the Members of Parliament belonging to B.S.P. have the final say in this matter. Besides this even not a single handpump has been installed on recommendation of M.P. of any other political party.

I would like to request the hon. Minister.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY SINGH: As far as my constituency Sultanpur is concerned ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to make a humble request to hon. Minister, it is my bad luck that the Gomati river flows for nearly 90 kilometers in our area and today the level of ground water has receded more than 200 feet in area of three to four kilometres on both sides of the river. Today there is acute shortage of water in that area. I would like to urge the minister that provisions should be made to allot one thousand hand pumps every year to each member of parliament which political party may belong for providing drinking water in this constituency. I shall be grateful to you for this.

Sir, Rural Health Safety Mission is in place in our country. I would like to reiterate that there should be no problem to my colleague Shri Dara Singh Chauhan and his friends that the entire fund of Rural Health Mission is going either to PWD or is being spent on something else. I would, therefore, like to say that ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to urge that the department of rural development of Uttar Pradesh Government should issue special directives in regard to all schemes pertaining to rural development in the state because there is a need of close monitoring and supervision of these schemes.

*Not recorded.

I am lucky enough that I am going to speak about such a scheme, which is most ambitious scheme of the largest democracy of the world, i.e. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Today, the country has developed a lot through this scheme. Thousands of crores of rupees are provided for this scheme meant for lot of illiterates and poor labourers of the country and it will certainly change the plight of our villages. This scheme will certainly help our rural masses in getting their economic, social and cultural rights and thus help in changing the condition of our rural folk.

Sir, Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed on 7th September, 2005 and initially two hundred districts, districts were covered under it. But, fortunately, today this scheme has been extended to every district of the country, which recognizes social security as a right. This is an instrument of Right to social security, right to employment, right to change economic face of the village, right to strengthen the social structure of villages. The figures in this regard indicate that more than ten crore of families have been benefited through scheme since its inception. Today, a number of people say that all the works done under this scheme are not long lasting, the assets being created are totally temporary. But, I would like to request that whatever the works are being done under this scheme, be it construction of a pond or some other work, it should take a permanent shape, provisions should be made for maintenance thereof and efforts should be made to some how link our rural people who are weak, illiterate and untrained, with this scheme so that they could make some permanent arrangements for their livelihood.

Sir, it is a fact that the scheme is very effective, ambitious and has been envisaged with good intention, but certainly it needs to be made stronger, more transparent so there may not be any scope of corruption in it. Now every day we see and read numerous sorts of comments in newspaper, magazines and on TV in regard to MGNREGA. Today, it is necessary that corrupt officials should have minimum interference in the scheme. It should be implemented through our Gram Panchayats, committees for rural development at district level, only then we can implement it in real sense concept and principles on the basis of which this was conceptualised. I don't want to in details, but I would like to talk of my district. In my district Sultanpur, 5853 works were allotted

under MGNREGA. But out of the allotted items of works only 2516 were completed, i.e. only 43 per cent of work was completed and whereas as per the figures of 9th December, 2009, Rs. 73.7 crores were allocated and Rs. 62.64 crores were spent which means that 85 per cent fund has been spent on 43 per cent of the works.

There is so much corruption that in my own constituency Sultanpur, an NGO was given a project of more than 2 crore rupees. State Government is investigating the matter for the last three years. Hon'ble Rahul Ji is the Chairman of district committee in our area, recently in Sultanpur, when central Government pressurised for its investigation then few officers and staff were suspended and it was revealed that the NGO has done work worth crores of rupees in 10-12 districts. Neither this NGO is registered nor this NGO has any address. After the search it was noticed that no one resides at that address. I mean to say that today we are spending thousands, lakh, crore of rupees and this allocation will only increase, not decrease with the passage of time, so a transparent system should be made. It is my suggestion that when we are taking responsibility of giving 100 days guaranteed job to a person, then it is the legal right of that person, money for 100 days job can be directly transferred in the bank account of that person and he can be asked to do a particular job. If we can materialize it then it will be very good. A number of labourers approached me and told that they worked for 10 days and was asked to sign for 25 days. Later they were given extra money for 5 days and the money for 10 days was taken by officers and staff.

Sir, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to pay attention towards it. I have read the statement of the minister from North-East Kumari Agatha Sangma that the MANREGA work is satisfactory in our area. This should happen at every place. We have read the news of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa etc. in the newspaper, this is being criticized everywhere. Today our Government has made a concept and principle for the rural population women and labourers of the country, who don't have any organized sector. If we will not do anything despite of getting so much feed back, then I think it is very regretful for the rural area.

Sir, I would like to say that the work of women empowerment is being done under National Social Help Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development.

In my own district Raibareilly and in the nearby districts of Uttar Pradesh, this is very satisfactory. I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Minister for this. Women are so prudent, they are getting so much training that they make their routine in this way so that they can dispose of their work. They themselves can go to bank, police station and they are progressing by making schemes for their development themselves with the help of SHGs. I would like to say to Hon'ble Minister that these schemes should be extended and allocation of funds should be extended and allocation of funds should be done so that more and more person can be benefited.

Sir, today there is a need to think seriously about MANERGA, drinking water scheme, Indira Awas Yojana, Women Old Age Pension Scheme and Handicap Pension Scheme, and there is a need to think that funds should be utilized properly and maximum number of people get benefited out of it, so that rural development can take place in the best way. think that we are in dire need of it. I urge upon that Hon'ble Minister should pay special attention towards it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are about 50 more hon. Members to speak on this subject. Therefore, it is requested that kindly be brief so that we can call all the hon. Members. Those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches, kindly place them on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR (Ballia): Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, it is a very serious matter and the number of members both from opposition and ruling party is not much in the House. Then what is the use? They come and put their signature and go. Everybody is interested in getting thousand rupees only that's why they leave the House after putting their signature ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: The people of treasury bench are not serious about this matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BALIRAM (Lalganj): Mr. Chairman, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to discuss the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. Our country is a country of villages. Approx 72% population of India lives in villages. Even after 63 years of independence, villages are not in good condition. Proper development has not yet taken place. I want to submit through you that in the year 1995 when the Bahujan Samaj Party's government came to power in Uttar Pradesh they paid attention to the development of villages and conducted a survey about the undeveloped villages in the state. At that time, there were 1 lakh 30 thousand villages in Uttar Pradesh. It was found in the survey that there are 50 thousand such villages out of 1 lakh 30 thousand villages in which some development had taken place, but there are 80 thousand such villages where no development has taken place. To develop those villages, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Km. Mayawati ji had run a scheme. The name of that scheme is Dr. Ambedkar Gram Vikash Yojana.

SHRI PREMDAS (Etawah): That scheme was launched by Shri Mulayam Singh ji...*(Interruptions)*

DR. BALIRAM: You have no knowledge about it, please sit down ...*(Interruptions)* please kept quiet, let me speak. It was a five-year scheme. Every year 16 thousand villages were to be selected under Dr. Ambedkar villages, 80 thousand villages were to be selected under this scheme in five years. The villages, which were to be selected as Dr. Ambedkar village, were provided with concrete roads, electrification, schools, houses to poor and weaker section and pension to widows, old and handicapped persons. 24 such schemes were run. Today who is saying that Hon. Mulayam Singh ji had run this scheme, I want to tell them that when Dr. Ambedkar scheme was running, ~w people were saying that Kumari Mayawati wants to give benefits only to dalits under Dr. Ambedkar scheme. To close that scheme, such programme was run ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other Members cannot interfere now. Only the speech of Shri Baliram will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already raised your point, now you allow him to speak and whatever is being said by other Members than Shri Baliram is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

DR. BALIRAM: Sir, I want to tell you that for the development of villages of Uttar Pradesh, 22% of total budget of Uttar Pradesh was given for village development. But the budget given by the Central Government for the development of villages is not sufficient, so, I want to tell hon'ble Minister that if you want all round development of villages, then you should demand maximum budget from the Government.

Sir, there are a lot of problems in villages, but the biggest crisis in the future will be of drinking water. Everybody is agreed on this that if there will be third world war, then it will be for water. So, I would like to demand from hon'ble Minister through you that every parliamentarian should be given at least one thousand hand pumps, so that they could take up developmental works in their respective constituency.

Sir, I agree with the concern of Government that poverty and starvation have increased in the country. To alleviate poverty and starvation, they have started Mahatma Gandhi Rojgar Guarantee Scheme. Under this scheme, a parameter has been fixed and on the basis of that parameter, Rs. 100/- will be given as wages. But on the basis of this parameter, no one will be ready to do work. Due to this, under MANREGA, labourers are not getting more than fifty rupees as wages. I demand that this hundred rupees as wages should be increased, because they are getting more than hundred rupees wages at other places. That's why they are not interested in this scheme.

Sir, hon'ble Minister mentioned about Pradhanmantri Aarash Gram Yojana while presenting budget and he said that they would spend ten lakh rupees on such villages. You want to make it a model village, can you make it in ten lakh rupees, it is not possible. Hon'ble Minister, I would like to tell you that if you are Rural Development Minister, then you should pay attention towards the development of villages. You cannot develop it in ten lakh rupees, you should have a budget of at least one-two crore rupees on the basis of population for this purpose, only then villages can be converted into model villages.

Mr. Chairman Sir, through you I would like to state, that under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana guidelines are certainly issued by but in states selection of roads or work is not done as per these guidelines. Local members of Parliament are not consulted. Therefore, the Government should strictly instruct the state, that without consulting the local member of Parliament they should not select any road and send proposal to the government. The government should keep this in mind.

Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to say that the government should select the villages for development. There is poverty and starvation in all the states of the country not only in Uttar Pradesh. We will have to make all the arrangements for providing houses for poor under Indira Awas Yojana alongwith the unstruction of roads and electrification of villages. Just now, an Hon'ble Member was saying that Indira Awas Yojana is being implemented in Ambedkar village only. In Uttar Pradesh, Ms. Mayawati has also started Mahamaya Awas Yojana beside Indira Awas Yojana. It is being implemented at a large scale in villages. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the name of wife of Tathagat Gautam Buddha. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interfere in the speech of the hon. Member. I would request the hon. Members to take their seats. Let Dr. Baliram speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. Let him conclude. Dr. Baliram, please try to conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There should be no discussion amongst Members. I do not want other Members to comment on the speech being made by Dr. Baliram.

[Translation]

DR. BALIRAM: Ms. Mayawati wants to provide houses to the poor under Mahamaya Awas Yojana.

Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to say that the schemes of the Union Government are not sufficient. The government will have to make arrangement for housing as well. The government release funds on time for pensions to widows, aged people and disabled so that State Governments could contribute their share and disburse it.

SHRI ARJUN ROY (Sitamarhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on demands for grant of Department of Rural Development. I thank the hon'ble Minister as he has creative ideas. Hon'ble Minister, has made a lot of efforts, particularly for development of rural areas. Our country is the largest democracy of the world. 65 to 70 percent of the population of the country live in the villages. Two third population of the country is deprived of the development schemes of the government. Hon'ble Minister, I think that an amount of Rs. 66,100 crore has been made available to the Department of Rural Development in the budget allocation this year. UPA has completed one year in the office so far.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think the Government has not been able to spend even one-third of funds under various schemes. It is unfortunate for the country. In a country with a population of more than 100 crore, only 100 people possess one-fourth wealth of the country and on the other hand, the daily income of 80 percent of the population is less than Rs. 20. The poor labourers and farmers living in the villages are deprived of development schemes of the Government even today. I would like to tell the government the important works for rural development through which rural areas can be developed. The farmers, labourers and poor are the real strength of democracy in the country and Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is extremely important scheme for their development amongst the schemes started through the department of rural development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this scheme was launched during the Prime Ministership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. On this birthday I congratulate him and express my gratitude but as per the scheme the villages with a population of 1000 were to be connected with roads in the first phase and the second phase the population of 500 people in plains and in the hilly areas the villages having a population of 250 were to be connected by roads. I would like to inform the minister that he might have achieved success in implementing the scheme in other parts of the country but it has not been implemented in Bihar successfully. Bihar is a backward state of the country. Even today the situation in Bihar is worse as compared to developed other states. The condition of Bihar in the field of infrastructure, particularly in the road sector the situation in Bihar is not good even today but the State Government under the leadership of Shri Nitish Kumar is working in a better way.

Sir, through you, I would like to bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that there has been large scale discrimination construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. I know you are a gentleman. You will not discriminate. I know you personally and I often talk to you. I myself have been a minister of state for two and a half years in Bihar Government under the leadership of Nitish Ji. I have some knowledge about the Government manipulation of the data. I want to bring it to your notice that out of the roads being constructed under this scheme in Bihar, construction work on many roads have been stopped. Whenever there is correspondence between Government of Bihar and the Central Government, Hon'ble Minister simply says that the funds provided to Government of Bihar were not utilized properly. I would like to inform the Government that it has appointed five agencies of Government of India to construct roads, namely, N.B.C.C., N.P.C.C., N.H.P.C., C.P.W.D. and IRCON. All these are Central Government Agencies. If the Government they want to be ignorant deliberately, then it does not matter, otherwise you will be surprised to know that all these agencies have stopped working, although they have nothing to do with the State Government, because you have not provided them funds. I would like to inform you that only one agency of Bihar is doing construction of roads, that is, B.R.R.D.A., the Government have entrusted this agency with the responsibility to construct roads at a cost of Rs. 7,500 crore. BRRDA informed the Government in a letter that they need Rs. five hundred crore per month for constructing roads. Keeping in view the condition of roads, Hon'ble Minister, this information has been given to you by the Department of Rural Affairs of Government Bihar that there is a need to spend Rs. five hundred crore per month for the construction of roads. In October, 2009, the Government was requested to provide Rs. one thousand crore. Sir, with great anywith I would like to urge upon the Hon'ble Minister, through you have this is the voice of nine crore people of Bihar, that the Government provided Rs. 230 crore in January, Rs. 120 or 130 crore in March. When we needed Rs. three thousand crore, the Government just provided about Rs. three hundred crore only. I think that it is great in justice of UPA Government and your Department towards Bihar and its nine crore people. The will not going to strengthen the democracy.

We are working in Bihar. The Bihar Government is spending money on the roads belonging to Central NH and other such roads. I want to such that Bihar has

been a very providing land. Bihar has elected the world. Nalanda University was situated in Bihar. ...(*Interruptions*) you have rung the bell, is the time allotted to me over? I have just spoken on only one subject so far. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to say that Hon'ble Minister should consider it. Our Government have completed all the required formalities. Today we want on assurance in your speech about the construction of roads which have been stopped. Bihar is marching as the road of development our growth rate has reached from bottom up to top. You know it very well. That is why out of forty seats, NDA has own 32 seats in Parliament. It is a requested to Hon'ble Minister not to put handless in the development of Bihar.

Another important subject is MGNREGA. NREGA scheme is a very important Scheme. Hon'ble Minister, through this scheme, the Government has envisaged to provide employment to uneducated—unorganised farmers and labourers in the rural area. Raghuvansh Babu who was a Minister, belongs to Bihar, I am thankful to him as well as to you that you have a very positive mindset. I would like to tell you that this scheme has played a vital role in jacking up India's position in the world in respect of corruption. Hon'ble Minister, you belong to Rajasthan, according to the booklet which we have read, out of all the cases of corruption in NREGA Scheme in Rajasthan, 48 cases are from Jodhpur, which is the here district of the Chief Minister. All the officers below the rank of I.A.S. were arrested. you are a good Minister from that State. You are a good human being. You are a simple man. You have your Government yet there is maximum cases of corruption in the district of the Chief Minister, then how can you make this country free from corruption.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude my speech in two minutes. Only 30 per cent people benefit from the National Health Mission Scheme in the area where the Government of India has launched this scheme.

13.54 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Large-scale corruption is rampant in purchase of the equipments and medicines. As per the news published in the newspapers, whether it is Uttar Pradesh or Chhattisgarh, in all the states instances of such irregularities have come to notice. I would like to tell you that this scheme in Bihar has become so successful that

hon'ble Chief Minister has constituted a Steering Committee in the field of health mission. This has been constituted on both State and District levels. Before this Government came to power, in every health centre where 30 to 40 persons would come for treatment, now there come thousands of people for treatment. Medicines are being distributed on large scale at indoor and outdoor level. Facilities are being provided to the poor. Today Bihar is progressing. I would like to request you to help Bihar to progress ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI ARJUN ROY: Sir, I am concluding within two minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You had said earlier also to conclude within one minute, now again you are asking for another one minute. Whenever you are asked to conclude, you demand one minute. Thus whole day will be wasted.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN ROY: You had launched MNREGA scheme in the name of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhiji had started 'satyagrah' from Champaran of Bihar. This is the land of Mahatma Gandhi, you cannot develop this country by ignoring this place. This country can progress only when all the states of the country progress.

For want of time, I want to speak about cleanliness in this area in a few words ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is over. Please conclude now. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN ROY: 97 lac families are still deprived of toilets in Bihar ...(*Interruptions*) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give me some more time ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are two members of your party yet to speak. Then, they won't have time to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN ROY: Hon'ble Minister is a very nice fellow. I would like to inform the department that Nirmal Gram is the village where people have not to go out for easing themselves. But Bihar is suffering from the

problems of poverty, helplessness and unemployment. Thirty districts out of 38 districts are always in floods. There. about one crore families; not only BPL families but also APL families are deprived of toilets. I would like to thank the Chief Minister of Bihar for providing Rs. 1700 to BPL people under Lohia Health Mission. He provided Rs. 500 to all the BPL families. Not only this, people of APL families have been provided Rs. 1500 for toilet by the Government of Bihar *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now nothing is going on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR (Bangaon): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Rural Development for the years 2009-10 and 2010-11. The Ministry of Rural Development is consisting of three Departments, namely, the Department of Rural Development, the Department of Drinking Water Supply, and the Department of Land Resources.

The Department of Rural Development has played a very important role in this country for the overall development of the rural area of India. In the most important ways, it may be said that the visions and the objectives of this Department is to implement the various welfare schemes and to correct the developmental imbalances.

During 2009-10, the development and welfare activities in our rural areas were continued with unmatched vigour and zeal and taken to new heights with better employment opportunities like Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for a large number of people.

Regarding connectivity of the rural areas through roads, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has been introduced. For the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, crores and crores of rupees are given to the State Governments for better connectivity of the rural areas. But, Sir, in the case of West Bengal, hundreds and crores of rupees have been *... (Not recorded)* So, there must be some inquiry held so that the money is used properly for the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

14.00 hrs.

Sir, for the development of rural people, NREGA has been introduced but in most of the places, this Scheme is a total failure. In most cases, the money provided under this Scheme has been diverted. Employment has been provided to people for less than 15 days; 22,49,329 households have been provided less than 15 days of employment.

As regards unemployment allowance, 2,16,000 man-days in respect of unemployment allowance are due, and only two days of unemployment allowance has been paid in the Burdwan district as reported under MIS. Unemployment allowance is due for all the districts except Darjeeling.

Now, I come to Muster Roll without payment date. Out of total 33,191 Muster Rolls used, 7,911 Muster Rolls do not have the date of payment.

Now, I come to job cards with photographs. Only 0.19 per cent job cards have been photographed under MIS in the State of West Bengal.

There are several locations with no approved work. More than 500 Gram Panchayats of 91 Blocks, and in 16 districts of the State, no approved work has been entered under MIS.

Benefit has not been given to the poor people under the Old Age Pension Scheme in West Bengal. In most of the cases, this benefit has not been given to the poor people in West Bengal, and the people have suffered on account of this.

The funds of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Department have been diverted to several other Departments for Fixed Deposit Scheme. The funds provided for the Rural Development have not been properly utilised.

Sir, in the last year, 13 Blocks of Sundarbans area have been badly affected by Aila. For the people affected by Aila, a sum of Rs. 1,000 crore has been given by the Central Government but the money has not yet reached the people affected by Aila. So, I would request the hon. Minister to look into this matter...*

No Central Government funds have been utilized properly for the rural development of the country.

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

The Scheme for providing 100 days' job to the rural people is a total failure. Only jobs have been provided for less than 15 days.

The BPL Card Census was first introduced in the year 1997. A sum of Rs. 1,00,062 crore had been allotted for the BPL Card Census. But in the case of West Bengal, 'BPL Card' means 'CPM Card'. All the CPM cadres have been included in the BPL Card list. Those who are actually poor and those who belong to the Opposition Parties have not been included in the BPL Card list. So, this BPL Card list should be cancelled and a proper survey should be undertaken for the proper utilisation the BPL Cards.

There is no transparency in the working of the Government. There is no accountability; there is no audit on this. South 24 Parganas and East Midnapore districts have been occupied by the TMC workers. The two Zila Parishads – South 24 Parganas and East Midnapore districts – belong to TMC. Due to this, the State Government is not giving a single rupee to these two Zila Parishads. The people in these two Zila Parishads are suffering due to this, and they have been deprived of funds. So, this has to be stopped.

Sir, I will have to mention about the land reforms department. After the implementation of the Land Reforms Policy, nearly about 10,15,000 acres of lands were covered. During the period between 1967 and 1977, four lakh acres of lands had been distributed to the landless people, to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to the minorities.

But from 1977, after the Left Front Government came to power, no lands have been properly utilised, and the lands given to the poor people have forcibly been taken away, and this should be stopped. Lands are being given only to the CPI (M) people. The wastelands are given to the CPI (M) people, and there are no records. On the contrary, all the cultivators have been evicted by the CPI(M) people. There has been no proper distribution of land for the last 33 years. So, there is a serious complaint regarding this distribution of lands among the poor people, landless people in West Bengal.

Next, the Demand for Grants of the Department of Rural Development has been presented to Parliament *vide* Demand No.81. In 2009-10 Budget Estimates, the allocation under Plan was Rs. 1,066,13.13 crore. Recoveries from Plan Budget were Rs. 43,943.13 crore.

Net Plan Budget was Rs. 62,670 crore. Non Plan Budget was Rs. 26.95 crore. Net Budget Plan plus Non-Plan was Rs. 62,706.95 crore. Percentage in Net Budget was plus 10.24.

In the year 2009-10, the Revised Estimates were Rs. 1,22,438.13 crore. The recoveries from Plan Budget were Rs. 60,293.13 crore. The Net Plan Budget was Rs. 62,160 crore. Non-Plan Budget was Rs. 41.40 crore only. Why? What is the reason for reduction of 0.81 per cent allocation in 2009-10 Revised Estimates over the 2009-10 Budget Estimates?

Due to less collection of diesel cess during the current financial year, the Ministry of Finance reduced the Budget allocation of PMGSY by Rs. 660 crore in the Revised Estimates for the year 2009-10. This reduction of Rs. 150 crore for the BPL survey in the first supplementary demands has to be looked into.

Sir, next there is so much unspent balance in different Departments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR: First one, in the SGSY the unspent balance was Rs. 718 crore as on 31st December, 2007; the unspent balance was Rs. 783.16 crore as on 31st March, 2009; and the unspent balance was Rs. 1,142.22 crore as on 31st December, 2009.

In the case of SGRY, the unspent balance in the year 2007 was Rs. 623.40 crore. In the case of IAY, the unspent balance as on 31st December, 2007 was Rs. 1,761.12 crore; the unspent balance as on 31st March, 2009 was Rs. 6,246.17 crore; and the unspent balance as on 31st December, 2009 was Rs. 3,759.84 crore.

In the case of PMGSY, the unspent balance as on 31st December, 2007 was Rs. 2,296.39 crore; the unspent balance as on 31st March, 2009 was Rs. 1,264.56 crore; and the unspent balance as on 31st December, 2009 was Rs. 2,546.55 crore.

Sir, what are the reasons for the huge amount of funds lying unspent under all the major schemes of the Department? The Minister must say in his reply what are the reasons for this. Why the unspent balance as on 31st December, 2009 has increased by more than 50 per cent over that of 31st December, 2007? What was the total amount of fund released so far in the last quarter, January-March, 2009-10?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude. Your time is over.

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR: Next is, the setting up of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee is a good step. But in how many districts this committee has been functioning? It is reported that most of the District Magistrates are not convening the meeting. In most of the States, they have abolished this. If the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee functions properly, then all the corruption in the schemes for rural development, especially, PMGSY, NREGA would be corrected. So, proper step should be taken.

The fertile lands should not be acquired. The acquisition of fertile land for any other plant should be stopped. This should be stopped in the case of Singur. They have forcibly occupied the fertile land. In the case of Nandigram, they have forcibly acquired fertile land. We are opposed to this. We want industry, but not by destroying the fertile land.

In conclusion of my speech, I support the Demands for Grants placed by the hon. Minister of Rural Development.

*DR. TARUN MANDAL (Jaynagar): Madam/Sir, Thank you for giving me chance to speak on the issues relating to Rural Development and the grants for the Department. First of all, I would like to draw the attention of the House that as development of villages progresses, the difference between villages and towns reduces. In the erstwhile USSR and other communist/socialist countries such examples we observed in the past, which begat to revert again as soon as capitalist economy were regained in those countries. In our country, due to policies followed by, Union and State Governments irrespective of the difference in terms of development parameters are increasing between villages and towns. Take the cases of life expectancy at birth, maternal and infant mortality rates, literacy especially of women literacy are horrible. Due to lack of round the year job of the poor people, they are migrating to cities and towns, causing much hardship to the municipal administration. If there would have been real implementation of 100 days work (NRGES) per BPL family in a year in all States, migration of low economy people did not happen. It is a failure on the part of UPA Government to implement its own scheme.

On the contrary, beggars and paupers mainly produced from impoverishment of rural population, are thronging over big cities to continue with their mere livelihood, not better than animals. The Civil Government of Delhi State and many other metropolitan city administrations are exporting them, calling them as imported beggars. Whatever they might be, who are they? Are they not our sons and daughters product of our so called progressive (!) and pro-people(!) policies? Where is your JNNUR mission or Indira Awas Yojna to give them a shelter? Where are the Andotaya Anpurna schemes to take care of their hunger? Where are Government's different welfare schemes to look after these marginalised people?

I understand, whatever schemes and yojnas you declare can never stop impoverishment of people, rise in the size of have nots and enhancement of gulf of difference between rich and poor people of the country – in this capitalist exploitative system. Only the relief measures adopted by the Ministries, are also being snatched away in the middle by rampant corruption from top to bottom—denying claims of the genuine we can not hope or—dream that Rural Development will eradicate poverty and bring forth prosperity of the majority population, 77% as estimated by Dr.Arjun Sengupta Committee as BPL category, but at least expect that they will be categorised and certified as BPL population. In today's welfare projects, without BPL identification to derive a single Government scheme is extremely difficult. In the State of West Bengal also and in my constituency area there is rampant corruption and irregularity regarding BPL identification and distribution by the CPI(M) led State Government and mainly benefiting the rich instead of poor people. Rural Development Department should take rectification of BPL list as a Number one task. Similarly Ration Card distribution has not been done to many genuine citizens of India in my area.

West Bengal State Government under CPI(M) again is playing nasty politics and doing particularly in this regard. Rural Development of Union Government must take care of it also.

Special Economic Zone (SEZ) should not be promulgated by UPA Government in favour of corporate sectors and multinationals causing displacement, desettlement and increasing BPL list. Those already developed exploiting agricultural lands and denying farmers' right should compensate with double amount of wasteland development for farming and be distributed to the displaced and have nots.

Electricity under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidutikaran Yojna is a soar and failure of the Department, funds allotted and infrastructure not developed to push forth the yojna. Not my constituency, but the whole of rural India will not be electrified even in coming 50 yrs if works run in such slow and irregular pace. Government must see that not only the BPL family areas but all the areas of a village and ultimately all villages be electrified by next two years.

Indira Aaws Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna are not being able to keep pace with the target as promised. Due to political partiality and corruption of the ruling State Government, as in West Bengal, genuine people and areas are not getting benefit of it. Union Government should develop supervision mechanism towards implementation of its schemes including the two mentioned by me. I appeal for much more budget at least four times for this Department.

SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE (Jhargram): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, thank you for giving the chance to take part in the discussion. I would like to speak in Bengali.

*Respected Deputy Speaker Sir, we are discussing the Demand for Grant for the Ministry of Rural Development 2010-11 and I rise to oppose it. Here, we are talking about development of villages and rural areas. More than 70% of the population in the country lives in villages. Development of villages means development of the entire nation and the Ministry of Rural Development has a crucial role to play in this regard. But this ministry has miserably failed to perform its job successfully even after 62 years of independence. The Government of India has a policy for the common people, the ordinary man on paper. However it is actually creating a wide fissure between the poor and the rich. The farmer is becoming poorer and the latter is steadily becoming wealthier. This is solely due to the policies of the Central Government. What is the real picture of our country? Even today we have not been able to chalk out a method for preparing an error-free BPL list. By now a number of commissions has been set up. Prof. Suresh Tendulkar Committee says that 37.2% people are below poverty line whereas the Planning Commission says that the figure is 27.8%. Again Dr. N.C. Saxena Committee puts up a different report. Dr. Arjun Sengupta report maintains that 77% of the population earn less than Rs. 20 per day. Naturally, this is all due to a faulty BPL criteria. The Government policies

are responsible for the discrepancies. BPL list is the basis of various Government schemes such as SGSY, Indira Awas Yojana, old Age Pension Scheme, TSC programmes etc. What does our Human Resource Development Report say? Regarding malnutrition and Low Birth Rate, Hon. Prime Minister says that it is a matter of national shame. Infant and Maternal Mortality rates are extremely high.

I was reading an article that says and I quote here—

“Hunger and deprivation affect about 260 million people of our country. India has 40% of the world’s underweight children and rank 12 (ranked 5th among 177 countries in the UNDP Human Development Index. It is difficult to reduce hunger and poverty by 2015 target under UN’s millennium development goals for sustainable human security and peace. In 2000 India alone accounted for nearly one fourth, 364 million of the world’s poor. Infant and maternal mortality rates are worst than those in some countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.”

This is the real picture of our nation. We also have a very low female literacy rate. Hon. Finance Minister had said in his Budget speech that 6 crores of illiterate women will be made literate but there is no budgetary provision for this. So in what manner are we going to achieve this target? There is no mention of this anywhere.

MGNREGA is one of the most significant programmes of the Government. Last year, we saw that only 51 days of work was provided. In 2007-08, 42 days of work was there for the people whereas in 2008-09 only 48 days of work was given. So if there is an increase of only 5 days or 10 days each year then when and how can we provide 100 days of work to the villagers? In 2010-11, Rs. 40,100 crores have been allocated but the amount is grossly inadequate. With this paltry sum, it is impossible to provide 100 days job. But this has been the policy adopted by the Central Government. So naturally, if we are to achieve our target, the fund allocation has to be raised. Otherwise the law will have to be changed to declare that only 60 or 70 days of work will be given to the poor people.

The funds that are released late, do not reach the states in time. There is a great delay as a result of which the job card holders do not get their payments in due time and the banks also face difficulties. Government should look into this.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

Issues of malpractices and corruption have been raised every now and then. An impartial inquiry should be conducted in order to do away with these. Two districts of West Bengal, Burdwan and North 24 Parganas have received awards from the Central Government. So State of West Bengal is doing a good job in this regard. The self-help groups must be entrusted with the work as their performance is always satisfactorily. Hon. Members have mentioned here that in the newspaper 'Bartamaan', which is like gospel truth for my fellow colleagues, it is written that West Bengal has spend Rs. 2110 crores for rural development; you can cross check. This is the report of their 'friendly' newspaper.

The Central Government is constantly changing the names of various schemes. IRDP is now known as National Rural Livelihood Mission. This kind of rechristening won't help us much. The funds are never properly utilized and the targeted beneficiaries are not getting their due. This is the failure of the Government. The cost of Indira Awas Yojana has been raised to Rs. 48,000 but that does not go with the current cost. It should be minimum Rs. 1 lakh— this is our demand. The same story is repeated in the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The projects that are sent from the State Government are rarely given priority. We have to take care of the upgradation and maintenance of the roads. The responsibility of maintaining the roads is with the State Government. But it is not possible for the states alone to undertake such colossal tasks. In many places the streets and roads which are more than ten years old are in miserable conditions. The Central Government should assess the situation and do the needful.

Regarding the old age pension, I want to say that the name of the scheme is now Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme under which Rs. 400 is paid. Rs. 200 is contributed by the State Government and Rs. 200 by the Centre. But this is a meager sum which is not sufficient. It should be increased.

As far as land reforms are concerned, we have a law for it. But the allocated sum of money is not spent in the right manner. Only West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura have been able to successfully undertake land reforms; other states have failed to do so. We have only 40% land under irrigation. This percentage has to be increased. A holistic planning is absent on the part of the Government. Drinking Water scenario is too very bleak. There is scarcity of potable water and the problem of arsenic contamination. More investment is necessary for

providing safe water to the people and fight the arsenic menace. Underground water table is depleting day by day but it is being extensively exploited for various commercial, industrial and domestic purposes leading to scarcity of drinking water. The Government should do something about it.

There is also lack of monitoring in the panchayati raj institutions. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has failed miserably. You should pay attention to various underdeveloped areas. Backward districts should be given their due share of Backward Region Funds. The developmental work should be revised in a better manner through monitoring committees at various levels of panchayats. If these activities are taken up in right earnest then I hope rural development will be possible in the true sense of the term.

With these few words I thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR (Morena): Deputy Speaker, Sir discussion on demands for grants of Rural Development Ministry's demand number 81,82,83 is going on. I am grateful to you for the opportunity you have given me to speak on this subject. As many as 62 years have passed after Independence of our country and discussion and contemplation on rural development is constantly going on. During this period Congress party ruled the country continuously, but if we look at rural development then we will find, the attention which should have been paid towards rural development, towards prosperity of villages, was not paid. When discussion on rural development and those schemes is held then sometimes we feel this is being done only in name because for schemes of village development their money allotment and amount released to States and the amount spent, the accounts of expenditure presented and their audit are all eyewash. I very strongly feel that if the Government is genuinely interested in the development of rural areas and villages then it will have to overhaul the whole gamut of schemes, policies and programmes of the Department of Rural Development. The schemes and programmes currently under operation may look good but their impact in the targeted areas is not as much as it ought to be. When we are reminded of earlier years when country was not independent, at that time facilities were less and means of transportation were also not adequate and many of the Government resources were not available, at that time also person seems to be

unhappy, but he had brotherhood feeling in him. At that time villages were self-sufficient in finding their problems. But after 62 years of Independence villages have to depend on Government for solution to their problems. Government do not pay attention to their problems and their problems are continuously increasing. Its result is that people are continuously migrating from villages. It will have too bad impacts. If migration from villages increases then cities will get crowded and when cities get crowded by people, it will get uncontrolled. When there will be crowd of people, more JJ clusters in cities will come up. When these people do not get employment then crime graph will rise. If this exodus continues at the pace it is going on at present then our agrarian economy which is agriculture based will also be adversely impacted in the times to come. A person who comes to city from village and resides in city cannot do farming. What will happen of economy if agriculture is adversely impacted? We should think over this.

Today 62 years of Independence has passed and still Congress leadership Government is still there, I am happy that UPA Government have started Rozgar Guarantee Yojana to provide right of employment. Rozgar Guarantee is definitely good scheme, guarantee of employment, education should be provided. Though people got employment guarantee in the country, but results of this scheme which would have come, have not come. If Rozgar Guarantee Scheme is also implemented like other schemes then its results would not come, money will go on incurring and of results which we are expecting will not come. I am happy that hon'ble Minister and State Minister are from such States which are poor and backwards, where population is rural. They can understand disputes and sentiments of members properly. Today corruption was discussed. I feel many times discussion has become tradition of politics. If we are Government of a State then corruption will be discussed less and when we are not in Government then discussion on corruption will be more. This has become tradition of politics. Money which is being spent for Rozgar Guarantee Scheme should be utilized to the maximum extent. If Union Government allocates properly and cooperates with states which are implementing properly then definitely good results will come. Today we are providing hundred days employment to a labourer through Employment Guarantee Scheme. Today we have given hundred days employment Guarantee but what will he do for 265 days? For rest there is no arrangement. Through Employment Guarantee we have ensured that he will get hundred days employment but he will not get employment after hundred

days. A labourer who is labourer for hundred days will remain labourer for 265 days also. If he lives for 60 years then also he will remain labourer. Through this scheme we have given this guarantee also. Through you, I would request you that through Employment Guarantee Scheme a persons status should be enhanced, he prospers, his purchasing power increases, lives quality of life, definitely then only we can say life of person living in village has been upgraded. I want Government should make efforts to provide two hundred days wages primarily instead of hundred days. I know if wages for two hundred is given then money is needed. This might be difficult for you. You might face financial problem but lives after 62 years you should think over the life of a labourer. So we should make out for this scheme from wherever we can do and then only results will come.

Sir, complaints about the non-payment of wages have been received at several places. You will see, when you visit several places, the people in the villages say that we have not received the payment even after two months of doing work. We talked about this on phone with the concerned officer, that they have worked but why they have not received the payment even after two months. Then they say, the amount have not been allocated. So, no alternative remains with us. They don't get allocation for two months then people discuss about this matter in that area that officers are keeping the funds with themselves and that is why payment is not being made to the labourers.

On the other side you have made this arrangement also that labourers should be made payments through banks. This is a very good arrangement, I welcome this step. When we are deciding that payments should be made to the labourers through banks, then we should also see the situation of prevailing in the banks. There are several villages in this country and people are working under Employment Guarantee Scheme in these lakhs of villages. Lakhs of labourers are working under this scheme. But we must see as to whether banking facilities are available there or not. All this happened two to three years back. But this problem is being faced constantly. The same problem might be coming before you also when you hold the meeting of your department or you discuss the matter with the officers of other states. Today, the number of banks have not increased. No infrastructure of banks has reached to the villages. The number of banks is the same and the payment of crores of rupees under Employment Guarantee Scheme is to be made through banks. We have decided all this. The people

remain standing in queues for this. Banks are located at 20-25 km distance from villages. Suppose fifty labourers are standing at the counter of banks for their payment and payment is made to the twenty people only and remaining thirty people are told to come next day. What remains with the labourers who reach bank by spending money on fare, two to three times for getting the payments. This is the main issue before the Government. I think the Government should ponder over this issue. I feel that a labourer should get his wages within a week in any case. The Union Government should ensure it.

I have a suggestion in this regard that we have fixed the number of labourers to 50 whom we provide job. If there are ten labourers in a village and they are asking for job for hundred days, we can provide then job. But if there is not a group of fifty labourers then they are not getting the job. In this situation those who are in need of job, are not able to get it. If we want to give them job, then we have to make a group of 50 persons by including persons from here and there but then it will become a lake case and a matter of corruption. I think that we should decide to provide job to a group even of ten labourers also under Job Guarantee Scheme. I think that it would be a right decision.

Sir, we have provision for women also, but there is no such arrangement in Job Guarantee Scheme. If five women are working then there should be some arrangement for their children also. As the Government have decided, it would be a right step.

The second thing which I want to say that Indira Awas Yojana is a good scheme. But in practice, you also must have realized that when we allot houses then one house comes in lot of one Gram Panchayat in each village. Even after 62 years of Independence, we are able to provide only one house to one village and for that house also, we are able to give small amount. When our Central Government will be able to provide home to every homeless person of our country? If we will provide one house like this then it will take 162 more years in providing house to everyone, because 62 years have already gone but by the time the last person will get house, the one of the first person will get dilapidated and he will again become homeless.

I want to draw the kind attention of Hon'ble Minister towards a fact that there is 23 percent population of tribals in Madhya Pradesh; there are 45 percent people who are living below poverty line. But when your

department considered of Madhya Pradesh then some persons wrote that there are 'Kawelu' Houses constructed in Madhya Pradesh and after translating 'Kawelu' in english, it became 'tiles'. As tiled houses were mentioned, it was not included in the category of homeless. If at present you will see the quota of Madhya Pradesh, it is even less than the quota of Kerala. Like a potter makes 'duble' in villages, in the same manner 'kabelu' are constructed by potters ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Due to that Kabelu the homeless people of Madhya Pradesh are very much worried and disturbed. While reviewing it you should take it into consideration that there should not be any injustice to Madhya Pradesh. All have talked about Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. After Independence till date this is definitely the only scheme the effect of which is perceptible on the development of a village in general. Even you have curtailed the allocation under this scheme and discontinued the works related to upgradation. If it is affected then definitely there will be an impact and the speed at which the development is going on will be slowed down. I also remember that during initial phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana when honourable Atal Bihari Vajpayee started this scheme, the villages with a population of thousand plus in general areas and villages with a population of five hundred plus in tribal areas were covered. In the second phase the villages with a population of five hundred plus arrangement of more than five in general areas and 250 plus in tribal dominant areas were covered under the scheme. This parameter has recently been changed. If we want to extend road connectivity to every ordinary village definitely the need of the hour is not further scale down the above parameter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Sir, I feel that there should be sufficient allocation under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana so that States which are working properly may keep on working well. For the development of Bundelkhand.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.L. Puniaji.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Sir, I am going to conclude within two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You asked for two minutes but it is already over five minutes. How long your two minutes will be?

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Sir, the honourable Member has been the Minister of Rural Development. He is very experienced.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is alright but others have also got a lot of experience.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Sir, I am going to conclude very soon. The UPA Government has shown a lot of concern towards the issue of the development of Bundelkhand. Rahul ji went to Bundelkhand and he stayed there on a number of occasions and after that a package for Bundelkhand was announced. This announcement is a welcome step and nobody approves this and there is no objection to it. When you are giving package separately for the development of Bundelkhand and including NAREGA and B.R.G.F. thereunder and still you are saying that we are giving fund for the development of Bundelkhand. You have manufactured that package through these schemes. If we see indirectly then I feel that this is an attempt to misguide the people of Bundelkhand.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Sir, through you, I would like to request the honourable Minister that the Department of Rural Development should ponder over the development of villages. On the basis of my experience and knowledge about the country I can say that the role of Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Home Affairs are important for the country ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Role of Ministry of Rural Development is several times more essential than that of the above ministries.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.L. Puniaji.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Being the Minister of Rural Development you should visualize the rural development.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: His speech will not go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your speech is not going on record. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me time and opportunity to support the demadns on this important subject.

Ministry of Rural Development reaches out to the masses through its schemes. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your statement is not being recorded. You may please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Punia ji, you may speak.

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me time to support the demands of Grants of this important Ministry. Ministry of Rural Development reaches out to the masses through its schemes. Earlier, when budget was presented in the House there would be excitement among the industrialists and businessmen only, but ever since the UPA Government has been formed, first time and now the second time, its benefits have reached the masses. Their epoch making schemes have started reaching the masses. You are aware that in India 70 per cent of its population lives in villages. There are around 6,27,000 villages in India and their main occupation is agriculture. That is real India. 70 percent population of India lives in these villages itself. The UPA Government have realized that if this 70 percent population of India cannot develop, if this 70 per cent population of India cannot progress then the entire nation cannot progress and for that purpose we have initiated many flagship programmes and epoch making schemes under Bharat Nirman Yojana. The people with 'India shining' could not understand this fact. When their campaign was at its climax, the people of India had been wondering that which country they are talking about. 70 percent people who live in villages, they were in a confusion about the purport of this ongoing of this ongoing campaign and you can see the outcome of this. I do

*Not recorded.

agree that India has made tremendous development. With the ideology given by Late Rajiv Gandhi our information technology sector has already earned its reputation in the world and our country has come to the forefront. We are leading in every sector whether it is automobile sector, telecommunication sector or industries. We are proud that India has made this progress. But, efforts have never been made to bridge up the gap between India and Bharat, the gap between rural areas and urban areas and now efforts are being made in this regard. Today, facilities like roads, electricity, hospitals and good educational institutes available in villages are not as good as compared to the cities. The UPA Government have thought about bridging up this gap and the Ministry of Rural Development is the foremost among them.

Several schemes were formulated to meet this gap. MGNREGS, Swarnajyanti Gramin Swarojgar Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, National Drinking Water Mission, Indira Awas Yojana etc. are some such major schemes. Rupees 66,100 crores have been provided for these schemes. On adding the internal and extra budgetary resources, this amount swells up to Rs. 76,100 crores. Out of this, Rs. 40,100 crore have been provided for MGNREGS, Rs. 2984 crores for SGSY, Rs. 10,000 crores for Indira Awas Yojana and Rs. 12,000 crores for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. I am glad to note that Rs. 162 crores have also been provided for the survey of BPL list, an issue which was being disputed and debated for quite a few days.

Sir, Hon. Shri Tufani Saroj Ji was saying that there is no such scheme under which the barren land can be made fertile. I would like to apprise him that such schemes exists in the name of Integrated Water Shed Management programme and for this purpose Rs. 2660 crores have been provided.

Sir, safe drinking water programme is very important. Today, the poor in the villages do not have access to clean drinking water, Rs. 8100 crores have been provided for rural drinking water and Rs. 1422 crores for total sanitation programme MGNREGS has been discussed threadbare. This is really a flagship and revolutionary scheme. There is a total provision of Rs. 10580 crores. In my opinion, there is no scheme in the world which provides the right of employment to innumerable citizens. Under this scheme, 100 days employment has been provided. It is the government's responsibility to provide guaranteed employment of 100 days. For almost 160 days, wages are available to the farmers and labourers

at the time of cultivation. Thus, there is a provision of a total 260 days employment for each family. I think that if there exists any rationality for increasing these days then these should be increased further. Five crores people got employment and the number of people getting 100 days employment is only sixty lakh. It is a matter of concern that all the cardholders could not get 100 days employment. What is the reason behind this? I would discuss it later. 51.40% SC/ST workers and 47.81% women workers are engaged in this scheme. An average of 52 days employment is being provided to each family under MGNREGS. Wage component is 67% and material component is 27%. This is quite a revolutionary scheme. There is a provision of 100 days employment under it. Particularly, mandating wages of at least hundred rupees has resulted in rise in the wages both in villages and the cities. Now, the labourer can negotiate his wages. He can say that he will not work on less than the prescribed wages. This has turned out to be better for the poor. It has also been stated that under the scheme, only digging of earth takes place which is not true. The construction of permanent structures is also included in its objective. The 43,61,000 works under the scheme like rural roads, flood control, water conservation, drought proofing and minor irrigation have been started through MGNREGS. Among them, 19,52,000 works have been completed.

The aim of this scheme is not only to provide employment but it has also contributed to national building as well as construction of permanent structures. Just now, an Hon. Member Shri Gopinath Munde ji was saying something and it appears that he has no information about the villages. They are the India shining people ...*(Interruptions)*. I am not talking without basis ...*(Interruptions)* You people from Bahujan Samaj Party have a nexus with BJP, we know that all ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be quiet, let Punjia ji speak.

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Munde ji was saying that Rs. 35 thousand have been increased under the Indira Awas Yojana and Rs. 38,500 have been provided for the hilly areas. Mundeji does not have the information. Actually, it is Rs. 45 thousand under the Indira Awas Yojana and Rs. 48,500 for the hilly areas. He also said that the common man lives in the villages. One should know this. He should convince himself that the common man lives in villages. We want the development of rural India; that is why, our ministry of rural development has brought such revolutionary schemes. He also asked as to why

priorities under PMGSY schemes have now been changed. If he has no information about it, he should see it. They are the India shining people. When his Government was in power in the year 2002, they adopted core networking and the roads are being constructed on this basis. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Today, we are fed up with it and we have been repeatedly making demands that changes should be brought about in the old rural core networking. Today's circumstances are different from what they were in the year 2002. Today a lot of roads are in a dilapidated condition, lot many new roads have been constructed, some digging work has been done and these need to be changed. We have repeatedly demanded that the ministry bring about a change in the core networking which was your initiative. They say that the priorities have been changed there under. But I think that the priorities have not been changed however, in case of need to change the priorities, it should also be considered. Mundeji also said that there is no scheme for the educated rural unemployed. For whom is the Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana. It is meant for the villages. The assistance under this scheme is provided by forming groups. Grants of More than Rs. Ten thousand crores have already been provided and more than rupees twenty thousand crores of loan have been disbursed. He should know all this. India shining people should know as to which schemes are being run under the ministry of Rural Development and in what ways can assistance be provided to people in the rural areas. In the year 2010-11 target of covering population of 11 thousand and constructing 35 thousand kms length of road was fixed under PMGSY. I have submitted that if there was a need to bring about a change in the rural core network, then it should be done and the roads should be constructed taking into account the local needs. I would also like to submit that the roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana start getting damaged immediately after these are constructed and such contractors are hired who construct inferior quality roads. There are many such areas, where special provisions are needed to be made. RCC roads should be constructed. The roads get damaged in the areas where floods occur every year. Particularly, I would talk about my own constituency, Barabanki where floods occur every year in Suratganj, Rampur and Sirauli Gauspur block. Floods from river ghaghra damage the roads there. RCC roads should be constructed in this whole area.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Sir, they continued to interrupt me, so I could not express my views fully.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is over. You can see the watch in front. Now please sit down. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Sir, I am concluding. I thank you for giving me this much of time.

Sir, now I would like to tell about the MGNREGS scheme. Though the scheme is appreciable but there is a lot of corruption in it. It is stated that this scheme is demand-based but several people who have applied for the job cards have not received them and some of the cards issued are kept by the Pradhan or the Panchayat Secretary with themselves. This practice should be checked and there should be some provision under which that person should receive the card on whose name the same has been issued. The people are not even aware of the fact that it is their right to get the card and they can ask for the work after getting the card and if they don't get the work, then it is their right to ask for the wages. They don't know anything about the whole procedure. Although, I am grateful that the ministry has increased the administrative expenses from 4% to 6% but no action is being taken to publicise it and inform the people and create awareness among them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member please conclude.

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir it is a very important point to which I am drawing the attention of the Government, through you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All the points being mentioned by the Hon. Members in the House are important. I urge you to please conclude now.

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at several places the ponds have been dug up but very less amount of work has been carried out and more money has been withdrawn. You have given the cheque facility for making the payment but Pradhan talks the persons to the bank and after honouring the cheque keeps the entire money with him and pays them very less amount. This practice should also be checked.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding handpump scheme, I would like to say that all the handpumps are being installed at not a very lower depth. These should be specially monitored because after some days they are going to run dry. The ministry has announced that from now onwards the emphasis will be on piped water supply. This is a good thing. We welcome it but where is the electricity to cater to piped water supply in the villages. Therefore, I would request you to install the solar pumps simultaneously so as to address this problem once and for all.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I would like to touch upon the BPL list. Rs. 162 crores have been provided in this year's budget for the same. Earlier, this list was prepared in the year 2002. Today, most of the ineligible persons are in the list whereas the eligibles ones are out of it. The reports of two committees have also come out in this regard. First one is Suresh Tendulkar committee report and the second one is NC Saxena committee report. We should not get embroiled in the two committees' differing views.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please conclude.

15.00 hrs.

SHRI P.L. PURNIA: Sir, I am concluding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please tell me, in how many minutes will you conclude?

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude in just two and a half minutes.

Planning Commission should also not get into this embroglio, rather I would request that barring those who get houses under Indira Awas Yojana all others living in Kuccha house should be included in the BPL list, otherwise this embroglio will continue. Someone talks about calorie and some other about salary. This will waste the time and BPL list will never be prepared. Food security is being talked about. All our schemes are connected with BPL list. Therefore, BPL list is extremely important. Thus, by laying emphasis on it, all those having kuccha houses should be included in the BPL list. We are grateful for the package given for Bundelkhand. The funds allocated Poorvanchal and Bundelkhand have been utilized for making small roads, laying of bricks and drainage work but the purpose for which the funds have been allocated is not fulfilled.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another thing would like to say is that under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana which has been mentioned by the Hon. Member, Dr. Baliram just now, enough funds have been spent on Ambedkar Villages but now a days no work is being carried out there. Rs. 10 lakh per village is allocated which is quite less. I am myself saying that this amount is very less but if Rs. 10 lakh is given, then it should be utilized in all the villages. A whole lot of works can be done with this amount ...*(Interruptions)* If there is any critical gap in the process of development, it can be met. It is highly unfortunate that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has stated that they will not implement this scheme ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on recored.

...*(Interruptions)**

15.01 hrs.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

[English]

**SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAV (Buldhana): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the demands for grants pertaining to Ministry of Rural Development. Many schemes for development of rural areas are implemented by this Ministry. I would like to speak on a few points pertaining to these demands. Many Hon. Members have spoken on these demands and made some points. I will not take more time of the House.

Sir, through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana many villages with a population of 1000 to 2000 have been planned to be connected with main roads under the plan of core networking. However, there are lots of deficiencies in this programme. Approved proposals are received from the State Governments, which in turn are sanctioned by the Central Government. But I would like to bring to the kind notice of Hon. Minister that the funds which were sanctioned by the Central Government under PMGSY during 2006-07 for Maharashtra, most of it was diverted by influential Ministers for schemes in their districts. For example out of 650 crores of rupees sanctioned for Maharashtra during 2006-07 under PMGSY,

*Not recorded.

**English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

100 crores of rupees were spent on Baramati Constituency alone, which is the constituency of Hon. Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar. 100 crores of rupees were spent in Solapur Constituency of the then Revenue Minister of Government of Maharashtra, Shri Mohite Patil. Another 100 crores of rupees went to Wardha district to which the then Pradesh Congress President Smt. Prabha Rao belongs.

So this scheme PMGSY is meant to please the leaders. But whether the scheme really helps in connecting the neglected villages to the main roads, I would like to request Hon. Minister to clarify in his reply.

Sir, national drinking water supply scheme is implemented by this Ministry. I would like to know from Hon. Minister as to what is the success rate of various schemes like 'Jal Swaraj', 'Mahajal' and 'Bharat Nirman' which are meant for drinking water supply. There is no farsight in planning these schemes. Wells are dug, water tanks are built. But the source of water evaporates quickly and villages have to clamour for drinking water and resort to agitations again. It is expected that through these drinking water schemes, pure drinking water has to be supplied in the villages. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what is the availability of drinking water per head. There is acute water scarcity in villages. Our farmers are reutilizing bath water for feeding the cattle as well due to water scarcity. While this is the condition of acute water scarcity in villages, people in cities are lavishly using water for taking bath twice a day using at least 100 litres of water for bath. People in cities use at least 10 litres of water for flushing toilets. But people in villages do not get even half litre water for cleaning toilets. Have you considered this aspect in your planning? If this is the gulf between urban and rural areas in the matter of water availability then on what basis are we saying that we are marching ahead towards development. You have ruled this country and got the votes of people in the rural areas in the name of Mahatma Gandhi. But it was Mahatma Gandhi who said that India is a country of villages and as long as villages do not develop we cannot claim that our country has developed. Today people in villages are migrating to cities but the Government is loudly claiming its success of NAREGA scheme. The Government is claiming that under rural development scheme it is providing employment to people where they are paying Rs. 100 per day. Had it been so, why would people in large numbers would have migrated from villages to cities in search of unemployment. I would like to know from Hon. Minister. This employment guarantee scheme has proved to be a total failure.

The Central Government is allocating huge funds to the State Governments for rural development schemes. I would like to know from Hon. Minister whether he is satisfied with reports that are received from officers or have you made any assessment about its success by appointing various overseeing Committees to find out corruption and taking stock of the situation. Today MPs do not have any kind of power to oversee these programmes. Central funds to the tune of 75% or 100% are used in certain schemes. But MPs are not even invited for inaugurating a foundation laying ceremonies of these projects/programmes. I would like to point out that when 75% or 100% Central funds are allocated, Members of Parliament should be given due importance while implementing these schemes. If after 5 years an MP is asked about the work he has done, except the funds of 2 crores under MPLADS, he is unable to cite any other developmental work in which he has a role. The Central Government is allocating funds but its credit is taken by Zilla Parishads or MLAs of that State. So, I would like to request Hon. Minister to involve MPs in all overseeing Committees of development schemes. MPs should be given due importance in inauguration of all these schemes.

Hon. Minister is also representing a Constituency while he represents the whole country. So I want to say that MPs should be fully involved in overseeing all development schemes. They should have powers to complain wherever there is default. Only then MPs will give a good account of themselves after they face electorate after 5 years.

There was discussion about BPL cards in the House. It was also pointed out that many self help groups have been granted assistance/loans to the tune of 10,000 or 20,000 crores. I would like to ask a pointed question to Hon. Minister as to how many BPL families were converted into APL families by giving this assistance of 30,000 crores of rupees to these self help groups. I would like the Hon. Minister to clarify this. Although there are schemes to remove poverty, poverty is not eliminated. This is what I would like to point out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jeyadurai, please start your speech. You can come in front and speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing else should go on record. Shri Jeyadurai, you can start your speech.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA): Hon. Member Shri Jadhao, nothing is going on record. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member Shri Jeyadurai, please stick to time. There are other hon. Members also who want to speak.

****SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI (Thoothukkudi):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for giving me an opportunity to speak in this discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2010-11. For the first time now, I have got an opportunity in this 15th Lok Sabha to commence active participation with my maiden speech. I hail from a very remote hamlet with just 50 houses and I thank our party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam to have picked me up from that rural background to the fore. I thank our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi who is also the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu which is setting a model in governance for other States in implementing several social welfare measures for the benefit of the people.

Tamil Nadu is now leading every other State in the efficient implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme and it is being ably carried out by our Deputy Chief Minister hon. Thalpathi Thiru Mu. Ka. Stalin and I thank him for selecting me to represent Thoothukkudi constituency. I also thank our party's Southern Region Organising Secretary and the hon. Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers Anja Nenjar Thiru Mu. Ka. Azhagiri who has enabled me to romp home to victory. Let me also thank our esteemed Poetess Kanimozhi, MP at this juncture. I also express my deep gratitude to the people of my constituency and the cadre of my party and also the workers of alliance parties who have overwhelmingly elected me to represent them in this august House.

I welcome and support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development on behalf of our party and on my own behalf.

India has thousands of villages. "India's soul lives in its villages", said Mahatma Gandhi. It is only the growth of villages that contribute to the growth of a country.

My Lok Sabha constituency has got overwhelming number of villages. There are 408 Gram Panchayats with 1,903 remote village hamlets. I hail from one such remote hamlet and hence it is appropriate that I speak on this occasion about rural development.

Rs. 65,084 crore has been allocated for MGNREGP, SJGSY, IAY and PMGSY. National Drinking Water and Total Sanitation Programme have been allocated with Rs. 10,580 crore. Rainwater Harvesting and Wasteland Development have got Rs. 2,658 crore. I would like to appreciate the Government for this allocation which seeks to transform our villages.

MGNREGP has been received well by the rural population. The American Foreign Secretary referred to the implementation of this programme in India in the G-20 Summit. She has also exalted the other developing countries to follow the measure adopted by India.

In Tamil Nadu, this 100-day job guarantee scheme is being successfully implemented. Even our Supreme Court has commented that other States must emulate the example set by Tamil Nadu in implementing this people-oriented scheme in which Tamil Nadu is way ahead of others.

When our leader Dr. Kalaignar was in power in Tamil Nadu during 1971-76, he created a record that there is no village in Tamil Nadu without electricity. It was he who started in the South free distribution of power for agriculture. Between 1996 and 2001, during his 4th stint as Chief Minister, almost all villages got concrete roads. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been carrying out rural development programmes to ensure integrated growth of rural areas through Anna Marumalarchi Thittam and Namakku Naame Thittam.

In this year, Tamil Nadu Government has taken up a massive scheme of constructing 21 lakh pucca houses replacing thatched hutments. Three lakh such houses will be constructed in the first phase of the programme this year. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to allocate adequate funds as per the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission.

At this juncture, I would like to put forth a demand on behalf the agriculturists and agricultural workers in the

*Not recorded.

**English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

rural areas. In some places, the agriculturists have to walk more than 2 to 3 kilometres to reach their fields carrying on their heads the agricultural implements and inputs. In order to help them move easily their materials like seeds and fertilizers and also to help them move away from the fields the agricultural produce, link roads from the fields may also be contemplated. This will go a long way in helping the farmers expressing our deep concern for them and their well being.

We must also ensure that all the villages get telecommunication link to maintain contact and communication with the outside world.

Our country is competing with both the developed and developing countries. In order to add pace to the growth and to emerge as a power to reckon with, we must provide every village amenities and facilities on par with the towns and urban areas. This will help us to grow as a strong nation.

On behalf of our party, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I would like to thank the Union Government for allocating Rs. 89,340 crore towards rural development. Reiterating my demand to allocate more funds for Tamil Nadu, let me conclude my maiden speech.

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN (Aska): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on behalf of my party BJD.

Rural development is a very vast subject and it covers almost every aspect of life in rural areas and, to some extent, in urban areas also. I was just going through the papers, specially the Reports of the Standing Committee on Rural Development and the Reports are sufficient to indicate that the Ministry is not functioning properly. There has been a lot of budgetary allocation, but it is not spent fully and at the end of the year it is surrendered. So, the Reports of the Standing Committee are quite sufficient and rather it is a warning to the Government to indicate that this Ministry should function properly. This is a Ministry just like a 'monarch of all I survey'. This Ministry must be bifurcated into many smaller departments, according to me, so that the work can be facilitated.

Now, as far as PMGSY is concerned, it is regulated from the Centre. There are checks and balances everywhere, but that is not the case in respect of water supply. So, I request the Minister that some monitoring mechanism must be evolved even in respect of drinking

water supply which is most vital for the life of the rural people. Now, everywhere you see scarcity of drinking water. In my State of Orissa, scarcity of water is so acute that the people of my State sometimes have to travel 10 to 12 kilometres to fetch water and that too dirty water. So, I request that some mechanism must be evolved by the hon. Minister and the Ministry to arrest the drinking water problem. They should monitor it from the Centre so that just like PMGSY, the work will be facilitated and done properly.

I am not going to touch the other aspects, but I would humbly submit that in my State, the PMGY expenditure is more than what is given to the State of Orissa. They have already spent whatever money was allotted to them and apart from that they have spent more from the interest portion of the amount. So, I would request that sufficient funds must be given to my State.

Yesterday, the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa, Mr. Naveen Patnaik, met the hon. Minister and he has also stated this fact that money must flow to Orissa, at least, keeping in view the problem of naxalism sufficient funds must be given to that State so that the road connectivity can be maintained. It would be helpful for maintaining the law and order. I hope the hon. Minister would look into the matter.

Apart from that there are several other schemes, like Mahatma Gandhi Rozgar Yojana and all that. They must be properly monitored because in many cases we see from the district level meetings that the funds are not being properly utilised. I hope the hon. Minister would take necessary corrective steps. I would again request the hon. Minister to do something for improvement of drinking water with a Centrally sponsored scheme or monitoring authority and pipe water supply and tube wells, both, must be taken together very seriously.

*SHRI K. SUGUMAR (Pollachi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of AIADMK, with the guidance of our incomparable leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, let me participate in this discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2010-11. I thank you for giving this opportunity.

As far as I am concerned, I have had enough of experience in the local body administration as the Chairman of Pollachi Panchayat Union and Coimbatore District Panchayat President apart from being Union Council Member.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

India is a country with hundreds of thousands of villages. The growth of the country must be inclusive of the growth of every village. Only when the rural areas develop, the country can really become a developed one.

The Government has allocated Rs. 66,100 crore for rural development. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme gets Rs. 40,100 crore. Another Rs. 48,000 crore has been set apart for Bharat Nirman schemes. Indira Awas Yojana gets Rs. 10,000 crore in this year's Budget.

I would like to recall the golden rule that was there when our leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. It is only during her rule, several Women Self Help Groups were formed creating an awareness among the fairer sex. This was a milestone step that had contributed to women's empowerment. But today, proper guidance is not available to the Women Self Help Groups. There is a great decline and fall.

During the rule of our leader, Rainwater Harvesting was successfully carried out. All the panchayats were also involved due to which several tanks came about, old tanks were desilted and rain water was effectively harnessed increasing the ground water table. But the today's rulers in Tamil Nadu have neglected the need to augment the ground water potential by way of harvesting rain water in a proper manner.

It is more than 60 years now that we have won freedom. Even today, women are not getting adequate sanitation and toilet facilities in our villages. Most of them are still forced to go to the open. When our dynamic leader was there, she wanted to put an end to it and she constructed many public toilets in several places. Even private sector were encouraged to construct toilet complexes. But today, this is being neglected. Such toilet complexes go without water also defeating the very purpose of setting them up to ensure sanitation and indirectly the health of all, especially the women.

MGNREGS has resulted in creating a situation witnessed in villages as problem for it has become very difficult to get agricultural labour. This has affected our agriculture in a big way. In order to protect agriculture and agriculturists, the Government must evolve a scheme to link agricultural activity with jobs that come under MGNREGS. This would help the Government to provide jobs to the needy poor not only for hundred days, but throughout the year.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana needs to be streamlined and even the agricultural land must be extended with road connectivity. This would help the agriculturists to move easily the agricultural produce to the market to get effectively a remunerative price. At this juncture, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for involving the Members of Parliament too in monitoring the schemes under this plan. The Minister may also provide such opportunity to the MPs to monitor other Centrally sponsored schemes like MGNREGS.

Under the Indira Awas Yojana, an allocation of Rs. 45,000 for constructing a pucca dwelling unit is made, but it is not sufficient. It must be enhanced to Rs. One lakh. Only then, the needy poor and the Scheduled Castes will be able to get the benefit. The Government must also ensure that all the needy poor Scheduled Caste people are fully benefited out of this housing scheme. This scheme must be extended to town panchayats also. All the panchayats must have Community Centres, especially to benefit the Scheduled Caste people. Steps must be taken on a war footing in this regard. Even town panchayats must get Community Centres and the Government must act positively in this regard.

Scheduled Tribe people are deprived of voting during panchayat elections even at a time when they have voting rights to cast their vote in Assembly and Parliament elections. Hence I urge upon the Government to ensure that the Scheduled Tribe people get the right to vote in the local body elections.

The three-tier panchayat raj system must be changed and it must be made two-tier as it used to be. The Panchayat Union Chairmen and the Town Panchayat Presidents must be elected directly by the people. The present indirect elections allowing the members of these local administrative bodies to elect the President or the Chairman must be done away with.

When our Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was in power, she had permitted the MLAs to use their Local Area Development Fund to repair and renovate the houses constructed under NREGP and RLEGP. I urge upon the Government to allow and authorize the MPs to utilize the MPLADS fund to allocate for repairing and renovating such housing clusters built under NREGP and RLEGP.

In Tamil Nadu, the funds apportioned for Centrally sponsored schemes are being diverted and spent on fancy schemes like distribution of free colour TV sets and free

distribution of gas stoves. This comes in the way of developmental work. This has been pointed out by the C&AG also.

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): What is wrong if these things are given to all the people? It is for the benefit of the people.

*SHRI K. SUGUMAR: I urge upon the Union Government to monitor effectively and ensure that the Central funds are not diverted and properly spent on developmental work in the rural areas.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, Vigilance and Monitoring Committee meetings chaired by Members of Parliament are not convened every three months. Even after one year, the Committees have not met in many districts. For instance, in Coimbatore District, the Committee has not met even once during the last year. I urge upon the Government to take appropriate steps to ensure that local bodies function effectively.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. JYOTI MIRDHA (Nagaur): Mr. Chairman, rural development is being discussed in the Parliament today. The reason being so important of this topic is that 70 per cent people live in the villages today. When it comes to poverty, it also comes to rural development. The people, who have settled in the cities have also come from the villages and if they have a major chunk of their population in the cities that also belongs to the people of rural areas, there has not been not such trend from time immemorial. There is a report of year 1812, which was presented in the House of commons at the time of Britishers. I would like to quote:

[English]

"A village geographically considered is a tract of country comprising some hundred or thousand acres. Politically viewed, it resembles a corporation or township. Each village had a full complement of officers and civil servants including one boundary man who preserves the limits of the village, or gives evidence respecting them in case of dispute. The superintendent of tanks and watercourses distributes the water for the purpose of agriculture. Under this

simple form of municipal Government, the inhabitants of the country have lived from time immemorial. The boundaries of the village have been but seldom altered and though the villages themselves have been sometimes injured and even desolated by war, famine or disease, the same name, the same limits, the same interests have continued for ages. The inhabitants gave themselves no trouble about the breaking up and divisions of kingdoms."

[Translation]

Our villages used to be typical before the arrival of the Britishers. After their arrival they noticed that nobody was tilling the forest land. They transferred it to the Forest Department. They created a Revenue Department with the uncultivated and pasture land. There must have been some mistake of our leaders after independence that to quote the report in the House after sixty years. I would like to mention the correlation between poverty and environmental degradation which was perhaps sensed by the Late Rajiv Gandhi among our leaders. He was instrumental in making presentation of Late Anil Agarwal, Founder Centre for Science and Environment before 27 Standing Committees so that people particularly our leaders could understand the correlation between environment and poverty. I would like to emphasize on policy matters because on its basis we endeavour to formulate our all policies with regard to rural development. The day one the land holding of the villages has come under the powers of bureaucrats, is being controlled by them but they are not affected by it in any manner. The villagers who are affected by it, are not part of any policy making. You must have known that Warren Buffet, who earned so much money and he used to make investment in his company. He used to talk about two or three guiding principles. One principle was that if someone is running a company and he doesn't have his own stakes in that company, I am not going to buy its shares. Today, we are facing the same state of affairs when villagers have no right over their land so as to answer the queries of any person about their land, environment, its degradation, growth. The policies with regard to rural development are based mainly on two things. We are developing economy and we think about increasing the GDP. We would like to have at least nine percent growth during 11th Five Year Plan and if it continues at the same pace, it will be doubled till the next five year plan. We feel that we will be able to double the growth by assuming it as exclusive growth but per capital GDP will doubled automatically. It means the growth of villager will automatically be doubled

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

whereas is not so. There is main GDP. GDP doesn't have the capacity to assess the progress of the nation. We need to know this because GDP means investment and total consumption, plus export minus import. If you do that, your GDP will come out. This GDP doesn't show depreciation of your assets. A Housewife works at her home from morning to evening. Her services are not accounted for anywhere. The cost with regard to the environment degradation does not reflect thereunder anywhere degradation. If you want to take GDP growth in double digits and if you are asking for an easy solution for this I would like to say that if two or three cyclones play havoc with the country all of a sudden there will be increase in your GDP. If all vehicles are met with accidents in India, there will be increase in your GDP. Today, One of our biggest drawbacks is perhaps assessing growth in terms of GDP.

[English]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): It is a very good point. One Tsunami will hit the GDP. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no need for your interpretation. Please sit down. You can speak when you get a chance.

[Translation]

DR. JYOTI MIRDHA: Andaman is facing the same problem. Several Members have mentioned before I speak that there has been intermittent mention of BPL. There is a saying in English "what is not measured is not managed." Perhaps, we are not assessing our poverty properly, second issue is that how we look at BPL. Meeting is still going on and we want to incorporate certain things in the new definition of BPL. All the schemes are formulated on its basis through revers calculation that 650 gm foodgrains being received by a person and 2400 calories being taken by a rural man are adequate for his requirement. You are incorporating remaining items in BPL. But in why view, suggestions of Tendulkar Committee could be incorporated by implementing the said Committee report. I would like to suggest that this time the definition of poverty should be defined in a way that such drawbacks don't reoccur so that basis of our schemes don't prove to be wrong.

Sir, keep on pressing accelerator and keep on increasing the growth and this is the simple meaning of

GDP. In today's time, if environment degrades, it doesn't matter because environment comes along free and it cost nothing. Nobody cares for a thing which is available without any price. Today, you will have to assess the cost of environment, people have to pay from their pocket and they will feel hurt, only then an environment friendly or green technology will come into the scene. My submission and suggestion is that GPI Index should be included in place of GDP while formulating a policy. Now it comes to the point how different is GPI whereas there may be some other indices which consideration would be made. This is not enough to say that growth should be assessed in terms of GDP. We will increase GDP at the rate of nine percent and increase the agriculture growth percent in 11th plan. Why is this disparity four percent is achievable and there is nine percent GDP growth in realistic term? We may not be able to achieve growth. If we consider GPI, the figures of year 1990 to 2003 are unde and per capita GDP increase around 3.9%. If you calculate this in terms of GPI. You will find that only 1.2 percent growth has taken place, which appears more realistic. We all know that economy infrastructure of the US is collapsing today. If you look at their GDP, you will find that it is constantly growing. Per Capita Income is increasing from 17000 dollars to 30,000 dollars. You say economic infrastructure is collapsing and this reflects in GPI, which has actively decreased. Canada is a developed country and we can learn from it. The legislation is enacted on the basis of main index of GPI by that country and policy making in their Parliament is based on GPI index.

Sir, I would not quote unnecessary figures here. Many Members have already spoken about the schemes and Hon. Minister knows better than me. As NAREGA is a scheme which has potential and it is flagship programme, I would like to give two suggestions in regard to this scheme. As has potential and if it moves towards right direction it can bring such progress in India which has not been possible by any other scheme till date in regard to rural development of India. It can build assets and bring development in the country. I would like to request that it should focus on making 70 percent population of villages productive. Until their productivity is not increased they will remain drags on our economy and till then we could never become super power. At present a scheme of rupees 40,000 crore is being implemented and it is backed by law but you want to implement it with contractual staff. You have Watershed Department, Waste and Management Department in rural development and

their work is closely related to the guidelines of NAREGA. The Government can merge these departments in NAREGA to provide proper manpower to it. You are also spending large amount on training of contractual staff, if it is dedicated and regular staff then activities of NAREGA would be properly monitored.

Sir, I do not agree with definition of household in NREGA. It says

[English]

“Household means the members of a family related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption and normally residing together and sharing meals or holding a common ration card.”

[Translation]

It means that if a person has four children and a common kitchen and his children want a separate job card then they would have to disintegrate and live in a nuclear family to get that Job card. It is against our culture. I would request the hon. Minister to change the guidelines of NREGA though it can increase its burden but there is difference in actual burden and burden on paper. With this, we will be able to give its benefit to each and every person legitimately. We want that every family should get employment guarantee for hundred days and get rupees hundred daily. In this way, a family would get rupees 10 thousand in a year *i.e.* rupees 833 per month and if it would be divided among a family of five members, each person would get Rs. 166. But, if we will divide it in a family of 10 members, then its benefit would not need the actual needy persons to whom you are issuing job cards.

With these works, I conclude and thank you to give me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

*SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): While participating in the debate on Demand for Grants under the control of Rural Development Ministry I am to make few some points.

70% of the population resides in rural India but it is revealed that budgetary allocation in rural is meager not even 2% of the GDP. Moreover, released funding remains unspent. It is noticed that out of last fiscal allocation Rs. 258127 Crore remains unspent.

What is the character of allocation? It is found that non-plan expenditure is increasing, not only that in RE non-plan got further enhanced.

Vital Sector of Rural India is drinking water supply and rural sanitation as well. This sector has not received adequate allocation as demanded by the nodal department. The situation is such that 16% of the household do not have access to safe and clean drinking water. Only 12% are getting piped water supply. Sanitation coverage is only 63%. How 100% sanitation target be achieved by 2012 on given public assurance? Out of 13.56 lakh Anganbadi Kendra, 1.23 lakh still do not have toilets.

About habitation? It is revealed that there is huge back log in every year. But amazing to see that all allocated fund have been utilized as reported. So question of transparency is involved.

‘NREGA’ programme is a great remarkable achievement during UPA I regime. By three phases it has been extended across the country to every rural district. But during UPA II regime the allocation is getting reduced in terms of percentage?

Land reforms programme is almost ignored. Barring West Bengal, Kerala, Tripura this has not been carried out. How the Rural Development would make progress without carrying out Land Reforms.

Irrigation almost comes to a standstill. Under Bharat Nirman AIBP no remarkable progress is made. While 60% cultivable land is rain fed. So I express my serious concern in this matter. Whatever is said by the Government is nothing but rhetoric. With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAJAN SUSHANT (Kangra): Respectable Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you that you have given me opportunity to express my views on this important subject. A great leader of this great country respectable Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee used to say-one has to dream big to accomplish any great task. I think when struggle for the independence of the country was going on, it was not that the entire country took part in it. A few freedom fighters, whether they were moderates or extremists, had a great dream and they never hesitated to fight for it, even the fear of gallows didn't deter them. Our country became independent after a great deal of

struggle. All the governments and all the leaders of the country had great dreams for the country. Only yesterday our Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji advised the officers to work for development to halt the spread of naxalism. He exhorted the administrative officers to make efforts in such a way so that the common man benefits from development schemes of the Government. He also added that naxalism has spread only in those areas which lack in development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the hon. MPs had expressed their views in the context of the big tragedy of Dantewada. They had said that people take to guns only when the light of development doesn't reach the hilly and tribal areas and certain forces raise their heads to feed the hungry stomachs and fight for the cause of development and at times these forces become tools in the hands of evil forces. I would like to say that we are discussing about Ministry of Rural Development. We are making provision of rupees forty thousand crores for MNREGA. Thousands of crores of rupees are being given for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and thousands of crores of rupees are being provided for Swarn Jayanti Rojgar Yojana. I think that the budget provisions made for these schemes are more than sufficient. But the question is whether the great dreams of the Finance Minister and Rural Development Minister are really taking shape on the land of 120 crore people of Hindustan or not. Whether these schemes are being implemented or not. I have been elected for the Parliament for the first time. Hon. Virbhadra Singh Ji is present in this House. He had been the Chief Minister of our state for five years. I have a lot of respect for him. I was also an MLA there in 1982. I was elected as MLA at the young age of 26 years by the people. I also served as a Minister there. I want to share with you which I have seen here and which I like very much about this Parliament. Here, parochialism is very limited and mostly people are large hearted. We do not have to face with politics here at every step. But I want to draw the attention of all the hon. MPs towards one issue. When I came to know that Monitoring and Vigilance Committees have been constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development in each district for the implementation of these schemes and the elected Members of Parliament have been made Chairman of these Committees for the proper implementation of these schemes, I became very happy and I saw the guidelines and discussed about it with our hon. MPs.

It is not me who said this but presently it has been felt if there are governments of different parties, the situation of conflict will be arising within the Union Government as well as the state governments. Today, this relations are cordial even within the Legislative as well as the Executive. This morning I visited the Minister of Rural Development also. Now the time has come when we should think above the politics as to what direction we wish to take the country. If the Member of Parliament an ornamental entity who is elected once to visit the people after five years? Presently Budget of lakhs of crores rupees are passed in this very Parliament and the same are released to the states, but today what is the status of our hon. MPs in the states? When MPs meet ministers, all the Ministers advise them to go in their constituencies check the schemes over there. They say that they are giving huge amount to power sector under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana, so check it. They are giving large amount under MNREGA, so, you check it. They are releasing so much funds under PMGSY, so, you check it. What is the situation over there, today I wish to warn this House with all seriousness that if we do not wake up to this situation then there will be no interest left towards this, as the importance of member of Parliament is diminishing day by day. My request is that all the state governments should be instructed strictly to follow the guidelines you have framed either for MNREGA or PMGSY or any other schemes and if you have appointed MPs as a chairman of monitoring committee for all these schemes, then, you should also ensure that these should be formulated and implemented by non else but MPs. At the same time, I would also like to give you a suggestion that the ceiling of population should be reduced from 250 to 100 in hilly areas for covering the same under PMGSY. Additional grant should be awarded in phase-I. Rural roads should also be covered therein for their upgradation. Roads should also be constructed there where there is forest land and where land is being given on lease. For this identification of BPL families should be made afresh. MPLAD funds should be increased from Rs. 2,00,00,000/ to Rs. 10,00,00,00 at least. At the same time final approval of the centrally sponsored schemes should not be accorded without the consent of the MPs. As Dr. Danjay Singh already stated, you should fix a quota for setting up at least one thousand hand pumps for the MP. At the same time, I would request you that while identifying BPL families on the basis of which we provide old-age pension, the age for such pension should be reduced from 65 to 60 years and the condition of 65 years age for widow

should also be detected. The rules of family income as well as the lands' income prescribed for the same should also be removed. At the same time, I would like to say that six hundred crore mandays have been crated as on date by spending seventy thousand crores of rupees under MNREGA during the last four years, but the report of planning commission submitted and the statement made by the hon. Chairman Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia in this regard are very disappointing. He has said that even less than 50% work are being completed. We take over work in hand, but it is not getting completed. Last year only 39 per cent work was completed. How ill the work get completed? You instruct the poor people of the village to construct a check dam thee, they make a Kutchha dam there, but it gets washed away in the rain. That in technical work. That is why my suggestion is that there should be one year diploma course for the works of MNREGA and all the state Governments should provide the facility of such course either through the private sector institutes or universities or through the government universities; so that they should have their own in this regard. At the same time, for land dwelling, I wish that drip irrigation should be covered there under, rural electrification should also be covered therein. Wages should be increased from Rs. 100 to 150 under this scheme because inflation is very high. Mandays should also be increased from 100 to 150 in a year. At the same time I have one suggestion that the funds for Indira Awas Yojana should be enhanced from Rs. 50,000 to at least Rs. 1,50,0001 as it is sufficient for the said scheme as on date. The Union Government should provide Rs. 50,0001, state government Rs. 50,000 and rest Rs. 50,000 be provided as loan at two percent interest rate to the beneficiaries. They should be given land on lease either by the State Government or the Union Government by purchasing the same and there should also be an arrangement for developing colonies for them. I am very thankful for you for giving me an opportunity to put forth my views.

SHRI RAMESH RATHOD (Adilabad): Mister Chairman, I extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on demands of Rural Development Ministry. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana that has been launched in Inida is a commendable scheme. But, there are number of villages having 100 to 150 population in tribal areas as well as area dominated by downtrodden. In these villages construction of roads has not been started till date and the areas where the work was carried out from pyhase-I to Phase-8 under the said scheme is sub-standard. A few months back there was not any road

but now a road has appeared there. The road work under taken under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was simply done by filling land only and no metal was used therein and no bitumen road was constructed. Five years agreement was signed for maintenance of these roads but no maintenance was made even for five days. Hon. Minister should pay attention towards it. I also demand the Government to undertake scheme even of those villages which are having population of 100-150 persons in tribal areas in coming days.

Sir, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is the best scheme as on date the Government of has done commendable work by launching this scheme. The benefits of this scheme are percolating to the bottom to poors directly from Delhi. When the work of issuing job cards was started under the scheme, job cards were issued to undelivered children, children attending school and those who were no more alive. Those who do not do any work they get their daily wages but those who really do work they do not get their wages months. It has a law under which there is a provision of fund allocations *i.e.* 75% allocation from Gram Panchayat, 15% from district and 10% from district council. In our Andhra Pradesh the amount of Rs. 6000 crore was sanctioned, out of which Rs. 4000 crore were spent. With this fund road works wee undertaken in the ratio of 40:60 *i.e.* 60% for albour component and 40% for metal component. But presently no work is being carried out for making roads where as 90 per cent fund was allocated for the the money is being sighted out by completing formalities of mentioning muster roll only. I had requested the Chief Minister to pay attention towards the corruption. He sent Chief Vigilance Officer there. There are 400 diversions in our country and when the enquiry officer conducted enquiry is one division he found there scam of Rs. 3 crores out of the work done worth Rs. 5 crores. This money was pocketed by field officers and by the local leaders they are usurping 60-70 per cent money but to tell out any and not leaving any asight out it. The Hon. Minister should pay attention towards it as how this money will be managed. Presently salary of field assistants, technical assistants and postmasters in villages is roughly Rs. 2000 per month but they have luxurious cars to travel with the ministers and politicians. Not only this, in the provision of funds meant for the poor, water conservation programme for augmenting water table has not been covered, the Government has been unable to take a decision to spend a single rupee for drinking water.

Rs. 40 thousand crore is being spent on drinking water, if even 10 per cent of this amount is spent in that area the drinking water problem over there could be solved. Not that I am stating this, it is the Government audit report which states that there has been as much as 60 per cent corruption therein. The areqis in the grip of drought since last year. The wells have dried up. Drinking water is scarce over there. This reported by the newspapers everyday. Particularly the tribal and dalit areas have been facing acute shortage of drinking water. 52 divisions of Andhra Pradesh have been declared drought affected in Nov.-Dec.; however, not a single rupee has been given till date to tackle it. Due to the drought, availability of fodder and water for the cattle is getting scare. Due to it, the cattle are dying. But the Government is sitting idle. I urge the Hon'ble Minister to pay attention in this regard as it is his responsibility as well. The Government needs to make efforts to ensure that the poor get the funds pertaining to the schemes that have been formulated to give them benefit directly. There has been much price-rise as of now and salt selling at Rs. 2 per kg has become of Rs. 10 per kg, the price of oil has gone up from Rs. 20 per kg to Rs. 60 per kg, sugar-price has gone up from Rs. 12 per kg. to 40 per kg however, the labourer under the MNREGA is being paid only Rs. 100. As Such, I demand that this amount should be raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 250. The Government has made the local MP the Chairman of the vigilance and monitoring committee of the district panchayats, however, the works sanctioned by the local MLA remain unknown to the Sarpanch, Taluk and District Council. Recently, Rs. 1600 crore had been sanctioned out of which Rs. 400 crore had been given to my district. However, no one had knowledge about it. The Congress workers and officials are together cornering all the works being assigned in this regard. For that purpose powers should be given to the vigilance and monitoring committee to take a decision in regard to such works. The funds being spent on a particular item must be to the benefit of the people. I hope that the Government would take firm steps to make available drinking water for the tribal and the dalit people and fodder for the cattle. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on a subject like the department of rural development. If India has to be developed, development of villages is necessary and the Rural Development Ministry alone can execute this responsibility of developing villages. The Department of Rural

Development, the Department of Drinking water and the Department of Land Resources are executing important functions. A country can move forward only when its land is properly conserved. I would like to urge the Hon'ble Minister that the Department of Land Resources may properly carry out the integrated watershed management.

16.00 hrs.

I want to speak out a few words about drinking water. When will the people of the villages in the country get drinking water which means pure drinking water having quality. There is contaminated water in many areas of Bihar. Instead of talking about the quantity of water available, I am talking about its quality because ss in such areas where only contaminated water is available, hand-crippled, lame, handicapped and lepers have been taking birth. The common man is compelled to spend his life drinking such water.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the Hon'ble Minister that pure drinking water may be made available to at least those places where the people are forced to drink poisonous water. Thereafter, I would talk about other things. There are four important segments of the Department of Rural Development - Indira Awas Yojna, MNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana and Swarna Jayanti Swarojgar Yojana. These are its important functions. First of all, I would like to talk about the Indira Awas Yojna.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that minimum nutrition is required for a person for survival and good health. Does the living standard not impact the health of a person? Before moving forward on the Indira Awas Yojna, the basic point that should be considered is as to what is the minimum space required for a family. We are not constructing dwelling units but rooms in the country in which the whole family is expected to live in. The room will consist of the kitchen, toilet and the whole viz. sons, daughters and daughters-in-law will have to stay in that single room. The family cannot remain healthy in such a condition. Therefore, the Department of Rural Development may consult with the Department of Health to ascertain about the minimum space required for a family of five at the national level and if the Government will not be able to provide that minimum space, the scheme for Bharat Nirman will remain a day dream. All these schemes are related to Bharat Nirman. If such congested rooms are continued to be constructed and

the families are forced to remain in such conditions, the consequences will be horrible. The Indira Awas rooms are turning out to be the graveyards for these families. In this regard, once the Government decides about the minimum space, the minimum cost involved will also be discussed about.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say something about the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana also. We all have been made the Chairman of the vigilance and monitoring committee in the district. I observe that the condition is quite complicated. I am not talking about the quality of roads at present as a three tier quality control is in place. I can say that none of these three tiers is working. The Government has got a quality control institute at the national level, but has its quality control even looked into by the Government and whether the State Governments are complying with its directions to any extent. I would like to further contend that whenever the question of providing required funds for the schemes in Bihar has been raised, the Hon'ble Minister responded strongly that funds are not being given to Bihar as work is not being carried out properly and expeditiously over there. I am ready to believe that the Chief Minister of the State might have tried to make this national scheme his own leading to some heart burn to the Union Government; however, the Government should also keep in mind that while it had sanctioned 35,900 kms of roads, the agency of Bihar Government is only constructing roads of 17 thousand kms.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our central institutions and agencies are constructing 19 thousand kms of roads for which the Union Government has sanctioned schemes of Rs. 16512 crore, but only approximately 4 thousand crore has been given so far to Bihar. In this way, schemes to the tune of Rs. 12 thousand crore are pending. These schemes are lying pending not because the work is going on slowly over there, but because funds are not being received from the Union Government to get them completed. In a general way, I would like to tell that after 31st March, an amount of Rs. 1 thousand crore meant for the schemes of Bihar was lying with the Department of the Union Government.

Sir, I am talking about the Buxar district where of monitoring, I am the Chairman of the vigilance and monitoring committee having been entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring. When I looked into the accounts of the NPCC over there, I found that Rs. 83 crore has been spent there in one year and the Union

Government has given only Rs. 23 crore. In this way, about Rs. 60 crore is still outstanding. The Union Government did not give a single paisa in April, how the schemes over there will remain operational? Therefore, I would like to submit that just saying that the schemes are not being properly run in Bihar or that the Bihar Government has not spent the funds will not be meaningful, as the truth is that the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana cannot be run across the country simply with an expenditure of Rs. 12 thousand crore. More than 7 lakh kms of roads have to be constructed in total and not even 40 per cent of the same has been completed so far. I would like to submit that an expenditure of Rs. 12 thousand crore per annum only will not serve the purpose. Only Rs. 12 thousand crore has been spent in this regard this year so far and 10 years have already elapsed since the inception of this scheme. This scheme had been launched in the year 2001 and now the financial year 2009-10 is already over. In total, Rs. 12 thousand crore per year is being spent. I would like to urge upon the Union Government to properly look into it as the rural areas of the entire country was supposed to be given connectivity under this scheme by the year 2009-10. Now, they have extended it till 2012. It has been the dream of the Government to give road connectivity to all the rural areas of the country by the year 2012; however, I would like to state that even if the Government spends Rs. 50 thousand crore, it will not be possible to do the same by the year 2012. If the Government intends to provide road connectivity to the rural areas of the entire country within five years, for that also it will have to spend Rs. 25 thousand crore per year under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to put across few points on the NREGA and draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to urge him to ensure that the funds for NREGA be released on time. 30 per cent funds are given to the states in February and March. If 30 per cent funds are given to the states by the Union Government in February and March, it will not serve the purpose as the law says that the state with an opening balance of more than 10 per cent will not be given the first instalment of the next year. When 30 per cent funds are given in February and March, it will be natural that after 31st March, the opening balance will be 30 per cent instead of 10 per cent. As such, the Union Government will not provide any funds till October and November and then if expenditure does not remain upto the mark in December, the funds earmarked are to be curtailed. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge the Hon'ble

Minister that methods of curtailing the resources for the schemes should not be explored. The funds are meant for the poor to give them employment. Opportunities to provide them employment may not be curtailed in this manner. I would like to put forth one point in the House that if we keep in view the population and the families asking for employment, even the provision of 100 days of employment will entail an expenditure of Rs. 1 lakh crore. Only 52 days of employment has been given this year on which Rs. 40 thousand crore has been spent. If 100 days of employment is to be ensured, Rs. 1 lakh crore per year will be required for the entire population. Where is that money? How are they giving employment guarantee the people? It is a matter of showing dreams and fulfilling them. Equipped with constitutional and legal rights, the Union Government presented a wrong image of the future of this country before the public by showing a dream of employment which it could fulfill only by one-third, on account of which the poor of our villages are becoming naxalites. The villages are moving towards extremism. Bullets will not be able to counter naxalism and extremism. The Government should provide funds and make available employment to the people. On this earth, no child of a mother is born as an extremist, but the scourge of the society turns him into an extremist. Let them have employment. Let the villages be developed. If the village will develop, the country will develop and extremism will no longer remain.

Sir, I conclude my speech thanking you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, there are 30 more speakers left. Please restrict your speech to five minutes each.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Deptt. of Rural Development. Besides, you have a fixed time-limit in respect of making speech, which is necessary and you have asked to conclude speech within five minutes. I shall not be able to complete my point within five minutes. And if I do so, it would mean an injustice to myself as well as to the Hon'ble Minister of the Rural Development. Revolutionary steps and measures are being taken by this Deptt. for the betterment of the people

living in villages. Such are our Government's achievements and activities. I shall not be able to count all the things, so I limit myself here. I would like to bring 2-3 points to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister.

Here, the issue of the PMGSY came up for discussion. Under the PMGSY, there has been a lot of improvement in the connectivity. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Minister and our Government that a lot of works are being carried out under the PMGSY in Jammu-Kashmir which is a hilly state to which I too belong. There is a need to pay attention towards 2-3 drawbacks that I have observed therein.

On the one hand, our state Jammu-Kashmir is a militancy-affected one. There is militancy. If an amount of rupees ten crores, eight crores or five crores is earmarked to be incurred in connection with construction of roads anywhere there, then, the question arises as to who would be the contractor to carry out the construction work, since the Central Government, especially the Deptt. of Rural Development, lay down the conditions which a number of local contractors there fail to qualify. I think there is a need to relax those conditions. When Shri. Raghuvansh Prasad Ji was the Minister of this Deptt., the Central Government and this Deptt. relaxed those conditions, especially in respect of our militancy-affected State Jammu-Kashmir. It has benefited to some extent. It is also said that the funds earmarked are not incurred. Its reason is. that not many people come forward to take part in tender process. The outsiders also do not go there for the fear of militancy, whereas the locals fail to qualify. It is a major obstacle in the way of progress. Also, the tender amount happens to be very high, therefore, I would like the Hon'ble Minister to first of all go for it, because Article 370 is also in force there. The laws applicable across the country are not applicable there. Therefore, they may make such provisions in their Deptt. and get us rid of it. Such is also the wish of Central Government as well as the wish of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Ji and the UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi Ji. This is the wish of our Hon'ble Minister Shri C.P. Joshi Ji that the development of the State of Jammu-Kashmir may take place at a higher pace.

Secondly, many of my Hon'ble colleagues here talk of the BPL. It is this Deptt. that conducts the surveys in this regard. I mean Deptt. of Rural Development conducts the surveys. Their BLWs conduct the surveys. What conditions have been laid down by them. Which people

are covered thereunder and which are not. But in this case also, the policy of like and dislike is adopted due to which the poor people remain deprived. The poor do not get its advantages, since not only the name would figure in the BPL list, but the person so listed be entitled to get accommodation and credit facility. He gets other facilities also. I think in case of the poorest of the poor to whom the BLWs don't reach, the BLWs visit the home of Sarpanch, sit there and seek information about others. It is, today, a common complaint across the country and the State of Jammu-Kashmir is also not an exception to it. The entire Jammu region is a hilly as well as backward area along the border. I think the officials don't like to visit far-flung areas. They don't visit such areas and therefore are not aware as to whose house is a 'kutcha' house and who live in slum and hovels. They prepare lists while sitting in the Centre, due to which a lot of people have been left out. On the one hand, we are providing so many concessions, relaxations, facilities to our country's poor people and framing plans and programmes for them, while on the other, they could be seen listening to radio in far-flung hilly areas since the facility of T.V. is not available everywhere. In such a situation, the question of availability of newspaper there does not even arise. When they come to know the news on radio that the Government of India has formulated a specific programme for the poor countrymen, they get disappointed. They say they had heard the programme but the advantages of that did not reach them due to lack of connectivity. BDOs can't make easy visits it takes 2-3 days for them to do so. Hon'ble Minister, Sir, you should not depend only on the Deptt. of Rural Development, we are conducting the census and in this process we have engaged employees from each and every Deptt. Similarly, they may seek help from education Deptt. or any other Deptt. but they should involve their Deptt.'s employees also in this process. Once again, surveys should be conducted afresh across the country so that those poor people who have till date been deprived of the facilities, may also get justice. By doing so, the wish of our Government as well as the needs of people would be fulfilled.

I would like to congratulate our Government and Hon'ble Minister as well, as they have increased the rate of wage from rupees 70-80 to rupees 100 last time. But, I think even rupees 100 is a very less amount. It can't be increased altogether. Just now, our colleague was saying that it should be increased to rupees 250. But I would like to say that rupees 150 is a justifiable amount.

We changed the name of the scheme called 'NREGA' and later named it after Mahatma Gandhi. With a wage of rupees 70, this programme of yours was not in operation well. Nobody liked to work ... (*Interruptions*) The wage was increased and as a result, people have started to work under the scheme. People are not only working, but earning their livelihood also. I would like the Hon'ble Minister to announce it in his reply. The rate of wage should be fixed at a minimum of rupees 150 from the coming year itself. I think, by doing so, the poor would get a big relief. All this would lead to development, infrastructure growth and provision of employment to the people.

I had several things to say but I could not. I wanted to mention a lot of good things done by our Government, Deptt. of Rural Development and the Hon'ble Minister who is well-experienced and down-to-earth. But, all of these things could not be mentioned and just remained with me since you did not give me the permission. Next time, at the time of presentation of the General Budget, I would mention all these things.

[English]

*SHRI P. LINGAM (Tenkasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2010-11.

The N.C. Saxena Committee which went into the identification of BPL families in the country, after having analyzed the rural poverty, has stated that more than 50 per cent of our poor are in the rural areas and hence our villages remain backward still. There are 6½ lakhs of villages in our country and majority of the people in our villages live in utter poverty. But only 66,137 crores of rupees have been set apart for rural development which is inadequate and insufficient an allocation to improve the lot of the villages and remove backwardness. About Rs. 40,000 crore has been taken away from that allocation for implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Here I would like to point out that only Rs. 26,000 crore is available for improving the infrastructure facilities in the villages, providing for the rural economic growth. This is much less an allocation considering the huge budget we handle. This is like a drop in the ocean.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

The Government must wake up to the reality that the basic infrastructural facilities are not there in many of our villages and hamlets especially in remote areas. Road connectivity is not there. Sanitation facilities and toilets are not there for our rural women. If this need is not met and if it is ignored further, there will be a negative growth in our rural areas taking us further back.

Our economic measures and planning and its benefits must go to the rural poor also. I would like to point out that the fund allocation for constructing pucca houses to the rural poor is much less than the value of the land on which those houses will be constructed. This will only deprive the rural poor as they may not come forward to construct such houses at such a low cost with which no facility can be ensured. I urge upon the Government to enhance the allocation per dwelling unit to Rs. 1½ lakh.

I would like to point out that the allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is less as compared to the need. Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up to oversee the implementation of rural development schemes as per the direction of the Union Rural Development Ministry. In Tamil Nadu, only the Ministers and Ruling Party MLAs have been included in such Committees. Every Minister and ruling party MPs can be seen as Chairman of more than two or three committees each, one and the same time. However, no MP from the Opposition party is made as Chairman of such Committee. Public representatives from the Opposition parties have been ignored and neglected in such committees.

Since the allocation for the enhancement of rural infrastructure has been cut down due to the diversion of it to MGNREGS, there is an urgent need for the Government to enhance the MPLADS fund so that MPs may be authorized to spend from their funds towards rural infrastructure. As such, the fund at the disposal of an MP is much less than such a fund available to MLAs in the States. This poses a big problem to Members of Parliament whenever they visit rural areas, because they are not able to contribute to the rural infrastructure works in a big way. The MPLADS fund available to every MP is very meagre considering the demand from the rural masses. We are not in a position to visit rural areas because of the criticism and the wrath we earn due to our inability to allocate funds for rural infrastructure development works. I urge upon the Government to authorize MPs and allocate adequate funds enhancing the funds at the disposal of the MPs.

Rural life is entirely dependent on nature and hence the Government must not ignore hunger and death as natural things. We must strive to help the rural people to improve their living standards ensuring manageable livelihood for which the fund allocations should be more.

When their lives become miserable, the people in the rural areas, driven to their wit's end, flee towards urban areas as migrant labour. Do they get what they want is a million dollar question. There also, they meet with disappointment. They have to live in pathetic and unhygienic conditions as urban poor. Their status do not improve much. Yesterday, I had been to Jangpura in South Delhi where hundreds of people have lost their houses due to demolition drive undertaken by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi in order to beautify Delhi for the Commonwealth Games. They continue to be there with whatever belongings they could retrieve and stay in the open with sky as their roof. I learnt from those hapless people that they have been living there for more than 30 years ever after their coming to this Capital City as migrant people from Tamil Nadu and many other States. It is a pitiable scene to see the aged, the women and children find themselves thrown to the dust. I was very much saddened to find the plight of the migrant labour class from the rural areas who could not get justice in both the places, the place of their origin and the destination they have moved in. Even wild animals do have sanctuaries. But our rural poor are thrown to the winds. It is condemnable that no viable alternative arrangements have been made.

Reiterating the need to allocate more funds for rural development, while pointing out that whatever that has been allocated is inadequate and meagre, let me conclude my speech expressing my displeasure with the budgetary allocation for rural development this year. I strongly oppose this year's Budget.

*SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA (Ferozpur): Madam Chairperson, I am grateful to you that you have given me the opportunity to speak on Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Rural Development (2010-11).

Madam, almost 63 years have passed since we attained Independence. However, we have not been able to provide basic facilities to the teeming millions residing in the rural areas. The people are suffering. Who is responsible for the miserable plight of the people residing

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

in villages? Why did successive Governments fail to address this important issue? Surely, the leadership has miserably failed to provide basic facilities to the rural people or to improve the infrastructure in the rural areas. The Congress party has been at the helm of affairs for the maximum number of years at the centre. It cannot shirk its responsibility.

Over the years, things have come to such a pass that the poor have become poorer and the rich have become filthy rich. A handful of people have reaped all the benefits of progress and development. We claim that ours is a great country and we have come a long way since we attained independence. However, the fact of the matter is that hardly 5% to 10% people have reaped all the benefits over the years.

The poor people of the country are bereft of two square meals a day. They are finding it difficult to make both ends meet. Education has remained a distant dream for the rural masses. Housing facilities and medical assistance are non-existent in the rural areas. Surely, over the years, our leadership has failed us. Our priorities have been skewed and our development has been lopsided.

Schemes like NREGA and Indira Awas Yojna are being spoken of as flagship schemes. But their implementation has not been up to the mark. Unemployment is on the rise. Prices of essential commodities have sky-rocketed. Inflation is increasing by leaps and bounds. Corruption is rampant. The attitude of the Central Government leaves much to be desired. Opposition-ruled states have often been discriminated against by the centre as far as providing assistance, relief and succour is concerned.

Punjab is often considered the granary or the food-bowl of India. It contributes over 60% food grains to the Central Pool. However, central assistance is denied to Punjab on one pretext or another. The irrigation – canal system in Punjab is in shambles. Had it been renovated, I am convinced, there would have been no need for India to import food-grains.

The “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana” was launched by the centre with much fanfare. Road-connectivity is being provided to habitations with population of at least 1000 or 500 people. However, there are hundreds of habitations where only 100, 200, or 250 people reside. They have not been brought under the

purview of this scheme. These habitations should also be provided road- connectivity.

Power—outages are frequent in rural areas. In Punjab, there are power-cuts for 19 hours at a stretch. The electricity – scenario is dismal. It is the duty of the Central Government to meet the power related demands of Punjab. The paddy season has set in. Farmers need to run tube-wells for irrigating their fields. The irrigation - canal system needs to be renovated at the earliest.

There are several schemes that are hanging fire. They have been left mid-way. There are at least 200 to 250 over-bridges in the process of completion for years. They fall under the domain of the Railway Ministry. The Punjab Government has already done its share of work. This work should be expedited and completed at the earliest.

There have been discrepancies in the BPL Card System. Genuine people have been ignored whereas undeserving people have reaped the benefits. A fresh survey should be conducted and all discrepancies should be removed.

The industrial scenario in Punjab is dismal. Most of the industries of Punjab have shifted to neighbouring states. Incentives have been provided to our neighbouring states whereas we have been denied all such facilities. Step-motherly treatment has been meted out to Punjab. Punjab should not be discriminated against.

I hail from an area that is near the Indo-Pak border. The roads in our areas are full of pot- holes. There roads should be repaired at the earliest.

The rural masses are suffering. The education and health sector in the rural areas of Punjab needs upliftment. The Central Government must provide relief and succour to the rural- poor. This is the need of the hour. Thank you.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it gives me immense pleasure in speaking a few words about Rural Development.

At the very outset, I am extremely glad to note that the Government of India has been implementing various employment generation programmes such as the Swarnajayanti Gram Rozgar Yojana (SGSY), PMGSY, IAY, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, the DRDA, PURA, NIRD, CAPART and other Rural

Development Programmes. The Budget allocation this year, 2010-11, is Rs. 66,100 crore for rural development. This shows the commitment of the UPA to the rural poor, that is, the Aam Aadmi.

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is renamed as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. The prefix is very fitting and proper inasmuch as Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation, was the real architect of our rural employment programmes. It is Gandhi ji who visualized "Gram Swaraj". He said that India lives in her villages. Village self-sufficiency and village self-reliance were his twin cherished dreams through which he visualized "Ram Rajya, that is, the concept of an ideal nation. When we hear the prefix of this Act, memories crowd in upon our minds about our greater leader, the apostle of peace, non-violence and Ahimsa, Mahatma Gandhi. That is why, I am of the opinion that the prefix of this Act is very apt and appropriate. Gandhi ji stood for the rural poor, their employment and for their empowerment. I make use of this opportunity to thank our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh ji and the hon. UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia ji who are responsible for rechristening this Act as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act aims to achieve the twin objectives of rural development and employment. This Act has achieved unprecedented success all over the country. In Independent India's history, no other employment guarantee Act has managed to create such a buzz as the MGNREGA. After returning to power for the second time in a row, the UPA Government is leaving no stone unturned to make all these schemes a grand success.

In the scheme of things of the present Government, the MGNREGA occupies the prime position. In fact, this revolutionary idea has become the flagship programme of the UPA Government which is monitoring and implementing the scheme with renewed verve and vigour. This scheme has energized, mobilized and empowered the most marginalized sections of the rural poor people of the country. It is the first national programme of consequence which merges transparency and accountability in the daily interaction of the common man with the Government.

The annual growth in our work opportunities increased from 4 million *per annum* in the first period to 9.3 million

per annum in the second period. The MGNREGA is acting as a catalyst in increasing the employment growth rate. It has shown tangible results on a massive scale in this regard. By providing hundred days guaranteed wage employment for all adult employment seekers in the rural areas in a financial year, this Act has triggered a silent revolution altering the socio-economic status of the rural villages for good. Independent India has to acknowledge the critical role the MGNREGA has played in providing a measure of inclusive growth. It has even managed to almost put a stop to the mass migration of people belonging to rural areas to the metro cities. As the MGNREGA is used as a supplementary income source during non-agricultural seasons, farmers in rural areas found it very much beneficial.

The Government's decision to provide insurance coverage to the MGNREGA is a notable, welcome step. I congratulate the hon. Minister in this regard.

While participating in the discussion, the hon. Member from the other side Shri Gopinath Munde was asking: Is it an Aam Aadmi Programme? Hon. Member Shri Gopinath Munde, with all respect, I am challenging you. Are you ready to go and ask this question in your village?

Tens of thousands of people of rural villages of our country is considering this as the real *Aam Aadmi* programme, but you people are not agreeing. Why? It is because of your blind politics.

Sir, the implementation of PMGSY in our State is facing some difficulties. The parameters are not adequate to meet the geographical conditions of our State. The PMGSY grading formula is not in a position to implement the work. In Kerala, there is no proper supervision of this scheme. Surprisingly, almost all engineers are withdrawn by the State Government at the fag end of the financial year. I would request the hon. Minister to intervene in the matter and sort out such problems for proper implementation of PMGSY. I would submit that a high level meeting is needed for this purpose. The progress of the work under PMGSY is very slow in Kerala and the expenditure is below 50 per cent of the allocation. So I would request the Government to change the guideline and adopt a new guideline for Kerala.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for Rural Development to give strict instructions to the State Governments for the participation of MPs in this regard. I would also request the hon. Minister to give instructions

to update the Core Network List of PMGSY in our State. The present list is very old. Then, the State Government is acting as if the entire project and the financing is their own. They are not even mentioning the name of the Central Government in every project.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House some important issues pertaining to Kerala. The Government of Kerala is violating the provisions of the MGNREGA and trying to politicise. One main example is making the implementation in the Gram Panchayat through Kudumbashree, a Non-Governmental Organisation controlled by the CPI (M). As per the provisions of the MGNREGA, State Governments can evolve a system for each State under Chapter 11.4 of the Act. In Kerala, the scheme has been notified during July, 2006, wherein there is no provision to involve the Kudumbashree to implement the MGNREGA. By issuing executive orders, Kudumbashree has been made as an inevitable part in the planning and execution of the scheme which leads to favouritism and corruption thereby diluting the Act.

The second thing is that the Kerala State Government has imposed a ban on the purchase of the materials by which no durable assets are created. Thereby State Government can save there portion of money to be made part of the scheme. As per Section 22c of the Act, the State has to meet the cost of unemployment allowance, and one-fourth of the materials' cost including payment of wages to skilled and semi-skilled.

As per Chapter II 3.3 of the Act, wages are to be paid on weekly basis, in any case not later than a fortnight. If the State payment is delayed by 30 to 90 days, no amount is paid as compensation to any works whose wages is delayed as envisaged in Schedule II(30) of the Act.

As per Chapter III 15(1)A dedicated officer not below the rank of the BDO has to be posted as Block Programme officer to look after the implementation of the scheme.

Chapter III 16(1) of the Act Gram Panchayats shall be responsible for identification of the projects in the Gram Panchayat area as per the recommendation of the Gram Sabhas concerned. Here the State Government is imposing the list of works which has to be taken up under the scheme. The latest example is the cutting/ excavation of foundation for the implementation of the EMS housing programme. In the EMS housing programme

the estimate is prepared by including the foundation work in the total cost of the amount which can be paid to the beneficiary.

As per the Schedule I(6) of the Act, wages shall be paid according to the schedule of rates fixed by the State Government...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing more will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I have called the next speaker. Nothing is going on record. Please take your seat.

*(Interruptions)...**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not waste the time of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record. You should understand this.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Sir, I am concluding.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have concluded. Please sit down. Please do not waste the time of the House. Please cooperate with the Chair. Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray to speak now.

Hon. Members, please cooperate with the Chair. The time cannot be extended.

****SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL (Nashik):** India has been a welfare state ever since her Independence and the primary objective of all governmental endeavours has been the welfare of its millions. Planning has been one of the pillars of the Indian policy since Independence and the country's strength is derived from the achievement of planning. The policies and programmes have been designed with the aim of alleviation of rural poverty which has been one of the primary objectives of planned development in India. It was realized that a sustainable strategy of poverty alleviation has to be based on increasing the productive employment opportunities in the process of growth itself. Elimination of poverty, ignorance,

*Not recorded.

**Speech was laid on the Table.

diseases and inequality of opportunities and providing a better and higher quality of life were the basic premises upon which all the plans and blue-prints of development were built.

Rural development implies both the economic betterment of people as well as greater social transformation. In order to provide the rural people with better prospects for economic development, increased participation of people in the rural development programmes, decentralization of planning, better enforcement of land reforms and greater access to credit are envisaged.

Ministry of Rural Development has been acting as a catalyst effecting the change in rural areas through the implementation of wide spectrum of programmes which are aimed at poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure development and social security. Over the years, with the experience gained, in the implementation of the programmes and in response to the felt needs of the poor, several programmes have been modified and new programmes have been introduced. This Ministry's main objective is to alleviate rural poverty and ensure improved quality of life for the rural population especially and ensure improved quality of life for the rural population especially those below the poverty line. These objectives are achieved through formulation, development and implementation of programmes relating to various spheres of rural life and activities, from income generation to environment replenishment through the three Departments *i.e.*:

1. Department of Rural Development.
2. Department of Land Resources
3. Department of Drinking Water Supply

The Department of Rural Development implements schemes for generation of self employment and wage employment, provision of housing and minor irrigation assets to rural poor, social assistance to the destitute and Rural Roads. Apart from this, the Department provides the support services and other quality inputs such as assistance for strengthening of DRDA Administration, Panchayati Raj institutions, training & research, human resource development, development of voluntary action etc. for the proper implementation of the programmes. The major programmes of the Department of Rural Development are Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Rural Housing (RH) Sampurna Gramin Rozgar

Yojana (SGRY) and Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).

Department of Land Resources implements schemes to increase the bio-mass production by developing wastelands in the country. Department also provides the support services and other quality inputs such as land reforms, betterment of revenue system and land records. It also undertakes development of desert areas and drought prone areas in the country. The major programmes of the Department of Land Resources are Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), the Desert Development Programme (DDP), the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) and Land Reforms (LR). These aim at increasing the soil and moisture conservation and productivity of the wasteland of the degraded lands thereby increase the income of the people.

The provision of Drinking Water Supply and extension of Sanitation facilities to the rural poor are the main components of the activities of the Department of Drinking Water Supply. The major programmes of the Drinking Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) are the Swajaldhara, the Accelerated Rural Water supply Programme (ARWSP) and the Total Sanitation Programme (TSP).

Madam, through you I would also like to make some suggestions for improvement and effective functioning of the Ministry:—

- (i) Generally it is seen that at the end of the Financial year large amounts of unspent balances remain for every programmes. In this connection, I would like to point out that till January 2010, the Ministry of Rural Development could only spend Rs. 29,501.5 crore, which amounts to 69.5 per cent of the total available funds and the rest would have been utilized in the last quarter of the financial year. Therefore, the Ministry must evenly spread the expenditure throughout the year to overcome the problem of accumulation of unspent balances.
- (ii) Another area is the BPL Survey—wherein several states have ineligible list of persons under this category. In fact, the BPL Survey should reflect the correct information about persons living below the poverty line and should exclude anyone who is found to be living above the poverty line. The Ministry needs to re-examine the whole gamut of BPL families.

- (iii) The most important problem being faced by the Ministry is the concurrent evaluation of large scale programmes being implemented simultaneously, therefore an independent and impartial concurrent evaluation of all the programmes/schemes being implemented by the Department should be made during the remaining period of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. Central team of monitors to inform the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee at district levels about their visits to the district should be devised immediately. This infact can be improved by identifying key resource persons who can visit the actual programme implementation site and spend some time with those who are involved with the programmes and then give the feedback to the 'Monitoring Committee.'
- (iv) It has also been observed and even it is mentioned that there remains a lot of ambiguity in providing a minimum of 100 days employment under MGNREGA vis-à-vis the budgetary allocation the Ministry should examine this aspect a fresh and remove this problem. The provisions of the Operation guidelines of MGNREGA should be strictly adhered to for better results.
- (v) Another area is to further substantially enhance the per unit assistance and definition of the dwelling unit under Indira Awas Yojana in consultation with the Ministry of Health suitable for a healthy living.
- (vi) The Ministry of Rural Development should also construct rural under Roads Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) with association of NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development) under RIDF as grants in aid to the various State Development Agencies for spreading the rural network.

Some of the issues which that I have highlighted requires a re-look for augmenting various programmes of Rural development Ministry. Hence, I would request the Hon. Minister to bestow his attention to some of the issues which impinge upon the functioning of the Ministry.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

*SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Today we are discussing on the Ministry of Rural Development in the House. The 80% of total population of India lives in villages and when the discussion involves rural India, all MPs are taking this discussion seriously and are concerned about its development. Whether it is Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana or Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme or Indira Aawas Yojana or Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme. The important contribution being made by these schemes to rural development cannot be denied. But, I want to attract the attention of the Central Government towards certain points. For example, take Indira Aawas Yojana. This is a good scheme. This scheme envisages constructing one room house for the poor and the people living below poverty line. I moved a private resolution on this in the House last July to draw attention of the House and the Government towards the fact that at present it is impossible to construct a one room house with an amount of only Rs. 38,500 in wake of the present inflation and especially so in the hilly states which have lesser number of roads and many other problems also. This amount should be increased. The Government increased this amount and it's a welcome step but the Rs. 45,000 for the plain areas and Rs. 48,500 for hilly areas, is, in my opinion, very less. It should be Rs. one lakh percent and for hilly states, 25 percent more fund should be given so that the poor don't feel cheated. Due to this scarce fund, many works cannot be completed. Secondly, I would like to submit to the Government that today employment is available in villages through MANREGA, this is a good scheme also, but, there are many lacunae in it, and the Government must remove them and prepare the right policy. I would like to suggest that 100 days should be increased to 200 days so that people who have get employment can remain employed at least for 6 months. A better scheme should be formulated for giving wages to labourers because time of three days is wasted in making payments to the labourers through banks and thus they lose their three days' wages. Banks are not everywhere; payments are not made by the post officers either.

I would like to give one suggestion about this scheme. We cannot kill animals destroying crops of farmers. For example, in Himachal Praddesh, farmers have stopped growing crops because monkeys, pigs and

*Speech was laid on the Table.

neelgays have spread so much terror in that area that all the family members have to keep a constant watch on the crops and they do not even get time for their meals. So, I desire that job of watching animals should also be included in MGNREGA scheme so that the poor of village may get employment and crops of farmers may also be saved in the village itself. Employment should be provided as fire-watcher to save forests from fire, it should also be included in this scheme. Total electrification should be provided to all the villages under Rajiv Gandhi Vidutikaran Yojana and full benefit of this scheme should be given to the poor and the people belonging to the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes.

The population of villages to be given benefit of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana should be fixed at 100 so that people of the hilly areas may get benefited under it. The hurdles being faced in constructing roads under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 should be removed. This Act should be diluted for non-commercial activities otherwise the funds being provided under PMGSY in hilly areas are not being utilized and it takes years to get clearance, due to which hilly areas are not being benefited of this important scheme.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, today after 62 years, the Minister of Rural Development is talking here about rural development, but where has the money gone? I was listening to ladies of young generation of Congress who were asking about the money. The hon'ble Parliamentarians of Lakshadweep has gone. For example, I tell you that in the plan allocation of year 2010-11, it has been shown that Rs. 46,000 will be spent on one person. In Andaman & Nicobar Island, Rs. 20,000 will be spent on one person as per this year's plan. This is a good thing, and the figure sounds good. Non-plan fund of Rs. 1200 crore is provided for Andaman Nicobar, which will entail per capita expenditure of Rs. 30,000. It means that Andaman will get Rs. 2,000 crore in plan and non-plan in a year whereas the total population is 4,00,000 and Rs. 50,000 rupees will be spent on per person. This sounds good. But where is the money? Today why am I asking for money because we have to make Andaman? This is true that in the name of natural calamity like Tsunami, flood, drought etc., people will fill their own pockets, GDP will be increased and its result is IPL.

16.49 hrs.

[DR. GIRIJA VYAS *in the Chair*]

Sir, I would like to tell you about Andaman, in Rang Tehsil of the Island, drinking water is available after 2-3 days. One person gets 20 litre water. In Port Blair, *i.e.* capital of Andaman, water is given in ration. The supply of drinking water in little Andaman is pathetic. Water level is receding due to Tsunami, earthquake and climatic change. Now I tell you how leakage of money took place in Andaman? Rajiv Gandhi was right in saying that out of every hundred rupees allocated by the Government only 15 rupees reach at lower level. He was right. But I would like to ask how much money out of every Rs. 100 percolates down to the bottom at present.

I would give you an example that in Andaman Nicobar Islands, south Andaman district council spent approximately Rs. twenty crore is the name of constructing earthen dam, but the dam was not scientifically constructed, it was not constructed with the expert opinion of engineering experts. As a result, it is on the verge of breaking. If funds are not given to strengthen the dam, then, the villages along the main national road and the Andaman trunk road in Andaman-Nicobar Islands will get submerged because the earthen dam has started cracking. Because June-July are months of storms in sea. Hence my demand for CBI inquiry into the scam in the name of embankment.

My second demand is regarding irrigation. It was being said that irrigation would enable increased production of other crops, leading to green revolution. Even after 62 years, Andaman and Nicobar Islands produce only a single crop due to lack of irrigation. Crores are not needed. Lakhs would suffice, which should be provided by the Union Government. In Uttarakhand check dams have lock gates, which are opened during rains to release water. These are locked when rains stop to dam the water. That water would be used by the farmers to irrigate their paddy as second crop. We do not seek crores. Only lakhs for the check dams having lock gates.

Few minutes ago Pranab babu and Adhir babu mentioned that during rains, West Bengal and Bihar suffer erosion farm lands due to rivers and streams. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, farmers on land records have 15 bighas however the reality being that due to erosion of by sea and streams, they are left with only three bighas. Therefore, I demand funds for us also for erecting a protective wall.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: I have not said much. We do not have any Chief Minister to espouse our cause ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Three-four Members from our party are slated to speak.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: In 2001, Rs. 28.95 crores were sanctioned, for fifteen projects under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Rs. 20 crores were sanctioned as first installment. These projects remain incomplete. Till September, 2009, Rs. 10.69 crore were spent. South Andaman Zilla Parishad utilized funds from PMGSY to purchase computers, printers etc. No roads were constructed under PMGSY. My demand is that funds be given for the sanctioned projects for which foundation stones were laid, so that roads can be laid there. Not a single road was constructed under PMGSY, during UPA-I rule. I seek funds for construction of roads there, now that UPA-II is in power. During UPA-I, not a single dwelling unit was constructed in Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the Indira Awas Yojana. Funds should be given this year. There is scam in this scheme. As per the government, the rural development ministry as well as the rules of the scheme, there should be no middleman. The funds should be given directly to the beneficiaries. But, in Andaman and Nicobar Islands there is scam going on the purchase of cement, corrugated sheets, iron etc. My request is that funds should be given directly to the beneficiaries of the Indira Awas Yojana.

There are several villages and cities, without roads even 60 years after independence, separated by rivers and rivulets etc. infected with crocodiles. My last demand being that, bridges should be constructed over streams in villages such as Paschim sagar, Ramnagar, Radhanagar, Sitanagar, Nischintpur, Khudirampur, Modhupur, Kamlapur, Prafulnagar, Togapur etc. You would be surprised to know that 8-9 per cent of the population in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have BPL card. This needs to be looked into. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Kindly be quick.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: My another demand is that, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidutikaran Yojana, which in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is in papers only should be implemented. My last demand is that the Government should provide amenities in villages and Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the scheme - Providing Urban Amenities in rural areas - as is being done in other

states. I request the Minister to pay attention to Andaman and Nicobar Islands and consider my demands. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY (Cooch Behar): Respected Madam Chairperson, I am grateful to you for allowing me to say a few words in this august House today. We are discussing the Demand for Grant of the Ministry of Rural Development 2010-11 and many honourable Members have already spoken on this subject. So, I will be very brief. We have reached the 63rd year of our Independence and barring 10 to 12 years, most of the time it was the Congress Party which was at the helm of affairs. Today, we are talking about the 100 days employment guarantee programme and a number of Members have expressed their views and suggestions on this. When the first UPA came to power with the support of the left parties, there was a demand for 100 days of work. During that time, the job guarantee law was framed. Thereafter, the left have withdrawn their support and various lapses have crept in. We talk about the poor people, we talk about rural development. Now, we demand that instead of 100 days, the people should be provided with jobs for at least 200 days a year.

[Translation]

Due to the lack of employment in villages, these poor and starving people migrate to cities to work, at construction sites. Those working at construction sites are poor migrants from villages. Therefore, it should cover 200 days. Even after 63 years of independence the poor do not have roof over their head. Hence, my other demand is that houses be provided to the poor. No houses have been constructed in our village. There is lot of discussion about Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). BPL card holders are eligible for houses under IAY, as per their entitlement whether PT-1, PT-2 or PT-3. People without BPL cards are not given houses. What is the number of BPL cardholders in our country? Which agency prepares the BPL list? The Panchayats put the poverty figures at 60 per cent to 70 per cent. Whereas the Planning Commission puts the figure at 25-26 per cent. Which one is correct? The BPL list is yet to be revised. If villages are to progress, the BPL list should be revised. This is my demand. The PMGSY is suited for the villages.

*...*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bangali.

Under its rule villages with a population of 1500 or 1000 would be given road connectivity to markets and cities. I want to make a suggestions to the Prime Minister. I became a Member of Parliament in 2009. I gave suggestions to the DM and the PWD executive engineer. All the MPs are aware but they do not speak. Development plan was prepared in 2002-03. I suggested that I would prepare a new plan. The DM and the PWD did not agree. In 2003, it was decided that regarding CNC, coal freeze plan, work would start initially in phases *i.e.* Phase-I, Phase-II, Phase-III, Phase-IV, Phase-V, Phase-VI, Phase-VII, Phase-VIII etc. Thereafter, it would proceed further. I became a Member in 2007, and in 2003 coal freeze was finalized, the location was changed. Then the population increased. The Plan made in 2003 underwent changes and then it was included in coal freeze. Several such roads came into being.

17.00 hrs.

He said that where there is a population of SC/ST, connection will be given there. My constituency have areas where two-third of the population belongs to SC/ST. Our village where one thousand people belong to ST is not included in this scheme. There are such villages in my constituency, which do not find place in the BPL list. There is such a regional block where PMG plan's implementation is not up to the mark. My area is 90 gp, 50 percent of which is not covered under MPG plan. Beginning from phase 1 to phase 9 our area is not included therein. I would like to request the hon'ble minister that I was elected as an MP in 2009. The plan, which will be formulated for 2009-10, for which, all the MPs will submit their suggestions. My demand is that the plan for old coalfields should be discontinued and a new plan should be formulate for 2009-10 ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have completed your point; now conclude.

SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: Our demand is that you should get the new plan from the district. Our demand is that after 63 years of independence, for the target development of our villages and for their interconnection, a fresh plan should be worked out. The areas and villages which are not covered under the plan should be covered and a fresh plan should be formulated by getting the suggestions from the hon'ble M.P.s ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Uday Pratap Singhji, please speak.

SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: All of them speak about employment for a hundred days, but I urge for employment of two hundred days rather than one hundred days. With this demand, I conclude my speech.

*SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Our country consists of villages, where 70 per cent population resides. Even after 62 years of independence, there is immense imbalance in rural development. People lack basis facilities. We want to become developed. But we lack time bound programmes. Due to which even after funds are spent, people do not benefit. People lack basic facilities such as roads, electricity, drinking water, health care and education.

After freedom, the country for the most time has been ruled by the Congress party but failed to make time bound programmes. During the reign of NDA, hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpaiji formulated a scheme of developing 65 lakh of villages of India through such important schemes like Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana, clean drinking water, communication revolution, Sarv Shisha Abhiyan, health care facilities. That is why the metalled roads are being constructed in the villages speedily. People were not getting water to drink, but for that an effort was made by introducing water augmentation scheme. All should get education. Earlier the classes used to be held under the tree in the villages but today the credit for cent percent concrete school buildings goes to Shri Atal Ji.

The conditions of the villages are pathetic. I would like to draw your attention to the maxim that there are people devoid of their right, but there are also people who are prosperous and dominant. What to talk of the future schemes of a government which failed to identify the poor living in villages. Once Prime Minister said that out of every single rupee only 15 paise reaches the needy.

This was said regarding our executives but no improvement has been seen since then, the funds which have till now been provided for the development of the villages were either inadequate or does not reach the beneficiary.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Funds for development should be allocated for the villages, as per the population ration. When population is 70 percent, the provision in budget should also exceed 50%.

In cities new buildings are constructed by demolishing old buildings. But if the mud house of a poor person comes down, the poor is not in a position to reconstruct his hut again. Rahulji went to villages to meet the poor. He saw how a poor is leading his life with a broken cot under a tree. If even after so many years the poor is compelled to sleep under the tree or open sky, the union government is directly responsible for it. Though accommodation are being provided in the village itself but that is being given to the panchayat only whereas every panchayat has the list of homeless families.

The Government by making a time bound programme should make the houses available to all the homeless families and should fix target to connect each village with metalled roads.

Presently people living in villages have to travel a long distance to get medical treatment, the hospitals existing in the villages are without doctors, compounders and medicines.

The people in rural areas are losing their lives due to serious ailments. The treatment is so costly that they cannot afford it.

The government is increasing the salary of its employees, Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies but there is no increase in the amount given to the poor through the pension. In this age of rising prices, the poor pensioner may not be able to afford a square meal in a day with the amount he gets. I demand that each and every old and helpless person should at least get an amount of rupees one thousand per month.

There should be one commumty hospital at the distance of every kilo metre. There should be a primary school and a school at every kilometre and a higher secondary at every 7-kilometre. Each village containing a population of one thousand should get financial aid through the Union Government for the construction of Natjal Yojana and upkeep and maintenance of old sewerage system in the villages. The size of the road stones used in construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana should be at least of the size

of 40 m.m. rather than 20 m.m. Employment Guarantee Scheme needs a great improvement, the government agency is not able to work, the work is being done only by the Panchayats.

If there is rise in corruption in the villages, it is primarily in the employment guarantee scheme. India's villages will have to be made model villages, such villages where there is no internal dispute. Such villages where there is no locks in the houses, such villages where fraternity would be the top most priority, such villages which are self reliant and fully developed, such villages where there is no poverty, such villages which are dependent on indigenous commodities, only then a new India, a new historical India will emerge. My Lok Sabha Constituency, have accomplished the same work in five hundred villages through Deen Dayal Research Institute by a reputed social worker named Mataji Deshmukh and that example should be followed in entire India. There is a need to develop such kind of villages.

The construction work of canals of Kargi Vyapvartan irrigation project meant for the irrigation of lakhs of hectare of agriculture land in 5 districts of my constituency will change the life of the villages.

The said project should be included in the Nation project. The following roads should be constructed in my parliamentary constituency under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

1. Rampur Block Desh Rahat Daldal Deovaru Ganjan Marg Nirman
2. Vatika Galnata Tikri Marg
3. Tikuri Magarbandra, Michwaria Marg
4. Over, Akauna, Khamharia Marg
5. Construction of road upto Grusher on Awet bus stand to Awet Village.
6. Construction of Jamuna Variha Jhandur road
Construction of cold storage in all District headquarters

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (Hoshangabad): Hon. Madam Chairman, I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in support of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. As we all know that the Ministry of Rural Development has a very important role to play in the country's development. I believe it is the works carried out by this Ministry which has played a very important role in helping the UPA Government get elected once again.

The Ministry has implemented a number of schemes in the country in the interest of poor people and for betterment of villages. We have seen that under the leadership of Hon. Sonia ji, Chairperson of UPA, Shri Joshi Ji has brought a lot of changes in this Ministry during the last one year and with this we can see a lot of change at the lower level. I believe that if villages will make progress in this country, then only our country will progress itself. The Government also desires better development in villages and Rural Employment Ministry is playing an important role in that.

Hon. Madam Chairman, on this occasion I would like to give a few suggestions from my side. To ensure that the implementation of PMGSY and other schemes of the centre are implemented properly at the state level and for this we need to reconsider the rules and regulations. There is UPA Government in the Centre in Federal system and in those states which do not have UPA supporting Governments, the Centre's schemes are not being implemented properly. For this we need to interfere in this and make some changes in the rules. In the Vigilance Monitoring Committee constituted by the Government — it has been directed to appoint a Member of Parliament as its Chairperson. After that all the Members — be it from the ruling party or the opposition party, will agree with me that they are feeling a change in the lower working system. I would like to tell you about my state Madhya Pradesh which does not have a UPA led Government, it has BJP Government. Right now one of my brother Member was speaking that this thing or that thing is not taking place in his area and he has got no one to put his grievances before. People of the state say that since you are the Member of UPA Government so you must get this work done. A lot of money is allotted by the Central Government to states and a huge amount was allocated by the Ministry of Rural Development to Madhya Pradesh but the BJP led Government is not working there and poor people are not receiving the benefit of those schemes, where should we go and make our complaints ...*(Interruptions)*

Madam, under the PMGSY at some places villages with a population of just 800 have been covered and there are some villages which have a population of 1400-1500, but still even today they are deprived of roads. This disparity must end. Our leader Shri Rahul Gandhi ji is very much particular about MGNREGA scheme and has been paying personal attention to that. Madhya Pradesh has a large area having black soil but it is banned to use that black soil there. I would request that

some liberty must be given in those rules or some other package must be announced for the workers over there. Madhya Pradesh is an agriculture oriented state. The farmers have to face a lot of problem when employment works are carried out over there during the time of farming. Employment Guarantee works must be slowed down a bit during the crop time so that agriculture related works could be completed. Indira Awas Yojana, Swajal Ohara Yojana and Kapil Dhara Yojana are all dying away in the absence of any monitoring. I would request Hon. Minister to constitute a committee and send it over there to investigate and survey all that. In Nasirpur, Hoshangabad and Raisen districts of my Parliamentary Constituency from where Hon. Leader of Opposition Smt. Sushma Swaraj ji is a Member, Central Government schemes are not being implemented, there is no one to listen and look into that.

Madam, in the year 1971, the then Prime Minister of India late Smt. Indira Gandhi ki had got canals constructed in Hoshangabad district but today these canals are getting finished in the absence of cementing them. Through you I would like to request the Government to carry out cementing work on those canals so that the benefits of works carried out by our late leaders can reach the farmers over there. In the end I would like to say that if Hon. Member will issue necessary directions for conversion of MPLAD funds, then we will be able to ensure further development with that.

[English]

*SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Long back Gandhiji had asserted that India lives in its villages. But that is not the case now, today. There are two fractured entities — one, Bharat and the other, India. While evaluating the trajectory of our economic growth or even our success as a nation we are not divided solely along rural-urban lines; even one's facility with the English language is sufficiently sharp classification to stir the Bharat-India debate. Human development indices and anecdotal evidence do suggest nevertheless that while urban India has benefited from economic liberalization rural India has not.

Rural India does not in practice have an independent economy. It depends primarily on the state. Government of India has not liberalized its delivery systems. Our planners and administrators have an urban policy and a rural policy. What the country lacks is a policy in the middle to meet secondary needs. That is why both our

*Speech was laid on the Table.

villages and cities are in the mess. We have heard of town plans, which unfortunately hardly ever exist in our towns and cities. But do we have village plans? Plans that will make our villages distinctly better than what they are today? Apparently, we are so concerned about growth that we little time on money to invest on such issues of development. We invest so much on individual villages, or individual families or even individuals that there is nothing to spare for villages as a whole. We are looking at trees only forgetting the forest.

The basic function of the Ministry of Rural Development is to realize the objective of alleviating rural poverty, ensuring improved quality of life for the rural population especially for those living below the poverty line. The overall Demands for Grants of the Department is 2010-11 are for Rs. 137887.98 crore. However, after deducting the recoveries of Rs. 71750.12 crore expected during the year, the net Budget of the Department during this fiscal is Rs. 66137.86 crore both for Plan and non-Plan.

Ministry of Rural Development has a Department of Drinking Water Supply. Though rural water supply is a state subject, this Department supplements the efforts made by the States by providing financial and technical assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes. National Rural Drinking Water Programme is to assist the States to provide safe drinking water in the rural areas of the country and the Total Sanitation Campaign is aimed at achieving 100 percent rural sanitation coverage. The Demands for Grants in respect of this Department is Rs. 10583.78 crore with Plan component of Rs. 10580 crore.

The third Department is of Land Resources. Since land is a state subject, this Department gives financial support to states for the purpose of watershed development and land development activities in rural areas in the country. We have number of programme such as Integrated Wasteland Development Programme, Drought Prone Area Programme and Desert Development Programme. In addition, the Department administers two schemes of Computerization of land records and strengthening of Revenue Administration and updating of Land records.

The overall Demands for Grants of the Department of Land Resources for the year 2010-11 is Rs. 2665.80 crore out of which the lion share goes to IWMP (Rs. 258 crore), NLRMP (Rs. 200 crore). One can presume that

the total Demand for Grant of this Rural Development Ministry of Rs. 79397.44 crore leaving aside the Demand for Grant of Panchayati Raj which is Rs. 5170.71 crores.

When we are discussing on Demands for Grants of Rural Development, one has to fall back on the progress that has been made during last three years of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. It is found that during 11th Five Year Plan 2007-08 upto 2011-12, the funds meant for planned schemes were fixed at Rs. 3,28,579.72 crore. One is dismayed to find that the expenditure is only of 42 percent. Only Rs. 1,39,475.93 crore has been spent upto 18th March, 2010 which should have been above 60 percent.

An important job to be done by Rural Development Ministry is to conduct Below Poverty line census every five years. The last census was conducted in 2002 for the 10th Five Year Plan. For 11th Plan period, Ministry had constituted an Expert Group to advise the methodology under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena. The Expert Group submitted its report on 21st August 2009. But Planning Commission is the nodal agency for estimation of poverty ratio of persons living below the Poverty line. Yet, Rural Development formulates the mythology for identification of BPL households in rural areas. One is reminded that as per the Outcome Budget 2009-10 the Supreme Court of India on 14th February 2006 had directed that the Methodology for the next BPL survey should be finalized by the beginning of the 11th Five Year Plan. Till date, there is no finality of the BPL list. Only two years of the Eleventh Five Year are remaining. Can the Minister tell us, when the latest BPL census will be applicable for 11th Five Year Plan. Can the Minister appraise this House the rationale for applying latest BPL Census for the 12th Five Year Plan? Will it be applicable for next five years? Don't you think a single BPL list is desirable for extending the benefits to the poor? We are aware that the earlier BPL census conducted during 1992-97 and 2002 by the Ministry of Rural Development had reflected many irregularities and shortcomings. Several ineligible beneficiaries were selected as people living below poverty line. Can't you exclude ineligible BPL card holders from the BPL list? If there is no provision, it should be built in. The benefits of schemes meant for the BPL population should reach the deserving people only. I also suggest BPL survey be carried out at the beginning of each Five Year Plan. The Minister should explain why no BPL Survey was done during 11th Five Year Plan. The Minister should explain why no BPL Survey was done during 11th Five Year Plan? Don't you

have the funds? I find Rs. 312 crores has already been made available for conducting the latest BPL survey. Why don't you utilize it fully within the target time?

One is surprised to find that as per instruction of Planning Commission, Statewise allocation Funds under various programmes of the Department including IAY and SGSY is made on the basis of adjusted share worked out in 1993-94 poverty ratios by the Planning Commission. More than 17 years have elapsed. How can you allocate funds on that calculation? Can't the Minister impress upon the Planning Commission?

I would also suggest that as there is no permanent office of the District Vigilance and Monitoring Committees the Ministry should find out ways and means to establish and functionalise a permanent office of the District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee in each district within this financial year.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, it is said, provides for enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing atleast one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work. It is also said that this Act aims to provide a social safety net for the vulnerable groups and an opportunity to combine growth with equity. It is claimed that MGNREGA is a paradigm shift from the wage employment programme. It is an Act, a right's based framework, that provides legal guarantee. It is demand driven, not supply driven approach as in earlier programmes. I have gathered that during 2009-10 only 3.68 crore job card holder households could demand work out of 10.91 crore household job cards issued. Does not this indicate that two-third job card holders could not get jobs under MGNREGA during 2009-10?

Even the one-third of the job card holders who actually, got job, could get only 51 days of employment. Has it occurred to the Government to exclude those job card holders who are not demanding jobs over a long period of time? This MGNREGA has been instrumental in increasing the minimum wages for agricultural labourer, the bargaining power of labour has increased, earnings per household had increased too. But it has affected the availability of agricultural labour in the rural areas.

In the year 2000 about 40% of India's 825,000 villages lacked all-weather roads. The World Bank says,

with access to roads, incomes have soared; household incomes rose by 50 to 100% on an average. It has raised literacy rate by 10% and appreciated land prices by up to 80%. World Bank says 'for every 1 million rupees spent on rural roads, 163 people were lifted out of poverty. Farmers receive better prices for their produce by accessing markets. Yet, I would say the achievement of PMGSY is not at all satisfactory. For example, till date 63 percent of the targets have only been achieved. Regarding length of new connectivity only 69 percent target has been achieved. With this pace how are you going to achieve the goal of Bharat Nirman?

I am told by not providing the last mile connectivity of around 7700 kms, around 8045 habitations in the country remain to be connected. Can't you provide priority to the last mile construction of PMGSY roads? For roads, I must state here that till February 2010, under PMGSY 4955 habitations have been provided connectivity against the target of 13,000. During this period 48,921 kms road works have been completed against a target of 55,000 km. Can we boast of great achievement in this regard?

Rural Housing Scheme is one of the six components of Bharat Nirman Programme. Under Bharat Nirman Phase-I, 60 lakh houses were envisaged to be constructed from 2005-06 to 2008-09. As against this target, 71.76 lakh houses were constructed thereby exceeding the target. The physical target for Bharat Nirman, Phase II is for construction of 120 lakh houses over a period of five years starting from 2009-10. The Government has revised the Unit Assistance from Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 45,000 for new constructions in plain areas and Rs. 48,500 in hill areas as against Rs. 38,500/-. This is a welcome step no doubt but is too low as per the existing cost. This Rural Housing Scheme IAY is being implemented since 1985-86. From 2005-06 onwards the allocation criteria for IAY has been modified to assign 75 percent weightage to housing shortage and 25 percent to poverty ratio for the state level allocation.

There is a scheme for allotting homestead plots. Rs. 10,000 or actual, whichever is less, on the basis of 50:50 funding by center and state. But it is learnt proposals have been received from Karnataka, Kerala, Sikkam, Bihar, Rajasthan, Mizoram and Maharashtra and Gujarat only in 2009-10. What about the other states? They don't need this money or they are not aware about it?

While deliberating on the performance of Indra Awas Yojana one can clearly say that it is not satisfactory. Physical achievement is less than 50 percent as only 18.16 lakh houses have been completed against the target of 40.52 lakh houses. Another disturbing fact is that the number of houses “under construction” category is 27.21 lakh which means construction will spill over to this financial year.

When Pudducherry is already providing Rs.1 lakh for construction of a dwelling unit in rural area, there is a need that a decent dwelling unit cannot be constructed even with the existing definition. There is need to enhance the per unit assistance substantially and define the dwelling unit under IAY suitable for a healthy living in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

The Council for Advancement of People’s Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) came into existence in 1986 following the merger of two erstwhile societies, namely, People Action for Development India(PADI) and Council for Advancement of Rural Technology (CAPART). It’s principal aim is to involve the people in the implementation of development programme and promote need-based projects through NGOs. The BE of CAPART has been doubled from Rs.50 crore in 2009-10 to Rs.100 crore in 2010-11. But the physical targets have not increased commensurate with the enhanced allocation this year. Physical target has been increased from 950 projects previous year to 1340 projects last year. But you will be surprised to know that against a target of 950 projects the CAPART has an achievement of 54 projects only. Against the target of 50 Gram Shree Melas only 6 Melas has been arranged. Financial achievement has come down to 47 percent during 2009-10. What is happening in CAPART? The Minister should take stock of things.

Prime Minister is saying “his government gave priority to poverty alleviation and would work to improve the quality of public system and delivery of public service for employment generation and rural prosperity. Though specific allocation of Rs.68,000 crore have been made to meet the challenges on various poverty alleviation programme, actual implementation of the fund is essential”. These are not my words-these are Prime Minister’s words. What I have stated earlier are the glaring examples of the functioning of this Ministry.

I may mention about the case of Odissa. Due to inadequate funding by the Government, it is becoming difficulty to sustain the pace of implementation of ongoing

projects to provide connectivity to the habitations identified for the purpose. As against funds released to the time of Rs. 5197.22 crore, Rs. 5371.98 has been spent by utilizing the interest available.

There is no provision under PMGSY to include escalation cost of the materials and excess spent towards tender premium. It is worth mentioning here that projects costing Rs. 9958.74 crore have been sanctioned in the very beginning and over a period of one decade, there is no merit in saying that Government of India share has been frozen and any additional cost, including for the delay in release of funds has to be paid by the State Government.

The Central Government’s share under CSP, ARWSP was Rs. 14,557.80 Lakhs for 2005-06. Rs. 11,904.16 lakhs for 2006-07, Rs. 29,786.46 lakhs for 2007-08, Rs. 30,214.08 lakhs for 2008-09, Rs. 23,011.95 lakhs for 2009-10 and Rs. 20,488 lakhs for 2010-11. Due to reduction of Central share during 2009-10, activities relating to supply of drinking water in Rural Areas is getting adversely affected. There is an urgent need to provide Rs.400 crore more during 2010-11 to mitigate the hardship of the rural people.

Experts agree Bharat Nirman which has completed four years, has indeed bought about significant improvements in the country’s infrastructure. But most of us feel it’s time to take a step forward to see whether targets are being achieved without paying adequate importance to quality and sustainability. Economists call it the “U” with “Q” which is utilization without quality factor. This is the progress by Bharat Nirman. The drinking water scheme is a glaring example. When the scheme began in 2005, areas which went back to being dry constituted 63.36 percent of the target. Ironically that number has gone upto 88.21 percent in 2009. The situation is similar in the rural housing scheme where on paper, 100 percent targets have been met, but the reality may be different, as the scheme records only the number of projects sanctioned and does not take into account the actual work done.

That is why Planning Commission Member Arun Maira said, pumping in more money through the pipes is not the solution, as it increases the risk for leakages. The focus should be better utilization by minimizing the bottlenecks and thereby increasing the effectiveness of the targets achieved.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR (Salempur): The soul of India resides in villages whose products give life to whole of the country. The year 2009-10 had been a period of global economic slowdown. Not only India but whole of the world suffered due to this during which the prices of food and energy rose to the maximum. Lesser purchasing power, due to lesser employment opportunities and as a result of withdrawal of Government incentives in social sectors, poor and deprived have been adversely affected in India. The Government is patting its back for inclusive growth principle and is of view that there is a dramatic rise in rural economic which is in figure only and not in reality. There is MNREGA which guarantees employment of 100 days, what will the labourers do for rest of the days? This scheme is also enriching Panchayats, Banks and organizers. Why the Government are not arranging for immediate payment. The labourers are told work for two days, make payment for 20 days, withdraw money for 10 days without doing job, give the rest. Every Gram Panchayat received 10 to 25 lakhs of rupees, but the work even for two lakhs is done. Block and District officer does not approve the payment for Panchayats until he receives 30% amount as commission. 60 percent Kutchha and 40% Pucca work is beyond comprehension. The work of connecting road and ponds digging may be seen sometimes but the works of other departments is seen nowhere. Under Indira Awas Yojana, the benefit should be given to BPL beneficiaries only. BPL list is itself wrong. Only 25% of them are eligible, even those who pay 'facilitation tax' get included in it. When houses are to be built in the country why the people are counted and not the huts. After all, every year houses are built, even then, why the huts are still the shelter of people. In February and March alone, 2400 jhuggis were gutted in Sikandarpur, Velvyara road in Wasdih Tahsil of Ballia district and Salempur Matapara Tahsil of Deoria district in my constituency. Five children were, killed, hundreds of cattle were killed, the State Government made help available within five hours but names being absent in BPL list, the jhuggis would not be constructed from Indira Awas Yojana. I demand that the persons whose huts have been gutted should be given entitlement for Indira Awas Yojana even if they do not figure in BPL list. National Social Assistance Programme, Ingetrated water-shed Management Programme and National Rural Drinking water Mission are nowhere on the grassroot level. No one knows the

time by which the outline of National Rural livelihood Mission will come into being. More than 70% of population is rural, then why 70% of the budget is not spent on rural interests. Whether it is not a fact that rural people are deprived of facilities and therefore, they are congesting the cities. The Government talks of the deprived but land is not reserved even for a school. An SDO does not want to visit Health Centre. The Government should clarify the reason. Electrification starts but wires and poles get out of stock when it reaches the localities of the poor. Ration Card, Ration, healthcare, education, safety, security and the schemes for their welfare do not reach them. But the organizers make a fortune. I demand from the Government that the scheme for rural development be lunched from the localities of the poor Implementation agencies be monitored strictly. Finally, I conclude my speech stressing my demands.

[English]

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Hon. Madam Chairperson, India lives in its villages. If villages do not develop, the entire nation will remain underdeveloped. 70% of the population of the country is found in the villages out of which, 60% is poor. Therefore after independence, it was the Congress party which had decided that excess land with the big landlords and big cultivators would be distributed among the poor and marginal farmers through land reforms. This would lead to their economic advancement, more income and better standard of living. Also there would be increase in agricultural productivity that would result in reduction and stability in food prices. It would also give a boost to the manufacturing sector. But unfortunately this plan was not properly implemented by the Government resulting in under-development of the rural areas. I can cite an example. In this year's Budget Rs. 40,100 crores have been earmarked for NREGA whereas our population is of 110 crores. Suppose we pay Rs. 100 to each person, then how many families would be covered? Only a few. Similary Bharat Nirman Scheme has been mooted under which the issue of housing is addressed. In the first phase of this scheme only 71,000 dwelling units has been set up. Do not forget the population figure, I repeat, it is 110 crores. So if you calculate, very minimal progress would be visible in this sector. Same is the story of PMGSY. All the roads which have been constructed are unmetalled and in bad shape. No one can possibly use these roads. The scheme of carpeting the roads is a good scheme. If

*Speech was laid on the Table.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bangali.

roads are properly constructed then infrastructure will develop; the cultivators will be able to transport their produce to the towns and cities for marketing and will earn profits. In turn the service sector will grow. But when will all these happen? How long do we need to complete the projects? To date only 1,18,719 km of roads have been built, according to the figures available with me. Only 60,073 villages have been connected with roads. You can well imagine the quantum of work yet to be done. If we move at this pace, we will definitely lag behind. This should be kept in mind.

Another issue is that, planning is good. But implementation has to be better. There is definite lack of transparency and honesty. When roads are constructed, the monitoring committees should assess the progress and keep a vigil on the work done by the contractors. However, no such monitoring is ever done. Contractors function whimsically as a result of which quality of work suffers. The longevity of the roads and other infrastructure is always compromised with in this manner. They do not even remain useful for 5 years. The contractors and bureaucrats collude with each other to reap profits. They infact pocket the funds which are earmarked for social sector development. The Government should keep a keen eye on this kind of malpractice. There is not an iota of transparency in the NREG Scheme. The law is merely on paper; nothing is to be seen at the grassroot level. The master rolls are always absent at the site. What are the problems that crop up due to this? Firstly, the sum of money is sent to the Local Post Office which is turn transfers it to the Head Post Office and from there on, it goes to the banks. The banks then channelise the sum to the panchayats. So there is a great delay in disbursement of payments. The poor, hapless labourers expect that they would be paid immediately after their work is over. But delay in payment inks them and makes them disinterested in their occupation. Therefore they try to migrate from the villages.

During the initial years, NREGA was working fine and there was much hype about this ambitious scheme. But gradually the bubbles were bursted. The workers do not feel enthusiastic about getting jobs under NREGA. Lack of transparency is one of the reasons why the scheme is on the verge failure. Until clarity and transparency are brought about, nothing much can be achieved. Cutting across party lines we have to ensure proper, lucid implementation of the programmes that are undertaken, otherwise, no development will be possible in our country.

I would like to wind up by mentioning that our BPL lists are extremely erroneous. For patty political, religious, cultural, socio-economic interests, scores of fake names are included in the lists. Therefore the actual beneficiaries are being deprived from their due share of social resources; they are at the receiving ends. The country is being run in such a manner that genuine prosperity and growth remain evasive. Even with so many laws and schemes, India is not progressing much because there is dearth of proper implementation of plans. So my request to the Government would be that kindly be a little more strict and have effective vigilance over the work that is being done. Punitive action must be taken against the erring officials in order to regain the trust of the countrymen.

With these words, I thank you for allowing me to participate in this debate and conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Madam Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to speak. India is a country of villages and soul of, India resides in villages. India resides in villages. India cannot develop unless the villages develop. If you want to make India prosperous, then the villages will have to be made prosperous first. The way to success of the largest democracy of the world passes through streets of the villages. The budget allocation for all the three departments of rural development ministry has increased in the Union Budget for 2010-11 for which I heartily congratulate UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhiji and Manmohan Singh ji. The percentage of increase in Budget allocation for land Reforms Department is 31.5 percent for Drinking Water Supply Department it is 15.1 percent and for Rural Development Department it is 6.3 percent.

Madam Chairman, regarding targets and achievements for 2009 and 2010, for example, I would like to tell about SGSY which had a target to provide assistance to 1.5 lakh self-help groups but upto December, 2009 assistance was provided to 65 thousand self-help groups only. Same is the case with Indira Awas and PMGSY only. We should think why the set targets are not being achieved.

Madam, the Union Government can make plans and can provide money but as per federal framework, implementation can be done by State Government alone. I urge State Government that the schemes of rural

development, which can develop villages and poor, be implemented on priority basis.

Madam, on this occasion, I would like to congratulate the Rajasthan Government that it has succeeded in achieving the aims of MNREGA. Shri Gopinath Munde Ji is very respectable to me. He was also in-charge of Rajasthan. I know him well before becoming M.P. He told in the House that the poor are not being provided with any funds under Indira Awas Yojana. I would like to tell that the poor are being provided with funds in Rajasthan. I was therefore, surprised when Shri Munde Ji said this. In Rajasthan, Rs. 5,000 are given to those who are landless and poor by the Union Government and an additional Rs. 5,000 are given by the State Government.

Madam, it was told that there is much corruption in the cases of individual beneficiaries. I would like to tell that in my own parliamentary constituency Barmer and Jaisalmer, if there is at all any implementation of NREGA, it is for individual beneficiaries in my parliamentary constituency. 50 Thousand Tanke which are actually ponds in which rain water is collected, have been constructed. In this manner 50 thousand individual families have got help. Under any other scheme such kind of good work cannot be imagined.

Madam, on this occasion I would like to thank Dr. C.P. Joshi as under the MGNREGA Scheme he had kept a target of making Mini Secretariat in 2 Lakh Panchayats in the form of Rajiv Gandhi Service Centres. Under the MGNREGA after the SC, ST and BPL categories small and marginal farmers have also been included and for this I would like to thank him. The financial aid being provided under Indira Awas Yojana was earlier Rs. 22,500 and this has now been increased up to Rs. 45,000. For this also I would like to thank him. Besides this many more such works have been done but due to shortage of time I am unable to mention them.

Madam, if there is anything which is most required today in the country then that is drinking water. The Supreme Court had also written in its verdict in the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board versus Prof. M.V. Naidu case, 2000 that:-

[English]

“The right to access to drinking water is fundamental to life. There is a duty on the State under Article 21 to provide clean drinking water to its citizens.”

[Translation]

Madam, On 8th March 2010, the Ministry of Rural Development had in its reply to Unstarred Question No. 1580 stated that so far there is no proposal lying with the Ministry regarding Right to water and to provide water as a fundamental right. I would like to request the Union Government that a man's foremost requirement is drinking water and one cannot survive without it. Therefore, Right to water is the foremost requirement of Indian citizens. Therefore, I would like to request hon'ble Minister that a decision must be taken in this regard at the earliest.

Madam, earlier under the Rural Development, per day per capita water requirement was assessed at 70 litres *i.e.*, 40 litres for human beings and 30 litres for animals and now that has been amended and it is proposed to formulate a drinking water scheme on 10 litres per day per capita basis and it is being worked upon for making source available according to that.

Madam Chairman, you know it very well that in a desert there is no other option available than surface water. There is no single drain, river or dam in my Parliamentary Constituency. We depend only on surface water. Through you I would like to request hon'ble Minister to formulate schemes on earlier basis only *i.e.* 70 litre per capita per day basis and then make water source available according to that. I have one more suggestion to make and that is the Financial institutes which make payment under NREGA, are small co-operative societies and grant must be provided (for them also) under this. One more suggestion that I have to make is, it is good to construct private tanks and carry out other works under NREGA but I would like to say that private residences may also be included under this scheme so that the dream of our leader Shri Rahul Gandhi ji can be fulfilled and the poor people in the country could be provided roof on their heads and the target kept by him that there should not be two types of India, shall also get achieved.

He had already given a vision of a brighter India for the people of our country some 5-7 years ago. The dream of Shri Rahul Gandhi ji must form part of the development and progress. This dream can only be realized when poor people will have homes. I am not just hopeful but firmly believe that the villages of India have a very bright future and through the schemes and programmes beings formulated in the hands of UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ji and Minister of Rural Developments Shri C.P. Joshi ji.

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL (Banda): Hon'ble Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in discussion being held upon Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. There are highly ambitious rural development schemes and a budget for those has been presented here. I will not talk too much on this. In this country, be it Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vashya or any other backward community or dalits, there are BPL people and poor people. In a number of schemes like Indira Awas Yojana, Swarn Jayanti Rozgar Yojana, Provisions have been made to benefit dalits and BPL families of Scheduled caste. I would like to request hon'ble Minister that a BPL person will remain BPL, no matter he belongs to which caste because a poor man is poor man after all.

In the Swarn Jayanti Rozgar Yojana Self Group are constituted under this 50 percent has been fixed for the scheduled caste people and for the remaining people separate percentages have been fixed. Groups must be created consisting of all categories, whoever falls under BPL. Poor people from all castes must be benefited under that. I would request you to include them under this.

Hon'ble Minister, this is about Indira Awas, Scheduled Caste people are being benefited under this. I would request him that this is a very ambitious scheme. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji had dreamt of providing a roof to all the poor people in the country. There are poor in all castes and all must be benefited equally. Today when we visit any village, the people over there ask us for houses. Many people born in upper caste middle castes and backward caste do not have any houses today and they also need a roof over their head. They are not being given any benefit under Indira Awas Yojana. I would request him to bring an amendment in this so that BPL families can also receive benefits of this scheme.

Sir, your plans are very ambitious. You have introduced Employment Guarantee Scheme to provide hundreddays employment. I want to say something regarding Employment Guarantee Scheme. I have been elected from Bundelkhand constituency Uttar Pradesh. Today situation in Bundelkhand and whole of Uttar Pradesh is bad and your employment scheme MNREGA has totally failed. Officers like CDO, DM, PD take commissions. Recently the UP Government has suspended the district Chitrakoot DM, CDO, PO who were found involved in corruption cases. This is the example of only a single district even as the officers in whole of UP are indulged in illegal gratification under this scheme. A detailed enquiry should be conducted in this regard.

Madam, whole Bundelkhand is reeling under water crisis. Keeping in view water crisis there, a scheme under MGNREGA was started to construct a pond there. Hon'ble Puniaji is present here. I want to say that model ponds which have been constructed have been constructed on high hilly areas. Old and conventional ponds of villages have not been selected in the model scheme. How small ponds will store water. This scheme has been started with the only active of distributing funds illegal. I request the Hon'ble Minister to conduct an enquiry in this regard.
...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Patel Saheb some other Members of your party will also speak.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: I am concluding within one or two minutes. I request the Hon'ble Minister that though roads which are being constructed are good in quality, still they need to be improved. Whatever schemes are formulated, are made by IAS officers of that place. Representatives are elected. Your schemes are ambitious whatever they may be. I request that action plans should be made in consonance with the proposals of the representatives as they are elected and Union Government pays for it. ...(*Interruptions*) Different regions have different geographical conditions, so schemes should be prepared inserting the opinions of Hon'ble Member of that area, whether it is PMGSY or any other. A lot of land reforms schemes have been started. 60 percent Commission is the order of the day in the land reform scheme is Bundelkhand. U.P. from whereas I have been elected. In schemes like I.A.P., I.W.D.P. etc. 60 percent commission goes to land conservation department and Ramganga command area which have been established there, and 40 percent is used for work completed in land. The same works are being proposed again under other schemes which were got done before five years ago.
...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Patel Saheb, conclude now.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: The action plans which you prepared and said that Rs. 7263 crore package was provided to Bundelkhand, under these schemes also the same work have been proposed which were done five years ago somewhere else by the department. I request you to send a special team to Bundelkhand of U.P and conduct enquiry of each and every work, done here and take action against the guilty ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your other colleagues will also speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: There is a severe drinking water crisis Bundelkhand. Due to shortage of water Bundelkhand is suffering ... (Interruptions) Through you I demand from the Hon'ble Minister that directions should be given to install one thousand hand pumps each ... (Interruptions) under the proposals of all the Member of Parliaments Proposal.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You write separately and give.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now your speech is not being recorded. ... (Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad): Madam Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this important discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. I do not know when you are going to ring the bell, and that is why, I will first start with my State's problems about PMGSY. Unfortunately, when I want to bring this to the notice of the hon. Minister, he is going out. Still, through you, Madam, I have to bring it to the notice of the Ministry.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development, Shri Pradeep Jain, is here.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Jain Saheb, through Madam Chairman, I would request you to kindly make a note of it.

The Karnataka Government is implementing the PMGSY in its true spirit. It stood second in the entire country, as far as ranking is concerned and as far as implementation of the PMGSY is concerned. A proposal for the IX Phase under PMGSY was submitted to the Government of India on 18/02/2010 to upgrade around 4,300 kilometres at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,399 crore. Another proposal concerning 1,815 kilometres of road, amounting to around Rs. 635 crore, in 14 flood-affected

areas/districts of Northern Karnataka, in which my constituency is also there, was submitted, but unfortunately, even after the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka met the hon. Minister of Rural Development, it is yet to be cleared. Even the Minister of rural Development of the Karnataka Government has met the hon. Minister of Rural Development, Government of India, twice, but it is yet to be cleared.

I have been given to understand that the rural network coverage has been completed in Karnataka but this is not being given approval. This is what the information that has been given to me. I would like to tell you that even in the second, third, fourth and fifth phase, we took up the upgradation of the rural roads. It was not networking. In those phases, they have already cleared our projects and payment is made. But unfortunately, only in this ninth phase, this objection is raised that since the village network is completed, that is why they are not approving the project. We have got this information orally. After the second phase, only the upgradation work has been taken up. I also tell my Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh friends that this problem is going to come for them also. That is the information that I have gathered. If, in their States also the networking work is completed, the only important thing which is to be undertaken is upgradation. Some of the roads which were connected 15 or 20 years back by the State Government, they have all been spoiled. There is absolutely no connectivity. Through you, Madam, I urge upon the hon. Minister to kindly take this into consideration. Actually there is no connectivity. It has to be upgraded. I urge upon you to kindly make a note of it and immediately clear the ninth phase proposal of Karnataka as also the proposal of Rs. 635 crore pertaining to the flood affected areas.

Secondly, though NREGA is a good programme, yet there are so many shortcomings. I do not want to discuss much about the shortcomings because already many senior Members have discussed about that. One of them is corruption. Second important point is and at least I have observed in my constituency in Karnataka, that the small and marginal farmers are not getting the farm labour for the agricultural activity. I am not saying that because of that, this NREGA programme is a bad programme. It is a very good programme. I would like to tell you to kindly link this farming activity, the harvesting programme of the small and marginal farmers with the NREGA programme as 70 to 75 per cent farmers are the small and marginal farmers. I urge upon you to include this

*Not recorded.

farming activity with the NREGA programme so that the labour problem is not there.

Even after 63 years of Independence many villages do not have proper drinking water facility. Recently there was a report which has indicated that more than 40 per cent of the ground water is not potable. It is reported even in one of the Planning Commission's Report that more than 40 per cent water is non-potable. That is why, I urge upon you to compulsorily create one tank in each village under this programme. There are many suggestions but for want of time, I only suggest one more point.

Regarding MPLAD fund, a suggestion was made that it should be increased to Rs. 8 or Rs. 10 crore. Madam Sonia Gandhiji is also sitting here. Kindly make it either Rs. 10 crore or he can discontinue it. We are not able to satisfy anybody with this. I urge upon Madam Soniaji to intervene in this and make it Rs. 10 crore otherwise it can be discontinued.

[Translation]

SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR *ALIAS* KUSHAL TIWARI (Sant Kabir Nagar): Madam Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity you have given me to speak. Through you we want to put our grievances to the Hon'ble Minister and Chairperson of UPA.

Madam, Uttar Pradesh is a densely populated State. Maximum unemployment is also seen in youths of U.P. and maximum migration of youth is also from U.P. and Bihar. 60 percent of population which is depended on agriculture and labourers are getting 100 days employment through MGNREGA Scheme of Government, it is really good. But besides agriculture there are labourers in other sectors also like weavers. If weaver are given raw material, and money and Government buy the finished goods, they would also get employment. If the purpose of this scheme is to provide employment, then it should be applied to various areas. Everybody cannot work in farms. This scheme is more suitable to farmers, but if training is imported in groups in villages a lot of employment opportunities can be created. Through you I request that employment may be made available after due deliberations in various sectors Union Government has provided a special package to Bundelkhand. But we are helpless. Government should pay attention to orders this helplessness. Here, Madam Soniaji is sitting, I request her to provide a special package to remove helplessness of youths of Purvanchal to real them of the missreable

condition. Youths of Purvanchal migrate to Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana and Bengal to work in mills. Because there are no sources of livelihood. There are no roads. When flood comes, crops get destroyed completely. When Koshi was in spate recently, 45000 houses were given in name of Indira Aawas. When Rapti, Ghaghara, Budhi Gandak etc. are in spate, it happens many a times, firstly when rain water increases naturally flood strikes. Second time when Nepal releases water, crops of farmers get destroyed completely due to which marriages of girls get postponed. Now you can imagine that even after 63 years of Independence, how much backward life they are forced to lead. I remember a BRGF scheme under which many districts of UP like Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Balrampur, Baihraich, Maharajganj of terrai region falls but the benefit of not even a single penny of the Government of India has reached there. Funds should be provided through BRGF to remove the backwardness there ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY (Shrawasti): Dir, Hon'ble Member is misleading the House ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member, you may please take your seat.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Madam, we have already made r. detailed discussion about Poorvanchal yesterday.

SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR *ALIAS* KUSHAL TIWARI: Madam, particularly our district is a backward one. There are around 40 backward districts, but our district is the most backward district among them. In many of these districts, people survive on one meal only. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to provide a special package to eradicate the backwardness of such districts ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON (Unnao): Madam, whether anyone else has to say anything except about the package or not?

DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: Madam, Hon'ble Member is not having the information he is misleading the House ... (*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble member, we already have made a detailed discussion about this subject yesterday and reply of the Government has also been received. I would request the House to discuss this

important grant in a peaceful manner and cooperate with the Chair. Hon'ble Member, now you may please conclude.

SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR *ALIAS* KUSHAL TIWARI: Madam, I am speaking about human aspect. Every human being has heart and emotions. Think honestly about the condition of people in Poorvanchal. I am only explaining their dilemma over here.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now you may please conclude your speech.

SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR *ALIAS* KUSHAL TIWARI: I would conclude my statement in two minutes
...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now your statement will not go on record. I am giving the opportunity to the next Member Shri Baidyanath Prasad Mahato.

...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I regret that your statement is not being recorded so you may please take your seat and let Mahato Ji speak.

...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member, none of your statements are being recorded. So, you may kindly take your seat. Statement of Shri Mahato only will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mahato Ji, you may please speak.

[English]

**SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): Let me put forth the views on behalf of my Party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of my Parliamentary Constituency.

The total budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Rural Development has been increased from Rs. 79,879 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 89,340 crore in this year's Budget.

The UPA dream project, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been a great success. Allocation under the scheme has been increased year after year and this year, it is Rs. 40,100 crore which shows that the UPA Government is sincere in development of rural people. All the districts in the country have been covered under this Scheme.

*Not recorded.

**Speech was laid on the Table.

I would like to put on record the appreciation from the Hon'ble Supreme Court about the effective and efficient implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has even observed that Tamil Nadu is setting a model and the other States needs to follow the way in which it is being implemented, ensuring that the benefits reach to the beneficiaries intended. I would like to mention that full credit for the implementation of this scheme should go our Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Shri M.K. Stalin, who is taking full care in implementation of this scheme very successfully in Tamil Nadu.

The Prime Minister Gramin Sadak Yojana is an important scheme of the Government which has interconnected villages. This has brought the economic development of the villages. Villagers can now have access to pucca roads. They have access to the markets. But I would like to bring to an important issue in implementation of this PMGSY scheme. At present, no compensation is being given to the affected people whose land has been acquired for construction of these roads. I request the Union Government to provide some compensation to such affected people by allocating more funds for this Yojana.

The allocation of Rs. 9521 crore for drinking and sanitation has been made in this year's Budget. Drinking water is an issue that needs to be given a serious thought by the Centre as well as the States. Villagers are forced to drink highly contaminated water in the absence of safe drinking water. Water table to most of the villages in the country is fast receding. The Union Government should consider allocating more funds for drinking water and sanitation schemes.

Health is one of the most important issues. Health facilities in rural India are insufficient. If the rural population has access to quality health faculties, we can be sure that the future of the country is bright. I request that both the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare should have better coordination in ensuring setting up of the quality health infrastructure and quality health facilities in rural India covering each and every village in the country.

The State of Tamil Nadu has given a definite thrust to Rural Development. I am proud to announce that our State is spending 14.8 per cent of its Budget for the rural development. Since more than half of the population

in Tamil Nadu (56%) still live in rural areas spreading over 12,618 village Panchayats, it is but natural that it should earmark such a huge percentage for rural development.

Tamil Nadu has launched a new system of wage disbursal through ATMs for beneficiaries of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) at five places in Cuddalore District-Periyakanganakuppam, Thiruvahindrapuram, Panchanguppam, Padhirikuppam and Karaiyeravittakuppam. Other States should also follow this example of Tamil Nadu. It will definitely route out corruption from this scheme.

I would like to mention that our Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has announced a scheme — “Annaiithu Grama Anna Marumalarchi Thittam” in every Panchayat. The Tamil Nadu Government has allocated a sum of Rs. 20 lakh for each village for this scheme. I urge upon the Union Government to introduce such schemes all over the country for development of each and every villages in India.

I would like to mention that an amount of Rs. 38,000/- is being allocated for construction of a house under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), which is very less. At this present day inflation scenario, with this amount it is not possible to construct a house for even a very small family and this amount should be increased to a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh per house. I urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

The Union Government are allocating a sum of Rs.2,500/- each for construction of toilet under Total Sanitation Programme, which is very much less and needs to be increased to minimum of Rs.10,000/- per toilet under this Programme.

Our Leader Dr. Kalaingar M. Karunanidhi has announced a scheme of construction of 21 lakh houses in Tamil Nadu. The Chief Minister has given assurance that 3 lakhs houses would be constructed in the first phase. I request the Union Government to introduce such a scheme for all over the country for the benefit of the poor people.

Expressing my support to the Demands for Grants pertaining the Union Ministry of Rural Development, on my behalf of my Party, let me conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO (Balmikinagar): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important subject. The place from where I am speaking is a temple of justice. In this temple of justice in the interest of the nation, villages, poor we should speak honestly leaving behind the party politics. It seems Union Minister Dr. Joshi is not present here.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Minister of state is present in the House and he is noting your point you may please continue.

SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO: Madam Chairman, he had said during the Zero Hour that the funds being released for Bihar under Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana is not being spent. I was also very much concerned about it. Even today I have asked for a report from the Government of Bihar. I am not in a position to read out the same here due to constraint of time, but, I would like to meet and ask the Hon'ble Minister tomorrow not to give such baseless statement.

Madam Chairman India is a country of villages. It was said by Mahatma Gandhi Ji that the soul of India lives in the villages. Eighty percent people live in the villages and this country cannot become strong unless the villages are not strengthened. Even after 63 years of independence, Bihar is poor, villages of the country and that of Bihar are in a worse condition and brain and wealth of the villages have also been migrated towards the cities, it is necessary to bring the same back. The day villages are strengthened, the whole nation would be strong and we would be able to imagine about the prosperous and beautiful India. We will have to open all the doors for the development of the villages. I request Joshi Ji and hon'ble Minister of State as well that if you want the villages to be developed then you should open all the doors. I have time constraints, but I would like to tell you that you do not have the data about the poor people and the number their of. Some people say that 37 percent population is poor, some say 40 percent population is poor and some people say that 56 percent population of the country is poor. It means that the norms you have fixed for poverty are not appropriate. Therefore, you will certainly have to formulate the norms to identify the poor while calling a meeting of National Development Council. When I was Minister of Rural Development in Bihar I had seen during the identification of BPL that

there is a need to amend norms formulated to identify BPL. Thus, the Chief Minister of Bihar Hon'ble Nitish Kumar Ji had convened an international conference for assessment of poverty in the year 2007, laureate economist from the country and abroad had participated in this conference and all of them had said that the norms formulated for the assessment of poverty line are faulty. We have to fix the criteria of poverty line by convening the meeting of National Development Council, otherwise the identification of poor would not be correct. We have safeguarded the interest of BPL people in Bihar. There are one crore thirty lakh BPL families in the villages, but the Government of India is providing food grains to 65 lakh twenty three thousand people only. Still 57 lakh people are deprived of this facility in Bihar. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed in the year 2005 and now its name has been changed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme. This act was passed in a haste, so there are certain shortcomings in it. It requires some amendments. Use of machine is not allowed under this scheme. If we have to desist and clean a pond, then it is not possible to do so without using pumpset. So using machine would be necessary in the said case. Amendment in this act is extremely essential in view of this.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech and sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO: Cleaning of sewage is also included in this scheme. Human excreta is disposed of through these sewage lines. Labourers do not want to work in sewage lines. On one hand scavenging is crime and on the other hand we are forcing the labourers to clean the excreta. So, there is a need to make the use of machine mandatory for sanitation of sewage drains.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You have been speaking for so long, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO: There is a need for development within the village.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please sit down, your statement is not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Your suggestions have been noted down, now you sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (Barasat): Madam, Chairperson, I rise in support of the Demand for Grants for the Ministry of Rural Development. We live on today dreaming for a better tomorrow. But what do we dream on? To quote the renowned statesman, we all know and we all have heard of, Winston Churchill, while he was encouraging the Allied Forces towards fighting the enemy, he said "We shall fight them in the air; we shall fight them in the sea; and we shall fight them on land." Then, he covered the mouth piece of the microphone and said:

"Fight with what? Empty beer cans! "

So that is the relevant question today. What do we fight on? Do we fight on empty stomachs? Nearly 72 per cent of our population still is rural. Even today, in spite of laudable efforts on the part of our Government which has brought forward schemes like Antyodaya Yojana, Annapoorna Yojana and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, millions of people are going hungry in the country. This is proven by recent happenings that took place in Pratapgarh of Uttar Pradesh where there was some person who wanted to give food to the poor people and they thronged in hundreds and thousands and a stampede followed killing hundreds of people. This is the state of affairs in the country today. So, the requirement today is formation of a very correct below poverty line list by which we can identify those people who are living below the poverty line. They require food today.

Now what I would like to draw your attention to is that we need development in the form of science and technology. We need development in the form of information technology and our great nation India is soaring ahead. But I would like to point out that during

*Not recorded.

the last few decades population of the country has been increasing at the exponential growth rate of more than two per cent but land surface has not been. We have to take care of this very urgent issue. People cannot thrive on cement and steel. We have to give them food and because of that we have to take care of the fertile lands of our nation. Like our beloved late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhiji pointed out that for every rupee meant for the poor person only 15 paise reaches him. Today, I think, it is much less than that. So, the monitoring system has to be stepped up and accountability has to be looked into. Not only BIMARU States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh but now West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh have also joined the fray where people are going hungry. The hunger index is very high and we cannot attain anything on a hungry stomach.

So, we have to take proper care and look after our land area and also stop taking away land from the farmers by force. What I mean is that one of the young hon. Member of this august House had to go on fast indefinitely and withdraw on request of Hon'ble Prime Minister after 26 days in protest against the forceful acquisition of land in our State of West Bengal. What she tried to point out is the fact that land surface of our country and the world is not increasing, whereas the population is. So, we must take care of our land surface. We must have research so that we are able to produce high yielding crops and we also have to initiate irrigation programmes. We do not have any provision in the MPLADS to provide for any irrigation facilities and many parts of our country are lacking in irrigation and this issue has to be addressed with all seriousness. I would like to state that the hon. Minister should pay attention to this aspect of providing irrigation facilities in order to grow more crops, to feed more people and to satisfy more hungry mouths. Besides the laudable efforts of the Government to start the schemes of the PMGSY, the monitoring of the scheme has to be done more carefully. I do agree completely with what has been said by Hon'ble Speaker Shri Majumder that money being given is completely pilfered and laundered. He is coming from the State of West Bengal and his party is a part of the Coalition that is ruling the State which is taking the money from the Central Government and not giving it to the poor people to build the roads...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Let the hon. Member Speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR: Madam, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a new scheme that I have formulated in my constituency. Till now what we have is that people are given jobs for 100 days under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act under which the people are just digging the mud and throwing it on the roadside. There are millions of villages without roads and because of poor connectivity, development is hampered. We have to look at it holistically, food is not reaching to the poor people in the last village. Medical facilities are not reaching them. In our country, every minute we are losing a person because of a disease called Tuberculosis; every five minutes we are losing a mother because of child birth related causes; another mother we lose in every 5 minute because of cancer of the cervix. This is happening because we are unable to reach the medical facilities to them when it is required. It is not that the doctors do not want to go there. It is because they do not have proper connectivity, proper roads which will facilitate the doctors and ambulance to go there and bring the patients in order to save their lives. The Primary Health Centres are not well equipped to take care of a bleeding mother at a time when she is about to bring a life into this world. So, a holistic approach that I would like to suggest is that along with the laudable effort of having the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana, we have to build roads connecting the last man and women in the last house in the last village.

Madam, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that I have made a new scheme in which I have combined the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme with the MPLADS. The villagers themselves are building the roads. First they dig the mud and draw it up in the form of a mud road and once the mud road is completed, the money from the MPLADS is sanctioned to make it black top so that an ambulance can reach the village. I have already sanctioned quite a

few mobile dispensaries equipped with operation tables, lights and the facility of a doctor so that it would help to take care of sick men, women and children in the last village.

Sir, as far as education is concerned, a Report of the World Bank says that 25 per cent of the teachers are absent ...*(Interruptions)*

18.00 hrs.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Good suggestions are coming.

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR: Twenty-five per cent of the teachers are absent in rural schools. So, monitoring and accountability will have to be implemented quickly so that the money that is going from the Centre to different States is properly utilized.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants of this Ministry. ...*(Interruptions)*

***DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool):** Rural Development Ministry is the nodal Ministry which plays vital role in the development of rural India. As Father of Nation – Mahatma Gandhi said—“Strong rural India makes strong urban India and in turn stronger nation India.”

Unless the initiatives taken by and schemes launched by any Government reaches the needy rural populace dream of Mahatma Gandhi making a strong India will not be cherished.

In making a strong rural India, the schemes introduced and measures taken by the UPA Government under the Leadership of Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and under the able guidance of our beloved Leader and UPA Chairperson Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and under the vision of young leader Shri Rahul Gandhiji is shaping into strong India.

The new doctrine of “inclusive economic grants” along with renewed focus on the social sector particularly on rural development in the last six years not only insulated our vast rural populace from the onslaught of global economic downside but also in actually put our rural economy in an unprecedented course of ascendancy.

The development and welfare initiatives undertaken by the UPA Government in the rural areas in the last five years further strengthened during 2009-2010. This brought about perceptible change in the lives of the people in the villages.

A convergence approach has been adopted for optimization of resources, initiatives and results. The Government's initiatives in modifying and including new elements in the some of the existing schemes and programmes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) IAY, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) IAY, National Social Association Programme (NSAP), integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Rural Drinking Water Mission (NRDWM) etc. are expected to yield good results in the poverty alleviation.

- To achieve above goals the UPA Government had made budgetary allocations never before had been made many a times over and above previous budgets. Rs. 66,100 crore provided for rural development.
- For MGNREGS allocations had been stepped up to Rs. 40,100 crores for 2010-11.
- Rs. 48,000 crores have been allocated for rural infrastructure programmes under Bharat Nirman.
- For IAY houses unit cost is increased to Rs. 45,000/- in the plane areas and to Rs. 48,500/- in hilly areas. Allocations for this scheme increased to Rs. 10,000 crores.

MGNREGS

- In 2009-10 upto December, 2009 Rs. 18,950 crore has been utilized out of Rs. 39,100 crore.
- 160 crore person days employment had been created during the same period of time across the country.
- At the national average wage paid under MGNREGS has increased from Rs. 65 (FY 2006-07) to Rs. 88.48 in FY 2009-10.
- In Financial Year 2009-10, 36.51 lakhs works have been undertaken out of which 51% constituted water conservation, 16% rural connectivity, 14% land development.
- 17% constituted for provision of irrigation facilities to individuals.

But there are allegations of misuse of MGMREGS funds. I request the government of India to take all the steps to stop the misuse.

SGSY—To supplement the wage employment and to augment the economic conditions of the rural poor, assisting them in self-employment by encouraging group and cluster activities. But because it is linked to banks and other financial institutions, the expected goals are unable to be reached. Government of India should take care of banks to liberalise the loaning procedures.

IAY—Indira Awas Yojana—is the Flagship Programme for rural housing since 1985-86, to help build or upgrade homes of house holds below the poverty line in phase-1 of Bharat Nirman.

- Starting from 2005-06 against the target of 60 lakh houses, 71.76 lakh houses were constructed at an expenditure of Rs. 21720 crores.
- Under the Phase-II of Bharat Nirman Programme the target is doubled to 120 lakhs in the 5 year period starting from 2009-10. Since inception 218.69 lakhs houses have been constructed.

In Andhra Pradesh along with (IAY) Indiramma housing scheme had been taken up to see that no. BPL person lives in hut which is yielding good results. I request the Government of India to adopt the same policy like Andhra Pradesh Indiramma Housing Scheme to do away with the intention of that no BPL person lives in a hut.

PMGSY

PMGSY roads have changed the system of connectivity and transport from the villages to the towns and nearby cities. This had helped the farming community to transport their agricultural and allied activities products like dairy products to the cities and towns speedily and improved their financial position, after launching the programme and with the experience of the first three years, the cost of the programme was revised in 2003-04 to Rs. 1,30,000 crore against the Rs. 60,000 crore projected initially out of 1,66,938 habitations eligible for coverage under the Programme, out of which 31,502 habitations are connected to be reported in other schemes or not feasible. Remaining 1,35,436 were targeted for providing road connectivity under PMGSY giving priority for PMGSY is appreciable which helps the rural population, tribal and desert areas through good-all-weather roads in the rural areas.

National Social Assistance Programme

Under NOAPS, Rs. 75/- per month was being provided for beneficiary to destitutes who were 65 years of age or above. The amount of pension was increased to Rs. 200 per month with effect from 1.4.2006 and States were asked to provide another Rs. 200/- per month from their own resources.

During 2009-10 till December, 2009, 5.00 lakh beneficiaries have got benefited from the scheme. This programme had changed the lifestyle of the beneficiaries apart from the family members not feeling of burden on them this pension beneficiaries.

Other Programmes like

- National Rural Drinking Water Programme.
- Central Rural Sanitation Programme
- Rural Development Programmes in the NE Region
- Integrated watershed Management Programme (IWMP)
- Special Provision of Rs. 1,200 Crores to Budelkhand under MGNREGA are bringing sea-saw change in the life style of rural population more so SC/STs whose children able to persue good education have good food, good medication through NRHM.

The above activities of UPA Government show the serious concern of the UPA Governments sincerity to lift the rural population from BPL and bring the poor into mainstream of the society.

Finally, if steps are taken to plug the loopholes for siphoning of the funds by some unscrupulous elements and officers in some instances the UPA Governments efforts to develop the rural India go long way in the history of UPA Governments Governance.

I support the Demands for the Grants to Rural Development Ministry.

[Translation]

*SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you that you have given me

*Speech was laid on the Table.

an opportunity to speak on the demands for grants for the Ministry of Rural Development. National economy can not be strengthened by neglecting villages. Prosperity of villages is a prerequisite for the prosperity of the nation. If, immediate steps are not taken to alleviate poverty, we will have to suffer grave consequences of it, which would not be in the interest of the nation. No matter what promises we make regarding rural development but the reality is very different. The gap between rich and poor is increasing. Incessant increase in poverty in villages is a matter of great concern, it is unfortunate that 42 percent population that lives in villages is very poor. Poverty scenario is really very horrifying. Worse condition of farmers and that of agriculture can be construed as the main reason of poverty in villages. The number of people living below poverty line is continually increasing. National economy can not be strengthened by neglecting villages.

Even, till date India has failed to find an effective solution for the problem of poverty. A special group had been appointed under the chairmanship of Suresh Tendulkar, economist of Planning Commission to find an appropriate method to ascertain the poverty in India. While dismissing the Government assessment of poverty i.e. 28.8 percent, the Committee has informed that 42 percent people are poor in villages of India, A survey should be conducted to make a new BPL list without further delay and only eligible people should be identified. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is a good scheme. In the Budget of Finance year 2010-11 an extra amount of one thousand crore has been earmarked under the head of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as compared to last year. This year provision of Rs. 40100 crore has been made. A total of Rs. 66100 crore has been allocated for the Ministry of Rural Development. Under this scheme, 100 days employment in a year will be provided to an adult member of every family in rural areas. There is a provision to give him compensation in case employment is not provided to him. Norms have been fixed in NREGA but no labourer can work on this basis. Actually he is getting less than rupees 50-60 as wages. The Government have to make a commitment to give wages of Rs. 100. A system should be evolved, in which one member of a family get rupees 100 per day for 100 days and thus, the calculation comes to ten thousand rupees. This amount should be deposited in his account. This would help him get the work done as per his action plan and according to his need. That would save the administrative expenses as well.

Today MGNREGA is not creating any assets, most of works being done are useless. A pond is dug again and again. There is no provision for taking care of assets. This scheme must be linked to farms, agricultural works and farmers. The works like water tanks, ponds, buildings, planting trees for agriculture should be included in it. This scheme must be corruption free. Effective monitoring is needed. Contract practice should be stopped.

The ministry of rural development is bound to make available pure drinking water in all the village. To achieve this goal, Department of drinking water supply under ministry of rural development has implemented many schemes like accelerated rural water supply programme in order to meet the scarcity of water in rural areas, but in reality there is serious problem of drinking water of what to speak of giving special category to drinking water by the Government it has not even provided any additional aid to Rajasthan. There is a scheme named Aapani Yojana with collaboration of Germany in my constituency Churu. It is one of the best drinking water schemes of the world. But there is also water scarcity in this scheme due to administrative indifference. Approval to start second phase of this scheme is under consideration of the ministry of water resources. It would be beneficial for Sujangarh-Ratangarh-Rajgarh tehsils of Churn. Bunggi Rajgarh drinking water scheme costing Rs. 375 crores was laid by then Chief Minister Smt. Vashundhra Raje. No single pipe has been laid by the present Government under the said scheme during last 15 months. It is necessary to approve second phase of Aapani scheme and Bunggi — Rajgarh (Churu) without any further delay. To address this dreadful problem of drinking water, every member of Parliament should be given right to recommend to install own thousand hand pumps. Special assistance should be provided to churn and Nohar tehsil (Rajasthan) for drinking water. Water status should be identified by test bore of 1000 feet in Tara Nagar, Sardar Shahar, Sujangarh, Churn, Ratangarh, Rajgarh and Nohar tehsils of Rajasthan.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has changed the vista of village area. The Government had decided to connect the villages having population of 250 and the villages which provided no revenue. It is on the basis of the survey carried out by Department of water supply in 2001. This survey is not correct. There are many villages in my area which have population of more than 250 and they are not included in this survey. Such villages should be connected by road after, a survey carried out by development officer Tehsildar S.D.M etc. It provide relief

to rural people a lot, in addition the roads are renovated which are more than 10 km constructed earlier in the name of through route. I request that such roads should be constructed which are 5-10 km and connecting large area.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is for connecting the villages which have no roads. There are no crossings on railways lines, such village can not be deemed connected. There is approximately 450 Kilometer rail lines in my area, which has only 30-35 manned/unmanned railway crossings. Most of village have been connected in this area under the scheme. But due to lack of railways crossings, villages are not connected in real terms camel-cart, tractor, jeep and heavy vehicles can not cross railway line due to lack of crossing and to reach the villages Railways is not making railway crossings and State Government has no resources to afford Rs. 1.50 crores to be incurred on these construction. I request that Government should pay the expenditure to be incurred on these railway crossings under the said scheme. Presently, the Government has decided to construct a bridge of 50 meter in spite of 25 meter under this scheme. My demand is that these bridges should be of the length of 100 meter so that single lane bridges may be constructed.

State Government is not ready to provide financial aid to construct under and over bridges and railway crossings which results in thousands of kilometer of roads are unused.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR (Karimnagar): Madam Chairman, I have got first opportunity to speak in the House. I did speak on supplementary questions Zero Hour or matter under rule 377 after being elected in 15th Lok Sabha. But this time this is the first opportunity I have got to speak on demands for grants of Ministry of Rural Development. I thank congress party and UPA Chairperson.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, it is six o'clock. I have a list of 13 more hon. Members. If the House agrees, time of the House may be extended up to the completion of today's business.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Okay. The time of the House is extended.

[Translation]

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: First of all I thank congress party because it gave me M.P. ticket there by I got opportunity to speak. I thank voters of my constituency. You have given opportunity to me to speak on demands of Ministry of rural development. I want to say that this scheme is of this kind that using the name of one's caste or father's name.....

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches may do so.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: As suggested by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, those hon. Members who want to lay their speeches may do so on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Madam, I am speaking for the first time, still you ask me to lay the speech.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am addressing other Members. You go ahead.

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: I am NSA leader. I can speak a lot, but it is my beginning. I want to say that this programme has been given importance by starting it in the name of Mahatma Gandhi by the Government and I thank Central Government, UPA Chairperson, Hon'ble PM and Minister of Rural Development for taking this scheme to rural areas.

In addition I want to say that allocation of funds made under it is not a trifling matter. The Mernberg from opposition party cannot appreciate it. They have not been supporting the decisions of congress party since the independence of India before sixty years. It is their habit to oppose every matter whether it is nationalization of banks, twenty points programme or five year plans. This is a very good programme. When they speak here they call it a good programme but afterwards they call it a bad one. This programme is reaching every village in our Andhra Pradesh. These people are apposing this despite its being so much successful I say that try to look into the matter and see the development in rural areas. Firstly you should find out in this regard. Funds allocated through this programme are sufficient whether

it is Bharat Nirman or Indira Aawash Yojana and Ministry of rural development is working well under the scheme of self help group. The self help groups specially in Andhra Pradesh, were given loans of Rs. 6500 crores, they are strengthening themselves with this money. Mr. Raj Shekhar Reddy was earlier Chief Minister and now Mr. Rosseah Ji is Chief Minister there Rural Development work is running very well in Andhra Pradesh under the leadership of UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi. Social audits are being carried out in Andhra Pradesh and work is running very fast.

I request Hon'ble Minister that a conference of rural development was held earlier. Therein Minister promised to make a provision for a village secretariat in every village for the execution. I request, through you, that village secretariat in every village must execute the schemes. There are no village secretariat till date. I request the Minister of provide village secretariat there. Facility of drinking water under rural development should be provided and asset development programme for education should be implemented. Not only for employment opportunities but minimum amenities of drinking water is made a permanent asset. I will thank UPA Government and the Minister. This is my maiden speech and I will try to speak more in future. Skill Development programme is also being run by the Government. It is required to be done with more efficiency. I request Minister not to leave skill development in concrete base, small industry should be established on rural base which may be used and utilised throughout the country. I spoke a lot as a student leader in meetings but this is my first opportunity and for this I thank you and party as well.

*SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ (Garhwal): Today there is discussions on ministry of rural development which is always good because 70 per cent population of India live in villages. This ministry always make efforts for their betterment. This ministry tries to improve standard of life of the people living in villages. The best commendable job by this ministry is MGNREGA. I want to say through this house that it should be named as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act instead of MGNREGA because Mahatma Gandhi is father of our nation and to regard him we should use his complete name. The personality of Mahatma Gandhi is admired not only in India but through out the world also.

There are some irregularities in fulfilling the aim of this Act e.g. some states are not taking inters is in it. There are a lot of complaints regarding not making payments on time.

Employment is not provided to labourers as per provision of the Act. That is why people have to migrate from village to city. There should be some directions for it. Centre Government should direct the State Government to issue order to district administration to be serious about this scheme. Senior official of a district should visit the villages to address the problems affecting implementation of the scheme.

During my visit to my area I came to know that payments have not been made to labourers for their labour till now. Government should fix the time limit of payment so that poor labours may get their right on time.

In Uttarakhand many water storages were made under the scheme but most of them have been buried due to landslide. So the aim of their construction failed and money was also wasted Kindly pay attention towards this.

Given the adverse geological circumstances of hilly areas, the works included under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act are not based on the adverse geological conditions of the hilly districts and the hardships of traffic and the requirements of these places. So, keeping in view the odd circumstances of that place, I have also urged Hon'ble Minister to include the following proposals:-

- Construction of pedestrian link path.
- Construction of CC brick path.
- Formation of micro drinking water schemes.
- Formation of micro irrigation schemes.
- Construction of pedestrian small culverts.
- Construction of play grounds.
- Construction of community Centers Panchayat/ Buildings/Marriage halls.
- Repairing of damaged pedestrian paths/culverts/drains/ micro irrigation schemes/drinking water schemes.
- Construction of public squares/roundabouts etc.
- Construction of yards/Play grounds in schools.

With these words I conclude my speech and once again. I thank you.

[English]

*SHRI PREM DAS RAI (Sikkim): I support the demands for grants for the Rural development ministry the centre piece of the UPA-II Government. It is indeed heartening to note that there is no let up in the emphasis in this sector in the Union Budget having been presented at a crucial juncture with an economy creeping out of slow down. The rural people of India constitute mainly those who have been denied access to many of the otherwise important steps that our country has already taken. One can always argue that more allocation could have been made available.

The need of the hour is to see that the implementation of all the schemes are done first with passion and second with consistent monitoring of the delivery elements in our system. Physical and financial targets have been missed in many States. The people who ought to have been the beneficiaries have also been left out. These are to be corrected forthwith.

Here I would like to point out that the increasing role of the Member of Parliament is not advisable. We would like to have a look at the projects when they are being implemented but we cannot be made mainline functionaries in the Monitoring and Vigilance. I disagree on this as it is not the work of an MP. We are foremost legislators. We have to spend more time in our legislative business and these kinds of responsibilities distracts us from the core of our work. We have more important issues on hand.

I would request for having a relook at this part of the overall framework of monitoring that has been designed.

Perhaps, a greater synchronisation and coordination with the State Government is in order. After all the issue is important since Rural Development is a State subject. Every now and then we hear the blame game which tends to play out in Parliament. Centre being blamed for taking on too much and centralising versus the States not fulfilling their part of the bargain. This is a perpetual issue but we must focus on the overall well being of our citizens. It is therefore imperative that the mechanisms

must be made more robust via other innovative delivery designs.

The Ministry of Rural Development has three departments: (a) Department of Rural Development; (b) Department of Land Resources; and (c) Department of Drinking Water. Among the three departments, the highest increase in allocation is in Department of Land Resources, followed by Department of Drinking Water Supply and Department of Rural Development

The UPA in its first stint undertook a host of policy initiatives, landmark among which is the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) which promised at least 100 days of wage employment to a household seeking employment. Noteworthy also, was the UPA initiative on rural infrastructure development christened Bharat Nirman which encompasses rural housing, rural electricity connection, telephony, all-weather road connectivity, safe drinking water, sanitation and expansion of irrigation capacity. However, with the first full budget of the second run of UPA, the financial commitment on rural development seems less than forthcoming.

- The allocation for the Department of Rural Development has increased from Rs.62,201 crores in 2009-10 (Revised Estimate) to Rs. 66,138 crores in 2010-11 (Budget Estimate).
- The allocation on Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has gone up by only 2.5% from Rs. 39,100 crores in 2009-10 (Revised Estimate) to Rs. 40,100 in 2010-11 (Budget Estimate).
- A major development for rural housing sector is a substantial increase in unit costs of housing provided under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). The unit cost has been increased by 30% to Rs. 45,000 for plain areas and Rs. 48,500 for hilly areas.
- Quantum of allocation for IAY has, however, increased by only 13% from Rs.8,800 crores to Rs. 10,000 crores.
- Allocation for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) has remained at the 2009-10 level at Rs. 12,000 crores.
- The allocation for Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) has been increased by 26%, from Rs. 5,800 crores in 2009-10 (Revised Estimate) to Rs. 7,300 crores.

Before, venture to narrate some figures I would like to put another important aspect in front of this august house. The PMGSY is an important and integral part of Bharat Nirman. This flagship program is very popular since enables connectivity to far flung villages. I would be happy if for mountain states like mine, Sikkim, we were endowed with PMGRY or Prime Minister's Gram Ropeway Yojana. This would facilitate easy connectivity without the cutting of hillsides and loss of precious mountain flat land and forest land: Flat land is a hugely destroyed due to road cutting. It is time to look at this alternative connectivity for mountain and hilly States.

Starting from 2004, when the UPA first took office, the total allocation on rural development as a whole took a quantum jump. From 2004-05 to 2008-09 the average annual growth rate of expenditure on rural development was around 37%. Superlative growth was attained in 2008-09 with an overall growth rate of 79% over the allocation in 2007-08.

However, increase in allocation in this sector did not hold the trend for years 2009-10 and 2010-11. Outlays in Union Budget 2010-11 have reduced by 8% over the previous year. Overall the allocation for rural development sector stood at 1.1% of GDP for 2010-11 compared to 1.2% of GDP in 2009-10 (Budget Estimate).

Therefore, one can argue that the aam aadmi is not being held centre stage at this time. However, we also understand the circumstances of this.

My refrain is that the size is still large enough if we are able to implement is more judiciously and innovatively. I know the Minister of this Ministry does see things in alignment to what I am stating. I only hope that he will be able to execute the same with the same spirit.

With these words, I fully support the demands for grants.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PATLE (Janjgir-Champa): Madam, I am thankful to you for the opportunity you have given me to speak on Panchayate Raj and national rural development subject. Panchayats have been part and parcel of life since ancient times. Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya- envisaged development of villages and each villager of India. Three panchayats of three 73rd constitutional amendment have been empowered politically today. As a system of local self governance It has

achieved constitutional status. By giving 33 percent reservation to half the population of country in these institutions leadership has been provide to them. For this I thank the central governance. I want that after due deliberations with all parties and rising above party politics opportunity of leadership should be given to women in legislature and Lok Sabha as soon as possible by providing 33 percent to women on the basis of population. I thank the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttarakhand including Hon'ble sensitive Chief Minister Raman Singh of Chhattisgarh for providing 50 present reservation to women in these institutions in their respective states before the Centre. Panchayati Raj institutions are accelerating the development by carrying out the tasks in the schemes of national rural development of the country. For capacity building of elected representatives and officials, a national level training and resource centre should be established. Panchayats have comprehensive powers functions and responsibility which are being carried out with full transparency. They should be given more powers. In 2003, the then Prime Minister Hon'ble Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had announced to develop towns in line with cities by providing basic amenities to them.

By restricting migration of labourers towards cities, cities will be freed of population pressure and all round development of the country can be ensured. Rural development board has sanctioned 166 projects which encompass a very few for Chhattisgarh. Since Chhattisgarh state is rich is mineral resources and is a power hub, and Central Government also gets huge revenue form here, 80 per cent population of Chhattisgarh live in villages but Central Government is not providing appropriate funds for the development of state. Even today, Janjgir-Champa district including Bastar and Dantewada is still lagging behind in development not even central schools in there. Resultantly, Dantewada like projects ar coming forward. If villages are developed properly common people will be come aware and problems will come to an end itself Government wants to take the development to the last person, but most of the last persons are away for earning his livelihood at the time of BPL survey. So his family is not included in the list. Due to this benefit of schemes can not reach him. Such persons apply to local representatives and officials. BPL list must be prepared at national level at the same time when population census is being conducted in the country for their upliftment. Madam, I was given the opportunity by people to function at all three tiers of panchayati Raj. Dreams of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya

regarding India is coming true through these institutions. More powers should be given to these institutions so that dreams of Mahatma Gandhi for ideal life in villages may come true.

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): Hon'ble Madam, Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion upon Demands for Grants of Ministry of Rural Development. This is an important department. All of us should rise above the party lines and work for the development of the country. Madam, Chairman, out of the total population of one billion, 75 per cent people live in villages. One can even say that 80 per cent population lives in villages. It is for the development of those villages that this Department is very important. All of us support its good programmes. I would like to give a few suggestions that today the most important problem in villages is of drinking water. Today, the water level is going down every where and villages are not getting pure drinking water as a result of which serious diseases are spreading and huge amount of money is being spent on their treatment. The other Department of that is his and Rural Sanitation Programme is an important part of it. I would openly like to say that today, almost every household in villages have mobile but they do not have the capacity to construct toilets. It is very sad that almost half of the country's population is using mobiles and on the other hand only Rs. 1500-1700 are being given for making toilets in the name of rural sanitation in villages.

I would urge the Government to at least provide five to ten thousand rupees for making toilets under the Rural Sanitation Programme. Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is an important scheme to connect villages with concrete roads. But some states are not properly utilizing the funds allocated to them for this and are returning the funds. I would like to say that for this some relaxation must be given in the rules. Majra's and Purvas having a population of 250-300 people must also be connected with concrete roads and rules must be relaxed for the same.

Madam, even educated youths can get the benefit of the self-employment scheme. But it is plagued by large-scale corruption. Such a scheme is not properly handled by the bank officers to serve the desired purpose.

Madam, people have certainly got employment under MNREGA but I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards certain shortcomings in the same.

When I will say this thing my colleagues from BSP are going to create lot of furore. I would like to take the name of hon'ble Dr. Bheemrao Ambedkar ji. The first styagrah done by Dr. Ambedkar Saheb was with regard taking water publicly from a pond in Mumbai. Whatever the people of BSP may be doing but I would like to urge the Government that a beautiful and concrete pond must be created in every village under the MGNREGA scheme so that the campaign launched by the Congress party in the name of Dr. Ambedkar will create a realistic and positive thinking among people because Dr. Saheb had fought his first battle on water only. What the people of BSP are doing is not hidden from anyone, I would not like to say anything about it to them.

Madam, the Government must install maximum number of hand pumps. There is an acute problem of drinking water in villages. Drought has further worsened the problem. Water level is going down. He has talked about water conservation, check dams must be constructed at all small seasonal rivers and drains and these must be repaired. After the rains get over, the remaining water in barrages will be saved from flowing into the sea ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You please conclude your speech.

SHRI RAMKISHUN: If water will get saved in rivers it will solve the water problem. Gandhi ji had said that the development of a country begins from villages. I would like to readout a Report, please give me one minute's time. That report contains the name of one hon'ble Minister also. Even though a lot of claims are being made on nation's development front but the increasing poverty in villages presents entirely different picture with regard to that. The gap between rich and poor is widening. Continuously increasing poverty in villages is a cause for serious concern. It must be called our ill fate that the percentage of people living in villages is 85 per cent. In this regard a report was published by the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of ex-Chairman of National Statistics Commission Shri Suresh Tendulkar ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Shri M. Raja Mohan Readdy.

SHRI RAMKISHUN: Madam, the facts brought to light in this report pose a huge challenge to the national policy

makers. Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Maharashtra are such six states where there is extreme poverty. There is poverty in other states also, therefore, all the effective measures to remove poverty from villages must be taken as per this report and the economist's report. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji had also said that out of the Rs. 100 sent for the poor only Rs. 10 actually reach them. Therefore, there is a need for financial discipline. I would like to thank you once again for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY (Nellore): Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important subject. I rise to support the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Rural Development for 2010-11.

The Father of the Nation has said: "India lives in villages." Even now, after rapid urbanization of the country, still it holds good; still more than 70 per cent of the people live in villages. Mostly, the farmers and farm labourers live in villages. They work day and night in the fields; not only they but their womenfolk, even at times, their children also work in the fields. They feed the country. The irony of the situation is that they do not have food to eat. That is the irony of the situation. However, the UPA Government, under the Chairmanship of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, undertook certain pro-farmer activities. They have waived off around Rs. 70,000 crore of farmers' loan. Not only that, but they also have raised credit facilities to the farmers. In 2003-04, it was only Rs. 70,000 crore. In this year, 2010-11, it has been increased to Rs. 3,75,000 crore. Due to all these pro-farmer activities, our food production has raised from 174 million tonnes in 2002-03 to 233 million tonnes this year. So, in that way, the farmers are happy. They are happy because they have got remunerative price for their produce. The farmers have been encouraged to adopt agriculture as their activity. In that way, the farmers in the rural areas are very happy.

The allocation to all the rural developmental programmes is good. However, I would like to mention that as regards PMGSY, I understand that a Circular has been issued by the Ministry to allot funds only for new connectivity of roads and not for upgradation of roads. If it is followed, then the developed States, which have developed the road connectivity to rural habitations, will

be deprived of this advantage. If it is true, I would request the hon. Minister to withdraw that Circular. Otherwise, most of the developed States which have spent their own money for connecting the rural habitations will be deprived of the benefit under this Scheme. That is why, I would request the hon. Minister to take this into cognizance and try to rectify that thing.

Many hon. Members have said that after 63 years of our Independence, still in summer days we do not have pure drinking water in many villages. When we go across our constituency, people in many villages say that still they do not have the drinking water facility, and they have to go miles together to fetch a pot of water; even that water is also not potable because of fluorine content. At the age of 30 years itself, if they have to see the sky, they will have to lie down on the cot and they have to look up, and only then they can see the sky. That is the situation now.

I would request the Rural Development Minister to reach, at least saturation on two items. One thing is drinking water. Unless otherwise we achieve that, we cannot be called as a developed country. And the second thing is sanitation. Every house should have a toilet. Unless otherwise we achieve that, we cannot be called as a civilised country.

With these two things, I would like to request the Minister to give priority to these two things and reach saturation points.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (Hatkanangle): Madam, Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I am speaking on the demands of Ministry of Rural Development. Today, since morning I have been listening about rural development schemes. Even today there are many such villages in our country, which do not have roads and villagers have to walk a lot before reaching any road. The same is the situation with power. There is no power in many villages but still we are claiming that our country is making a lot of progress.

Madman Chairman, in the economic survey, which was carried out, agriculture sector has been shown at minus-02 percent. This shows what is the condition of villages in our country. Our average economic growth is increasing but our country's agriculture sector is lagging behind. All the people engaged in agriculture are living in

villages. Even today, there are no roads, power, schools, health centres or hospitals in villages for the health related issues of people in villages. Despite this our Government is claiming that it is creating employment under the Employment Guarantee Scheme, but this is only on record and on papers because actually nobody is getting employment in villages. This is a reason why people are moving towards cities.

Madam, there are a number of such villages in my Parliamentary constituency where people have to walk 20-25 kilometers to reach the road. In that hilly region there is neither power nor roads. If we ask the District Magistrate and District Council about it then they say that these villages are not covered under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana because these are small basti's located in villages. These clusters have a population between 50,100 to 150 and that is why there are no roads. The children there do not go to schools. If the women over there have to go to hospital then they have to walk throughout the day. Under this situation, the list prepared under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana must be reviewed and small villages in hills and forests must also be connected with roads. It is very important to amend the MGNREGA for the marginal and small farmers. If we want to reform the villages then a lot of amendments must be brought in this. Everybody is required to work collectively for this. Though we are preparing to fight against Naxalism but if we do not provide these facilities to villagers then they will also not stay quiet for long. I would conclude my speech with this only. Thank you.

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI (Jalaun): Hon'ble Madam, Chairperson, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister and this August House that more than 80 percent population of this country lives in villages, hemlets and Dera's. There are no roads, schools, hospital, drinking water and power for their development. If there is a hospital then there are no doctors and if doctors are there then there are no experts and medicines available. Similar is the condition of schools in villages. There are no schools in villages and if schools are there then teachers are not there.

Madam, today, there is a very serious situation in the country and this happens because the Government is not working in a proper direction and as long as this happens the condition of the people living there will also not be good. Somewhere the Government is not working in a proper direction as a result of which the condition

of the people of the country is getting worse. On one hand, people are living in plush kothi's and bungalows and have AC's, whereas on the other hand, poor people in villages and hutments are living under open sky and facing severe heat. They do not have power and drinking water. I hail from Bundelkhand. People in Bundelkhand have been suffering from drought and severe heat conditions for the last five years continuously. It is quiet possible that a lot of people must have lost their lives due to heat waves ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member, please conclude.

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI: Madam, it has only been one minute.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude quickly.

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI: There is no arrangement for water over there. What can be said about the Government? Under NREGA, no work is being carried out in the entire Uttar Pradesh. This time when I had a meeting with the Monitoring Committee, the officers over there were fighting over distribution of commission and hon'ble Minister had visited my Constituency and he said that labourers are not working and tractors are being put to use for carrying out works. On one hand, some people are starving with hunger and on the other, some people are getting dry fruits, fruits and other nutritious foods to eat. With a lot of regret I have to say that be it the Union Government or the Government of Uttar Pradesh, both are equally insensitive. I would want that this should be seriously investigated and people should get work. Work should not be for 100 days, it should be for the entire 365 days. As 100 days of work cannot help the poor much. In one family, there are mostly the parents, two sons and husband and wife themselves. 100 days of work for a family of six persons which would work out to ten thousand rupees cannot completely help a family of six persons. It is not sufficient for medicine, education and food. I would like to request hon'ble Minister that instead of 100 days work the poor people must get 365 days work. Necessary arrangements must be made on priority basis for health, education, irrigation, power, roads and drinking water and all these must be provided at those places, which do not have these facilities. He must immediately sanction at least 2 thousand hand pumps each for every district. I would like to request for Bundelkhand that orders must be issued to install hand pumps at a distance of 40-50 meters instead of 75 meters

in view of the serious situation emerging there
...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Discussion has already taken place on this yesterday also.

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI: If it is not possible to give in the budget then please sanction two thousand hand pumps for each district under the package for Bundelkhand. This will save people from dying due to shortage of drinking water. People can fight hunger but they cannot fight the need for water for long. Similarly, the situation of irrigation is also very serious and the Government must pay attention towards this. Farmers and labourers are very much distressed. I would request the Government to be serious on this issue and find a solution to this.

[English]

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (Tirunelveli): Madam Chairman, I thank you for this opportunity to participate in the discussions on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development.

There is one song in Tamil “Enna Vazhan illai Instsa Thiru Nattil Yen Hia Entsa Vendum Vele Nattil” whose English translation is:

*When there are a lot of resources in our country,
why should we stretch our hand to other countries?*

In India, most of the people are living in rural areas. They are depending on agriculture. Who will develop this country? It is the good governance. A good Government alone can develop the rural economy and rural people. Our UPA Government alone has brought about more rural development. Our able Finance Minister has given such a Budget which is giving more importance to rural development. Madam Soniaji is guiding this UPA Government.

Our able and hon. Prime Minister is doing great development at the world level. Our hon. Minister of Home Affairs is strongly protecting our country. All our Cabinet Ministers in our UPA Government are doing good work. No other Government has done any rural development; it is only our Government which is doing it. We have allotted Rs. 1,13,000 crore for rural development alone. This is a very important Ministry.

I would conclude by putting up three points. The first and the important one is this. Nowadays the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme is being implemented by this Government. No BJP Government or no other Party's Government has done this to the nation. It is only our Government which is doing this. So far, about Rs. 40,100 crore have been allotted for this scheme. In the previous year this amount was Rs. 39,100 crore. This figure has increased this year which is giving more employment opportunities to the rural people. Giving employment opportunity is a very important thing. We are seeing the rural people, the aam aadmi. We are seeing only them. If the rural poor are uplifted, if the women in the rural areas are able to get this opportunity it would be good and they are getting it now. Most of the agricultural labourers are getting this opportunity to get the employment. The purchasing power of the rural masses has increased. If their purchasing power has increased, they can bring up their children and they can give better education to the children. It is because of our Government, the work of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Our active Minister of Rural Development is doing good work. Take the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Under this scheme, hundred per cent, we are giving funds to all the States because it is linking the roads. The village roads are being linked to the towns and if this is done it will be urbanisation and the villages will be urbanised. Then the development will automatically come in the rural areas also. So, it is a very important scheme.

I have told the hon. Minister that sometimes these schemes are slow in implementation in some States. Our State, Tamil Nadu, has implemented the NREGA scheme properly. Our Chief Minister Dr. Kalaignar has implemented the scheme and ours is the first State to implement it. A number of States are not using these funds properly. There is very slow progress in this linking by roads. In this connection I want to give one suggestion. Because of some package system of Tender contractors are slowing this programme. I think some policy is there that there should not be such a “package system” for the contractors because they are doing many works and this scheme is a failure in this system. So, you have to change this policy.

Madam, I have only one more point to mention. It is on Indira Awas Yojana, the housing scheme. It is very important for the people. Food, clothing and shelter are the three essential things and important for the poor

people. Under this scheme, our Government is giving Rs. 48,500 for the hill area people and Rs. 45,000 for others. It is increased from Rs. 35,000 in the previous year. The people are getting loan at four per cent under DRI scheme also. These are all very important schemes that we are giving.

Our UPA Government alone is developing all these things. Our Chairperson of the UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is developing our country. Our Congress Party is developing our country. It is true.

Thank you for the opportunity given.

[Translation]

SHRI DHANANJAY SINGH (Jaunpur): Madam Chairman, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this very important issue. I would not speak at length but through you, I will draw the attention of the Minister to the five important issues only under the Ministry of Rural Development. According to my information the State of Uttar Pradesh is not being included under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana this year. Regarding Uttar Pradesh it is repeatedly stated that it need not be included right now. The targets under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana are not being achieved at several areas in the country but still the funds are being provided. In my opinion, Uttar Pradesh is the only State in the country, which has achieved the maximum targets. Therefore, I would urge you to provide funds to Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana this year.

In addition, I would also urge upon you to construct the roadsto connect two maior routes under PMGSY at least five and ha lf metres wide. It has been discussed several times in the House. The width of five and half metre will make it convenient. The road connecting two major routes having the distance of almost ten kilometres should be made five and half metres wide. If the roads approaching the villages remain 3.75 metre then it can be all right.

Just now, my fellow colleagues have talked about purity of drinking water. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Rural Development to make pure drinking water available to the people in the rural areas having 70 to 80 per cent population. You should earnestly make an effort in this direction as has been pointed out by several members of Parliament. I say so as I hail from Eastern

Uttar Pradesh and the chairperson of UPA has also been elected from Poorvanchal. I would like to tell you that the situation of drinking water in Poorvanchal is very grim. Particularly, the ground water is also impure there. This serious issue was raised yesterday also and will continue to be raised till some solution is provided. Besides, you have provided Rupees 45 thousand for Indira Aawas Yojana for which I would like to welcome and thank you. Although you are providing Rupees 45 thousand under Indira Aawas Yojana but you have not brought out any change in the permanent eligibility list which is still existing since the year 2001-2002, while the year 2010 is running now. It would be better if you prepare new BPL list while implementing this scheme so that it benefits the real beneficiaries only. The BPL list existing since the year 2001-2002 has several irregularities and the ineligible persons are included in it. This issue has been repeatedly raised in the House. It is also your responsibility to ensure the rational utilization of funds, which you are providing.

Just now, one of our colleagues while discussing the health issue was saying that several hospitals exist in the rural areas but there are no doctors and someone also mentioned the state of Uttar Pradesh. I would certainly like to draw your attention to the state of Uttar Pradesh. Community Health Centres (CHC) have been set up in almost each block of Uttar Pradesh. Three or four Primary health centres are also existing in almost each block. If some blocks are left, there also the centres will be set up at the earliest. But there is a problem of doctors there. In my state, five medical colleges are built up but they have not been recognized by MCI ...*(Interruptions)*. The Ministry of Rural Development should assist in getting these medical colleges recognized. The leader. of the House is also present here. I would request him to make effort to get the medical colleges in our state of Uttar Pradesh recognized at the earliest so that the students from there can become doctors and serve in the rural areas and provide better health facilities to the people living there.

Another important issue is regarding lack of toilets in the markets located in the rural areas. You people might also be passing from there and watching all this. The facility of public lavatory is lacking there. It appears bad to watch the people defecating on the roads even after 63 years of freedom. Today, we seem to be a developed country in the world but it is painful to see them defecating in this manner. Priority should be given to construct public lavatories in the rural markets in the

rural areas in my state and an earnest effort should be made in this regard. So far as the Government of Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the roads under PMGSY would not have been better, if the Government had not worked efficiently. We have also implemented the NREGA scheme in an efficient manner. The achievement of the Government of Uttar Pradesh under NREGA perhaps ranks second in the country ...*(Interruptions)*. Whatever I am stating is true. These are the Planning Commission's figures ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI PRADEEP TAMTA (Almora): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important issue. I would like to speak on two particular issues in connection with Department of Rural Development and Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development. We all agree that the 70% population of this country still resides in the rural India.

The rural employment scheme, which has been initiated is a very ambitious and revolutionary scheme. For this, I would like to congratulate the Government. But we get the opportunity to analyse it at the time of presentation of budget. I was going through the figures of last year and found that in the year 2008-09, Job Cards were made for ten crore people while in the year 2009-10, 10.91 crore people got the job cards but the number of persons getting employment as a result thereof is merely half of it, in other words only 4.51 crore families could get the jobs. It is a highly ambitious scheme of the government to provide jobs, which is implemented through the states but it contains a large-scale gap in the whole country. People are coming forward for getting the jobs cards. These people want to work and increase their income at the rural level but they are not getting proper jobs. We have to evaluate the reasons behind it. I have found that its budget is pegged at Rupees 40,100 crore ...*(Interruptions)*. Even Rs. 10,000 crore are remaining to be spent. What is the reason behind this scheme, which is a highly ambitious scheme for the workers and the poor of the country, not being implemented by the states in totality? There is no paucity of funds in this regard but the funds being provided by the Union Government is not utilised fully. This is a matter of our concern. For the last two years, the wages have come down to Rs. 100

only. What is the reason for those wages to remain fixed at Rs. 100, which had given the bargaining power to the labourers of rural India? I would request the Minister to increase the wages from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 or Rs. 200 in view of the rise in salaries of everyone in today's time. The Department of Land Resources is not directly connected with the Ministry of Rural Development. The process of land reforms is carried out by the states. Today, if you observe, it is the rural India, which is keeping the democracy alive but that democracy is being challenged by this rural India. I would request the Government to implement the programmes of land reforms, land ceiling, allotment of additional land to landless persons throughout the country in a fresh manner because the poor who are landless, Dalit and Tribal who need a piece of land even today, for them there is a need to carry out land reforms. The surplus land after ceiling need to be allotted to them. We should think in these terms. With this, I conclude my speech.

[English]

*SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): I start my speech with Mahatma Gandhi's quotation, I quote "We must be the change, we wish to see India lives in rural areas." For overall development of the country the rural areas must develop. For this purpose resources must be allotted on a priority basis. Our UPA Government is fulfilling the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi. In order to fulfill the dreams, our UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhiji, our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji and our Rural Development Minister are planning, promoting and strengthen the rural development schemes.

By giving top most priority to the development of rural areas, our Government has made substantial provision for the budget. About Rs. 66,100 crore has been provided for rural development. For Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the allocation has been stepped to Rs. 40,100 crore in 2010-11. Not only that an amount of Rs. 48,00 crore has been allocated for rural infrastructure programmes under Bharat Nirman, the unit cost under Indira Awas Yojana has been increased to Rs. 45,000 in the plan areas and to Rs. 48,500 in the hilly areas. Allocation for this scheme has been increased to Rs. 10,000 crore. Allocation to Backward Region Grant Fund enhanced by 26 per cent from Rs. 5,800 crore in 2009-10 to Rs. 7,300 crore in 2010-11.

I congratulate the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh for strong fundamentals; Indian economy not only withstood this downward trend but continued to show impressive growth of the previous year even during 2009-10. The concept of “inclusive economic growth” alongwith focus on the social sector, on rural development not only protect our vast rural population from the global economic downslide but also in putting our rural economy on the course of unprecedented upsurge.

The developmental and welfare initiatives undertaken by the UPA Government in the rural areas has brought about a perceptible change in the lives of the people in the villages. I thank the Government for working diligently towards translating visions into policies and programmes. Based on the experience and performances, our Government have modified and included new elements in some of the existing schemes and programmes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), National Social Association Programme (NSAP), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Rural Drinking Water Mission (NRDWM) to make them more effective. Not only that our Government have drawn up blueprints for new schemes like National Rural Livelihood Mission to bring about a paradigm shift towards poverty alleviation and achieve self reliance in rural areas. Regarding Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, it is a flagship programme. It is one of the unique programmes in the world.

I thank the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji and the Rural Development Minister, Dr. Joshiji for nominating me as a Member of the Working Group on specific needs of specific category of workers under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. The issues to be addressed are gender equality, needs of disabled persons and needs of old persons, special benefits to SC/ST/groups or families in LWE/drought affected area.

The most significant achievement in Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is equal wages to men and women a dream coming to a reality perhaps for the first time in rural Indian unorganized and manual labour workers. Perhaps this is the first major step in realizing long term goal of achieving better purchasing power, major role in household decision making power and above all women empowerment. Equal wages to women also contributed to significant betterment in nutritional standards in women and children at home.

Though this is a step forward in achieving gender equity, still a lot of grey areas are left in realizing the goal where men are dominating.

A suggestion to achieve gender equity is to establish women mates concept in not only exclusive women working groups but also in mixed groups, this will empower the women in having effective control on the identification of the works and keeping sufficient works in shelf. Women mates also will prove as better managers as they can give quality time, can keep records up to date and perfect which is demonstrated in SHG movement in States like Andhra Pradesh.

In the case of pregnant women reaching advanced stages of pregnancy or early stages of lactation, if she happens to solely depend on wage labour and if she is a regular MG NREGA worker with proven record, it should be mandated in the Act to provide her some advance equivalent to not more than 50 days of work to facilitate her to take adequate rest before pregnancy and early stages of lactation. The amount so advanced could be recovered in 50 installments from her husband or family members wage or whenever she returns back to work.

Secondly, 30 per cent wage hike can be recommended for women in the advanced stages of pregnancy and early stages of lactation as her nutritional demand during this period will be more.

Thirdly, sick woman needs can be addressed if she is a single woman by providing seven days of her average wage as advance which will be recovered in her future wage.

So far as providing jobs to the disabled persons under the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is concerned, they can be provided works which is suitable to their disability and can earn decent wages. Persons with disability should be mapped on the job cards.

Under the Bharat Nirman Programme, PMGSY is one of the important programmes which aims to provide all weather roads to rural areas. Habitations with a population of 500 in plain areas, 250 in sub plain areas are to be connected in a phased manner. Every year, thousands of habitation and lakhs of kilometers have been covered under this programme; and also upgradation of the old roads with the help of the State Governments. I congratulate the Government for focusing on road connectivity for better living for the rural people. As a co-

Chairman of the vigilance and monitoring committee, when we tour our districts, we found many gravel roads. During rainy season, these roads are unfit for utility. Many villages are facing this problem. In this connection, I humbly request the Minister to treat gravel roads as unconnected roads so that it becomes eligible under the coordinate programme. For example, in Andhra Pradesh more than 7,931 KMs are coming under the category of gravel roads are facing extinction. Overall under the Panchayati Raj, 32,000 KMs are there. We are able to cover only 3,300 KMs under the PMGSY. Roads damaged due to floods, natural calamities are in large numbers. Such roads may be given special grant instead of population criterion, not only in Andhra Pradesh but across the country. The policy needs to be changed.

Under the Thirteenth Finance Commission, the allocation for Panchayati Raj Departments has to be stepped up.

A proposal to construct 296 bridges costing about Rs. 450 crores in Andhra Pradesh has been submitted to the 13th Finance Commission under the PMGSY. The width of the road connecting bridges has to be extended from 5½ meters to 7½ metres, from single line to double line be sanctioned.

Under the Rural Water Supply and Total Sanitation Programme, we are able to provide drinking water in villages. At the same time, we are able to provide total sanitation in villages. The Government is spending a lot of money under this programme for providing drinking water and sanitation in villages. Under the Programme, the unit cost for toilets is Rs.900, which is very less. I suggest to the Government to increase it to Rs. 5000 so that the beneficiary can construct the toilet as well as the bathroom. The allocation for water is done on the basis of per capita/pro rata and on 2001 Census. After 2001 the cost of the raw material has increased manifold. The number of people has increased. The allocation of water in the urban areas is 150 liters of water per day whereas in rural areas it is 40 liters of water per day. Keeping the requirement of water for the cattle, the water allocation for each person has to be enhanced. The allocation for Andhra Pradesh under the scheme has to be enhanced from Rs. 400 crores to Rs. 1500 crores. Already the Planning Commission has given its green signal.

So far as maintenance of bore wells is concerned, Rs. 600 per bore well is being given which is insufficient. This should be increased to Rs. 1200 per bore well.

Due to insanitation, there is a lurking fear of spreading malaria and vector borne diseases. There is a need to construct underground drainage system. To check these diseases, in major panchayats, block level headquarters, there is a need to implement the project on a pilot basis.

I thank the Ministry for undertaking watershed management programme because land is critically an important thing. It's efficient management is vital for the economic growth and development of rural areas. The per capita of land available and its yield is very low in India. This is one of the main factors behind low productivity and high cost of Indian agriculture. Under this programme, crores of rupees are being spent and all BPL families, SCs, STs and BC minorities are being covered. By converting waste land into fertile land, the economy of these people has improved a lot. Their purchasing power has increased.

Under the Indira Awas Yojana, the unit cost of a house has been increased to Rs. 45,000. I thank the Government for this. If toilet and bathroom are included in the house, the unit cost may go up to Rs. 60,000, this way be considered seriously by the Government to improve sanitation in the villages.

Regarding old age pension, I thank the Government for providing the same to every eligible person in India. In this connection, Government of Andhra Pradesh is providing special pension per month to every Self Help Group Woman after completion of 60 years name as Dr. YSR Abhaya Hastham- a co-contributory pension scheme for SHG Women after his demise.

I request the Rural Development Minister to share the burden of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. We all know that Self Help Group Members are poorest of the poor. They are either wage labourers or self-employed women. All of them come under the ambit of the definition of unorganized workers. Their contribution to the pension is an additional savings, in addition to the regular savings they make for the purpose of internal lending. Hence, each member could save Re. 1 per day throughout 365 days. Thus, each SHG members could save and contribute to the pension scheme Rs. 365 per annum. And therefore, I request the Government of India to examine the case of 109 crore rural SHG members and accept the proposal to make government of India's co-contribution equal to that of the SHG member, that is, Rs. 365 per annum, making this applicable to SHG members instead of Rs. 1000 as member contribution.

Finally, regarding the 13th Finance Commission recommendations, we welcome the concept of allocation of 50 per cent funds for each State in the country and rest of 50 per cent based on the performance of each State.

I welcome the creation of Ombudsman post at the local level. This will have transparency and will be able to solve any problem or grievance at the local level itself.

By giving special incentives to scheduled areas for development of infrastructure, it will mitigate the problems for these people and above all it will discourage people in taking to extremism.

I also welcome transfer of funds from the Central Government to the local bodies directly online. This will definitely strengthen the panchayat raj institutions to undertake works on time. The State Finance Commission is doing very good job. It consists of experts. They are able to coordinate the works with panchayati raj institutions; and able to solve their problems on the spot. Regarding Backward Region Grant Fund, only 13 districts in Andhra Pradesh are being covered. As a result, the remaining districts which are inhabited by SCs and STs are languishing in backwardness due to non availability of funds. I request the Government to allot funds to all the districts in Andhra Pradesh in order to create infrastructure and remove regional imbalance.

I fully support the demand for grants for the Ministry of Rural Development as they are always working for the welfare of the people in the rural areas. This will definitely bring them to the mainstream and we can achieve inclusive growth.

[Translation]

*SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Sir, the rural development is the development of soul of India. Mahatma Gandhi had said that India resides in the villages. 80% population lives in the rural areas of India. Till the all-round development of the rural areas takes place, the real character of India cannot be changed. Today, we are fortunate that the budget is being allocated under various programmes to meet the basic needs of villages through nation building Schemes being carried out by Congress led UPA Government at centre. For the first time, the UPA Government has formulated laws to provide bread and butter to the people of India. The right

to guarantee of employment has been given to the people of 18 years of age in the villages in rural areas throughout the country in the form of law. In the first year, the UP A Government has allocated Rupees 39000 crore under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). If a person of 18 years age seeks a job from Gram Pradhan or B.D.O. of a development Block, he will get the same for 100 days @ Rs. 100 per day. One provision is that if the gram sabha or Block development officer fails to provide job to any person, then, he will be given unemployment allowance. For the first time, the Congress led UPA Government has done the task of formulating a law. So far, it used to be the state government's responsibility to construct roads in the rural areas but the Congress led Government thinks that the real development of India can take place only when the villages are connected with Pucca roads. If the villages are connected with roads, the farmers will have convenience to supply their farm produces to the markets. In that case, the farmers will also get remunerative prices for their produce, other they will be compelled to sell their produce at cheaper prices through the brokers. Today, a minimum support price of Rupees 1100 per quintal for Rabi crop wheat for farmers has been declared. But in reality, the farmers are compelled to sell wheat at the rate of Rs. 875 to 900 per quintal in Uttar Pradesh. The priority of State Government in Uttar Pradesh seems not in the interest of the farmers but the funds are being spent on unproductive things, which has hindered the development of the state. The centre has initiated a Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for connectivity with the villages. The Government of India has made a provision of Rs. 12000 crore in this regard. Rupees 10,000 crore have been provided for Indira Aawas Yojana. Rupees 8000 crore have been allocated for drinking water schemes. By providing Rupees 66000 crore for the Ministry of Rural Development, the Government is bringing about quantitative change in the rural villages. The Union Government is formulating action plan in various schemes under the Bharat Nirman Yojana for the development of basic facilities in the villages. A five-year contract has been signed with the contractors for maintenance of village roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. If the roads get damaged within five years, then, it will be the contractors' responsibility to repair them. Similarly, the Union Government is implementing Indira Aawas Yojana for the people living below the poverty line in the villages. Rupees 10000 crore have been provided under this head. Today, there is a need to scrutinize the BPL list. Because in reality, still there are some poor who are devoid of the basic facilities on account of their not being identified in

the BPL list. They are unable to get the housing facility. He could have got free treatment facility being under the BPL list but he is devoid of that also. Today, the states should implement the land reforms programme in rural India but in Uttar Pradesh the work of land reforms have come to a stand still. We have been working towards changing the lives of the rural people since independence. The right to information has led to the transparency of various schemes among the common people. And Rupees 40,100 crore have been provided this year for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Thus, today the UPA led Union Government is bringing about quantitative reforms in rural infrastructural areas by directly providing facilities in the villages. India has been able to maintain its economic growth of 6.7% during global recession while there was a decline of 3% in growth rate of the developed countries throughout the world. Today, the rural development schemes have contributed significantly to the building of nation. We have succeeded in checking the migration in villages through MNREGA only because for the first time youth will get the jobs in their respective villages. By amending this law, the small and marginal farmers can also work in their farms under MGNREGS. Today, Rajiv Assistance centres should be set up in villages for the farmers. Under which, we will be able to connect the villages directly with Information Technology in the 11th Five year plan. The NREGA scheme is also becoming popular among the G-20 nations. America is also praising the MGNREGA scheme. MGNREGS has created employment opportunities in the villages. But, sadly, I have to say that in Uttar Pradesh the funds are being misutilised under MGNREGS. The money, which should reach people as wages for carrying out a work, is being taken away as commission. There are 2.5 lakhs elected Panchayats. Despite all the provisions, there is a lot of delay in paying wages to the labourers. But, today, nowhere the unemployment allowance is being paid. With this, I support the budget provided for the Ministry of Rural Development by the Rural Development Minister.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI): Madam, I would like to thank all the hon'ble Members of the House who gave their suggestions on the demands for grants. I have also read the cut motions moved by the members and also heard the views expressed by around 42 members. From the views expressed by all the members, I felt that all are deeply concerned for the country's rural development. Hon'ble members might be aware that my Department discusses about the scheme, however, I am happy that issues like education, health

were discussed in the House. Senior leaders like Mundeji said that we should discuss about electricity also when we are talking about rural development. I am happy that all are concerned about holistic development. After the formation of the new UPA Government we have gone for a change. After achieving independence, we used to envisage improvement in the lives of the people by merely formulating schemes regarding rural development. However, we made changes in this approach when the UPA Government came to power. We have given rights to the people. First time when the UPA Government came to power, we talked about Right to Information, Right to Employment etc. I am happy to say that Right to Employment has seen the light of the day in the form of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme. It was the Congress Party which launched the said scheme and today it is giving guarantee of employment after envisaging development of villages in a new way. Our leader Shrimati Soma Gandhi had initiated the said scheme.

I want to say that I am very happy that this work has been done by the Congress Party. All the schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Swarna Jayanti Gram Rozgar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, DRDA administration, National Rural Drinking Water Programme, Total Sanitation Campaign, Integrated Water Management Programme, National Land Record Modernization Programme etc. are basically related with the demands for grants of my Department.

Before expressing my viewpoint first I would like to say that I was very happy when Mundeji said that we had launched the PMGSY scheme. It is true that the then NDA Government had conceived the scheme of PMGSY. However I would like to say that conceiving a scheme is one thing and making arrangement of budget for this purpose is another thing. When the NDA Government launched this scheme it provided for Rs. 2435 crore in the year 2000-2001. It had made arrangement of Rs 500 crore in the year 2001-2002, Rs. 2500 crore in 2002-2003 and Rs. 2325 crore in the year 2003-2004. In all, an amount of 9,700 crore rupees were allocated by the then NDA Government. After that when the UPA Government came to power, it had the vision to develop villages by providing connectivity. Therefore, we allocated Rs. 2460 crore in the year 2004-2005, Rs. 4220 crore in 2005-2006, Rs. 6974 crore in 2006-2007, Rs. 11,000 crore in 2007-2008, Rs. 15,280 crore in 2008-2009 and Rs. 17,840 crore in 2009-2010 for strengthening

rural connectivity. So far our Government has, since its formation, allocated Rs. 57 thousand 74 crore for strengthening rural connectivity.

Madam, 13776 rural habitations were connected during the tenure of NDA Government. In that scheme we conceived that we will provide road connectivity through all weather roads to habitations with a population of 1000, 500 and 250 also. However during the tenure of NDA Government 13776 habitations were connected, 51,511 Kms of road was constructed and total expenditure of Rs. 9700 crore was incurred by the Government. As against this, since 2004-05 upto 2009-10 the UPA Government, ever since its inception have connected 52,458 habitations, constructed 2,11,656 kms of road and released Rs. 57 thousand 74 crore for this purpose. This shows our holistic approach to develop rural areas. We have not implemented the PMGSY scheme on the basis of SEZs. Our Government did not take any loan from CAPART or NABARD, we have implemented this scheme of connecting habitations with population of 1000, 500 etc. after making full arrangement therefor.

I would like to say that the figures which you have quoted regarding 4 or 5 lakh villages, I am not aware, perhaps your information might be correct. As per the information available with me, when the scheme of PMGSY was conceived, at that time eligibility of 1,68,268 habitations was verified. It was found that only 1,36,464 habitations were eligible for providing connectivity. These figures are of that time when PMGSY scheme was envisaged. The work of providing connectivity to 31,400 habitations was withheld on the plea that these habitations do not fulfill the eligibility criteria laid down therefor which formed the basis at that time. Therefore, the habitations to which we had to provide rural connectivity were 1,36,464 and the length of the road to be constructed was 3,76,000 kms. On that basis I have substantiated my contention with the help of data depicting how we achieved it. You should thank our Government as our Government has not neglected the scheme which had been launched by your Government rather we have presented an example by properly implementating the said scheme, without bringing politics in it.

We want to build the country. We want to go ahead in the direction of building the nation thus making available all those facilities to our people that we have envisioned. I would like to remind that when our UPA Government was formed we had said through the hon'ble President Address. We had said:

[English]

“The flagship programme which my Government introduced has moved the country towards inclusive development. It would be our endeavour to consolidate these programmes in the next five years. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has proved to be what it promised to be, an effective social protection measures and the largest programme in the world of rural reconstruction. Its transformational potential is unfolding before our eyes. My Government will enlarge the scope of work permitted under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act presently limited to unskilled manual work. The opportunity for improving the land productivity through NREGA will be maximized through better convergence of NREGA with other programmes. To ensure transparency and public accountability, independent monitoring and grievance redressal mechanism will be set up at the district level.”

This was the commitment we have given to the people of the country.

[Translation]

In our Government we will progress in the manner. After coming into power what our Government did first was to add an activity in the earlier schedule that if we did not increase the agricultural productivity in the country, we would be unable to imagine GDP growth and would fail to provide livelihood to the people, which is why we made an amendment and added that works can be carried out on the fields of small and marginal farmers under NREGA. We took this step because we want to increase agricultural productivity. Hon'ble Madam Chairperson with deep regret I say that when we had enacted this act we had imagined that a poor person from a village would go to the Panchayat and file an application, then his application would get registered and thereafter if he does not get employment within 15 days then the state Governments will have to pay him unemployment allowance, this is the provision that we have made under this Act. But what is the condition today? Our Hon'ble Member from Uttar Pradesh say that the Government over there is functioning very well, it is working under PMGSY and NREGA. They are taking all the credit for it but are they aware that there are 50 thousand Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh and there are only 6000 Gram Sevaks in those 50 thousand Panchayats. What development are they talking about? With merely

50,000 Gram Panchayat and 6000 Gram Sevaks we want to dream of Panchayat Ghars and development. Today 76 thousand Panchayat Ghars remain to be constructed in the country and 50,000 Panchayat Ghars are in such condition which can fall any time. Is this not our duty? We have worked in the direction of the kind of villages that we imagined. Despite knowing that what we have imagined for village development in 60 years, we would have to take a quantum jump in that. Now it is the time of IT and we have to provide IT enabled services in this age of IT. Therefore first thing we did was to make Panchayat Ghar everywhere. We had this vision in our mind and our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi Ji also had the same vision. We decentralized power and created a hope as to how we can develop governance amongst people. We established Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendras and now want to connect them with IT enabled services. In the next five years we want to Provide IT enabled services in villages so that people can see how one can get a ticket, how land records can be updated and complaints can be registered. If this could not be done in the last 60 years, then we would like to do it in the next five years and this is why we have set up Rajiv Gandhi Sewa Kendras. Its centers should be opened in all villages and these should be linked with IT and must be directly linked to IT enabled services. Then only we can realize the kind of village development that we are envisaging.

The glass is half filled with water, they can argue for the sake of argument that the glasses is half empty and we would say that we have filled half of the glass with water and are trying to fill up the remaining half. We want to take this as our base and move further.

Hon'ble Madam Chairman, I am glad that we had imagined to spend nearly Rs. 1,94033.28 crore in the Eleventh Five Year Plan but I am happy that this was the outlay for the 11th Five Year plan which we had to spend in five years but due to our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Madam Sonia Gandhi Ji, we have already spent that outlay. The money which we are spending now is additional. This is our achievement, commitment that we have spent our outlay fund on our vision in three year itself and we want to work further and have the amount increased to take up additional works.

Madam Chairman, first of all I would like to talk about NREGA because today itself this was mentioned in G-20 summit in USA. We are glad that the people around the world are noticing this thing as to how we

have formulated a scheme like NREGA in Indian democracy which is changing the lives of people in villages. This shows that everybody is watching our vision to excel and our thinking. The UPA Government has talked about right to Education and now it is talking about Right to Food. They must thank that after 60 years of independence if some party is talking about providing certain rights to the poor villagers then it is the Congress party which is planning overall development of villages and the country ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMKISHUN: After 60 years of independence you have thought about the development of villagers ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, please listen to the reply of hon'ble Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. C.P. JOSHI: Neither do we shout nor we made any Bhawan's or statues, we only make policies and help people ...*(Interruptions)* He has a right to say his thing, please go ahead. I have heard 42 members quietly and attentively he must also listen to me and then say whatever he has to say.

19.00 hrs.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Nothing else except Hon'ble Minister's Speech will go in record.

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. C.P. JOSHI: Madam Chairman, we have achieved success in all our allocations for the year 2009-10. I would like to say 2-3 things in the House regarding which all the Hon'ble Members must think. We all Members have talked about PMGSY, AAY etc. Since the UPA is in power, other parties are saying that corruption is taking place. If some other party would form the Government then a third party would say that there is corruption taking place. It is our duty to see as to how we can successfully implement the NREGA scheme. We are having a vision for rural development. Under this Act a provision for Rs. 40,000 crore has been made. This is a demand driven scheme. Hon'ble Minister of Finance has assured us that even if the demand would be for Rs. 50 or 60 thousand crores the same would be met, money is not a problem. The most important problem is its execution. Vigilance, monitoring is our duty as to what

*Not recorded.

work we can do into that. I feel glad to say that our Hon'ble Leader Shri Pranab Mukherjee Ji had said that we must have a discussion with the Leaders of all political parties. I had called the leaders of all regional parties and had a discussion with them as to how together we can properly implement the NREGA Scheme. We have chosen him the Chairman of the District Monitoring Vigilance Committee and conferred him with that right. The intention behind appointing him as Chairman was to find out as to what are the problems at the lower level in implementation. In India there are 2.50 lakh Panchayats and there are equal number of Sarpanchs. The persons standing against them are also present there and so are the people of other political parties. I feel surprised that despite all arrangements and after appointing him the Chairman of District level Vigilance Committee we are thinking that corruption is taking place, then we need not think anything else. We have to only think as to how we can solve this problem. We agree that the payment is getting delayed. We are unable to make the payment on time. We are aware that a poor villager will get his application registered and after that it is his right to get some work/employment and it is state's responsibility also that he must get work in 15 days and if he does not get work then he must get unemployment allowance. I would like to appeal to all of you that we should collectively work to help the poor villagers in getting their registration done so that it becomes the onus of the Government to provide them unemployment allowance. The Government is not shying away from its responsibility. This is the first thing that we need to do.

We are aware about payment delay also. I would like to thank Hon'ble Minister of Finance for taking a new decision that wherever there is a population of two thousand, they would open a Bank branch. We have discussed with the officials of IT department as to what type of business model can be prepared for this? Today a new Bio-Metric system has also been developed along with the business model. We must take imaging of people based on Bio-metric system and make payment to the right people. For the far flung areas which do not have Bank branches, we are trying that payment is made to people through bio-metric system of late. We have started this experiment also. We are hopeful that IT work would be carried out at a larger level. Right person could be identified for making payment. We would be able to check the payments being made to bogus people in the name of fake muster roll and payment would be made to genuine/entitled. This is our effort and we seek the support of all in this.

We have told the Government of all states to appoint Lokpal in their states. We have formulated a Committee for the appointment of Lokpal and would request that the Chief Secretary and RD Secretary and NGO representatives may jointly appoint a Lokpal. I feel very sad to say that despite repeated efforts the state Government does not want to take any initiative in appointing the Lokpal so that we can redress the wrongs committed at the lower levels and work properly. I think that today this is the foremost thing that we should do. I would also like to raise some basic question, which is a cause of concern for all of us. In section 13 to 17 of the NREGA Act it has been given as to what would be the role of Panchayats. In that it has also been provided as to what would be the role of project officer (PO) and Planning Officer in that. If the poor are not benefited properly from these schemes under the current situation of Union and State Governments then we will have to ask this question, I would very politely like to say that today the budget of my department is of Lakhs and crores of rupees but the non-plan expenditure under the same is merely Rs. 34 thousand crores. One can imagine that is non-plan Budget of Rs. 34 thousand crore my Department is providing Rs. 40 thousand crore for the NREGA scheme. We will have to think that this money lies in Non-Plan because we have envisaged this in the Constitution.

It has been envisaged in the Constitution as to what would be the role of Union Government and state Government, what would be the concurrent list, federal list and the state list. As long as all the State Governments would not come forward and implement these schemes properly then no matter how much we discuss about this or about corruption, nothing will happen. It has been mentioned in the Act that everything related to grievance redressal has to do with the State Government only. I would like to draw his attention towards this so that he can compel the State Government to make the grievance redressal mechanism work properly so that justice could be done to people.

[English]

Section 19 – The State Government shall by rules determine appropriate grievances redressal mechanism at the block level, at the district level for dealing with any complaint by any person in respect of implementation of the scheme and laid down the procedure for disposal of theft/complaints.

[Translation]

There is a provision that the State Government may be of any state or of any party, it will have to come forward and develop this mechanism so that injustice is not done to the poor person or they cannot illegally take money from the machine or forge the muster roll and take money, and this is the primary duty of the State to ensure this. Employment and Panchayats, both are state subjects. As long as the State Government will not take the initiative and do this work and will not discuss this issue with the Government then I believe we will not be able to implement this scheme properly. I would like to draw his attention towards one more provision.

[English]

Section 27 – The Central Government may give any such direction as it may consider necessary to the State Government for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act. Further without prejudice to the provision of sub-section 1, the Central Government may on receipt of any complaint regarding the issue or improper utilisation of funds granted under this Act in respect of any scheme, if prima facie, satisfied that there is a case cause an investigation into complaint made by any agency designated by it, and if necessary order stoppage of reach of funds to the scheme and institute appropriate remedial measures for its proper implementation within a reasonable time.

[Translation]

There is already a provision of Central Government in this regard. We do not want to use this provision to block payments of money somewhere coming injustice as persons seeking employment may not be able to find work and the poor may stand deprived. We do not want to do this. I would like to politely submit that the State Government should come forward in this regard. We have developed the system of the MIS, of health plan, let us jointly see how this system could be rectified. I leave this responsibility on all of you and hope that it is our commitment as we all cherish the concept of village self-government, we want to extend benefit to the poor people of the villages. As such, let us take up the responsibility so that this scheme could be properly implemented. It is my request and I hope that you would understand this intention.

I am pleased to submit that our Government associated the National Rural Employment Scheme with

the name of Mahatma Gandhi as the Mahatma had a vision for the villages and for the poor people. His name was associated to instil this vision in the mind of the people and to enable us to move ahead taking those ideals, which Mahatma Gandhi had envisioned. With this perspective we have added his name to this scheme.

All the hon'ble Members have put forth their points in regard to PMGSY. Under this scheme, we have planned to connect habitations of 1000 and 500 ...*(Interruptions)*. Why are you speaking only of 250? In regard to Uttar Pradesh, do as you will, do not limit it to 250 ...*(Interruptions)*. First of all, we want to ensure connectivity to the habitations of 1000 and 500 throughout India. Some of the States did not carry out the work and we have kept a provision for upgradation in regard to only 20 percent. It is true that the developed States having already good connectivity are not getting benefit in this regard because habitations with 1000 and 500 population are already connected here. 20 per cent provision for upgradation over there has been envisaged, this is disadvantageous for those states but in respect of those states where connectivity has to be provided for habitations of 1000 and 500, work is not going on on a priority basis and we cannot carry out upgradation work even if we want to do so. I am constrained to say that the colleagues from Bihar are agitated; however, the Government of Bihar has not even taken a decision so far in regard to providing core network. One of the Members want to submit that the core network be revised as the previous core network has become outdated. He is demanding to chalk out a new core network to augment connectivity, while on the other hand, the Government of Bihar has not taken a decision in regard to core network since the inception of this scheme till date. If we want to carry out work in this regard, the Government needs to take a decision to ensure that the fund are properly utilized. It is not a question of the Government of Bihar only, same is the condition with Uttar Pradesh also. Maximum amount of fund is being provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. If we had the intention to do political discrimination ...*(Interruptions)*. How are we related to Uttar Pradesh, still we are giving funds ...*(Interruptions)*. They are levelling allegation, you may not be doing so. If you get funds, there is no discrimination, if they get funds, it is discrimination. This is not so. If Uttar Pradesh gets funds, it is not discrimination and if Bihar gets it, it is discrimination. These are two types of contentions ...*(Interruptions)*. Your Samajwadi colleagues from Uttar Pradesh are sitting, what are they saying about the goings on in Uttar Pradesh?

I am not saying anything. You may yourself take a decision in this regard ...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The speech of none other than the hon'ble Minister will go on regard.

...(*Interruptions*)*

DR. C.P. JOSHI: Hon'ble Madam Chairman, I would not like to take much time of the House; however, I would like to submit two-three points definitely with regard to sanitation that is our foremost priority. We all need to discuss about sanitation. We all have discussed the biggest problem of the villages at present, which is pertaining to the toilets for women. The foremost requirement at present is to provide toilets for the poor in the villages. We have tried to make the 'Nirmal Gram' scheme popular by way of making it a campaign. I would like to appeal you to collaborate in the programme of total sanitation so that we could carry it out on a large scale so as to however the sentiments of the people. This is my request to all of you ...(*Interruptions*). I have come to know that water ...(*Interruptions*). You may please inculcate the habit to listen. If it cannot be made in Rs. 1500, the Government of Uttar Pradesh may construct it in Rs. 15000, we would be happy, we do not have any problem. Let it be started from where they want it to be ...(*Interruptions*). There is no problem in rest of the states ...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member may please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. C.P. JOSHI: Work is going on in the rest of the states, there is no problem about it.

Madam, I would like to draw your attention towards the Indira Aawas Yojana. For this yojana, I would like to express gratitude to the hon'ble Finance Minister and hon'ble Prime Minister for enhancing the unit fund from Rs. 45000 to Rs. 48000. It is true that as of now, we are not able to complete the unit despite this hike in fund. For example, one of the hon'ble Members asked whether the Government intends to provide dwelling units or rooms. We do not want to provide rooms, we want to construct dwelling units. We are pondering over it and would very soon decide to ensure that a banking viable scheme be formulated in this regard. We would deliberate

upon that scheme and approach the hon'ble Finance Minister to ask for bank loan on lower interest rates to get the dwelling units constructed for the poor people and then we would implement that scheme so as to get the dwelling units constructed for the maximum people. The present scheme envisages a fund of only Rs. 20000 on which the interest rate is of 4 per cent. I would like to submit that we want to discuss a viable scheme for banks envisaging a lower interest rate so that we could get more funds and more facilities. I would approach the hon'ble Finance Minister after discussing the alternate proposal in this regard and I hope that ...(*Interruptions*). I know that, but

[*English*]

The amount of only Rs. 20,000. I am aware of it. We are working on a different scheme.

[*Translation*]

We need to raise the fund to be provided on a lower interest rate so as to provide more facility to the people. I would approach the hon'ble Finance Minister to have a discussion in this regard and I hope that a proper decision could be taken for this purpose.

At last, I would like to state about the BPL families. I and my Government are committed to ensure that the poor people of the villages have their names in the BPL list. The existing list does not contain their names. We have knowledge in this regard. That is why, we are discussing about a new formulae. The reason behind that discussion is that we want to chalk out criteria for determining the poor among the population. Who can be ascribed as poor—the person not having land of his own, belonging to the scheduled caste or the scheduled tribe category or belonging to the minority community? Those having pucca houses and land of their own and belonging to these communities are being discussed about to ensure that only the poor get their names added in this list ...(*Interruptions*). We will not give the right either to Dara Singh ji or to his party to exclude the names of the people arbitrarily. We will keep this right to verify and would exclude the names of those who are having these things and ensure that the poor have their names in this list. We are having a discussion in this regard and as soon as we get the figures of the planning commission, we will discuss the same with the State Governments to get their opinions and take this work forward. Our country is very big. There are different problems at different places

*Not recorded.

in our country. We are introducing pilot project for this purpose and after getting updated through the feedback that we will get after the pilot survey, we will prepare such methodology that will ensure proper selection of the poor and justice to them. I want to assure you that we would take up this work very soon. It has been told to me and my colleagues are also asking for the provision of 1000, 2000 hand pumps. I would like to request you to kindly go through the guidelines. We have made it mandatory-be it the drinking water scheme, the PMGSY or the IAY. If you do not have knowledge in this regard, I would write to the secretary again that we would not sanction any project if it comes without the approval of the MP and every arrangement will be made for that purpose. I would like to request you to do this and if it is not being done, let the Governments respond in this regard. If the Government of Uttar Pradesh or the BJP Government in Madhya Pradesh is not carrying out the same, let them respond in this regard. We would carry out the work which we have envisaged and I would like to assure you that be it the provision of drinking water or roads or employment-we would undertake all these works in such a way as the poor persons in this country get the benefit thereof and this country could witness a rejuvenation. We want to move forward keeping in view these points.

Madam, at last I want to submit one point that I, my party and the leaders of my party we committed to ensure that two types of India are not carved out from this country. Our first priority is to ensure the development of the poor persons in the villages, arrange for water, roads, schools for them. We would fulfil the dream of Rahul Gandhi and go among the people to tell them that we have been motivated by this dream and have properly implemented it. I would like to appeal to all of you that if you have affection for the poor in your mind, if you have vision for developing villages, you may together cooperate with us in these programmes and contribute in building a new India. With these words, I would appeal to the hon'ble Madam to get these demands passed. Thank you. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: Madam, you praised Maharashtra and this NREGA scheme has been introduced under the EGS only. That scheme has been discontinued and the NREGA scheme cannot be

implemented. Will the Government ponder over any new programmes for Maharashtra and the beneficiaries over there? The Government of Maharashtra is not ours, it is yours. This is my first question.

DR. C.P. JOSHI: We would definitely ponder over this point as to what could be done about it and how the EGS (scheme) of Maharashtra will be integrated? We will do it.

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE: Madam, I welcome the statement made about the BPL card. However, when will the Government take up the work of revising the list of BPL cardholders and get it completed in a time bound manner?

DR. C.P. JOSHI: We will start it on the basis of the population figures once we get them and very soon a pilot project will be taken up *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The party, which has initiated will put up one question. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR ALIAS KUSHAL TIWARI: I would like to ask about the arrangement of housing in cases of the damages due to natural calamities *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble member may please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, I am grateful to you that you gave me time. Hon'ble Minister stated in a very forceful manner and the Members welcomed his speech by thumping their tables, but *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question only.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, Members sitting on both sides in the House very well know about the reality of the conditions prevailing in the villages. Scorching heat is there across the country as of now and the people are suffering. If you pay a visit to the villages, you will come to know the conditions prevailing over there...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shailendra ji, come directly on the question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, the water status is down over there. The land, the crops and the houses have got scorched. But, he has not made any mention about the natural calamity. I would like to submit that several hon'ble Members have made a demand for the provision of hand pumps for drinking water. At least, hand pumps should be made available for drinking water. Please do not show us a mixed guideline. We do look into the guideline as well being in the monitoring committees. Let it be made clear. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No question will be allowed. All hon'ble Members may please take their seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: A cut motion has been moved by Shri Raju Shetti to Demand No. 81 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development. I shall now put the cut motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That cut motion No. 26 moved by Shri Raju Shetti be adopted."

The cut motion was negatived.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Rural Development to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment 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. 81 to 83 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development."

The motion was adopted.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: What is the opinion of the House regarding having the Zero Hour?

...(*Interruptions*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Not now.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 am.

19.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, April 23, 2010/Vaisakha 3, 1932 (Saka).

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