

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 15, 2009/Asadha 24, 1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Madam Speaker, there is drought and famine like condition in the country...
(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : You please raise this issue at 12 o'clock, raise it during the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Today, there is famine like condition all over the country...(Interruptions) The proceedings of this House will be over by that time and there will be no discussion on it...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Let the Question Hour continue. This issue will be taken up during the 'Zero Hour'. Sharad Yadavji, you will be the first speaker in the 'Zero Hour'. Please let the question hour continue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri) : The question is of the entire country, drought has affected the whole country...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Sharad Yadavji, you are going to speak during the Zero Hour. Please be seated now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : There is drought in the country, cattle are dying and diseases are likely to break out. It is a matter of grave concern...
(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Let the question hour be over.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Presently, the entire country is reeling under drought. It is your prerogative, you may allow discussion on the drought condition...
(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : There is no water for drinking, cattle are dying, you please allow discussion on this issue right now...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : You please sit down. Nobody can differ that the issue for which you are concerned is a matter of serious concern. I would like to submit only this that discussion on this subject will be held tomorrow and discussion will also be held during the 'Zero Hour'. Presently, let the question hour continue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Discussion should be held now, it is a matter of concern...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigad) : This matter concern the entire country, you please allow them to raise it. You should understand the sentiments of the entire House...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : You please sit down. The hon'ble Minister is speaking on it.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North) : Let the question hour continue...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Sanjay Nirupamji, you please sit down, the hon'ble Minister is speaking.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : Madam, discussion on demands for grants for Agriculture is scheduled for tomorrow and

discussion in this regard will be held tomorrow. So, I would like to submit that tomorrow we can have detailed discussion on it as the entire day is reserved for discussion on this issue...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : At least, you please listen to him completely.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Madam, there is no such subject on which the Government does not want to hold discussion. The House may select any subject and the Government is ready to hold discussion on it. Tomorrow, discussion is going to be held on agriculture, however, today, after Question Hour, discussion is to be held on the demands for grants for the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Tomorrow, we can hold full-fledged discussion on agriculture... (Interruptions)

Madam, you can allot as much time as you wish, tomorrow is reserved for discussion on agriculture. Tomorrow, you can hold discussion on this subject from 12 o' clock to 8 o' clock at night. We are ready for a whole day discussion. Today, the Minister of Agriculture is also not present in Delhi. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Only the hon'ble Minister's speech will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Madam, The meeting of the Business Advisory Committee is also fixed up at 3 p.m. today ...(Interruptions) Tomorrow, there is a scheduled discussion on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. I would urge upon the hon. Members to take up this matter tomorrow for the whole day.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

If they are serious to hold discussion, every hon'ble Member can speak on this. If all will speak simultaneously, discussion on it will be difficult...(Interruptions) I am telling about tomorrow. Today, other subjects are to be taken up ...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Madam, in the discussion tomorrow on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, drought situation can also be discussed.

[Translation]

Sharad Yadavji, you please raise it during the 'Zero Hour'.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11.30 a.m.

11.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

11.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty-Two minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Question Hour. Shri Harin Pathak.

Compensatory Afforestation Management

*161. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing set up for administration of compensatory afforestation;

(b) whether the Union Government has constituted the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA);

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount remitted to CAMPA, State-wise;

(e) whether the CAMPA has released funds to the State Governments;

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

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the time by which the funds are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):
(a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated the 29th October, 2002 in IA No. 566 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Versus Union of India and Others, the Government of India in the Ministry of Environment and Forests constituted the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) vide its Order dated 23rd April, 2004. However, the CAMPA could not become operational. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 05.05.2006 in I.A. No. 1473 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 constituted an Ad-hoc body of the CAMPA comprising of

the Director General of Forests and Special Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests as Chairman; Inspector General of Forests (Forest Conservation); a representative of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India; and a nominee of the Chairman of the Central Empowered Committee as members with the following functions:-

"(i) ensure that all the monies recovered on behalf of the 'CAMPA' and which are presently lying with the various officials of the State Government are transferred to the bank account(s) to be operated by this body;

(ii) get audited all the monies received from the user agencies on behalf of the 'CAMPA' and the income earned thereon by the various State Government officials. The auditors may be appointed by the CAG. The audit may also examine whether proper financial procedure has been following in investing the funds;"

(d) As on 30.06.2009, an amount of about Rs. 9932.12 crores was remitted by State/UT Governments. A Statement showing the State-wise amount remitted into the account of Ad-hoc CAMPA is placed at Annexure.

(e) to (h) The Ad-hoc CAMPA has, so far, not released money to the States/UTs as the Supreme Court did not authorize Ad-hoc CAMPA to disburse the monies remitted to it by State/UT Governments.

The Ad-hoc CAMPA filed a report on 07.07.2009, in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in compliance with its Order dated 25.02.2009, seeking authorization to release money as per Annual Plans of Operations (APOs) submitted by States/UTs. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 10.07.2009 has permitted the Ad-hoc CAMPA to release money as prayed for. The guidelines dated 02.07.2009 for setting up of State CAMPAs have also been agreed to by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Annexure

| S. No. | State/UT | (in Rs.) |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 109,906,133.00 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 8,978,325,571.48 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1,636,763,088.74 |
| 4. | Assam | 671,749,049.00 |
| 5. | Bihar | 773,448,981.00 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 17,652,067.00 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 12,321,350,743.39 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 16,829,000.00 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | — |
| 10. | Delhi | 1,224,523,363.00 |
| 11. | Goa | 1,211,970,919.58 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 2,496,471,445.00 |
| 13. | Haryana | 1,911,413,386.79 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 3,667,719,848.60 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | — |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 9,500,280,928.03 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 5,855,732,170.00 |
| 18. | Kerala | 175,090,762.58 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | — |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 5,304,823,886.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 21. | Maharashtra | 8,935,493,798.50 |
| 22. | Manipur | 74,568,219.00 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 9,675,979.00 |
| 24. | Mizoram | — |
| 25. | Nagaland | — |
| 26. | Orissa | 13,106,182,423.00 |
| 27. | Puducherry | — |
| 28. | Punjab | 3,305,472,163.50 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 3,259,088,410.85 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 800,924,612.00 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 197,130,414.00 |
| 32. | Tripura | 354,181,754.00 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 4,709,629,585.46 |
| 34. | Uttarakhand | 8,165,322,154.65 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 529,577,838.00 |
| Grand Total | | 99,321,298,695.15 |

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Madam Speaker, I would not like to deliver a long speech because there is a long background behind this. Earlier, Central Government's permission was required to be obtained to use forest land for non forest purposes and after the permission of the Central Government, the agency concerned had to deposit money with the State Government and the State Government would keep that money with itself. The State Government would use that fund for afforestation, conservation and development of forest by way of

allocating that in Budget. I would not like to go in detail, however, when this case was brought before the Supreme Court, on 5.5.2006.

[English]

As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority was constituted. Thereafter, the body was set up. I am surprised that when the body was constituted, its functions were stipulated. About the functions, if you see Answer No. 2, as far as my knowledge goes, let me just interwind it. The amount, whatever it be, which was remitted by the State Governments and the Union Territories is to be deposited in this *ad hoc* body.

[Translation]

It increased the amount from Rs. 9900 crore to Rs. 9926 crore. Now among the functions stipulated by the Government, it is mentioned nowhere that they will have to approach the Supreme Court for this money.

Then, the State Government will formulate the Scheme and the Union Government will have to return the amount to the State Government. In 'a' and 'b', it has been mentioned among the functions, despite that, the Government approached the Supreme Court, the State Governments sent proposals. It contains the names of all the States which are 33 or 35.

[English]

A sum of Rs. 249 crore has been remitted by the State Government of Gujarat into this *ad hoc* Authority.

[Translation]

Now, the Supreme Court has given its verdict. Firstly, the Government should not have gone there, however, it approached the Supreme Court, it is OK. But, five days back, the Supreme Court decided in regard to the proposals submitted by the State Governments and stated that it was State Governments right and in case they were as per the rules, these funds should be given to them.

First, I would like to extend my thanks that five days back the Supreme Court gave its verdict in favour of our State Governments. I have only two questions. In order to save time, I would like to club them because two proposals have been sent on behalf of the Government of Gujarat. One proposal amounting to Rs. 12.93 crore was sent in the year 2007-08 and out of that nearly Rs. 4 crore 28 lakhs have already been spent. The second proposal that we sent for the year 2008-09 cost Rs. 15.58 crore. Our total projects cost is Rs. 97 crore...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Are you asking the first and the second supplementary simultaneously?

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Yes, I am asking the two simultaneously. I want to save time...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : This is not the way. First you ask the first supplementary and then another. Let the Minister reply.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Madam, the first scheme that we have...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Do not deliver a speech.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I am not making a speech. This is technical subject. As you live in city, so you do not know what is it and the fund of our state is due...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the Chair and put the question.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : I want to ask this very question that the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal which costs Rs. 12.93 crore because.

[English]

A sum of Rs.249 crore has already been remitted by the State Government of Gujarat. Would you

release this amount of Rs.12.93 crore at the earliest?
...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Madam Speaker, first, I would like to clarify that the Supreme Court orders that were given on Friday, July 10, broke a seven-year deadlock.

After seven years we have got a final decision from the Supreme Court. I think the entire House should welcome the move of the Supreme Court. Rs. 11,000 crore, Rs. 9,900 in terms of the principal amount and about Rs. 1,200 crore in terms of interest amount is now available for afforestation purposes. So, after seven long years we have got a resolution. What does the Supreme Court order say? The Supreme Court order has two parts. The first part says that State level CAMPA authorities will be set up and they will execute all works according to the plan of operations and the second part says that the *ad hoc* CAMPA authority – I stress the word '*ad hoc*', *ad hoc* means temporarily, *ad hoc* means self-liquidating – set up in May, 2006 will start the initial process of dispersal and after a few months the *ad hoc* CAMPA will liquidate and the State level CAMPAs would become fully empowered to carry forward this process.

Now, the Supreme Court has said that to begin with, 10 per cent of the principal amount accumulated under each State would be released every year. In response to the hon. Member's question, I would like to say that Gujarat has a principal amount of Rs. 250 crore which means in the first year, Gujarat will get Rs. 25 crore from the *ad hoc* CAMPA. So that amount of Rs. 25 crore will go to Gujarat in the next couple of weeks as soon as we get all the formalities in place.

I want to reiterate that the *ad hoc* CAMPA is purely an interim arrangement. This entire money is that of the State Governments. It is going to be implemented by the States subject to monitoring and evaluation by the Central Government. So there should be no fear, there should be no apprehension that the Centre is encroaching on the

States. On the contrary, the Centre has moved and enabled a seven year deadlock to be ended.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Madam, I am thankful to the hon. Minister and I know that the hon. Supreme Court *vide* its order dated 10.7.2009 has permitted the *ad hoc* CAMPA to release money as prayed for. The hon. Minister has said that he is ready to release the fund. My question has been answered. I would just request him to release money to all the projects.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Madam, I have not finished.

MADAM SPEAKER: You said your question has been answered.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I want to ask my second supplementary.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right. Please ask it quickly.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : For the second phase, the fund required by the Government of Gujarat is about Rs. 15.19 crore. As the Minister has pointed out, 10 per cent of the total amount deposited by the State Government comes to Rs. 25 crore. So, kindly release that amount of Rs. 25 crore at the earliest. That is the only request.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I assure the hon. Member that Rs. 25 crore will be released to Gujarat at the very earliest.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL : Hon'ble Speaker Madam, Uttar Pradesh is the largest state of the country. It is due to deforestation and lack of afforestation that the rainfall is getting affected. Ten lakh trees have been cut down over there...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Ten lakh trees are over there, they have been cut down to develop park ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : You please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJARAM PAL : The State Government is totally indifferent to the farmers and the forests. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he will pass any order immediately for monitoring while allotting the required quota to Uttar Pradesh?

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : They were cut down without NOC in Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Silence please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: According to the Supreme Court's orders, Rs. 47 crore will accrue to the Government of Uttar Pradesh in the first year through the *ad hoc* CAMPA. If the State Government has already prepared the annual plan of operation, we have absolutely no hesitation in releasing the first tranche of Rs. 47 crore. But I want to stress that this is only for the protection and regeneration of natural forests. This is not for plantations on wayside or on bunds. It is for protection of forests, it is for protection of critical eco system and it is for protection of critical wildlife habitats. The guidelines are being distributed to the State Governments.

As soon as they are distributed to the State Governments, I would be glad to lay a copy of the guidelines on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : All these have been done in Uttar Pradesh without getting NOC...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Silence, please and address the Chair. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you speak.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Madam Speaker, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the department

of forest is a very important department. As far as the environment is concerned apart from forest, animals, it is a very serious issue and I want to ask many more questions, too, because this is a very important department. I have been incharge of the State, so I know it; and he also knows it. This is not so that it is not in his knowledge. Lakhs of trees have been cut down in Uttar Pradesh. I want to know whether it was in his knowledge and if not, whether he will take any action as per our information? Because this is the issue that arose just beside you. Lakhs of trees were cut down in Noida. In the capital Lucknow, lakhs of trees were cut down. Jaiswal ji is coming from Lucknow; he may have seen how many trees were there along the canal over there. Even a single tree is now not there.

Madam, I would like to know after all, why the central Government is silent in this regard. Through the media and the public it is, of course, in the notice of the Government. Then, what action has he taken? Lakhs of trees have been cut down over there and lakhs of trees still continue to be cut down. I want to know from the Minister what action he has taken and planned in this regard.

[English]

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Madam Speaker, although this question does not relate to CAMPA, I would be pleased to answer the hon. Member's question.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You do know Hindi. So, what is the matter? If you do not know how to speak Hindi, it does not matter.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Is it the London's Lok Sabha; Is the Lok Sabha situated in London?

MADAM SPEAKER : I cannot put a pressure on him; he can speak in either language Hindi or English.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : Madam, I will reply in Hindi itself.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You know how to speak Hindi.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : Last week, when a news item appeared in newspapers that lakhs of trees are being cut down, the Central Government had suo-motu constituted an enquiry headed by regional Chief conservator of Forest, Lucknow in order to get the field survey conducted over the area around Okhla Bird Sanctuary where construction is being undertaken and lakhs of trees are being stated to be cut down...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Trees, not being cut down rather they have already been felled.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH : We had sent this team to enquire into it. Its report has been submitted to us. I have seen myself that report. It says that the State Government had not taken environmental of forest clearances. However, we have now sent this report to the State Government seeking its comment on the said report. When we receive its comments, we will take the action that will be required to be taken. But, it is wrong to say that the Central Government is silent. Central Government is not silent. The Central Government has got the enquiry conducted and the enquiry report is available with us and we have sent it to the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Madam Speaker, I want to say only one thing...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER : No, your speech is over. Now Dr. Ratna De.

[English]

DR. RATNA DE : Madam, I want to ask a question to the hon. Minister whether the land meant for afforestation

has already been used for non-forest purposes; whether the Scheduled Tribe people who have the right for forest have been evicted from the area; and is there any report of death due to starvation among the tribals living in the forests.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Madam, this is a very large issue which again has no bearing on the question, which is under CAMPA, but let me say that Parliament has passed the Forest Rights Act and Parliament having passed the Forest Rights Act, it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that the Forest Rights Act provisions are fully reflected in the clearances that we give under the Forest Conservation Act. I want to assure the hon. Member that whatever provisions are contained in the Forest Rights Act to protect the rights of tribals will be adhered to in the process of giving clearances for projects in forest areas.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Madam Speaker, I have one question.

MADAM SPEAKER : Mulayam Singh ji, your question is over.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Madam Speaker, listen to me.

MADAM SPEAKER : No, Mulayam Singh ji, your question is over. Silence please.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Madam Speaker, I am not raising any question. Trees are being cut down...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shrimati Maneka Gandhi.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER : Only the speech of Shrimati Maneka Gandhi will go on record.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Army, the Defence Forces have taken a huge amount of land and diverted it for ranges, for DRDO work. Specially, for instance, in Orissa, have they given any compensatory afforestation money? Have they said that they will afforest or do anything themselves?

Secondly, this CAMPA money, when you give it back to the States, these are the States that have diverted the land already. One of the reasons why this money was started to be asked was not just to protect the existing forests.... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You speak in Hindi.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Mulayam Singh ji, I will speak in whatever language I want to speak in.

Instead of just protecting the forests we have, for instance UP has virtually none, can it not be used also to reconstruct a forest by planting in areas that used to have forests?

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Madam Speaker, the answer to the second question is 'Yes'. The objective of CAMPA is protection, regeneration, restoration of natural forests which includes degraded forest lands, which includes medium density forest lands, and other forest lands.

To the hon. Member's second question, the answer is 'Yes'. To her first question, I will have to check as to the specific instance that she is referring to, whether in fact the compensatory afforestation money has been paid. But I want to assure the hon. Member that I am personally

aware that very few exceptions are made. By and large, almost all parties, public sector, private sector, the State Governments, the Central Government, that divert forest land for non-forest purposes do end up paying the net present value. But I will check on the precise about the Army and the Defence Forces and get back to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

Data Bank of Students Studying Abroad

+

*162. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI :

SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY :

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of students studying in foreign countries including Australia as on date, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to establish a data bank of all the students going abroad for studies;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such data bank is likely to be established;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to issue any guidelines for students seeking admission for studies abroad; and

(e) the time by which such guidelines are likely to be issued by the Government?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) The exact number of Indian students in foreign countries is not available as most of them do not register themselves with Indian Diplomatic Missions/Posts abroad. Approximate number of Indian students as available, country-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement, placed on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has undertaken an 'E-Governance in Emigration' project to transform the process of mobility of Indian workers and students going abroad into a simple, orderly and transparent process through an Information Technology platform.

As part of this project the details of Indian students going overseas for education will also be registered. This will help establish a data base of Indian students going abroad.

The project is targeted for completion by the end of 2010.

(d) and (e) An advisory to students who plan to go to some of the countries for studies is placed on the website of the Ministry.

Annexure

| S. No. | Country | Approximate Number of Indian Students |
|--------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Antigua and Barbuda | 5 |
| 2. | Armenia | 500 |
| 3. | Australia | 97,035 |
| 4. | Austria | 25 |
| 5. | Azerbaijan | 51 |
| 6. | Bangladesh | 500 |
| 7. | Belarus | 700 |
| 8. | Brazil | 01 |
| 9. | Bulgaria | 125 |
| 10. | Cambodia | 17 |
| 11. | Canada | 2,500 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|---------------------|-------|
| 12. | China | 3,242 |
| 13. | Cuba | 4 |
| 14. | Cyprus | 1,000 |
| 15. | Czech Republic | 30 |
| 16. | Denmark | 150 |
| 17. | Egypt | 100 |
| 18. | France | 2,000 |
| 19. | Georgia | 100 |
| 20. | Germany | 4,500 |
| 21. | Guyana | 25 |
| 22. | Hungary | 30 |
| 23. | Hong Kong | 50 |
| 24. | Iceland | 05 |
| 25. | Indonesia | 02 |
| 26. | Iran | 625 |
| 27. | Iraq | 40 |
| 28. | Israel | 100 |
| 29. | Italy | 250 |
| 30. | Japan | 544 |
| 31. | Korea (Republic of) | 525 |
| 32. | Kuwait | 6 |
| 33. | Libya | 11 |
| 34. | Malaysia | 1,350 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|----------------------------|-------|
| 35. | Mauritius | 400 |
| 36. | Mexico | 05 |
| 37. | Moldova | 12 |
| 38. | Nepal | 75 |
| 39. | New Zealand | 6,040 |
| 40. | Norway | 80 |
| 41. | Oman | 420 |
| 42. | Philippine | 1,000 |
| 43. | Poland | 01 |
| 44. | Romania | 225 |
| 45. | Russian Federation | 4,500 |
| 46. | Slovak Republic | 02 |
| 47. | Slovenia | 39 |
| 48. | South Africa | 121 |
| 49. | Spain | 400 |
| 50. | St. Kitts and Nevis | 05 |
| 51. | St. Lucia | 150 |
| 52. | St. Vincent and Grenadines | 15 |
| 53. | Switzerland | 300 |
| 54. | Syria | 3 |
| 55. | Tajikistan | 304 |
| 56. | Tanzania | 650 |
| 57. | Turkey | 2 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|---------|----------|
| 58. | Ukraine | 3,000 |
| 59. | UK | 25,905 |
| 60. | USA | 1,04,522 |
| Total | | 2,64,324 |

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Madam Speaker, the Minister has accepted that a good number of students are going to the foreign universities, the universities abroad. But, before going to the question on data bank, I would like to tell the Minister, through you, that there are so many foreign universities including those in USA and Australia which are sub-standard. They are appointing their agents in India and giving them commission to get the students to their universities. Many of our students do not know about the standards of those universities. I would like to know whether the Government is trying to get the data, I mean the detailed information of these universities and educate our students. It is because, I would like to tell that some of the universities even in USA, Australia and in many other countries are selling their degrees, and without knowing all these things, the students are giving lakhs of rupees to the agents. I would like to know whether the Government is having any plan to control these agents and educate our students in the country.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, the question put by the hon. Member is right to an extent. In Australia, almost 98,000 students are studying as per the latest information. The number of students studying in Australia four years ago was 14,000. There is a big jump in that figure. Almost 50 per cent or more than that are studying in the Vocational Education Training Institute. I think, it is as much as our ITI. So, as the hon. Member has correctly said, they are not Universities. The students are going to only 39 Universities, and the students are staying in their campus. That is number one.

As regards the second part of his question, yes, we are proposing to have some kind of a regulation to have the registration voluntary or to have the compulsory registration of students going abroad.

Madam, as of today, we do not have any correct figure as to how many students are going, and we are taking it up very seriously. The names of students must be registered and they must go through the Embassies. This is necessary for the safety of the students and also for the protection of the students. We need to have such registration. It is necessary to have the total number of students going to different countries. We will proceed with this work. If necessary, we will come to Parliament with a legislation on this.

Madam, unscrupulous agents have been appointed by different institutions including the Universities. Now, when the Secretary, Education and Employment of that Government met me in my Office, that lady agreed to have a legislation in regard to control and regulation of the agents. We would also like to do something here because the agents' agents are in India. We have no control over them. We would like to control them also. The agents' agents, who are here in India, are instigating the students to go there by offering them employment. This is a major problem.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Madam, my second supplementary is regarding the data bank and the recent racial attacks in Australia. I would like to know whether there is any decline in the number of students going to Australia, U.S. or any other country after the racial attacks. I would like to know how the data bank is going to ensure safeguards to our students or to other persons who are going abroad for any other purpose; how the data bank is going to be helpful to them; and how the Government proposes to help them. I would also like to know as to whether the Government has initiated any diplomatic process with these countries and especially with the countries where these racial attacks are continuously going on.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: The main problem is with Australia. This matter has been taken up at the highest level. Our Prime Minister has talked to the Prime Minister of Australia. Thereafter, many measures have been taken by that Government also. Already two delegations from Australia came to India and explained to the Government of India about this problem. Now, another delegation from Australia is expected to come to India in a couple of days.

Madam, after our Prime Minister's dialogue with the Australian Prime Minister, the Australian Prime Minister called the Council of Australian Government. It is one of the topmost bodies. It includes six States and two Territories. Their Prime Minister and Chief Ministers attended the meeting and they took some important decisions. One of the decisions that they have taken is to take all steps for the protection of the students, and also another 11 decisions have been taken by them. Thereafter, another important decision has been taken by the Senate. The Senate appointed a Committee to look into this matter and submit its Report before 16th November. The Senate asked this Committee to submit its Report on the welfare and protection of the students and also on the quality of education given to the students coming to Australia. These are the steps taken by the Australian Government.

I agree with the hon. Member that there was an attack on the students. Unfortunately, at the initial stage, their Police was not effectively acting to book the culprits or taking the action. Our Government intervened and asked the Australian Government to take action. Indian media also has made it an issue. Now, their Police are very actively taking action against them. A Police Officer of that Government was one among the members of the delegation which came here.

Madam, the data bank is necessary to know how many students go and where; and which are those countries. That will not only help us but also the students who are going abroad in respect of their selection. The data bank

work has only just started, and we proposed to complete this process by 2010.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri M. Sreenivasulu Reddy – not present.

Shri K.C. Venugopal.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL :Madam, lakhs of Indian students are going abroad for higher studies. The hon. Minister has also stated that lakhs of students are studying abroad. Already, we have had a bad experience in Australia, which the hon. Minister has also narrated. So many Indian students have been attacked by the Australians.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has any proposal for the welfare and protection of the Indian students going abroad for higher studies. Will he authorize some officer in our embassies in the respective countries to look after our students?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: As it is today, our Indian Missions have the Labour Consulates, and not the Student Consulates. Now, a large number of Indian students go to different countries. The list has already been laid on the Table. So, it is necessary that some officer is designated only for the students.

As far as the protection of Indian students abroad is concerned, our Missions abroad have already taken a very serious view in different countries. We will take this issue up with all seriousness to see that the interests of our students abroad are protected. I hope that the MEA would designate one officer exclusively to look after the interests of the Indian students.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH : Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what time it would take to give information to the students about the Class A universities, Class B universities and Class C universities. It is because I find in Allahabad, half a dozen touts are roaming about from this university to that university, and

out of 10, nine students – when they have gone to Australia – found that the university was not in existence.

Therefore, would the hon. Minister clarify as to how much time it would take to give the information to the country as to which are Class A universities, Class B universities; and the universities where no admission should take place?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, the process has already been started. Information about nine countries has already been put on the website. About the rest, it is under process. So, we would put information of almost all the countries on the website, where students are mainly going.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH : Is there any list?...
(Interruptions)

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: If you want I can read it.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH : Madam, in view of the increasing incidents of racial attacks and harassment of Indian students in Australia and other parts of the world, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has started any special mechanism in various Embassies to ensure assistance and protection to the Indian students facing discrimination abroad.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Madam, the first step that we have taken is to make the police to act instantly. Whenever they get any such complaint, they must act and arrest the attackers and take action against them. This has already started. The Government has already extended help to one student. Similarly, two students belonging to Andhra Pradesh, who were seriously injured, were given help by our Embassy there. All the political parties are helping them. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also sent about one million rupees to the Embassy for incurring the medical expenses on those students.

Madam, there is one problem that there is no medical insurance for these students. So, we are insisting for the medical insurance for the students during the

tenure of their education abroad. Though the expenses on medical treatment are very high, yet we are insisting on the Government of Australia to see that the students come with a medical insurance. We are insisting on it. ... (*Interruptions*) We are taking up with the Embassies.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI : As per the reply of the hon. Minister, there are 2,64,000 students studying abroad out of which, 2,33,500 students are studying only in Australia, New Zealand, UK and USA. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is trying to compute any data of how much expenses the Indian students are incurring on their education abroad. What are the actions that have been taken for their protection? My main question is this. What are the outgoing expenses from India to these four countries or abroad?

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: It is true, as per our account, approximately 2,64,000 students are studying abroad. We have the figures. The exact figure is not there with either the Finance Minister or with me. But on an average, if we take 20,000 dollars per year per student, the total amount for all the students would be more than 5.5 billion dollars. It is on an average. I cannot give the exact figure because the amount which the students pay varies from country to country. The highest amount may be in UK and USA. About Australia, it may not be that much high. Students also go for various courses. For medicine, technical courses and other professional courses, higher payment had been made. For some other courses, the amount may be very less. So, we cannot come to an exact figure. But we are trying to codify everything. Our effort is to see as to how much money goes out; how many students are there; and what are the fee structures in different countries. That can only be done by their websites or by e-governance. After all this information is gathered, then only I can come to the House to give the exact figure.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Time and cost overruns of Major Central Sector Project

*163. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI :
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA :

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Ministry has monitored execution of the major central sector projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the reasons for the cost and time overruns in respect of such projects have been identified;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 30.04.09, 583 major central sector projects costing Rs. 100 crore and above at an estimated cost of Rs. 559385 crore were monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Out of 583 projects 11 are ahead of schedule, 158 projects are on schedule, 284 projects are running behind schedule with respect to their original approved date of commissioning; and 130 projects do not have any date of commissioning.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The cost and time overruns in these projects are largely attributed to funds constraints, problems faced in land acquisition and forest/environmental clearance, slow progress by contractors, adverse law and order situation

in some regions of the country, delay in supply of equipment by domestic/foreign vendors, change in scope of projects leading to increase in Bill of Quantities (BOQ), geological surprises, increase in interest on borrowed capital during construction, exchange rate variations in projects funded by external sources, high cost of rehabilitation, general price rise of cement and steel, etc.

(e) The corrective steps taken by the Government to minimize cost and time over-run of such projects inter-alia include:

- (i) adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of projects before investment approval;
- (ii) taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up;
- (iii) in-depth review of projects on monthly and quarterly basis by the Government;
- (iv) follow up with the State Governments in respect of problems relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation related issues, forest clearances, infrastructure facilities, ensuring law and order at project sites, etc.
- (v) setting up of Empowered Committees in different administrative Ministries for review of the departmentally executed projects;
- (vi) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved problems;
- (vii) setting up of Standing Committees in the ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns;
- (viii) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure; and
- (ix) issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

[Translation]

Expenditure on Health Sector

*164. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure on health as percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the last three years;

(b) whether the expenditure on health is very low in the Government sector as compared to the private sector;

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

(d) the average annual amount spent/ being spent on health sector during the last three years and the current year;

(e) whether the health sector has largely been commercialized in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) As per Economic Survey 2008-2009 published by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, the total expenditure on Health as a percentage of GDP during the last four years was as follows:

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| 2005-06 (Actual) | 1.27% |
| 2006-07 (Actual) | 1.26% |
| 2007-08 (RE) | 1.41% |
| 2008-09 (BE) | 1.41% |

(b) and (c) Yes. The expenditure in the Government

sector as compared to the private sector is very low in India. As per the National Commission on Macroeconomics and Health 2005, health spending in India is estimated to be in the range of 4.5% to 6% of GDP. These estimates are based on a weak methodological background. Therefore, an exercise was undertaken to construct estimates of health spending based on a National Health Account (NHA) framework. Such an approach enables a better and more reliable understanding of the size and structure of health financing in India.

Results from the national Health Account show that the total health expenditure in India for the year 2001-02 was approximately Rs. 105,734 crore which accounting for 4.63% of the GDP (market prices). Of the total expenditure, 20.3% was public/Government expenditure, 77.4% was private expenditure and remaining 2.3% external support. At disaggregate level, Central Government contribution to the total health expenditure was 6.4%, State Government 12.6% and local bodies and Panchayat Raj Institutions 1.3%.

The household consumer expenditure data of various rounds of the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) suggests that households spend about 5%-6% of their total consumption expenditure on health and nearly 11% of all non-food consumption expenditure. Clearly the provision of financial resources for the public sector system of health care has been inadequate in the past. It is for this reason that the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched in April, 2005, by the Hon'ble Prime Minister for providing quality health services which are accessible, affordable and accountable. The objective has been to raise public expenditure on health as a proportion of GDP to 2%-3%.

(d) As per the Economic Survey 2008-09 the expenditure on Health Sector for the last four years is as follows:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 2005-06 (Actual) | Rs. 45,428 Crore |
| 2006-07 (Actual) | Rs. 52,126 Crore |

| | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 2007-08 (RE) | Rs. 66,423 Crore |
| 2008-09 (BE) | Rs. 75,055 Crore |

(e) and (f) As is evident from above, public expenditure on health in India as inadequate. This has led to the emergence of a large private sector in Health. This contributes towards commercialization of the health sector. It was on account of this that the NRHM has been started to raise public expenditure on primary health care. In the absence of adequate public expenditure, poor households have to pay very large sums out of pocket often leading to their pauperization. NRHM's efforts in strengthening primary health care are to largely ensure that out of pocket expenditures come significantly. NRHM is trying to make provisions for drugs, diagnostics, emergency ambulance care, doctors, paramedics and nurses in remote regions to ensure that quality services are available to the poor. NRHM has also extended support for hospitalized treatment wherever States have demanded such support. The major thrust of NRHM is to build the public system. It also seeks partnerships with the non-Governmental sector for public health goals where there is a possibility of improving access to quality care for the poor through partnerships. The fundamental thrust of NRHM is to raise public expenditure on health to enable poor households in remote rural areas to seek quality health services at their door steps. It may be pointed out that "Health" is a State subject in our Constitution and it is the primary responsibility of State Governments to ensure adequate, affordable and accessible health care to its citizens. The Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments through funding under Central Schemes. Given the neglect of the primary health system over the years, this process will take some time. The early results of NRHMs gives the confidence that the approach is on the right track with provision of services at village level, sub centre level, PHC level, CHC level and sub district and district levels. Strengthening of the primary health care system will greatly reduce the commercialization of health care in the country and NRHM is committed in doing so.

[English]

Basic Health Care Services

*165. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the difficulties being faced by the Government in providing comprehensive affordable and accessible quality health care services to the people;

(b) whether health care sector requires massive investment even to achieve the basic essentials including provision of beds;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has obtained any opinion from the experts to address the issue;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government intends to allow public-private participation in health care sector; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The difficulties being faced by the Government in providing quality health care services inter alia include:

1. Inadequate financial resources.
2. Inadequate availability of human resources.
3. Reaching the underserved areas due to various reasons including varying geographical and climatic conditions.

(b) and (c) Yes. The health sector requires massive investment even to achieve the basic essentials including provision of beds. The National Commission on Macroeconomics on Health (NCMH) in its report submitted in 2005

had projected an additional financial resource need of Rs. 74000 crores consisting of an estimated Rs. 33000 crores for capital investment required for building up the health infrastructure; Rs. 9000 crores towards premium subsidy to the poor under a mandatory universal social health insurance programme covering the entire country over the next 15 years; and an estimated Rs. 41000 crores for recurring costs towards salaries, drugs, training, research etc.

(d) and (e) Yes. In line with the projections and recommendations of the National Commission on Macroeconomics on Health, the details of which are on the website at <http://www.who.int/publication/en>, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) Framework for Implementation has been approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2006. The NRHM Framework provides for an additional investment of Rs. 30000 crores non-recurring and Rs. 36000 crores recurring for a period from 2005-06 to 2011-12.

(f) and (g) The NRHM provides for pro poor partnership with the non Governmental sector for promotion of public health goals. More than 200 such innovations have been adopted by States under NRHM through the Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, majority of which are targeted at the population living below the poverty line. The details of the directory of innovations are available on the website of the Ministry at www.mohfw.nic.in.

[Translation]

Drug Resistant Tuberculosis

*166. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of Extensively Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (XDR-TB) have been detected in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) There are isolated reports of such cases from tertiary care Institutes. However, the exact magnitude of the problem is still to be determined as these reports are based on non-representative samples.

A study conducted by TB Research Centre (TRC), Chennai (between 2000 and 2005), published in 2007 in a recognized scientific journal, showed one case of Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR) TB in 66 Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) cases. This translates to 1.5% Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR) TB cases in Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) patients.

Further, to estimate the prevalence of Multi and Extensive Drug Resistant TB, the Ministry conducted Drug Resistance surveys in the States of Gujarat and Maharashtra. Results from surveys indicate that the prevalence of Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) TB among new cases is less than 3%. To obtain a representative estimate of the Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR) TB in these states, the isolates of identified multi drug resistant cases from the drug resistant surveys were tested at Tuberculosis Research Centre, Chennai. Unpublished results show that there is no Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR) TB amongst new cases, and it is less than 0.5% amongst re-treatment cases.

(e) Drug resistant TB [including Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR)] can be prevented by early detection and good quality treatment strategy namely Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS), and this is successfully being implemented in the country. Simultaneously, this

Ministry has initiated Directly Observed Treatment Short Course (DOTS) Plus services for the diagnosis and treatment of Multi-Drug Resistant (MDR) TB so that the emergence of Extensive Drug Resistant (XDR) - TB may be prevented.

Shortage of Fuel for Atomic Plants

*167. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of fuel for atomic plants in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of uranium imported from various countries and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years and the current year, country-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether the Government has any plan to make the country self-dependent in the field of atomic fuel; and

(e) if so, the time by which the country is likely to become self-dependent in the field of atomic fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The total installed nuclear power capacity in the country is 4120 MWe. Out of this, 320 MWe capacity (Tarapur Atomic Power Station units 1 and 2 - 2 x 160 MWe) uses imported low enriched Uranium, which is available. The remaining capacity (3800 MWe) consists of Pressurised Heavy water Reactors (PHWRs). PHWRs use indigenous natural

uranium, of which there is mismatch in demand and supply. The delay experienced in opening new mines and setting up processing facilities due to local and environmental factors have led to the current mismatch.

(c) 300 MT of natural uranium from France and 60 MT of natural uranium pellets from Russian Federation have been received in the year 2009. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking of the Department of Atomic Energy, is setting up two nuclear power reactors of 1000 MWe each in co-operation with Russian Federation at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu. The first charge of fuel and one reload for the first reactor was received in the year 2008. Low enriched uranium for TAPS - 1 and 2 was also received in the year 2006. The yearly expenditure on uranium import is as under :

| Year | Rs. in Crore |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 2006-07 | 638 |
| 2007-08 | 401 |
| 2008-09 | 844 |
| 2009-10 (Upto June 2009) | 279 |

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Self dependency in nuclear fuel is a long term objective and is planned through execution of indigenous three-stage programme. The three stages of the programme have to be executed sequentially in view of the fuel cycle linkages between stages. While the first stage of the programme has reached maturity, the second stage of Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) has been launched. The third stage of the programme for thorium utilization needs technology development and a sizeable capacity of the second stage. Based on the current status of the programme, large scale deployment of thorium fuelled reactors are expected to be launched around 2040.

[English]

Spread of Vector Borne and Infectious Diseases

*168. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vector borne and infectious diseases like malaria, dengue, chikungunya, Japanese encephalitis (JE), leptospirosis and cholera are spreading in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor including the number of cases reported and the number of persons died during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to enhance the Central assistance to States for prevention of these diseases;

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

(e) the details of foreign assistance received and utilised for treatment of these diseases in the country;

(f) whether the Government has launched any campaign to create awareness among masses about such diseases;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the effective steps taken/being taken by the Government for prevention of these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (h) Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) are being reported from various areas of the States and Union Territories (UTs) in the country, which are endemic for them.

The situation of the cases reported by various States/UTs, is indicated below:

| Year | Malaria | Dengue | Suspected Chikungunya fever cases | J.E. |
|------|------------------------|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| 2006 | 1785109 | 12317 | 1390322 | 2871 |
| 2007 | 1502742 | 5534 | 59535 | 4110 |
| 2008 | 1524939 | 12561 | 95091 | 3839 |
| 2009 | 271037 (Till April) | 2221 (Till June) | 13117 (Till June) | 445 (Till June) |

Malaria is transmitted by female Anopheles mosquito and is concentrated in certain pockets. Its transmission depends on various ecological factors. As per the reported figures from the States, the malaria cases have shown a declining trend. However, in the endemic areas, the fluctuation in number of cases is reported.

Dengue was earlier being reported from urban areas but now it is spreading to rural areas due to rapid urbanization of rural areas, water storage practices and improper solid waste management, and also because the Vector mosquito - Aedes -which transmits Dengue, breeds in fresh water stored in tanks, coolers, earthen pots etc. Chikungunya re-emerged in 2006 and the disease is being reported from different parts of the country. The vector of Chikungunya is same which transmits Dengue.

Japanese Encephalitis is reported mainly from the areas where paddy cultivation and pig rearing are being practiced because the vector mosquito breeds in paddy fields and the virus of Japanese Encephalitis maintains its natural cycle in pigs or adreid birds. As per the reports, Japanese Encephalitis is now being reported from less number of States than it was being reported in earlier years.

Shortage of potable water plays an important role in the development of cholera. Other contributory factors could be: neutral or alkaline pH, increased salinity and faecal contamination of surface water or drinking water sources. Sometimes, it spreads through contaminated food also.

Leptospirosis is primarily a contagious disease of animals, occasionally infecting humans. The infection is acquired through contact with the environment contaminated with urine of rodents, carriers or diseased animals. The condition which favours its transmission is presence of hosts like rodents, foxes, rabbits, etc. Their excretion is responsible for contamination of soil and water bodies. Other factors are: drainage congestion, water logging and soil salinity. The outbreaks of Leptospirosis have been reported from coastal districts of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Andamans from time to time.

Incidence of infectious diseases like cholera and leptospirosis usually rises in the monsoons and incidence of vector borne diseases rises in the post monsoon season.

State-wise data on reported cases and deaths for Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, Japanese Encephalitis, Cholera and Leptospirosis are given in the enclosed Statements I to VI.

The year-wise allocation of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) is indicated in the enclosed Statement-VII. The Central Government has enhanced central assistance to state under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme for prevention and control of vector borne diseases as indicated below.

| Year | Allocation for the States (Rs. in crores) |
|---------|--|
| 1 | 2 |
| 2006-07 | 348.30 |

| 1 | 2 |
|---------|--|
| 2007-08 | 361.08 |
| 2008-09 | 440.04 |
| 2009-10 | 411.39 |
| | Proposed to be enhanced at Revised Estimates |

The foreign assistance is received only for prevention and control of Malaria. Currently, there are two externally assisted projects being implemented for control of malaria i.e. (i) from Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and (ii) from World Bank.

- (i) Global Fund supported Project is being implemented since 2005. The total fund received for control of malaria under foreign assistance through Global fund is USD 47.7 million out of which USD 29.25 million has been utilized for the control of malaria in the identified Global fund assisted Intensified Malaria Control Project areas.
- (ii) The World Bank Supported Project for malaria control and Kala-azar elimination has been approved and the financing agreement has been signed. This project is for 250 million USD and became effective from 6th of March, 2009.

As far as creation of awareness, Under NVBDCP, focused Information, Education and Communication (IEC)/ Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) campaigns are carried out at National Level and State level in order to augment and ensure community sensitization for ownership of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme activities for effective preventive and control of vector borne diseases.

National level activities include media campaign through release of newspaper advertisements in Regional and National Dailies with messages from Health and Family Welfare Minister during transmission season.

Electronic campaign is also carried out by telecasting spots, scrolls on TV and by broadcasting spots, jingles in All India Radio and other FM radios. Besides sensitization programmes are also carried out as part of Kalyani programme of Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan).

June is observed as Anti Malaria Month and July is observed as Anti Dengue Month when all the activities are carried out in campaign mode to promote community participation for anti malaria and anti dengue activities as these are the main transmission period.

Creation of awareness for Vector borne and infectious diseases is an on-going process. The states are sensitizing the community on prevention and control of vector borne and other infectious diseases. At State Level following activities are carried out:

- (i) Advocacy, (ii) Interpersonal communication
- (iii) social mobilization (iv) Inter-sectoral consultation,
- (v) Health Mela, (vi) Rally involving school children and
- (vii) Communication through media-mix strategies involving Electronic (TV and Radio spots) and Print (Newspaper Advertisement) Media.

Prevention is an important component of the multi-pronged strategy of the vector borne disease control programme in the country as could be seen from the strategy detailed below:

(i) Disease Management

- Early case detection and complete treatment
- Strengthening of referral services

- Epidemic preparedness and rapid response

(ii) Integrated Vector Management

- Indoor Residual spraying in selected high risk areas
- use of Insecticide treated bed nets
- use of larvivorous fishes
- anti larval measures in urban areas including bio-larvicides
- minor environmental engineering

(iii) Supportive Interventions

- Behaviour Change Communication
- Public Private Partnership and Inter-sectoral convergence
- Human Resource Development through capacity building
- Monitoring and evaluation

The subject matter relating to prevention, control and treatment is dealt by the State Governments but Government of India provides technical assistance, guidance and training and assistance through special programmes. Some of **initiatives of VBD Control Programme of Government of India** are listed in the enclosed Statement-VIII.

Cholera

All diarrhoeal diseases including cholera can be controlled by following the guidelines for cholera control which include verification of the diagnosis, notification of cholera (Cholera being a notifiable disease locally, nationally and internationally), early case finding, establish-

ment of treatment centres and rehydration therapy (either oral or intravenous). Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) solution with/without antibiotics is the best treatment for cholera - which is being provided by all the States and UTs. Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) is an important component of the strategy for Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI).

Provision of safe drinking water and general hygiene is the key to preventing diarrhoeal diseases. The respective State Governments work towards spreading awareness and providing safe drinking water to general population.

Leptospirosis

Incidence of Leptospirosis is confined to a few States in India. Till recently, there was no national programme or initiative to prevent and control the disease.

A pilot project has been started as a 'New Initiative' in the 11th Five Year Plan in four districts of Gujarat (Valsad, Navsari, Tapi and Surat), two districts of Kerala (Kottayam and Allepey) and two districts of Tamil Nadu (Villupuram and Thiruchirapalli). The project is being carried out for a period of 2 years (2008-2010). The pilot project is having budget about Rs.2 crores. The focus of the project is on strengthening diagnostic services, patient care management, chemoprophylaxis, development of trained manpower, and sensitization of animal husbandry and agriculture personnel.

At the national level, National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) coordinates laboratory support for outbreak investigation and etiological diagnosis. It also conducts regular training courses for development of trained manpower. It has also helped develop guidelines for prevention and control of vector borne and infectious diseases for guidance of all concerned. To create awareness, CD alert for these diseases are being circulated to all the Health Directorates.

Statement-I*State-wise Malaria Cases and Deaths in the Country*

| States/UTs. | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009* | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 34081 | 0 | 27803 | 2 | 26165 | 0 | 5265 | 0 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 39182 | 196 | 32072 | 36 | 28072 | 6 | 2055 | 0 |
| Assam | 126178 | 304 | 94853 | 152 | 83869 | 86 | 14238 | 5 |
| Bihar | 2744 | 1 | 1595 | 1 | 496 | 1 | 138 | 0 |
| Chhattisgarh | 190590 | 3 | 145949 | 0 | 123495 | 0 | 24155 | 0 |
| Goa | 5010 | 7 | 9755 | 11 | 9822 | 21 | 1561 | 0 |
| Gujarat | 89835 | 45 | 71121 | 73 | 50884 | 36 | 3827 | 1 |
| Haryana | 47142 | 0 | 30895 | 0 | 35683 | 0 | 1917 | 0 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 114 | 0 | 104 | 0 | 144 | 0 | 13 | 0 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 164 | 0 | 240 | 1 | 200 | 1 | 42 | 0 |
| Jharkhand | 193888 | 4 | 184878 | 31 | 212496 | 25 | 49545 | 1 |
| Karnataka | 62842 | 32 | 49355 | 18 | 47162 | 7 | 7961 | 0 |
| Kerala | 2111 | 7 | 1927 | 6 | 1084 | 3 | 343 | 0 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 96160 | 56 | 90829 | 41 | 105265 | 0 | 9271 | 0 |
| Maharashtra | 54420 | 133 | 67850 | 182 | 67321 | 164 | 5955 | 22 |
| Manipur | 2709 | 8 | 1194 | 4 | 708 | 2 | 155 | 0 |
| Meghalaya | 29924 | 167 | 31827 | 215 | 38210 | 73 | 12726 | 20 |
| Mizoram | 10668 | 120 | 6081 | 75 | 7306 | 91 | 893 | 8 |
| Nagaland | 3361 | 75 | 4877 | 11 | 5674 | 0 | 1042 | 0 |
| Orissa | 380216 | 257 | 371879 | 221 | 359619 | 218 | 97539 | 52 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-----------------------------|---------|------|---------|------|---------|-----|--------|-----|
| Punjab | 1888 | 0 | 2017 | 0 | 2494 | 0 | 128 | 0 |
| Rajasthan | 99529 | 58 | 55043 | 46 | 57482 | 54 | 3127 | 0 |
| Sikkim | 93 | 0 | 48 | 0 | 38 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Tamil Nadu | 28219 | 0 | 22389 | 1 | 27373 | 0 | 4734 | 0 |
| Tripura | 23375 | 31 | 18474 | 51 | 25451 | 46 | 4336 | 8 |
| Uttarakhand | 1108 | 0 | 953 | 0 | 1059 | 0 | 108 | 0 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 91566 | 0 | 82538 | 0 | 93383 | 0 | 6446 | 0 |
| West Bengal | 159646 | 203 | 87754 | 96 | 104757 | 101 | 11544 | 13 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 2993 | 1 | 3973 | 0 | 4688 | 0 | 1601 | 0 |
| Chandigarh | 449 | 0 | 340 | 0 | 347 | 0 | 16 | 0 |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 3786 | 0 | 3780 | 0 | 3037 | 0 | 318 | 0 |
| Daman and Diu | 140 | 0 | 99 | 0 | 110 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Delhi | 928 | 0 | 182 | 0 | 253 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Puducherry | 50 | 0 | 68 | 0 | 72 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| All India Total | 1784109 | 1708 | 1502742 | 1274 | 1524939 | 935 | 271037 | 130 |

*Provisional (Upto April)

Statement-II*State-Wise Dengue Cases and Deaths in the Country*

| Sl.No. | State | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 (Prov) (till June) | |
|--------|----------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|----------------------------|--------|
| | | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 197 | 17 | 587 | 2 | 313 | 2 | 30 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------|-------------------|-------|-----|------|----|-------|----|------|----|
| 2. | Bihar | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Chandigarh | 182 | 0 | 99 | 0 | 167 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | Delhi | 3366 | 65 | 548 | 1 | 1312 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | Goa | 1 | 0 | 36 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 26 | 0 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 545 | 5 | 570 | 2 | 1065 | 2 | 464 | 0 |
| 7. | Haryana | 838 | 4 | 365 | 11 | 1137 | 9 | 5 | 0 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 109 | 7 | 230 | 0 | 339 | 3 | 329 | 1 |
| 9. | Kerala | 981 | 4 | 603 | 11 | 733 | 3 | 754 | 4 |
| 10. | Maharashtra | 736 | 25 | 614 | 21 | 743 | 22 | 242 | 1 |
| 11. | Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | Punjab | 1166 | 6 | 28 | 0 | 4349 | 21 | 1 | 0 |
| 13. | Rajasthan | 1805 | 26 | 540 | 10 | 682 | 4 | 48 | 3 |
| 14. | Tamil Nadu | 477 | 2 | 707 | 2 | 530 | 3 | 195 | 0 |
| 15. | Uttar Pradesh | 639 | 14 | 132 | 2 | 51 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 16. | West Bengal | 1230 | 8 | 95 | 4 | 1038 | 7 | 119 | 0 |
| 17. | Puducherry | 0 | 0 | 274 | 0 | 35 | 0 | 7 | 0 |
| 18. | Madhya Pradesh | 16 | 0 | 51 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. | Orissa | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. | Jammu and Kashmir | 24 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 21. | Manipur | 0 | 0 | 51 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22. | Uttarakhand | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 12317 | 184 | 5534 | 69 | 12561 | 80 | 2221 | 9 |

Statement-III*State-wise Chikungunya fever cases in the Country*

| State/UTs | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009(P) |
|--------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 77535 | 39 | 5 | 549 |
| Karnataka | 762026 | 1705 | 46510 | 9816 |
| Maharashtra | 270116 | 1762 | 853 | 291 |
| Tamil Nadu | 64802 | 45 | 46 | 971 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 60132 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gujarat | 75419 | 3223 | 303 | 511 |
| Kerala | 70731 | 24052 | 24685 | 701 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 1549 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---------------|---|----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Delhi | | 560 | 203 | 14 | 0 |
| Rajasthan | | 102 | 2 | 3 | 74 |
| Puducherry | | 542 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Goa | | 287 | 93 | 52 | 77 |
| Orissa | | 6461 | 4065 | 4676 | 0 |
| West Bengal | | 21 | 19138 | 17898 | 127 |
| Lakshadweep | | 35 | 5184 | 0 | 0 |
| Uttar Pradesh | | 4 | 4 | 11 | 0 |
| Haryana | | 0 | 20 | 35 | 0 |
| Total | | 1390322 | 59535 | 95091 | 1317 |

*Provisional upto June, 2009

Statement-IV*State-wise AES/Japanese Encephalitis Cases and Deaths in the Country*

| Sl.No. | States/UTs. | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009(P) | |
|--------|----------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|---------|--------|
| | | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 11 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| 2. | Assam | 392 | 119 | 424 | 133 | 319 | 99 | 5 | 0 |
| 3. | Bihar* | 21 | 3 | 336 | 164 | 203 | 45 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | Chandigarh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | Delhi | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6. | Goa | 0 | 0 | 70 | 0 | 39 | 0 | 14 | 3 |
| 7. | Haryana | 12 | 6 | 85 | 48 | 13 | 3 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------------|-----------------|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|----|
| 8. | Karnataka | 80 | 3 | 15 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| 9. | Kerala | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. | Maharashtra | 14 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11. | Manipur | 0 | 0 | 65 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 12. | Tamil Nadu | 18 | 1 | 42 | 1 | 144 | 0 | 53 | 0 |
| 13. | Uttarakhand | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh** | 2320 | 528 | 3024 | 645 | 3012 | 537 | 341 | 81 |
| 15. | West Bengal | 0 | 0 | 16 | 2 | 58 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16. | Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | | 2871 | 663 | 4110 | 995 | 3839 | 684 | 445 | 84 |

Provisional upto June, 2009

*including 9 cases and 4 deaths from Jharkhand (Palamau and Chatra districts) in year 2008.

**including 55 cases and 15 deaths from Bihar and 1 death each from Nepal in 2009.

Statement-V

State-wise Cases and Deaths Due to Cholera in India from 2006 to 2008

| States/UTs. | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008* | |
|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 20 | 0 | 80 | 0 | 153 | 0 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | NR | NR | 0 | 0 |
| Assam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NR | NR |
| Bihar | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR | NR |
| Chhattisgarh | 2 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------------------|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| Goa | NR | NR | 38 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gujarat | 100 | 2 | 66 | 0 | 50 | 0 |
| Haryana | 9 | 0 | 22 | 0 | 27 | 0 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jharkhand | 0 | 0 | NR | NR | NR | NR |
| Karnataka | 80 | 1 | 117 | 2 | 254 | 1 |
| Kerala | 12 | 0 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 0 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 0 |
| Maharashtra | 284 | 0 | 257 | 0 | 96 | 0 |
| Manipur | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | NR | NR |
| Meghalaya | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mizoram | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Orissa | 0 | 0 | 35 | 0 | NR | NR |
| Punjab | 24 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Rajasthan | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tamil Nadu | 213 | 0 | 297 | 0 | 990 | 0 |
| Tripura | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Uttarakhand | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| West Bengal | 133 | 0 | 176 | 0 | 236 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chandigarh | 9 | 0 | 28 | 0 | 15 | 0 |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Daman and Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Delhi | 1052 | 0 | 1212 | 0 | 824 | 0 |
| Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Puducherry | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 1939 | 3 | 2635 | 3 | 2680 | 1 |

Notes : 1. *Data for the year 2008 are provisional.

2. N.R. implies 'Not Reported'

Statement-VI

State wise Leptospirosis Cases and Deaths 2006-2009

| Sl.No. | States | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 (till June) | |
|--------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------------|-----------|
| | | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths | Cases | Deaths |
| 1. | Andamans | 130 | 17 | — | — | 64 | 15 | 23 | 4 |
| 2. | Maharashtra | 1189 | 58 | 1403 | 88 | 1142 | 60 | 2 | 0 |
| 3. | Karnataka | 373 | 27 | 76 | 6 | 103 | 10 | — | — |
| 4. | Tamil Nadu | 1894 | 0 | 252 | 0 | 763 | — | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | Kerala | 1811 | 106 | 294 | 15 | 918 | 65 | 620 | 37 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 657 | 124 | 507 | 123 | 539 | 109 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 6054 | 332 | 2532 | 235 | 3526 | 259 | 645 | 41 |

Statement-VII

*Allocation of Central Assistance to States under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme
from 2006-07 to 2009-10*

(Rs. In lakhs)

| S.No. | States/UTs | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|-------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1910.55 | 1973.85 | 2277.79 | 1818.07 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 625.30 | 878.08 | 1284.60 | 1015 |
| 3. | Assam | 3363 | 3341.9 | 3755.69 | 4379.44 |
| 4. | Bihar | 2633.31 | 2066.5 | 3447.91 | 3772.91 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 2181.79 | 2228.86 | 2405.16 | 2681.7 |
| 6. | Goa | 56.86 | 178.45 | 107.81 | 60.15 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 1351.55 | 1702.84 | 1324.39 | 941.17 |
| 8. | Haryana | 195 | 142.84 | 221.58 | 120.29 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 46.35 | 17.8 | 14.80 | 5.7 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 46.91 | 18.6 | 34.78 | 17.95 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 3352.46 | 2975.08 | 3448.43 | 4450.63 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 583.56 | 911.15 | 841.34 | 570.05 |
| 13. | Kerala | 409.58 | 297.92 | 520.82 | 332.33 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 2074.02 | 2179.13 | 2011.79 | 1802.45 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 1523.84 | 1905.85 | 1680.83 | 961.61 |
| 16. | Manipur | 488.61 | 688.29 | 595.05 | 637.5 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 693.61 | 709.74 | 960.01 | 1129.42 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 549.68 | 685.75 | 739.63 | 888.76 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 748 | 790.02 | 838.17 | 868.44 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 20. | Orissa | 4625.94 | 3741.83 | 3863.83 | 4075.96 |
| 21. | Punjab | 114.87 | 96.93 | 212.39 | 107.35 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 1184.22 | 1896.29 | 1985.50 | 765.7 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 33.97 | 20.61 | 20.01 | 14.66 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 596.71 | 606.79 | 923.94 | 534.14 |
| 25. | Tripura | 731.07 | 858.32 | 1094.07 | 1403.02 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 1937.34 | 2151.5 | 3183.08 | 2856.03 |
| 27. | Uttarakhand | 53.01 | 210.59 | 57.47 | 57.08 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 2138.17 | 2513.67 | 5373.06 | 4176.43 |
| 29. | Delhi | 122.85 | 156.67 | 141.96 | 54.42 |
| 30. | Puducherry | 51.46 | 40.08 | 71.49 | 43.77 |
| 31. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 247.39 | 53.1 | 315.78 | 427.78 |
| 32. | Chandigarh | 57.29 | 27.95 | 95.16 | 50.63 |
| 33. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 56.01 | 16.6 | 69.16 | 67.52 |
| 34. | Daman and Diu | 26.91 | 12.93 | 27.54 | 27.01 |
| 35. | Lakshadweep | 18.86 | 11.52 | 59.75 | 24.25 |
| Total | | 34829.70 | 36108.00 | 44003.77 | 41139.32* |

*Expected to be raised in RE 2009-10.

Statement-VIII

Initiatives taken by Government of India in VBD Control Programme

Malaria

- Strengthening of Human Resource by providing contractual Multi-Purpose Workers Male, Lab,

Technicians, District Vector Borne Disease Consultants, Malaria Technical Supervisors and involvement of ASHAs for surveillance and treatment.

- Upscaling use of Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits for faster diagnosis of Pf cases.
- Introduction of effective anti-malarial - ACT for Pf cases to reduce mortality.

- Upscaling of bednets use and introduction of long lasting insecticide nets (LLIN) for use in Programme.
- Intensified supervision and monitoring of programme implementation especially spraying.

Dengue/Chikungunya

- Government of India has prepared a strategic Action Plan for prevention and control of Dengue and Chikungunya in the country and sent to the state(s) for implementation.
- Diagnostic facilities strengthened through 137 sentinel surveillance hospitals and 13 Apex Referral Laboratories.
- Adequate supply of diagnostic kits at the periphery.
- Monitoring of vector population in vulnerable areas.
- Capacity building for the medical officers for case management.
- Intensive social mobilization campaigns through Information, Education and Communication (IEC)/ Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) activities for community involvement.

Japanese Encephalitis (JE)

- Government of India has provided guidelines to states on strengthening of surveillance and case management.

The diagnostic facilities strengthened at 51 sentinel and 13 Apex Referral Laboratories which have been supplied diagnostic kits.

Government of India initiated Japanese Encephalitis vaccination Programme for children between 1 and 15 years of age as an integral component of Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) with

dose live attenuated Japanese Encephalitis vaccine (SA-14-14-2) in campaign mode. The vaccination is being followed by integration in routine Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) covering new cohorts (children 1-2 years of age). In 2006, 11 districts in 4 states were covered which was expanded to 28 districts in 10 states during 2007. In 2008, 22 districts in 10 states have been covered including 9 districts from Uttar Pradesh.

- During 2009, the Japanese Encephalitis vaccination campaign has been completed in seven districts in Uttar Pradesh and 3 districts in Assam. The campaign is continuing in 2 districts each in West Bengal, Maharashtra and Goa.
- One Vector Borne Disease Surveillance Unit (VBDSU) and one Japanese Encephalitis sub-office was established at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- Advisories are regularly sent to all the states and reviews at senior level is regularly done.
- Further, for establishing 50 bedded Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)/ Japanese Encephalitis (JE) treatment facility at BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur, an amount of Rs. 5.88 crores have been allocated under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) during 2009-10.

Cardiac Ailments in Youth

*169. SK. SAIDUL HAQUE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of cardiac ailments, particularly among youth, are increasing in the country;

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

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government to check its growing menace?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) As per the study on 'Assessment of Burden of Non-communicable Disease' carried out by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the number of ischemic heart disease (IHD) was estimated to have increased from 18.6 million in 1998 to 22.37 million in 2004.

No separate data of the prevalence of the disease in younger population is available.

The four major risk factors which are directly or indirectly associated with the causation of chronic non-communicable disease including coronary heart diseases are as follows:-

- (i) Tobacco use; smoking, chewing of tobacco products;
- (ii) Alcohol use;
- (iii) Physical inactivity; and
- (iv) Unhealthy diet.

(c) Healthy lifestyle can prevent many of the non-communicable diseases including heart ailments. Early detection and treatment also avoids the complications in heart ailments.

An outlay of Rs.1660.50 crore has been allotted for the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPDCS) during 11th Five Year Plan. On pilot basis, the NPDCS has been initiated in 10 districts in 10 states.

[Translation]

Impact of Climate Change

*170. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether abnormal weather conditions such as tsunami, excessive rains and drought in various parts of the country are the effects of global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the regions most affected by the climate changes;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any scientific study on the climatic changes caused by global warming and its adverse impact on the country;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the details of discussions held on this issue at various international forums and the agreement reached therein; and

(f) the action plan of the Government to address the issue of climate change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) There is no clear cause and effect established between global warming and tsunami, excessive rains and drought.

Occurrence of Tsunamis primarily originate from undersea earthquakes. Monsoon rainfall varies on different spatial and temporal scales. Extreme rainfall events that occur at some isolated places (viz. heavy rainfall over Mumbai or in Rajasthan) are highly localized and are part of the natural variability of the Indian monsoon system itself. Although, some recent studies hint at an increasing frequency and intensity of extremes in rainfall during the past 40-50 years, their attribution to global warming is yet to be established. Moreover, the recent report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-AR4, 2007) and our country's own assessment using regional climate models indicate that the extremes rainfall events are likely to be more frequent in the later part of 21st century in the world including India. As regards other extreme weather phenomena, there are many other reasons for their occurrence, which cannot always be related to climate change. The country has experienced 19 drought years since 1901. The drought years are given in the statement.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes Madam. The observed trends are based on instrumental records over the past 130 year archived by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Details of the observed and projected changes in the climate were first reported in India's initial National Communication (NATCOM) on Climate Change to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in June, 2004. This effort was coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), who are now working on the second NATCOM report.

- Although, the monsoon rainfall at all India level does not show any trend but on regional scale areas of increasing trend is discerned. It is not clear if this increasing trend in the heavy rainfall events is attributable to global warming.
- Mean annual surface air temperatures show a significant warming of about 0.5 degree C/100 years during the last century and recent data indicates a substantial acceleration of this warming after the 1990's and is comparable to the global warming trend. The year 2006 was the warmest year on record since 1901.
- No significant long-term trends are reported in the frequencies of large-scale droughts or floods in the summer monsoon season.
- The total frequency of cyclonic storms that form over the Bay of Bengal has remained almost constant.
- Analysis of past tide gauge records for the Indian coastline regions gives an estimate of sea level rise of 1.30 mm/year.
- There is evidence that glaciers in Himalayas are receding at a rapid pace., however it is unclear as to how much of this recession is attributable to climate change, as glacial retreat is also due to natural long-term glacial-inter-glacial cycles.

(e) India is engaged in the process of Climate Change negotiations and participating in the Conference of Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC meetings. COP-8 was held in New Delhi. The twelfth Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC and the second Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol took place at Nairobi in December 2006.

The ongoing multilateral negotiations leading to COP-15 to be held in Copenhagen during December, 2009 are to enhance long-term cooperation on Climate Change under the Bali Action Plan (BAP).

(f) The Government has undertaken the following steps in the area of Climate Change:

- Constituted an **Expert Committee on Climate Change impacts, which is headed by the Principal Scientific Advisor** to the Government of India.
- **Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change** has been constituted to coordinate national action for assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change.
- Launched a high-priority Programme to address the Science issues of Global and Regional Climate Change with a well equipped state-of-the-art Center for Climate Change Research (CCCR) at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune for inter-disciplinary research and training in the area of science of climate change.
- Under the **National Action Plan on Climate Change**, it is proposed to establish a permanent institutional mechanism that will play a development and coordination role. The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released by the Prime Minister on 30th June 2008.
- The National Action plan outlines eight missions in specific areas of Solar Energy, Enhanced

Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic knowledge for Climate Change. Eight National missions form the core of the National Action Plan, representing multi-pronged, long term and integrated strategies for achieving key goals in the context of climate change.

Statement

Drought years in India during 1901-2008

1901

1904

1905

1911

1918

1920

1941

1951

1965

1966

1968

1972

1974

1979

1982

1986

1987

2002

2004

Total number of Drought Years from 1901-2008 is 19.

[English]

Coal Mines in the Country

*171. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of underground and open cast coal mines in the country as on date, company-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of the new coal mines opened during the last three years and the current year, State-wise including the State of Jharkhand;

(c) whether the Government proposes to open new coal mines to increase coal production in the country;

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

(e) the total investment likely to be made for the purpose and the sources from where funds are likely to be mobilised in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) The number of underground and open cast mines in Coal India Limited (CIL) and in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) as on 1.4.2009. company-wise and State-wise is given at Table-A of Statement-I.

(b) The new coal mines opened during the last three years and the current year in respect of CIL and SCCL, State-wise is given at Table-B of Statement-I.

(c) to (e) Yes sir. In Coal India Limited (CIL), 134 projects have been identified to be taken up during the XI Plan period for an ultimate capacity of 308.94 Mty. with estimated investment of Rs. 26,006.68 crore. Out of these, 65 projects for a capacity of 155.42 Mty at an investment of Rs. 8,593.80 crore have been approved and are under different stages of implementation. In Singareni Collieries

Company Limited (SCCL), 22 projects have been identified to be taken up during the XI Plan period for an ultimate capacity of 44.50 Mty. with estimated investment of about Rs.4.500 crore. Out of these, 7 projects for a capacity of 15.05 Mty at an investment of Rs.912.20 crore have been approved and are under

different stages of implementation. The proposed investment in case of CIL is almost entirely to be funded through internal resources and in case of SCCL, it is to be funded through both internal resources as well as extra budgetary resources. The details of the State-wise and location-wise projects are given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Table - A

List of the mines of CIL and SCCL as on 1.4.2009 (Provisional)

| Company | State | Underground (UG) Mines | Open Cast (OC) Mines | Mixed Mines | Total Mines |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) | West Bengal | 73 | 15 | 6 | 94 |
| | Jharkhand | 9 | 6 | 1 | 16 |
| Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) | West Bengal | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| | Jharkhand | 45 | 17 | 17 | 79 |
| Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) | Jharkhand | 24 | 36 | 2 | 62 |
| Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL) | Madhya Pradesh | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| | Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) | Madhya Pradesh | 22 | 7 | 4 | 33 |
| | Maharashtra | 21 | 32 | 0 | 53 |
| South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) | Madhya Pradesh | 28 | 8 | 0 | 36 |
| | Chhattisgarh | 41 | 13 | 1 | 55 |
| Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) | Orissa | 9 | 15 | 0 | 24 |
| North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) | Assam | 4 | 3 | 0 | 7 |
| | Meghalaya | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Coal India Limited (CIL) | Total | 279 | 163 | 31 | 473 |
| Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) | Andhra Pradesh | 36 | 14 | 0 | 50 |

Table:B

List of the Mines opened during the last three years and in current year

| State | Name of the Mines |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1. Block B (NCL) |
| | 2. Urdhan (WCL) |
| | 3. Amadand (SECL) |
| | 4. Khaira (SECL) |
| | 5. Haldibari (SECL) |
| | 6. Damini (SECL) |
| Chhattisgarh | 1. Vijay West (SECL) |
| | 2. Amere (SECL) |
| | 3. Haldibari (SECL) |
| | 4. Ketki (SECL) |

| 1 | 2 |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| | 5. Chhal (SECL) |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1. Krishnasila (NCL) |
| Maharashtra | 1. Ghonsa (WCL) |
| | 2. Inder UG to OC (WCL) |
| | 3. Navinkanada Ph.I (WCL) |
| Orissa | 1. Kulde (MCL) |
| | 2. Bhubeneshwari (MCL) |
| Assam | 1. Ledo (NEC) |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1. BPA OC-II Extension (SCCL) |
| | 2. KTK 8 Ine. (SCCL) |
| | 3. SRP OC-1 (SCCL) |
| | 4. DORLI OC-I (SCCL) |
| | 5. KTK OC Sector 1 (SCCL) |

Statement-II*XI Plan Projects of CIL*

| Sl. No. | State | Comp. | Name of Project/Mine | Type | Sanction Date | Capacity (MTY) | Est. Capital (Rs. Crs) |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------|------|---------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Approved Projects | | | | | | | |
| 1. | JH | ECL | Chitra East (2.50) | OC | Aug-07 | 1.30 | 112.69 |
| 2. | WB | ECL | Khottadih Aug (1.00) | OC | Dec-06 | 0.55 | 23.00 |
| 3. | WB | ECL | 2nd Cont.Miner at Jhanjra | UG | Feb-09 | 0.51 | 122.35 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|----|-----|----------------------------------|----|--------|------|--------|
| 4. | WB | ECL | Narainkuri | UG | Feb-09 | 0.54 | 149.06 |
| 5. | WB | ECL | Belbaid (Dhasal) | UG | Feb-09 | 0.36 | 69.11 |
| 6. | WB | ECL | Mohonpur Expn. OC | OC | Jan-08 | 0.60 | 14.23 |
| 7. | JH | CCL | Piparwa Expansion OC | OC | Jul-07 | 3.50 | 21.88 |
| 8. | JH | CCL | Ashok Expansion OCP | OC | Dec-07 | 3.50 | 341.66 |
| 9. | JH | CCL | Purnadih OC | OC | Jul-08 | 3.00 | 210.98 |
| 10. | JH | CCL | Magadh Expansion OCP | OC | Aug-08 | 8.00 | 236.62 |
| 11. | JH | CCL | Tapin OC | OC | Aug-08 | 2.50 | 264.68 |
| 12. | JH | CCL | Rohini Expn. OC | OC | Sep-08 | 1.20 | 105.67 |
| 13. | JH | CCL | Tarmi RPR | OC | May-09 | 1.00 | 35.54 |
| 14. | JH | CCL | Amlo EPR | OC | Mar-09 | 2.50 | 56.32 |
| 15. | JH | CCL | Tetariakhar | OC | Jan-09 | 2.00 | 78.60 |
| 16. | JH | CCL | Urimari EPR | OC | Jan-09 | 2.00 | 43.57 |
| 17. | JH | CCL | Churi-Benti Cont. Miner | UG | Aug-07 | 0.65 | 145.44 |
| 18. | JH | CCL | Parej East UG (CM) | UG | May-08 | 0.51 | 142.67 |
| 19. | MP | NCL | Nigahi Expn. OC (15.00) | OC | Oct-07 | 5.00 | 259.40 |
| 20. | MP | NCL | Dudhichua Expn. OC (15.00) | OC | Jul-08 | 5.00 | 326.75 |
| 21. | MS | WCL | Gokul OC | OC | Jan-08 | 1.00 | 79.83 |
| 22. | MS | WCL | Gauri I and II Extn. (Merger) OC | OC | Nov-07 | 1.80 | 13.00 |
| 23. | MS | WCL | Ghugus Deep OC | OC | Jan-07 | 1.50 | 10.15 |
| 24. | MS | WCL | Junad Extn. OC | OC | Nov-07 | 0.60 | 38.76 |
| 25. | MS | WCL | New Majri UG to OC | OC | Nov-07 | 0.80 | 72.57 |
| 26. | MS | WCL | Dhuptala OC (Sasti UG to OC) | OC | Jun-08 | 1.70 | 194.11 |
| 27. | MS | WCL | Dinesh (Makardhakra III) OC | OC | Jun-08 | 3.00 | 496.40 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|----|------|------------------------------------|----|--------|-------|--------|
| 28. | MS | WCL | Ghonsa Exth. OC (Incl. Parsoda UG) | OC | Aug-08 | 0.60 | 44.66 |
| 29. | MS | WCL | Penganga (Mugoli Extn.) OC | OC | Oct-08 | 3.00 | 339.77 |
| 30. | MS | WCL | Chincholi OC | OC | Oct-08 | 0.30 | 24.64 |
| 31. | MS | WCL | Telwasa Exp. Seh. | OC | Oct-08 | 0.70 | 5.12 |
| 32. | MS | WCL | Dhurwasa Exp. Seh. | OC | Jun-08 | 0.90 | 6.89 |
| 33. | MS | WCL | Waghoda UG | UG | Apr-08 | 0.39 | 71.73 |
| 34. | MP | WCL | Sharda UG | UG | Apr-08 | 0.32 | 50.95 |
| 35. | MP | WCL | Dhankasa UG | UG | Jun-08 | 1.00 | 152.86 |
| 36. | MS | WCL | Bhakra UG | UG | Oct-08 | 0.27 | 55.28 |
| 37. | MP | WCL | Jamuniya UG | UG | Feb-09 | 0.72 | 127.52 |
| 38. | MS | WCL | Saoner IV/Saoner Mine-I Expn. UG | UG | Feb-09 | 0.45 | 68.17 |
| 39. | MP | WCL | Maori Block UG with CM Package | UG | Dec-08 | 0.36 | 67.50 |
| 40. | MP | WCL | Harradol (CSA) | UG | Apr-08 | 0.14 | 16.36 |
| 41. | CG | SECL | Jampali | OC | Jan-06 | 2.00 | 47.72 |
| 42. | CG | SECL | Bijari OC | OC | Jun-06 | 1.50 | 23.75 |
| 43. | CG | SECL | Ambica | OC | Jun-06 | 1.00 | 22.30 |
| 44. | CG | SECL | Pelma OC | OC | Jul-08 | 10.00 | 448.32 |
| 45. | CG | SECL | Kartali East OC | OC | Jul-08 | 2.50 | 178.44 |
| 46. | CG | SECL | Rai West (Baroud Expn.) OC | OC | Jul-08 | 3.00 | 135.58 |
| 47. | CG | SECL | Kusmunda Expn. (15 Mty) | OC | Jun-08 | 5.00 | 450.56 |
| 48. | CG | SECL | Jagannathpur (Mahan III and IV) OC | OC | Sep-08 | 3.00 | 152.43 |
| 49. | MP | SECL | Batura OC | OC | Sep-08 | 2.00 | 203.82 |
| 50. | CG | SECL | Chureha RO UG | UG | Jun-08 | 1.35 | 462.35 |
| 51. | OR | MCL | Bharatpur Expansion III OC | OC | Feb-07 | 9.00 | 131.39 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----------------------------|-----|------|---|----|--------|--------|---------|
| 52. | OR | MCL | Samleswari Expn Ph-III 7 Mty (iner. 2 Mty) | OC | Apr-07 | 2.00 | 87.95 |
| 53. | OR | MCL | Bhubaneswari Expn. OC | OC | Dec-07 | 10.00 | 153.42 |
| 54. | OR | MCL | Kaniah Expansion OC | OC | Dec-07 | 6.50 | 361.59 |
| 55. | OR | MCL | Balaram Extn. OC | OC | Dec-07 | 8.00 | 172.08 |
| 56. | OR | MCL | I ingraj Expansion Ph II OC | OC | Aug-06 | 3.00 | 2.18 |
| 57. | OR | MCL | Ananata Extn. (15 Mty-Incl. Subhadra Block) | OC | Aug-08 | 3.00 | 207.28 |
| 58. | OR | MCL | Lakhanpur Expansion Ph II | OC | Sep-08 | 5.00 | 116.51 |
| 59. | OR | MCL | Hingula Extn. (15-iner. 7 mty) | OC | Nov-08 | 7.00 | 292.51 |
| 60. | OR | MCL | Basundhara (West) Expn. (7.00 Mty) | OC | Mar-09 | 4.60 | 46.52 |
| 61. | OR | MCL | HBI (Aug) UG | UG | Apr-08 | 0.90 | 27.86 |
| 62. | ASM | NEC | Ledo Mech. OCP | OC | Mar-06 | 0.25 | 41.37 |
| 63. | ASM | NEC | Tikak East Extn | OC | Mar-06 | 0.20 | 25.22 |
| 64. | ASM | NEC | Tirap OCP | OC | Jul-08 | 0.60 | 49.71 |
| 65. | ASM | NEC | Lekha Pani OCP | OC | Jul-08 | 0.25 | 56.39 |
| 66. | | | Subtotal | | | 155.42 | 8593.80 |
| YET TO BE APPROVED PROJECTS | | | | | | | |
| 1. | WB | ECL | Sonepur Bazari Comb. (3 to 8 Mty) | OC | | 5.00 | 495.09 |
| 2. | WB | ECL | Tilaboni | UG | | 2.00 | 145.40 |
| 3. | WB | ECL | Kunostoria Dobrana | UG | | 0.54 | 144.80 |
| 4. | WB | ECL | Rangamati 'A' | UG | | 0.36 | 65.00 |
| 5. | WB | ECL | Rangamati 'B' | UG | | 0.36 | 78.06 |
| 6. | JH | BCCL | Kapuria (2.00) | UG | | 2.00 | 900.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|----|------|---|----|---|-------|--------|
| 7. | JH | BCCL | North and South Tisra (2.00) | OC | | 6.00 | 981.40 |
| 8. | JH | BCCL | Block-IV | OC | | 3.25 | 600.00 |
| 9. | JH | BCCL | Block-III OCP (incl. SOCP and MOCP) | OC | | 1.00 | 800.00 |
| 10. | JH | BCCL | Madhuband and Phularitand Re-orgn. | UG | | 1.00 | 250.00 |
| 11. | JH | BCCL | Block II OCp Aug | OC | | 1.00 | 250.00 |
| 12. | JH | CCL | Koed/Manatu OC | OC | | 5.00 | 650.00 |
| 13. | JH | CCL | Pachra Integrated OC | OC | | 3.00 | 450.00 |
| 14. | JH | CCL | Pichri/Pichri Extn. OC | OC | | 3.00 | 250.00 |
| 15. | JH | CCL | DRD OC | OC | | 2.00 | 220.00 |
| 16. | JH | CCL | Ashwa North South OC | OC | | 2.00 | 200.00 |
| 17. | JH | CCL | Godo OC | OC | | 2.00 | 275.47 |
| 18. | JH | CCL | Chano-Rikba OC | OC | | 2.00 | 175.00 |
| 19. | JH | CCL | Gose-Parsabera Integr. OC | OC | | 2.00 | 175.00 |
| 20. | JH | CCL | Parej West OC | OC | | 1.00 | 125.00 |
| 21. | JH | CCL | Kedla EPR OC | OC | | 2.00 | 300.00 |
| 22. | JH | CCL | Ramgarh II West OC | OC | | 1.00 | 175.00 |
| 23. | JH | CCL | Kaisaidih OC | OC | | 1.00 | 100.00 |
| 24. | JH | CCL | Ashok (West) OC | OC | | 10.00 | 226.25 |
| 25. | MS | WCL | Chikalgaon and Chinchala Merged OC | OC | | 3.00 | 800.00 |
| 26. | MS | WCL | Murpur Expn. UG (Incl. Bhansuli and Surmanjari) | UG | | 3.00 | 300.00 |
| 27. | MS | WCL | Dhanwa UG | UG | | 0.50 | 150.00 |
| 28. | MS | WCL | Nand I UG | UG | | 0.70 | 135.89 |
| 29. | MS | WCL | Borda (North of Ghonsa) UG | UG | | 0.96 | 85.40 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|----|------|---------------------------|----|---|-------|--------|
| 30. | MS | WCL | New Majri Sec. A Exth. OC | OC | | 1.50 | 100.00 |
| 31. | MS | WCL | Ukni Deep OC | OC | | 2.00 | 173.43 |
| 32. | MS | WCL | Motaghat OC | OC | | 1.00 | 93.96 |
| 33. | MS | WCL | Niljai Deep OC | OC | | 2.50 | 300.00 |
| 34. | MS | WCL | Padmapur Deep OC | OC | | 1.00 | 120.00 |
| 35. | MS | WCL | Pauni III OC | OC | | 1.00 | 120.00 |
| 36. | MS | WCL | Kamptee Deep OC | OC | | 1.00 | 120.00 |
| 37. | MS | WCL | Pauni Deep OC | OC | | 0.60 | 100.00 |
| 38. | MS | WCL | Bellora/Naigaon Deep OC | OC | | 1.00 | 112.93 |
| 39. | MS | WCL | Yekona-I Exth | OC | | 0.60 | 100.00 |
| 40. | MS | WCL | Yekona-II Extn | OC | | 0.60 | 100.00 |
| 41. | MS | WCL | Bhatadi North West OC | OC | | 1.00 | 120.00 |
| 42. | CG | SECL | Gevra Expn (35 Mty) | OC | | 10.00 | 780.11 |
| 43. | CG | SECL | Dipka Expn (25 Mty) | OC | | 5.00 | 574.95 |
| 44. | CG | SECL | Badauli Extension UG | UG | | 0.78 | 149.76 |
| 45. | MP | SECL | Bodri/Bodri North UG | UG | | 0.36 | 90.00 |
| 46. | MP | SECL | Amritdhara UG | UG | | 0.48 | 67.00 |
| 47. | MP | SECL | Bakulmuni | UG | | 0.36 | 53.93 |
| 48. | CG | SECL | Jamdai UG | UG | | 0.36 | 53.00 |
| 49. | CG | SECL | Gumgara UG | UG | | 0.36 | 53.00 |
| 50. | CG | SECL | Pathakpur | UG | | 0.66 | 109.67 |
| 51. | CG | SECL | Amba UG | UG | | 0.24 | 52.35 |
| 52. | CG | SECL | Vijay (East) | UG | | 0.40 | 53.00 |
| 53. | CG | SECL | Porda OC | OC | | 3.00 | 150.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----------|-----------------|------|---------------------------------|----|---|--------|----------|
| 54. | CG | SECL | Chimtapani OC | OC | | 5.00 | 125.00 |
| 55. | CG | SECL | Rai East OC | OC | | 2.00 | 100.00 |
| 56. | CG | SECL | Durgapur OC | OC | | 4.00 | 150.00 |
| 57. | OR | MCL | Siarmal | OC | | 8.00 | 350.00 |
| 58. | OR | MCL | Siarmal (W) Extn. | OC | | 6.00 | 250.00 |
| 59. | OR | MCL | Balabhadra | OC | | 6.00 | 175.00 |
| 60. | OR | MCL | Kalinga OC Extn. (Konark) | OC | | 2.00 | 125.00 |
| 61. | OR | MCL | Kalinga (West) OC | OC | | 4.00 | 150.00 |
| 62. | OR | MCL | Chhendipada Expn./Baitarani (E) | OC | | 5.00 | 75.00 |
| 63. | OR | MCL | Madhupur | OC | | 2.00 | 50.00 |
| 64. | MP | NCL | Jayant Expn. OC (15.00) | OC | | 5.00 | 1060.03 |
| 65. | ASM | NEC | Tipong OCP | OC | | 0.50 | 100.00 |
| 66. | ASM | NEC | PQ Block OCP | OC | | 0.15 | 50.00 |
| 67. | ASM | NEC | Tikak Expn. OC | OC | | 0.40 | 400.00 |
| 68. | ASM | NEC | Jagun Block | OC | | | |
| 69. | ASM | NEC | Lachitkhani OCP | OC | | 1.00 | 1000.00 |
| Sub Total | | | | | | 153.52 | 17412.88 |
| 134 | Grand Total CIL | | | | | 308.94 | 26006.68 |

XI Plan Projects of SCCL

| Sl. No. | State | Comp. | Name of Project/Mine | Type | Date of Sancd. | Capacity (MTY) | Est. Capital (Rs.Crs) |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|----------------------|------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| APPROVED PROJECTS | | | | | | | |
| 1. | AP | SCCL | KTK LW | UG | Dec-08 | 2.75 | 453.63 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|------------------------------------|----|------|----------------------------|----|--------|-------|----------------------|
| 2. | AP | SCCL | Rampur | UG | Mar-07 | 1.50 | 270.00 |
| 3. | AP | SCCL | OCP-II MMG Extn. | OC | Jun-07 | 4.00 | 44.21 |
| 4. | AP | SCCL | RG OC-III Extn. | OC | Oct-07 | 4.30 | 43.12 |
| 5. | AP | SCCL | Shivalingapuram | OC | Jan-08 | 1.50 | 50.46 |
| 6. | AP | SCCL | Vakilpalli BG | UG | Dec-08 | 0.49 | 31.49 |
| 7. | AP | SCCL | Kondapuram | UG | Dec-08 | 0.51 | 19.29 |
| 8. | | | Subtotal | | | 15.05 | 912.20 |
| YET TO BE APPROVED PROJECTS | | | | | | | |
| 1. | AP | SCCL | KTK 9 LW | UG | | 2.10 | 525.00 |
| 2. | AP | SCCL | KTK 5 LW | UG | | 2.10 | 525.00 |
| 3. | AP | SCCL | Chandrupalli-Mahadevpur | OC | | 1.00 | 150.00 |
| 4. | AP | SCCL | Koyagudem UG-I | UG | | 0.50 | 90.00 |
| 5. | AP | SCCL | Koyagudem UG-II | UG | | 0.50 | 90.00 |
| 6. | AP | SCCL | Kistaram | OC | | 2.00 | 206.51 |
| 7. | AP | SCCL | RG OC-II Extn. | OC | | 4.00 | 389.75 |
| 8. | AP | SCCL | RKP OC | OC | | 2.50 | 228.94 |
| 9. | AP | SCCL | KK | OC | | 1.75 | 362.38 |
| 10. | AP | SCCL | JVR OC-II | OC | | 4.00 | 474.64 |
| 11. | AP | SCCL | RG OC-III Extn. Ph. II | OC | | 2.00 | 353.54 |
| 12. | AP | SCCL | Peddapuram | OC | | 1.50 | 212.55 |
| 13. | AP | SCCL | Manguru OC-II Extn. Ph.-II | OC | | 3.00 | FR Under Preparation |
| 14. | AP | SCCL | Peddapur Thick Seam | OC | | 1.50 | FR Under Preparation |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|----|------|------------------|----|---|-------|----------------------|
| 15. | AP | SCCL | RKP OC-II | OC | | 1.00 | FR Under Preparation |
| 16 | | | Subtotal | | | 29.45 | 3608.31 |
| 22 | | | Grand Total SCCL | | | 44.50 | 4520.51 |

Flood and Erosion Management by Brahmaputra Board

*172. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the date of constitution and area of jurisdiction of Brahmaputra Board;

(b) the details of flood and erosion protection schemes implemented by the Brahmaputra Board during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) the funds allocated and spent on each of the project;

(d) whether Government is contemplating any long term flood and erosion management system in Assam and other North-Eastern States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The Brahmaputra Board, was constituted on 3rd September 1980 under an Act of Parliament called "The Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980 (46 of 1980)". The jurisdiction of the Board covers the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim and part of West Bengal falling under Brahmaputra Basin.

(b) The Flood and Erosion protection schemes implemented by Brahmaputra Board during the last three years and current year state wise are given below:

Assam

1. Protection of Majuli Island from Flood and Erosion of river Brahmaputra, Phase-I. (Revised cost Rs.56.07 crore as per 2008 estimate). The work was started in February 2005 and scheduled to be completed by December 2009. 93% of works have been completed. The details of works are shown under Statement-I.
2. Emergent works for protection of Majuli Island based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Experts in January 2008 (Estimated cost Rs.4.99 crore). The works were completed in September 2008. The details of works are shown under Statement-I.
3. Protection of Majuli Island from Flood and Erosion, Phase-II and Phase-III (Scheme cleared by TAC for Rs.115.03 crore). The details of works are shown under Statement-I. Tenders for most of the works have been floated. The works are scheduled to be completed by March 2012.
4. Avulsion of river Brahmaputra at Dholla Hatighuli Phase-III in Tinsukia District at an estimated cost of Rs.8.47 crore was taken up during March 2007 and completed by March 2008. However, a few screens which were damaged in 2008 monsoon are scheduled to be rectified by December 2009. The details of works are shown under Statement-I.

5. Avulsion of river Brahmaputra at Dholla Hatighuli Phase-IV. The scheme has been cleared by Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the works to be under taken for an amount of Rs. 23 crores as approved in the EFC. The works have been initiated during the current year. The details of works are shown under Statement-I.
6. Anti-erosion works of Nagrijuli, Rangia town and Mukamua/Borbhag area from flood and erosion of Puthimari river costing Rs.4.89 crore have been completed by February 2009.

Nagaland

1. Protection of Kushiabil and Durgajan Village from river Dhansiri at Dimapur-Phase-II. The works costing Rs. 1.80 crores were started in February 2007 and completed in 2007-08.

(c) The details of the funds allocated and spent on each of the project are given at Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Long term strategy for the flood control of Brahmaputra river basin has been brought out in the Master Plans of main stem of Brahmaputra prepared by Brahmaputra Board and approved by Government of India. These long term strategies are:

- (i) Construction of Multipurpose storage dam projects.
- (ii) Watershed management.
- (iii) River training works.

Master Plans prepared by the Brahmaputra Board have identified the potential sites for the construction of Multi-purpose Storage Dams on Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

Water being a State subject, the flood control, anti-erosion and flood proofing works are planned, imple-

mented and funded by the State Governments as per their own priorities and the Central Government provide technical and financial assistance.

In November 2007 Government of India has approved the Flood Management Programme (FMP) under Central Plan to provide financial assistance as Grant to the states for implementation of flood control, anti-erosion, Drainage Development, flood proofing works and restoration of damaged flood management works under state sector. In respect of the States of North - Eastern Region, the assistance is provided in the form of 90 (Central share): 10 (State share).

Statement-I

(A) THE DETAILS OF WORKS FOR PROTECTION OF MAJULI ISLAND PHASE-I

- Permeable screens (made of RCC Porcupines)
- Repair and maintenance of road cum embankment (90.7 Km)
- Bank revetment, repair of nose of land spurs.
- Laying of physical model.

Emergent Works based on recommendation of Standing Committee of Experts to review the works and suggested suitable measures in January 2008 and completed in September 2008

- Permeable screens (made of RCC Porcupines) at upstream and downstream of Shalmara reach.
- 7.5Km of RCC porcupine screen at Dakhinpat reach.
- Screens at Jengrai and Borpomukh were repaired and strengthened.

Phase-II and III

- Permeable RCC porcupine spurs and screens at specified locations.

- Construction of 10 land spurs of various lengths based on the recommendations of the model studies.
- Construction of one number raised platform.
- Construction of 500 meter of bank revetment.
- Construction of sluice.
- Maintenance of the works executed previously.

(B) DETAILS OF WORKS OF AVULSION OF BRAHMAPUTRA AT DHOLLA-HATIGHULI

Phase-III:

- Construction of 7 rows RCC porcupine across the river Lohit from Dhollaghat to out fall of Pilot channel for a length of 5500m.
- Construction of 3 rows RCC porcupine screens along the left bank of Pilot channel for a length of 4000m.
- Construction of 7 rows RCC porcupine screen along the left bank of Lohit and Dhollaghat for a length of 2000m.
- RCC porcupine screen along the left bank of river Lohit of off take of spill channel of Sisini of length 600m.

- Construction of 3 rows of RCC porcupine screen for length of 150m at upstream and construction of 4 rows of R.C.C. porcupine screen of length 1200m at downstream of tie bund along left bank of river Debang at Bahbari.
- Improvement of extension in the downstream of existing pilot channel.

Phase-IV:

- Construction of 3650m long coffer dam cum embankment with 0.90m thick sand filled geobag aprons.
- Construction of Pilot channel-4600m long.
- Bank stabilization of left bank of river Lohit (at 4 locations).
- RCC Porcupine screens and spurs at 8 (eight) locations.

Works in connection with Dibang River:

- Extension and strengthening of existing Tie bund at the river Dibang.
- Construction of RCC porcupine works on left bank of river Dibang.

Statement-II

(Figure in Rs. Crore)

| Sl. No. | Name of the Scheme | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | | 2008-09 | | 2009-10 (upto May 2009) | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| | | Allocation | Expenditure | Allocation | Expenditure | Allocation | Expenditure | Allocation | Expenditure |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Assam | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Protection of Majuli Island Phase-I | 11.50 | 11.49 | 7.00 | 7.44 | 25.51 | 17.84 | 10.50 | 0.12 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-----------------|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| 2. | Protection of Majuli Island Emergent work | — | — | — | — | 4-91 | 3.65 | — | — |
| 3. | Protection of Majuli Island Phase-II and III | — | — | — | — | — | — | 15.38 | — |
| 4. | Avulsion of Brahmaputra at Dholla-Hatighuli Phase-III | 1.00 | 1.14 | 5.00 | 5.09 | 2.85 | 1.91 | 0.30 | — |
| 5. | Avulsion of Brahmaputra at Dholla-Hatighuli Phase-IV | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3.7 | 0.04 |
| 6. | Protection of Nagrijuji Rangia Town and Mukalmuwa/ Barbhag area | — | — | 0.50 | 0.48 | 3.73 | 2.98 | 1.07 | 0.02 |
| Nagaland | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Protection of Kushiabil and Durgajan Village-Phase-II | 0.70 | 0.68 | 0.90 | 0.84 | 0.23 | 0.08 | — | — |

**Sharing of Evidence on Mumbai
Terror Attack**

*173. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided sufficient evidence to Pakistan on the latter's involvement in Mumbai terror attack;

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

(c) the details of hardships being faced by the people after the said attack; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) On 05 January 2009 Government of Pakistan was given material linking the Mumbai attack on 26-29 November 2008 to elements in Pakistan. Subsequently, clarifications and additional information were handed over on 13 March and 20 May 2009. Pakistan has confirmed that elements in Pakistan were involved in the terrorist attack in Mumbai, that the Lashkar-e-Tayeba had carried it out and informed about the arrest of 5 Pakistani nationals said to be responsible. We, however, expect Pakistan to act on the information provided by us to uncover the entire conspiracy, and to bring all the perpetrators and conspirators of the heinous terrorist crime to justice.

(c) and (d) As a consequence of the attack, 164 people were killed and 308 wounded. Government is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the security of its citizens and territory.

**Infrastructure Projects in Rural/
Backward Areas**

*174. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to focus on development of infrastructure projects and connectivity particularly in rural and backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has cleared several infrastructure projects in the recent past in this behalf;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (e) Yes, sir, to focus on the development of the infrastructure projects in rural/ backward areas, the Government is implementing the Bharat Nirman and Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF). The Bharat Nirman programme covers six rural infrastructure components namely irrigation, drinking water, rural roads, rural housing, rural electrification and rural telephone connectivity. BRGF has been designed to address the issues relating to reduction in regional imbalance more holistically than the standard Government programmes. The details of these programmes are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Bharat Nirman Programme

The physical targets to be achieved during the Bharat Nirman period 2005-2009 and achievements made under the various components are as under.

| Component | Targets fixed under Bharat Nirman | Assistance provided under the scheme | Physical achievement reported upto March 2009 |
|------------|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Irrigation | To create 10 million hectare of additional irrigation potential. | Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) | 6.518 million hectare. |
| Roads | To provide all weather road to every habitation over a 1000 population and above (500 in hilly and tribal areas): remaining 66,802 habitations to be covered. (Revised to 59564 as per ground verification) | Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) | 31927 habitations covered. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Electricity | To provide electricity to remaining 1,25,000 villages and to 23 million households. | Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) | 62520 villages and 62.53 lakh BPL household electrified. |
| Housing | To construct 60 lakh houses | Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) | 71.76 lakh houses constructed |
| Drinking Water | To provide drinking water to 55,067 uncovered habitations by 2009. All habitations with failed sources and water quality problems will be covered. | Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) | 52040 uncovered habitations provided drinking water. Also 346081 slipped back habitations (against a target of 331604 habitations) and 259628 quality affected habitations (against a target of 2,16,968 habitations) covered. |
| Telecommunication connectivity | To connect remaining 66,822 villages with telephone by 2007. | Universal Service Obligation Fund (USO Fund) | 57181 villages connected with Telephone. |

An amount of Rs. 1, 09,226.13 cr was released for the various components of Bharat Nirman Programme during the period 2005-2009. For the current year 2009-10 Rs. 45,500 cr has been allocated in the Budget for this programme.

Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF)

BRGF replaced the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), launched in the beginning of the Tenth Plan. The BRGF has two components, namely, Districts Component covering 250 districts including 147 districts covered by the erstwhile RSVY, and Special Plans for Bihar and the KBK districts of Orissa. The District component aims to help converge and add value to other programmes like Bharat Nirman and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) which are explicitly designed to meet rural

infrastructural needs, which need supplementation to address critical gaps. The Special Plan for Bihar has been formulated to bring about improvement in sectors like power, road connectivity, irrigation, forestry and watershed development. The undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi cover 47,646 sq. km. area and tribal communities dominate this region.

Propagation of Indian Culture

*175. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to propagate India's cultural heritage and value system particularly amongst youth;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up centres for the purpose in the country including West Bengal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) Propagation of India's cultural heritage and value systems is an integral part of the mandate of the Ministry of Culture, and a number of institutions have been set up and schemes formulated for this purpose. Archeological Survey of India and Museums situated across the country are the warehouses of our ancient cultural heritage. The Academies take up the promotion of cultural diversity in the areas of literature, performing arts and visual arts. Institutions of Buddhist and Tibetan Studies under the Ministry as well as special Libraries like Rampur Raza Library and Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library preserve the knowledge and literature of a wide spectrum of our heritage. The seven Zonal Cultural Centres works for the promotion of diverse folk cultures. All these organizations undertake a variety of activities to create heritage awareness amongst general public including younger sections of the society, and to propagate India's rich cultural heritage and value systems through greater participation, financial assistance and general engagement. In addition, a number of schemes are operated by the Ministry directly to provide financial and other support for the conduct of wide ranging activities in the field by various agencies and individuals.

While the activities of this Ministry address all sections of the society belonging to various age groups, there are some specific programmes/activities that take into account the specific requirements/needs of youths and children. The details of all such programmes being undertaken by the Ministry and its organizations are contained in the Annual Reports of the Ministry, which have been laid on the table of both houses of Parliament.

(b) and (c) The task of propagating India's cultural heritage is performed through a network of 41 organizations under the Ministry of Culture, spread across the Country, each of which is established for a distinct and definitive purpose. There is on specific proposal to set up additional centres/organizations especially for propagating India's cultural Heritage and value system, at this stage.

Monitoring of Waste Management

*176. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial waste/e-waste is increasing in various parts of the country including the metropolitan cities;

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

(c) whether there is any effective mechanism for proper disposal management and handling of waste being generated in the metropolitan cities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has formulated any system to monitor the waste/e-waste management;

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

(g) the action plan drawn to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) and (b) As per information of Central Pollution Control Board (COCB), there are 36,165 of hazardous waste generating industries in the country, generating about 6.2 MT hazardous waste every year, of which Landfillable

waste is 2.7 MT, Incinerable 0.41 MT and Recyclable Hazardous Waste 3.08 MT.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008, for proper management and handling of hazardous wastes. The industries generating hazardous wastes are required to be regulated as per these Rules. The State Governments have the responsibility for identifying sites for setting-up of Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility (TSDFs) for disposal of waste in an environmentally sound manner.

(e) and (f) As per Hazardous Waste Rules, 2008, the industrial units generating hazardous waste are required to seek authorization from respective State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees. The units undertaking recycling/reprocessing of hazardous wastes listed in Schedule IV are required to be registered with Central Pollution Control Board. This includes electronic waste. CPCB prescribes standards for environmentally sound management of waste.

(g) The Ministry and the CPCB are organizing training programmes for creation of awareness about the provisions laid down in the HW Rules. Guidelines have been published on various aspects of the hazardous waste management for ensuring compliance of the aforesaid Rules. The respective SPCBs/PCCs are monitoring the units generating hazardous wastes. This Ministry provides financial assistance on a cost sharing basis for setting-up of TSDFs. The functioning of TSDFs is monitored by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards.

Pollution in Rivers

*177. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution in various rivers of the

country including Ganga, Yamuna, Damodar, Swarnrekha, Karkai and Ghaggar has increased over the years;

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

(c) the details of the difficulties being faced by the Government while depolluting these rivers;

(d) whether any time-frame and priorities have been fixed by the Government to make these rivers pollution free;

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

(f) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check release of effluents from industries and discharge of sewage into these rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :
(a) to (f) According to water quality monitoring undertaken by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), 139 polluted stretches in different rivers of the country including Ganga, Yamuna, Damodar, Subarnarekha and Ghaggar have been identified. A statement indicating the polluted stretches of these five rivers is enclosed.

The pollution load on major rivers has increased over the years due to industrialization and urbanisation. Abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power and other purposes compound the challenge.

River conservation is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and the State Governments. Pollution abatement works are implemented under the centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) to improve the water quality in rivers. The NRCP covers identified polluted stretches of 37 rivers, including Ganga, Yamuna, Damodar and Subarnarekha, spread over 20 States in the country. Sewage treatment capacity of 3926 million litres per day (mld) has been created. River conservation activities are also being implemented under

other central schemes, such as Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns, as well as under state schemes.

Implementation of river conservation plans is constrained by factors such as land acquisition, inadequate provisions for operation and maintenance of assets created, irregular power supply, under utilisation of sewage treatment plants, non-point sources of pollution etc.

The Central Government, by a Notification dated 20.2.2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin

Authority' (NGRBA) to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a holistic approach with the river basin as the unit of planning. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of pollution in the Ganga in Keeping with sustainable development needs.

Pollution from industries on the banks of rivers is monitored by CPCB and State Pollution Control Boards. Action is taken against defaulting industries under relevant provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Statement

| Sl. | River | Polluted Stretch | Critical Parameters Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (mg/l) | State |
|-----|---------|--|--|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Ganga | Garhmukteshwar to Trighat (Ghazipur) | 6.2-33 | Uttar Pradesh |
| | | Howrah to Uluberia | 6.4-14.8 | West Bengal |
| 2. | Yamuna | Wazirabad to Okhla | 8-144 | Delhi |
| | | Kalanaur, Yamunanagar to Sonipat | 7-8 | Haryana |
| | | Okhla to Kosi Kalan | 7-144 | Haryana |
| | | Along Paonta Sahib and Down Stream | 6.5-15 | Himachal Pradesh |
| 3. | Damodar | Kosi Kalan to Juhika Pilkhani to Confluence with Yamuna | 7.0-43 | Uttar Pradesh |
| | | Down Stream of Dhanbad | >6 | Jharkhand |
| | | Durgapur to Haldia | 6.4-32 | West Bengal |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----|-------------|---|---------|-----------|
| 4. | Subarnrekha | Along Jamshedpur | 8-12 | Jharkhand |
| 5. | Ghaggar | Interstate border with Punjab to Ottu wier at Sirsa | 7-81 | Haryana |
| | | Mubarkpur to Sardulgarh (Entire length in Punjab) | 6.2-180 | Punjab |

Review of CGHS

*178. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) has been reviewed in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new Health Insurance Scheme for the beneficiaries of CGHS;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has invited proposals from the insurance companies in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which the new policy is likely to be implemented by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The performance of the CGHS is regularly reviewed by the Government. The Committee of Secretaries has also been regularly reviewing the functioning of the CGHS since December, 2008, and has been giving directions to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for making it beneficiary friendly. Some of the recent initiatives are listed below:

- (1) **Extension of CGHS:** CGHS today covers 24 cities, apart from Delhi. Dehradun, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar and Jammu are the cities where CGHS was extended during the last four years.
- (2) **Computerisation:** To keep pace with the modern times, a massive computerisation work has been taken up under CGHS in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre. Computerisation of the CGHS will result in lesser waiting period for beneficiaries at the dispensaries; on-line placement of indents on local chemists; availability of patient profiles; availability of medicines/drugs usage pattern, which will enable the CGHS to prepare a realistic list of formulary drugs; reduction in use of paper; removal of jurisdictional restriction (as regards the dispensary) for the beneficiaries, etc.
- (3) **Introduction of Plastic Cards:** As part of the computerisation process, it has been decided to issue plastic cards individually to each beneficiary of the CGHS. This will enable beneficiaries to avail CGHS facility in any city should they happen to be in that city either on official work or on leave. Inter-city treatment will be possible after all cities are computerised and networked.
- (4) **Accreditation of labs with National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration**

Laboratories (**NABL**): With a view to providing better quality treatment to CGHS beneficiaries, it was decided that only those private hospitals and diagnostic centres would be empanelled under the CGHS, as have been cleared by the Quality Council of India after it carried out inspection of the facilities available at these hospitals and diagnostic centres. It has also been decided that all the laboratories on the panel of CGHS have to get certificate issued by the NABL under the Quality Council of India.

- (5) **Medical Audit of Hospital Bills:** is an important exercise to assess the quality of services offered and expenditure incurred. In order to be sure that the bills raised by private empanelled hospitals are genuine and that the beneficiaries were required to undergo only that treatment as was required and that the hospital has not forced the beneficiary to undergo unnecessary tests/treatment at the hospital. The job of medical audit of Hospital bills has been outsourced to TPAs.
- (6) **Holding of Claims Adalats:** Complaints were received in the CGHS and in the Ministry that old cases of reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by pensioners were pending for settlement for long time. It was decided that claims adalats be held in each Zonal office of CGHS, Delhi, under the chairmanship of the Additional Directors of the respective zones. Claims adalats were held annually, in each zone (East, Central, South and North Zones) in Delhi, during 2007 and 2008 and over 95% of the claims were settled in those adalats.
- (7) **Local Advisory Committees:** Local Advisory Committee meetings are held in each CGHS dispensary on second Saturday of the month, which is attended by Area Welfare Officer appointed by the Chief Welfare Officer, Department of Personnel and Training, repre-

sentatives from pensioners' association, local chemist to resolve problems at dispensary level.

- (8) **Decentralisation and delegation of powers:** Ministries/Departments have been delegated powers to handle all cases of reimbursement claims if no relaxation of rules was involved. Earlier they had powers to handle requests upto Rupees two lakhs and beyond that amount, the cases were referred to CGHS.
- (9) **Insulin:** Orders have been issued to permit issue of Analogue (Insulin Vial/Cartridge) to CGHS beneficiaries and the extra cost would be borne by the CGHS. The beneficiaries would have to purchase the pen for utilization the analogue insulin.
- (10) **Outsourcing of cleaning process of dispensaries:** As there were shortage of Class IV Staff in a large number of dispensaries in Delhi, it was decided to relocate Class IV staff from a few deficient dispensaries to other deficient dispensaries. To overcome the vacuum so created in some dispensaries, it was decided to outsource cleaning work for mechanised cleaning. The agency has been handling this work for the last five months, and the work done by them has been appreciated by all.
- (11) **Rate contract for purchase of drugs:** It has been decided to run a pilot project under which dispensaries in Delhi will be permitted to place indents directly on the manufacturers on rate contract basis. If the proposal proves to be a success, then it may be extended to cover the entire CGHS. The benefit of this arrangement is that dispensaries/CGHS do not have to carry huge inventory of medicines and indents can be placed on a monthly basis depending on the need.

(c) to (g) The Sixth Central Pay Commission recommended the introduction of health insurance scheme for Central Government employees and pensioners. It had recommended that for existing employees and pensioners, the scheme should be available on the voluntary basis, subject to their paying prescribed contribution. It has also recommended that the health insurance scheme should be compulsory for new Government employees who would be joining service after the introduction of the scheme. Similarly, it had recommended that new retirees, after the introduction of the insurance would be covered under the scheme.

An expression of interest has been floated by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare inviting suggestions from insurance companies providing health insurance and health consultants on the structure, feasibility and viability of such a scheme.

Impact of Environmental Policy

*179. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing Environment Policy and the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2006 are not conducive for protection of environment and ecology in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) The National Environment Policy, 2006 recognises that environmental protection is an integral part of the development process and is intended to mainstream environmental concerns in all developmental activities. The dominant theme of this policy is that while conservation of environmental resources is necessary to secure livelihoods and well being of all, the most secure basis for conservation is to ensure that

people dependent on particular resources obtain better livelihoods from the fact of conservation, than from degradation of resources. The policy seeks to stimulate partnership of different stakeholders in harnessing their respective resources and strength for environmental management.

The Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 requires developmental projects/activities/processes, listed therein to obtain prior environmental clearance under the provisions thereof so as to ensure that environmental concerns associated with these projects are duly integrated and addressed during different stages of projects cycle.

Ministry of Environment and Forests does not feel that the existing Environmental Policy and the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 are not conducive for protection of environment and ecology in the country.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to para (a) above.

[Translation]

Expansion of Forest Cover

*180. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area in hectares and percentage which is under forest cover in the country, State-wise;

(b) the national average of forest cover in hectares and percentage;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch a new initiative to expand forest cover in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the scheme-wise details of the funds provided

by the Union Government for conservation, development and promotion of forests to the States including Jharkhand during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise; and

(f) the achievement made as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) The information is given at Statement-I.

(b) As per State of Forest Report, 2005 published by Forest Survey of India, the forest cover in the country is 67.7 million hectares which is 20.60% of the geographical area of the country.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has mooted a new scheme, namely Gram/Panchayat Van Yojana to expand forest cover on non-forest lands involving Panchayati Raj Institutions. Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change announced by the Government, a National Mission for a "Green India" has been mooted. In addition, Additional Central Assistance for 'Accelerated Programme' of Restoration and Regeneration of Forest Cover, new state plan scheme has been introduced in the Union Budget of 2009-10 with an allocation of Rs. 500 crore.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing following major schemes for conservation, development and promotion of forests.

- (i) National Afforestation Programme.
- (ii) Integrated Forest Protection Scheme (now renamed as Intensification of Forest Management).
- (iii) Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats.
- (iv) Project Tiger.
- (v) Project Elephant.

Details of the funds provided in these schemes, State-

wise and year-wise, by Union Government during the last three years and current year are given at Statement-II (i) to II (v). With the help of these schemes, it has been possible to gradually improve the forest and tree cover in the country; improved protection and management regime of the forests including the Wildlife areas and to build up a momentum towards involvement of local communities through Joint Forest Management activities in the management of forests and wildlife resources in the country.

Statement-I

*Forest Cover in States/Union Territories in India
(As per State of Forest Report, 2005, published
by Forest Survey of India)*

| States/UTs | Forest Cover (Area in hectares) | Forest Cover (As Percentage of Geographical Area of the State/ Union Territories) |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 4437200 | 16.13 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 6777700 | 80.93 |
| Assam | 2764500 | 35.24 |
| Bihar | 557900 | 5.92 |
| Chhattisgarh | 5586300 | 41.32 |
| Delhi | 17600 | 11.87 |
| Goa | 216400 | 58.45 |
| Gujarat | 1471500 | 7.51 |
| Haryana | 158700 | 3.59 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 1436900 | 25.81 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 2127300 | 9.57 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|----------------|---------|-------|-----------------------------|----------|-------|
| Jharkhand | 2259100 | 28.34 | Tamil Nadu | 2304400 | 17.72 |
| Karnataka | 3525100 | 18.38 | Tripura | 815500 | 77.77 |
| Kerala | 1559500 | 40.13 | Uttar Pradesh | 1412700 | 5.86 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 7601300 | 24.66 | Uttarakhand | 2444200 | 45.7 |
| Maharashtra | 4747600 | 15.43 | West Bengal | 1241300 | 13.99 |
| Manipur | 1708600 | 76.53 | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 662900 | 80.36 |
| Meghalaya | 1698800 | 75.74 | Chandigarh | 1500 | 13.16 |
| Mizoram | 1868400 | 88.63 | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 22100 | 45.01 |
| Nagaland | 1371900 | 82.75 | Daman and Diu | 800 | 7.14 |
| Orissa | 4837400 | 31.07 | Lakshadweep | 2500 | 78.13 |
| Punjab | 155800 | 3.09 | Puducherry | 4200 | 8.75 |
| Rajasthan | 1585000 | 4.63 | Total | 67708800 | 20.60 |
| Sikkim | 326200 | 45.97 | | | |

Statement-II (i)

Funds provided, State-wise and Year-wise, under different schemes of Union Government for conservation, development and promotion of forests.

Scheme: National Afforestation Programme

Year-wise details of funds released during 2006-07 to 2009-10

| Sl. No. | State | Amount Released (Rs. in Crore)) | | | |
|---------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------------------------|
| | | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (as on 8-7-09) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 11.06 | 9.97 | 11.54 | 0.85 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2. | Chhattisgarh | 13.05 | 42.71 | 25.66 | 2.00 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 17.52 | 30.93 | 25.75 | 0.93 |
| 4. | Haryana | 9.20 | 12.93 | 20.14 | 9.52 |
| 5. | Himachal Pradesh | 11.56 | 7.43 | 6.72 | 0.00 |
| 6. | Jammu and Kashmir | 5.83 | 8.13 | 8.47 | 1.82 |
| 7. | Karnataka | 23.54 | 31.02 | 15.46 | 1.51 |
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 15.83 | 13.84 | 22.55 | 7.86 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 15.93 | 29.92 | 21.87 | 0.00 |
| 10. | Orissa | 14.07 | 19.01 | 21.63 | 0.00 |
| 11. | Punjab | 3.36 | 5.88 | 3.30 | 0.00 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 5.62 | 2.50 | 7.32 | 0.00 |
| 13. | Tamil Nadu | 17.22 | 9.46 | 8.86 | 0.00 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 11.88 | 36.77 | 30.80 | 16.25 |
| 15. | Uttarakhand | 11.52 | 12.39 | 9.24 | 3.10 |
| 16. | Goa | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 17. | Jharkhand | 19.03 | 24.56 | 26.32 | 2.00 |
| 18. | Bihar | 4.94 | 6.92 | 6.48 | 0.00 |
| 19. | Kerala | 12.75 | 8.81 | 9.45 | 0.00 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 7.00 | 7.23 | 9.06 | 0.00 |
| 21. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2.93 | 4.85 | 3.25 | 0.00 |
| 22. | Assam | 13.60 | 8.58 | 9.78 | 0.00 |
| 23. | Manipur | 7.78 | 12.37 | 9.51 | 0.00 |
| 24. | Nagaland | 7.22 | 7.75 | 6.64 | 1.50 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 25. | Sikkim | 7.41 | 11.28 | 6.63 | 1.10 |
| 26. | Tripura | 4.37 | 5.02 | 0.89 | 0.94 |
| 27. | Mizoram | 13.09 | 16.75 | 13.61 | 2.78 |
| 28. | Meghalaya | 5.44 | 5.94 | 4.69 | 0.00 |
| Total | | 292.75 | 392.75 | 345.62 | 52.16 |

Statement-II (ii)

Funds provided, State-wise and Year-wise, under different schemes of Union Government for conservation, development and promotion of forests.

Scheme: Integrated Forest Protection Scheme/Intensification of Forest Management

*Year-wise details of funds released during 2006-07 to 2008-09 (in lakhs)***

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|---------|-------------------|-------------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | Nil | 179.772 | 270.00 |
| 2. | Bihar | 132.53 | 83.736 | 93.614 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 371.40 | 613.012 | 463.695 |
| 4. | Goa | Nil*(29.01) | 18.53 | 27.366 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 400.00 | 568.825 | 461.66 |
| 6. | Haryana | 167.50 | 96.04 | 111.85 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | Nil | 124.066 | 260.96 |
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | Nil | Nil | — |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 112.263 | 221.875 | 276.622 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 122.88 | 159.60 | 264.90 |
| 11. | Kerala | 167.597 | 283.72 | 467.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 325.00 | 665.02 | 565.50 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | Nil*(103.46) | 232.84 | 232.00 |
| 14. | Orissa | 76.38 | 180.61 | 234.00 |
| 15. | Punjab | Nil*(100.00) | Nil*(100.00) | 134.28 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 100.07 | 99.692 | 150.408 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 158.40 | 431.5775 | 389.68 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 135.04 | 235.73 | 255.48 |
| 19. | Uttarakhand | 508.58 | 283.41 | 305.26 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 218.10 | 187.425 | 337.65 |
| 21. | Assam | 190.26 | 496.00 | 400.00 |
| 22. | Arunachal Pradesh | 191.68 | 308.42 | 282.84 |
| 23. | Manipur | 395.18 | 143.55 | 206.843 |
| 24. | Meghalaya | 150.00 | 86.00 | 189.00 |
| 25. | Mizoram | 229.71 | 414.37 | 410.373 |
| 26. | Nagaland | 337.72 | 365.4264 | 222.479 |
| 27. | Sikkim | 141.70 | 120.6648 | 273.79 |
| 28. | Tripura | 162.915 | 98.593 | 156.00 |
| 29. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 3.8552 | Nil | — |
| 30. | Daman and Diu | Nil | Nil | 18.1464 |
| Total | | 4798.7602 | 6698.5047 | 7461.3964 |

*Indicates that funds were sanctioned but actual release was Nil as the earlier unspent funds were adjusted, against current year's release. These amounts are given in brackets.

**No releases have been made so far in the year 2009-10 except Rs. 300 lakhs to the State of Uttarakhand.

Statement-II (iii)

Funds provided, State-wise and Year-wise, under different schemes of Union Government for conservation, development and promotion of forests.

Scheme: Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats

Year-wise details of funds released during 2006-07 to 2009-10 (Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | State/UTs | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (Upto 10.7.2009) |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|----------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 57.75 | 82.86 | 73.48 | 49.60 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 143.238 | 168.06 | 92.378 | — |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 78.602 | 125.05 | 193.31 | — |
| 4. | Assam | 161.79 | 81.78 | 161.095 | — |
| 5. | Bihar | 10.50 | 4.00 | 37.558 | — |
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | 377.863 | 379.20 | 323.235 | — |
| 7. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 14.50 | 11.78 | 15.62 | — |
| 8. | Goa | 5.00 | 31.59 | 41.94 | — |
| 9. | Gujarat | 328.675 | 332.08 | 318.52 | 141.04 |
| 10. | Haryana | 60.45 | 70.03 | 86.02 | — |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 261.56 | 233.32 | 241.983 | 129.99 |
| 12. | Jammu and Kashmir | 173.68 | 221.54 | 470.87 | 163.184 |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 98.54 | 98.13 | 99.753 | — |
| 14. | Karnataka | 490.582 | 630.64 | 625.1501 | 371.26 |
| 15. | Kerala | 362.115 | 493.57 | 864.96 | 275.16 |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 759.46 | 800.92 | 613.34 | — |
| 17. | Maharashtra | 223.855 | 331.33 | 390.22 | — |
| 18. | Manipur | 96.986 | 105.89 | 100.095 | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---------------|----------|---------|-----------|----------|
| 19. | Meghalaya | 38.20 | 64.88 | 58.007 | — |
| 20. | Mizoram | 136.066 | 169.46 | 289.09 | — |
| 21. | Nagaland | 16.38 | 19.11 | 28.415 | — |
| 22. | Orissa | 340.855 | 357.08 | 576.88 | — |
| 23. | Punjab | 3.00 | 0.00 | 40.29 | — |
| 24. | Rajasthan | 207.665 | 347.24 | 414.58 | 334.25 |
| 25. | Sikkim | 140.376 | 159.22 | 187.73 | — |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 205.24 | 274.64 | 727.91 | 399.00 |
| 27. | Tripura | 31.60 | 36.00 | 00 | — |
| 28. | Uttar Pradesh | 290.38 | 332.36 | 307.173 | — |
| 29. | Uttarakhand | 100.12 | 76.67 | 216.09 | — |
| 30. | West Bengal | 357.225 | 356.22 | 345.78 | — |
| 31. | Delhi | — | 0.00 | 00 | — |
| 32. | Daman and Diu | — | 4.721 | 6.12 | — |
| Total | | 5572.252 | 6399.36 | 7947.5921 | 1863.484 |

Statement-ii (iv)

Funds provided, State-wise and Year-wise, under different schemes of Union Government for conservation, development and promotion of forests.

Scheme: Project Tiger

Year-wise details of funds released during 2006-07 to 2009-10 (Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl.No. | States | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|--------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 35.0000 | 73.9175 | 56.9830 | — |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 237.3730 | 110.2542 | 246.1710 | 167.357** |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 3. | Assam | 87.4310 | 95.6140 | 1092.3790 | — |
| 4. | Bihar | 37.1450 | 98.3205 | 49.6730 | — |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 10.0000 | 35.2250 | 169.8700 | — |
| 6. | Jharkhand | 155.9670 | 45.1600 | 115.3770 | — |
| 7. | Karnataka | 267.8170 | 1159.7149 | 689.8390 | — |
| 8. | Kerala | 109.0000 | 153.2449 | 267.0900 | — |
| 9. | Madhya Pradesh | 759.2360 | 2975.9411 | 6998.5420 | 1544.054** |
| 10. | Maharashtra | 229.5100 | 295.7191 | 411.1250 | — |
| 11. | Mizoram | 115.1600 | 82.9000 | 241.4500 | — |
| 12. | Orissa | 150.2500 | 43.2800 | 625.9900 | — |
| 13. | Rajasthan | 100.8760 | 410.6800 | 2708.9500 | 1713.838** |
| 14. | Tamil Nadu | 85.1650 | 45.0000 | 690.8060 | — |
| 15. | Uttarakhand | 160.2950 | 202.0050 | 462.8500 | — |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | 75.0000 | 134.8900 | 417.5130 | 113.30** |
| 17. | West Bengal | 177.3000 | 308.6741 | 228.3940 | — |
| Total | | 2,792.5250 | 6,270.5403 | 15,473.002 | 3538.549** |

**Revalidation of unspent balance.

Statement-II (v)

Funds provided, State-wise and Year-wise, under different schemes of Union Government for conservation, development and promotion of forests.

Scheme: Project Elephant

Year-wise details of funds released during 2006-07 to 2009-10 (Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl.No. | States | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|--------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 60.00 | 64.774 | 60.00 | 45.00 | 5.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------|-------------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 71.50 | 61.00 | 54.50 | 65.00 | — |
| 3. | Assam | 40.00 | 75.00 | 144.00 | 175.19 | — |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | — | 80.00 | 83.77 | 60.43 | — |
| 5. | Haryana | — | 50.00 | — | — | — |
| 6. | Jharkhand | 75.00 | 74.446 | 132.17 | 80.00 | — |
| 7. | Karnataka | 168.00 | 167.82 | 212.65 | 249.00 | — |
| 8. | Kerala | 170.00 | 169.40 | 147.70 | 356.80 | — |
| 9. | Maharashtra | — | 25.00 | 56.86 | 77.76 | — |
| 10. | Meghalaya | 30.00 | 61.55 | 68.39 | 50.00 | — |
| 11. | Mizoram | — | — | 1.33 | — | — |
| 12. | Nagaland | 48.00 | 52.45 | 26.60 | 17.45 | — |
| 13. | Orissa | 114.00 | 153.94 | 148.50 | 180.60 | — |
| 14. | Tamil Nadu | 112.00 | 153.41 | 124.978 | 269.163 | 170.00 |
| 15. | Tripura | — | — | 12.00 | 28.96 | — |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | — | 6.20 | 55.33 | 58.24 | — |
| 17. | Uttarakhand | 137.70 | 153.12 | 126.46 | 209.45 | — |
| 18. | West Bengal | 181.00 | 160.89 | 185.725 | 176.096 | — |
| Total | | 1207.20 | 1509.00 | 1640.963 | 2099.139 | 175.00 |

[English]

Computerisation of Kendriya Bhandar

1460. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to

computerise all branches of Kendriya Bhandar to check stock holding etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of consumers and grocery items are being supplied to directly the branch stores as per the laid down purchase policy;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Computerisation of branches of the Kendriya Bhandar has been taken up in a Netaji Nagar and Pandara Road, New Delhi have been computerized so far. However, for networking of branches/retail stores with godowns/head office, proposals have been invited by the Kendriya Bhandar.

(c) to (e) Consumer and grocery items are being supplied from the Kendriya Bhandar central godowns as well as directly to the retail stores by approved suppliers of Kendriya Bhandar. The direct supply of consumer and grocery items direct to branch stores is made as Kendriya Bhandar is not having sufficient godown space and infrastructure for supply of all items through godowns.

Infant Mortality Rate

1461. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the infant mortality rate has gone down in the country during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the infant mortality rate in rural areas is at par with the rate in urban areas;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for the country has reduced from 58 per 1,000 live births in year 2004 to 55 per 1,000 live births in the year 2007. The IMR for rural and urban State wise is given at Statement.

(c) and (d) The IMR for the rural is 61 per 1,000 live births and for urban is 37 per 1,000 live births. The reasons for the rural areas not being at par with urban areas are multiple including socioeconomic and demographic disparities.

(e) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) launched in 2005, seeks to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, specially the vulnerable sections. The Mission seeks to establish functional health facilities in the public domain through revitalization of the existing infrastructure and fresh construction or renovation wherever required. The Mission also seeks to improve service delivery by putting in place enabling systems at all levels. This involves simultaneous corrections in manpower planning as well as infrastructure strengthening.

The Reproductive and Child Health programme (RCH) II (2005-10) under the NRHM comprehensively integrates interventions that improve child health and addresses factors contributing to mortality amongst children.

The Components of child health programme which help reduce child morbidity and mortality are as follows:

- i. Essential newborn care.
- ii. Immunization.
- iii. Infant and young child feeding.
- iv. Vitamin A supplementation and Iron and Folic Acid supplementation.
- v. Early detection and appropriate management of

Acute Respiratory Infections, Diarrhoea and other infections.

vi. Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) and Pre-Service IMNCI.

vii. Facility Based New Born Care.

Statement

Infant mortality rate, 2007

| India/States/ Union Territories | Infant mortality rate | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Total | Rural | Urban |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| India | 55 | 61 | 37 |
| Bigger States | | | |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | 54 | 60 | 37 |
| 2. Assam | 66 | 68 | 41 |
| 3. Bihar | 58 | 59 | 44 |
| 4. Chhattisgarh | 59 | 61 | 49 |
| 5. Delhi | 36 | 41 | 35 |
| 6. Gujarat | 52 | 60 | 36 |
| 7. Haryana | 55 | 60 | 44 |
| 8. Jammu and Kashmir | 51 | 53 | 38 |
| 9. Jharkhand | 48 | 51 | 31 |
| 10. Karnataka | 47 | 52 | 35 |
| 11. Kerala | 13 | 14 | 10 |
| 12. Madhya Pradesh | 72 | 77 | 50 |
| 13. Maharashtra | 34 | 41 | 24 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------------|---|----|----|----|
| 14. Orissa | | 71 | 73 | 52 |
| 15. Punjab | | 43 | 47 | 35 |
| 16. Rajasthan | | 65 | 72 | 40 |
| 17. Tamil Nadu | | 35 | 38 | 31 |
| 18. Uttar Pradesh | | 69 | 72 | 51 |
| 19. West Bengal | | 37 | 39 | 29 |

Smaller states

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|----|----|
| 1. Arunachal Pradesh | 37 | 41 | 15 |
| 2. Goa | 13 | 11 | 13 |
| 3. Himachal Pradesh | 47 | 49 | 25 |
| 4. Manipur | 12 | 13 | 9 |
| 5. Meghalaya | 56 | 57 | 46 |
| 6. Mizoram | 23 | 27 | 16 |
| 7. Nagaland | 21 | 18 | 29 |
| 8. Sikkim | 34 | 36 | 20 |
| 9. Tripura | 39 | 40 | 32 |
| 10. Uttarakhand | 48 | 52 | 25 |

Union Territories

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|
| 1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 34 | 38 | 23 |
| 2. Chandigarh | 27 | 25 | 28 |
| 3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 34 | 38 | 18 |
| 4. Daman and Diu | 27 | 29 | 23 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----------------|----|----|----|
| 5. Lakshadweep | 24 | 25 | 23 |
| 6. Puducherry | 25 | 31 | 22 |

Note: Infant mortality rates for smaller States and Union Territories are based on three-years period 2005-07.

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Treatment of CGHS Beneficiaries in Private Hospitals

1462. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS beneficiaries are allowed to take treatment in private hospitals which are not recognised by the Government and prefer reimbursement of claims for undertaking such treatment;

(b) if so, the number of claims that are pending for settlement alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to simplify the procedure in regard to reimbursement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) CGHS beneficiaries can take treatment in non-empanelled hospitals only in case of emergency. In such cases the reimbursement is made to the beneficiary as per the package rate fixed for that city for the treatment undertaken. If the treatment taken in a non-empanelled hospital was not in an emergency condition but was a planned treatment then reimbursement is not permissible.

(b) Details about the number of individual medical

re-imbursement claims pending in different CGHS cities are given below:

| S.No. | City | No. of pending claims |
|-------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Delhi | 29 |
| 2. | Bangalore | 160 |
| 3. | Chandigarh | 16 |
| 4. | Chennai | 263 |
| 5. | Dehradun | 15 |
| 6. | Hyderabad | 37 |
| 7. | Jabalpur | 13 |
| 8. | Kanpur | 05 |
| 9. | Kolkata | 600 |
| 10. | Mumbai | 157 |
| 11. | Nagpur | 08 |
| 12. | Patna | 10 |
| 13. | Thiruvananthapuram | 188 |

The major reason for pendency of claims is non-availability of funds.

(c) and (d) orders have been issued during February, 2009 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to:

- (i) Do away the need for verification and counter-signature of the treating doctor before submission of reimbursement claims.
- (ii) Permit CGHS beneficiaries to claim reimbursement from two sources, first from the insurance companies on which the beneficiary may have subscribed for medi-claim policy and then from

the CGHS, subject to the condition that the total reimbursement from the two sources does not exceed the actual expenditure incurred on the treatment.

Millennium Development Goals

1463. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Report 'The Countdown to 2015: Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival', India has to strive hard to achieve Millennium Development Goals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the percentage of infants under six months breastfed by mothers in the country is very low;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to encourage breast-feeding?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) As per the report 'The Countdown to 2015: Maternal, Newborn and Child Survival (2008), India is among the 68 priority countries which have to accelerate the pace of decline of their maternal and infant mortality to be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). According to the report India has an Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 57 per thousand live births (2006), a Neonatal Mortality Rate of 43 per thousand live births (2000) and a Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 450 (2005) while as per the latest available SRS (Sample Registration System) data from the office of the RGI, India has an Infant Mortality Rate of 55 per thousand live births (2007), a Neonatal Mortality Rate of 36 per thousand live births (2007) and a Maternal Mortality ratio of 254 per 100,000 live births (2004-06). As per the MDG goals, India is committed to achieving an IMR of

30 per thousand live births and a MMR of 100 per 100,000 live births. The Government is currently working holistically through the Reproductive and Child Health programme and the National Rural Health Mission to achieve these goals.

(c) and (d) As per District Level Health Survey 3 (DLHS-III) conducted in the year 2007-08, which is the latest available survey, the percentage of children under 6 months of age exclusively breastfed is 46.4 (rural 47.8%, urban 42.5%). Early initiation of breastfeeding has improved from 27.8% (DLHS-II, 2002-07) to 40.2% (DLHS-III 2007-08).

(e) The Government promotes breastfeeding through interpersonal communication by health care workers and awareness generation done through the mass media. Training of healthcare personnel on Infant and Young Child Feeding is undertaken as part of the maternal and child health trainings. Promotion of breastfeeding is also implemented as part of Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses (IMNCI) programme. The opportunity provided by the marked increase in the number of institutional deliveries through the Janani Surakshi Yojana (JSY) is utilized to counsel mothers on important aspects of caring for herself and her newborn, including counseling on breastfeeding. Special action to promote breastfeeding is undertaken through the breastfeeding week which is celebrated from 1-7th of August every year.

Production of New Vaccines

1464. SHRI RAJAI AH SIRICILLA:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is giving priority to the production of new vaccines to curb growing number of diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the awareness being created among the backward and SC/ST dominated areas in the country including Andhra Pradesh about these vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The disease burden of the vaccine preventable diseases is reviewed by the National Technical advisory group on immunization (NTAGI). Based upon the burden of disease, the NTAGI gives recommendation on the introduction of new vaccines in the country. Once a decision to introduce new vaccine in Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) is made, the vaccine manufacturers are made aware about the need for the vaccine production.

(c) Whenever a new vaccine is introduced by Government of India, awareness is created by State Governments in all the areas including SC/ST dominated areas in the country including Andhra Pradesh.

Funds for Sardar Sarovar Project

1465. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government for grant of additional funds for Sardar Sarovar Project to ensure completion of the project expeditiously;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government alongwith the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) to (c) The Central Government provides funds for expeditious completion of ongoing projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) on year to year basis on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments on year to year basis in accordance with

guidelines of the AIBP in force from time to time. For the year 2009-10, no proposal has been received for central assistance under AIBP from State Government of Gujarat. The State Government of Gujarat is also to get revised cost estimate of the project cleared from central appraising agencies before any further central assistance is provided to the project.

Killing of Rhinos

1466. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Rhinos have been killed by poachers during the last three years at Orang National Park in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :

(a) and (b) As per the information received from the State Government, twelve Rhinos have been poached in Orang National Park during the last three years.

(c) Important steps taken by the Government for conservation of Wildlife including Rhinos in the country are as follows:

1. Threatened species of wildlife, including Rhinos are placed in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972 thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
3. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including rare animals.

4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
5. The State/UT Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.
6. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.
7. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme-integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, a new component has been added for initiating 'Recovery Programme for critically endangered species and their habitats' during the 11th Five Year Plan period.
8. The State Government has constituted District level Wildlife Coordination Committees for effective coordination and control of poaching. Further additional armed personnels have been engaged in all the National Parks.

Protection of World Heritage Monuments

1467. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of World Heritage Monuments located in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the number of World Heritage Monuments provided with CISF cover/Government protection;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to provide CISF cover to all the heritage monuments in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The list is at the Statement.

(b) CISF has been deployed at Taj Mahal, Agra and at Red Fort, Delhi.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

State-wise list of World Heritage Sites in India

CULTURAL SITES (under protection of ASI)

| Sl.No. | Name of site | Year of inscription | State |
|--------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Ajanta caves | 1983 | Maharashtra |
| 2. | Ellora caves | 1983 | Maharashtra |
| 3. | Elephanta caves | 1987 | Maharashtra |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|--|------------------|---|
| 4. | Agra Fort | 1983 | Uttar Pradesh |
| 5. | Taj Mahal | 1983 | Uttar Pradesh |
| 6. | Group of monuments, Fatehpur Sikri | 1986 | Uttar Pradesh |
| 7. | Sun Temple, Konarak | 1984 | Orissa |
| 8. | Group of monuments at Mahabalipuram | 1984 | Tamil Nadu |
| 9. | Great Living Chola temples at Thanjavur, Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram | 1987 and 2004 | Tamil Nadu |
| 10. | Churches and Convents of Goa | 1986 | Goa |
| 11. | Group of temples, Khajuraho | 1986 | Madhya Pradesh |
| 12. | Buddhist monuments at Sanchi | 1989 | Madhya Pradesh |
| 13. | Prehistoric Rock shelters of Bhimbetka | 2003 | Madhya Pradesh |
| 14. | Group of monuments at Hampi | 1986 | Karnataka |
| 15. | Group of temples, Pattadakal | 1987 | Karnataka |
| 16. | Humayun's Tomb, Delhi | 1993 | Delhi |
| 17. | Qutub Minar complex, Delhi | 1993 | Delhi |
| 18. | Red Fort complex, Delhi | 2007 | Delhi |
| 19. | Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park | 2004 | Gujarat |
| (Under protection of Ministry of Railways) | | | |
| 20. | Mountain Railway of India (Darjeeling, Nilgiri, Kalka-Shimla) | 1999, 2005, 2006 | West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh |
| 21. | Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) | 2004 | Maharashtra |
| NATURAL SITES (Under protection of Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee) | | | |
| 22. | Mahabodhi Temple, Bodhgaya | 2002 | Bihar |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|--|------------|-------------|
| (Under protection of Ministry of Environment and Forests) | | | |
| 1. | Kaziranga National Park | 1985 | Assam |
| 2. | Manas Wild Life Sanctuary | 1985 | Assam |
| 3. | Keoladeo National Park | 1985 | Rajasthan |
| 4. | Sunderban National Park | 1987 | West Bengal |
| 5. | Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks | 1988, 2005 | Uttarakhand |

[Translation]

Protection of Temples and Monuments

1468. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to protect temples and monuments in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to provide amenities therein; and

(c) the amount of funds spent in this regard during the last three years and the current year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of centrally protected monuments/sites in the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh are 78 (including 48 temples) and 137 (including 55 temples) respectively. These monuments/sites are well conserved, preserved and protected. They have also been provided with tourist-amenities like drinking water, toilets, signages, information brochures, wheel chairs, proper approach pathways, interpretation

centres, besides specially designed ramps for physically challenged.

(c) The amount spent on the maintenance and repair of the monuments/sites in the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is indicated below:

| State | Amount in Rs. Lakhs | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|---------|-------------------------|
| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (Allocation) |
| Orissa | 298.98 | 278.29 | 234.16 | 250.00 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 661.47 | 743.23 | 865.00 | 600.00 |

[English]

Allocation of Funds to NGOs for Family Welfare Programme

1469. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance to the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for implementation of health related schemes in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance provided during the last three years and the current year, NGOwise;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the functioning of these NGOs;

(d) if so, the names of the NGOs in respect of which shortcomings were noticed; and

(e) the corrective action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of Chemicals in Raw Mangoes

1470. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increasing use of Calcium Carbide for artificial ripening of raw mangoes is a health hazard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective action taken/being taken by the Government to check such practices by the traders?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Rule 44 AA of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules 1955 prohibits the sale of fruits which has been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas commonly known as carbide gas produced from Calcium Carbide. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has informed that according to Indian Council of Medical Research, Calcium Carbide produces gases like Hydrogen Sulphide and Phosphine in small amounts which are known to produce nausea, vomiting and headache. The Food (Health) Authorities of States/UTs who are responsible for

implementation of PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955 in their State/U.T. have been requested from time to time to keep a strict vigil on use of carbide gas for ripening of fruits and take legal action for violation of the above provision.

[Translation]

Population Control

1471. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed for population control and the results achieved as a result thereof, State-wise;

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided to the States for this purpose during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the concrete steps taken or being taken by the Government to check population growth?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No targets are fixed as the Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables a couple to adopt the family planning methods, best suited to them according to their choice, without any compulsion. Population stabilization is one of the objectives of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

(b) The details of the financial assistance provided during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise; are enclosed as statement.

(c) The approach of Government under NRHM is to provide quality health services in remote rural areas along with a wide range of contraceptive choices to meet

the unmet demands for reproductive health services which includes delivery, safe abortions, treatment of reproductive tract infections and family Planning Services. The NRHM also includes the second phase of reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH.II), which intends to improve the performance of family welfare by reducing total fertility rate, maternal and infant morbidity and mortality, and unwanted pregnancies. The following steps have been taken to encourage acceptance of Family Planning and to give protection to providers : -

- (i) **National Family Planning Insurance Scheme** has been started since November, 2005 to compensate the sterilization acceptors for failures, complications and deaths and also provides indemnity insurance cover to doctors.
- (ii) **Increasing Compensation Package for Sterilization** was introduced in October, 2006 and further revision in the compensation package to acceptors of sterilization with particular boost to male participation in family planning i.e. Vasectomy from existing Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1500/- and tubectomy from Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1000/- in public facilities and to a uniform amount of Rs. 1500/- in accredited

private health facilities for all categories in all States for vasectomy.

- (iii) **Specific action points/strategies** have been incorporated in the States Project Implementation Plans (PIPs) under NREHM from current year to address the up gradation of Family Planning Services.
- (iv) **Promoting Acceptance of No Scalpel Vasectomy** to ensure male participation.
- (v) **Promoting IUD 380A** intensively as a spacing method because of its longevity of 10 years and advantages over other IUDs.
- (vi) **Fixed day Fixed Place Family Planning Services round the year** made possible on account of growing number of 24x7 PHCs and better functioning CHCs and other health facilities under NRHM.
- (vii) **Increasing the basket of choice** by systematically and carefully introducing new and effective contraceptives in the programme. The outreach activities through the institution of ASHAs and Monthly Health and Nutrition Days under NRHM have also helped.

Statement

Total State-wise releases for the period 2006-07 to 2009-10

(Rs. in Lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of State/UT | 2006-07 Rel. | 2007-08 Rel. | 2008-09 Rel. | 2009-10* Rel. |
|---------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 38708.77 | 59341.93 | 62009.92 | 9620.42 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 4226.93 | 3554.88 | 2390.50 | 711.85 |
| 3. | Assam | 34332.53 | 57498.89 | 56909.98 | 15165.14 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 4. | Bihar | 45352.77 | 46660.86 | 91823.75 | 14202.55 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 13165.71 | 16222.90 | 22334.20 | 5188.97 |
| 6. | Goa | 275.82 | 310.49 | 1296.33 | 252.15 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 28373.55 | 39296.77 | 32287.60 | 8304.75 |
| 8. | Haryana | 12709.35 | 12634.44 | 17708.92 | 3132.69 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 7435.38 | 5123.66 | 5973.65 | 1844.82 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 5309.47 | 16133.29 | 7623.05 | 2483.19 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 15306.82 | 14744.64 | 21995.96 | 3848.00 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 25614.71 | 29690.07 | 41896.06 | 9467.38 |
| 13. | Kerala | 15940.14 | 28114.55 | 21841.89 | 3095.00 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 43879.49 | 60787.02 | 70096.54 | 12157.76 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 32881.56 | 66728.64 | 57180.34 | 15393.75 |
| 16. | Manipur | 3216.54 | 4270.56 | 5040.21 | 1528.27 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 2960.65 | 3514.41 | 3770.34 | 1341.48 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 4463.78 | 2567.74 | 2866.60 | 795.23 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 3391.83 | 3513.27 | 4661.06 | 1210.19 |
| 20. | Orissa | 19341.80 | 33287.42 | 36423.33 | 7104.64 |
| 21. | Punjab | 14894.48 | 11411.71 | 18333.24 | 3794.10 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 43689.28 | 65307.63 | 78507.28 | 11735.25 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 2340.56 | 3266.89 | 1682.56 | 483.45 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 32815.68 | 52313.85 | 47822.45 | 10497.86 |
| 25. | Tripura | 3117.80 | 6875.02 | 7072.28 | 2020.64 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 111647.43 | 145724.36 | 162977.40 | 30146.19 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 27. | Uttarakhand | 5438.27 | 15101.60 | 10320.87 | 1982.26 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 40186.31 | 51787.97 | 53639.44 | 11909.55 |
| Total - All States | | 611017.41 | 855785.46 | 946485.75 | 189417.53 |
| UTs with Legislature | | | | | |
| 1. | Delhi | 4218.03 | 6229.76 | 10918.69 | 1873.00 |
| 2. | Puducherry | 371.49 | 437.62 | 390.00 | 93.00 |
| UTs without Legislature | | | | | |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 551.00 | 891.87 | 461.02 | 34.00 |
| 2. | Chandigarh | 400.39 | 445.04 | 213.61 | 86.00 |
| 3. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 200.56 | 128.80 | 100.65 | 21.00 |
| 4. | Daman and Diu | 277.14 | 149.03 | 69.24 | 8.00 |
| 5. | Lakshadweep | 155.02 | 65.13 | 27.09 | 6.00 |
| Total (UTs) | | 6173.63 | 8347.25 | 12180.30 | 2121.00 |
| Grand Total | | 617191.04 | 864132.71 | 958666.05 | 191538.53 |

*Figures are provisional.

[English]

National Technology Day

1472. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Technology Day is celebrated annually;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its aims and objectives; and

(c) the goals set by the Government for development of Science and Technology during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Madam.

The National Technology Day is celebrated by various institutions on 11th May annually across the country since 1999. The objective of celebrating the Technology Day is to commemorate technological achievements and to encourage Indian entrepreneurs/innovators through awards and recognitions and to showcase the technologies developed indigenously both by public and private institutions.

(c) The goals set by the Government for development of Science and Technology during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period include enlarging the pool of scientific manpower and strengthening the Science and Technology infrastructure and attracting and retaining young people to careers in science; implementing selected National Flagship Programmes which have direct bearing on the technological competitiveness of the country in a mission mode; establishing globally competitive research facilities and centres of excellence; kindling an innovative spirit among scientists to translate R&D leads into scalable technologies; developing new models of Public-Private Partnerships in higher education, particularly for research in universities and high technology areas and promoting strong linkages with advanced countries, including participation in mega international science initiatives.

[Translation]

Weather Stations in the Country

1473. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of

EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has an ambitious scheme to set up Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the locations identified for the purpose, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which these AWS are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes Madam.

(b) India Meteorological Department (IMD) plan to establish a robust network of AWSs across India, covering all districts during the XI plan. Currently, a network of 177 AWS stations (including one in Antarctica) is already functional as listed in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The AWS network covering the entire country is likely to be completed by December 2009.

Statement

Present AWS Location

| S.No. | Station | District | State |
|-------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Port Blair | U/T | Andman and Nicobar Islands |
| 2. | Amadalavalasa | Srikakulam | Andhra Pradesh |
| 3. | Bapatla | Guntur | Andhra Pradesh |
| 4. | Bhimunipattinam | Vishakhapatnam | Andhra Pradesh |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 5. | Darsi | Prakasam | Andhra Pradesh |
| 6. | Hyderabad | Hyderabad | Andhra Pradesh |
| 7. | Kavali | Nellore | Andhra Pradesh |
| 8. | Narsapur | West Godavari | Andhra Pradesh |
| 9. | Nellore | Nellore | Andhra Pradesh |
| 10. | Peddapuram | East Godavari | Andhra Pradesh |
| 11. | Shar | Sriharikota | Andhra Pradesh |
| 12. | Tirumala | Chittoor | Andhra Pradesh |
| 13. | Vizianagram | Vizianagram | Andhra Pradesh |
| 14. | Yellamanchilli | Vishakhapatnam | Andhra Pradesh |
| 15. | Antarctica | | Antarctica |
| 16. | Bomdila | West Kamong | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 17. | Changlang | Changlang | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 18. | Daporizo | Upper Subansiri | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 19. | Mechuka | West Siang | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 20. | Naharlagun | Papumpare | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 21. | Passighat | East Siang | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 22. | Tawang | Tawang | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 23. | Tuting | Upper Siang | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 24. | Ziro | Lower Subansiri | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 25. | Guwahati | Kamrup | Assam |
| 26. | Raipur | Raipur | Chhattisgarh |
| 27. | Ayangagar | NCR, New Delhi | Delhi |
| 28. | Delhi University | NCR, New Delhi | Delhi |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| 29. | Mughespur | NCR, New Delhi | Delhi |
| 30. | Pitampura | NCR, New Delhi | Delhi |
| 31. | Pusa | NCR, New Delhi | Delhi |
| 32. | DIU | U/T | Diu and Daman |
| 33. | Goa | Goa | Goa |
| 34. | Ahmedabad | Gandhinagar | Gujarat |
| 35. | Anand | Kheda | Gujarat |
| 36. | Bhuj | Kutch | Gujarat |
| 37. | Dwarka | Jamnagar | Gujarat |
| 38. | Jakhau | Kutch | Gujarat |
| 39. | Kandla | Kutch | Gujarat |
| 40. | Kutch Mandvi | Kutch | Gujarat |
| 41. | Mahuva | Bhavnagar | Gujarat |
| 42. | Rajkot | Rajkot | Gujarat |
| 43. | Veraval | Junagarh | Gujarat |
| 44. | Ambala | Ambala | Haryana |
| 45. | Balasamand | Hissar | Haryana |
| 46. | Bawal | Rewari | Haryana |
| 47. | Bhiwani | Bhiwani | Haryana |
| 48. | Bhopani | Faridabad | Haryana |
| 49. | Damla | Yamuna Nagar | Haryana |
| 50. | Fatehabad | Fatehabad | Haryana |
| 51. | Hissar | Hissar | Haryana |
| 52. | Jagdishpur | Sonipat | Haryana |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| 53. | Jhajjar | Jhajjar | Haryana |
| 54. | Kaithal | Kaithal | Haryana |
| 55. | Kaul | Kaul | Haryana |
| 56. | Gurgaon | Gurgaon | Haryana |
| 57. | Kurukshetra | Kurukshetra | Haryana |
| 58. | Mahendargarh | Mahendargarh | Haryana |
| 59. | Mandakola | Nuh | Haryana |
| 60. | Mewat | Nuh | Haryana |
| 61. | Panchkula | Panchkula | Haryana |
| 62. | Pandu Pindara | Jind | Haryana |
| 63. | Rohtak | Rohtak | Haryana |
| 64. | Sadalpur | Hissar | Haryana |
| 65. | Sirsa | Sirsa | Haryana |
| 66. | Uchani | Karnal | Haryana |
| 67. | Ujha | Panipat | Haryana |
| 68. | Bajura | Kullu | Himachal Pradesh |
| 69. | Bilaspur | Bilaspur | Himachal Pradesh |
| 70. | Chamba | Chamba | Himachal Pradesh |
| 71. | Chelsea School | Shimla | Himachal Pradesh |
| 72. | CPRI Campur | Shimla | Himachal Pradesh |
| 73. | Dalhousie | Chamba | Himachal Pradesh |
| 74. | Dharmashala | Kangra | Himachal Pradesh |
| 75. | Hamirpur | Hamirpur | Himachal Pradesh |
| 76. | Kasauli | Solan | Himachal Pradesh |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------|------------|------------------|------------------|
| 77. | Keylong | Lahual and Spiti | Himachal Pradesh |
| 78. | Khotkhai | Shimla | Himachal Pradesh |
| 79. | Kufri | Shimla | Himachal Pradesh |
| 80. | Kukumseri | Lahual and Spiti | Himachal Pradesh |
| 81. | Mandi | Mandi | Himachal Pradesh |
| 82. | Mashobra | Shimla | Himachal Pradesh |
| 83. | Nahan | Shirmur | Himachal Pradesh |
| 84. | Narkanda | Shimla | Himachal Pradesh |
| 85. | Nauni | Solan | Himachal Pradesh |
| 86. | Palampur | Kangra | Himachal Pradesh |
| 87. | Rampur | Una | Himachal Pradesh |
| 88. | Reckon Peo | Kinnaur | Himachal Pradesh |
| 89. | Sainj | Kullu | Himachal Pradesh |
| 90. | Seo Bagh | Kullu | Himachal Pradesh |
| 91. | Dhanbad | Dhanbad | Jharkhand |
| 92. | Ranchi | Ranchi | Jharkhand |
| 93. | Agumbe | Shimoga | Karnataka |
| 94. | Bangalore | Bangalore | Karnataka |
| 95. | Bellary | Bellary | Karnataka |
| 96. | Bidar | Bidar | Karnataka |
| 97. | Brahmavar | Udipi | Karnataka |
| 98. | Kayamkulam | Alappuzha | Kerala |
| 99. | Kottankara | Kolam | Kerala |
| 100. | Plicode | Kasargode | Kerala |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| 101. | Tavanur | Mallapur | Kerala |
| 102. | Thiruvananthapuram | Thiruvananthapuram | Kerala |
| 103. | Minicoy | Minicoy | Lakshadweep |
| 104. | Bhopal | Bhopal | Madhya Pradesh |
| 105. | Gwalior | Gwalior | Madhya Pradesh |
| 106. | Hoshangabad | Hoshangabad | Madhya Pradesh |
| 107. | Indore | Indore | Madhya Pradesh |
| 108. | Dapoli | Ratnagiri | Maharashtra |
| 109. | Devgad | Sindhudurg | Maharashtra |
| 110. | Mahabaleshwar | Satara | Maharashtra |
| 111. | Mumbai Colaba | Mumbai | Maharashtra |
| 112. | Mumbai santa Cruz | Mumbai | Maharashtra |
| 113. | Nagpur | Nagpur | Maharashtra |
| 114. | Nasik | Nasik | Maharashtra |
| 115. | Pashan Pune | Pune | Maharashtra |
| 116. | Pune | Pune | Maharashtra |
| 117. | Rahuri | Ahmednagar | Maharashtra |
| 118. | Rajgurunagar | Pune | Maharashtra |
| 119. | Murud | Raigad | Maharashtra |
| 120. | Shirdi | Ahmednagar | Maharashtra |
| 121. | Dimapur | Chumukedinea | Nagaland |
| 122. | Kohima | Kohima | Nagaland |
| 123. | Sechu | Kohima | Nagaland |
| 124. | New Delhi | New Delhi | New Delhi |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 125. | Basudevpur | Bhadrak | Orissa |
| 126. | Bonaigarh | Sundargarh | Orissa |
| 127. | Bramhagiri | Puri | Orissa |
| 128. | Chandipur | Balasore | Orissa |
| 129. | Nawapada | Nawapada | Orissa |
| 130. | Nimpara | Puri | Orissa |
| 131. | Rambha | Ganjam | Orissa |
| 132. | Pondicherry | Pondicherry | Pondicherry |
| 133. | Chandigarh | Chandigarh | Punjab |
| 134. | Kapurtala | Kapurtala | Punjab |
| 135. | Bharatpur | Bharatpur | Rajasthan |
| 136. | Bikaner | Bikaner | Rajasthan |
| 137. | Hanumangarh | Hanumangarh | Rajasthan |
| 138. | Jaipur | Jaipur | Rajasthan |
| 139. | Jaisalmer | Jaisalmer | Rajasthan |
| 140. | Jhunjunu | Jhunjunu | Rajasthan |
| 141. | Jodhpur | Jodhpur | Rajasthan |
| 142. | Gangtok | E. Sikkim | Sikkim |
| 143. | Adiramapattinam | Thanjavur | Tamil Nadu |
| 144. | Chennai | Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 145. | Chidambaram | Cuddalore | Tamil Nadu |
| 146. | Kalavai | Kanchipuram | Tamil Nadu |
| 147. | Karaikal | Pondicherry | Tamil Nadu |
| 148. | Mailam | Vellupuram | Tamil Nadu |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 149. | Neyyoor | Kanyakumari | Tamil Nadu |
| 150. | Thiruchendur | Toothukudi | Tamil Nadu |
| 151. | Tuticorin Port | Toothukudi | Tamil Nadu |
| 152. | Vedasandur | Dindigul | Tamil Nadu |
| 153. | Agra | Agra | Uttar Pradesh |
| 154. | Kanpur | Kanpur | Uttar Pradesh |
| 155. | Lucknow | Lucknow | Uttar Pradesh |
| 156. | Mathura | Mathura | Uttar Pradesh |
| 157. | Paliakalan | Lakhimpuri-Kheri | Uttar Pradesh |
| 158. | Rani Chawri | Tehri-Garhwal | Uttar Pradesh |
| 159. | Sultanpur | Sultanpur | Uttar Pradesh |
| 160. | Varanasi | Varanasi | Uttar Pradesh |
| 161. | Chamoli | Chamoli | Uttaranchal |
| 162. | Dehradun | Dehradun | Uttaranchal |
| 163. | Joshimath | Chamoli | Uttaranchal |
| 164. | Mukteshwar | Nainital | Uttaranchal |
| 165. | Purola | Uttarkashi | Uttaranchal |
| 166. | Rudra Prayag | Rudra Prayag | Uttaranchal |
| 167. | Uttar Kashi | Uttarkashi | Uttaranchal |
| 168. | Canning | 24 Parganas | West Bengal |
| 169. | Darjeeling | Darjeeling | West Bengal |
| 170. | Hasimara | Hasimara | West Bengal |
| 171. | Kakdweep | 24 Parganas | West Bengal |
| 172. | Khejuri | Jhargram | West Bengal |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| 173. | Kolkata | Kolkata | West Bengal |
| 174. | Nimpith | 24 Parganas | West Bengal |
| 175. | Purulia | Purulia | West Bengal |
| 176. | Raidighi | 24 Parganas | West Bengal |
| 177. | Sagar Islands | 24 Parganas | West Bengal |

[English]

**Financial Assistance to Poor Cancer and
Kidney Patients**

1474. SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to give financial assistance to the poor patients suffering from Cancer and Kidney diseases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Health is a State subject and the Central Govt. is supplementing the efforts of the State Government.

Financial assistance is provided to the patients who are living below the poverty line and is suffering from major life threatening diseases including Cancer and Nephrology under the 'Health Minister's Discretionary Grants (HMDG)', Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)' and the newly constituted 'Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund'.

Expenditure on Computerisation of CGHS

1475. CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on

computerization of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Sanction for Rs.25.86 crores have so far been issued to the CGHS for computerisation of the CGHS.

Cyclone Aila

1476. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cyclone Aila has hit the mangrove forests and wildlife including Bengal Tiger of Sunderbans;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the losses incurred to mangrove forests and wildlife;

(c) whether any forecast was made by the Meteorological Department about the cyclone;

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

(e) the remedial measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) As informed by the State, the cyclone 'AILA' struck Sunderbans Tiger Reserve on 25.05.2009, causing damage to field camps and fringe villages

bordering the said reserve due to large scale flooding and breaches in the nearby village embankments. There is a report of a tiger straying incident on 25.05.2009, which was tranquilized and trapped on 26.05.2009 and subsequently released. Further, mortality of two deers has been reported, besides rescue of eight from nearby villages.

(b) Based on the advise from the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the State has assessed the damage through a Committee, which amounts to Rs. 111.50 lakhs. Besides, an amount of Rs. 2.075 crores has also been projected for Eco-development/Forest Development Committees of the Sunderbans Tiger Reserve towards rebuilding the damaged houses, supplying saline resistant paddy seeds, construction of ponds and related works.

(c) and (d) As reported by the India Meteorological Department, a forecast was made which, interalia, contained 21 warning bulletins to different agencies at the National level and to the Government of Government of West Bengal.

(e) The State has proposed to rebuild the damages caused to infrastructure in the Sunderbans Tiger Reserve and the houses in the affected villages nearby, besides providing assistance for eco-development initiatives towards welfare of the people. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has announced an assistance of Rs. 1 crore in this regard under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger.

[Translation]

Reservoir Project in Bihar

1477. SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any letter/communication regarding Masan Water Reservoir Project from the State Government of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) and (b) No such letter/communication regarding Masan Reservoir Project has been received in the Ministry of Water Resources from the Government of Bihar.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Indo-Pak Talks

1478. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has suggested India and Pakistan to resume talks for broader and deeper mutual relationship; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, has stated that - "We believe that India and Pakistan actually face a number of common challenges, and we welcome a dialogue between them. As we have said before, the pace, scope and character of that dialogue is something that Indian and Pakistani leaders will decide on their own terms and in their own time."

[Translation]

Exploitation of Natural Resources by MNCs

1479. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the Multi-National Companies (MNCs) are exploiting the natural resources available in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this is posing a threat to the environment and existence of animals, birds, human beings living in around adjoining areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to maintain the environmental balance and to save the natural resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) :

(a) and (b) The Ministry receives proposals from various entrepreneurs including Multi National Companies (MNCs) which may involve utilization of natural resources for undertaking various developmental activities listed in the schedule of Environmental impact Assessment Notification (EIA), 2006.

(c) to (e) As per the provisions of EIA notification, 2006, for obtaining environmental clearance, the entrepreneurs undertake project specific Environment Impact Assessment Study and prepare Environment Management Plan for sustainable utilization of natural resources and mitigating the likely environmental impacts. The environmental concerns are addressed at the project planning and implementation stage. Based on appraisal and recommendation of sector specific multi-disciplinary Expert Appraisal Committee(s), while granting environmental clearance, the various environmental safeguards are stipulated for implementation during the project cycle.

[English]

Rajiv Arogyashree Health Scheme

1480. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:
SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to implement health insurance scheme similar to 'Rajiv Arogya Shree' being implemented in Andhra Pradesh to cover BPL population in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to enhance the funding for 'Arogyashree' Services; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) No. Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No. It is not proposed to enhance the funding for Rajiv Aarogyasri Scheme under NRHM because it provides support for costly Tertiary Care Surgical Interventions. The primary thrust of the NRHM is to strengthen the public system, provide primary inpatient care and to seek partnerships from the non-Governmental sector for public health goals wherever needed.

[Translation]

Denial of Visas to Sikh Pilgrims

1481. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sikh pilgrims across the country, who want to visit Nankana Sahib in Pakistan are being denied visas by Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the number of case where visas were denied to Sikh pilgrims by Pakistan;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) to (d) Grant of visa to Indian nationals, including pilgrims, to visit Pakistan is the prerogative of the Government of Pakistan. A proposal to increase both the number of shrines and pilgrims under the Bilateral Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines has been pursued with the Government of Pakistan for over four years. However, Pakistan is yet to formally respond to the proposals.

Bilateral Relations with Nepal

1482. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent political changes in Nepal are likely to have any impact on the bilateral relations with Nepal;

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

(c) whether the incidents of anti-India activities taking place in Nepal have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) India and Nepal share close and friendly political, economic, cultural and social ties, which are unique and have stood the test of time. We have congratulated Mr. Madhav Nepal on his election as the Prime Minister of Nepal and have conveyed our commitment to further strengthen ties and to support Nepal in any manner and to the extent it wants us to. During the visit of Foreign Secretary to Nepal on June 20-21, 2009, our commitment was reiterated to the new Government of Nepal. Both sides also agreed to take the bilateral relations forward.

(c) to (e) Recently, there have been some media reports in Nepal regarding alleged encroachment of

Nepalese territory by India. These have been investigated into, and found to be false. Such incidents have been taken up with the Government of Nepal for necessary action. Strip maps pertaining to 96% of the Nepal-India boundary have been jointly finalised and initialled. These are to be signed at plenipotentiary level. There are bilateral institutional mechanisms for effective border management, including at district level, to address such concerns. In addition to these, it has also been agreed to establish local level mechanisms during the recent visit of Foreign Secretary to Nepal.

[English]

Recommendations of Second ARC

1483. DR. K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) regarding citizen centric administration and the details of appointed Public Grievances Officers responsible for addressing public grievances, Ministry/Department-wise; and

(b) the number of complaints received by the Union Government during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The main recommendations of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) regarding citizen centric administration are as under:-

- (i) Making Citizen Charters effective-An Agenda for Reform
- (ii) The ARC Seven Step Model for Citizen Centricity

- (iii) Citizens' Participation in Administration
- (iv) Participation of Women and Physically challenged
- (v) Evolving effective Public Grievance Redressal System including Analysis and Identification of Grievance Prone Areas.
- (vi) Consumer Protection

These recommendations are part of the 12th report-Citizen Centric Administration-The Heart of Governance. The report is available at <http://www.are.gov.in> for public information. Copies of the report have also been placed in the Parliament Library. The details of appointed Public Grievance Officers responsible for addressing public grievances Ministry/Department wise is enclosed as Statement.

(b) The total number of complaints received by Prime Minister's Office, Dte. Of public Grievances, Cabinet Secretariat and Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances is 109620, 101995, 124052 and 52933 during the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (up to 30.06.2009) respectively. In respect of other Central Government Ministries/Departments/Organizations, data is not available centrally and public grievances are attended to in a decentralized manner.

Statement

A list of Public Grievances Officers in Ministries/Departments

1. **Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation**

Sm. Uma Goel,
Joint Secretary (Admn., PC & PG),
Room No. 242 A, Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001.

2. **Department of Agricultural Research and Education**

Shri Ram Autar
Director, Room No. 223,
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.-110001

3. **Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Fisheries**

Shri Dilip Rath, Joint Secretary (Admn. 7 PG),
Room No. 245, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi 110001

4. **Ministry of Micro, small and medium Enterprises**

Shri Praveer Kumar,
Joint Secretary (MSME) 1 Room No.122-B,
Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.-110001

5. **M/o Chemical and fertilizers**

(i) **Department of Fertilizers**

Shri Sanjay Kumar Sinha,
DS (Admn. and Vig)
Room No. 104, B Wing, Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001.

(ii) **Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals.**

Shri Devendra Chaudhry, Joint Secretary
Room No. 340-A, Shashtri Bhawan, New
Delhi-110001

6. **Ministry of Civil Aviation**

Shri Prashat Sukul
Joint Secretary,
Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan, Room No. 272, B-Block
Safdarjung Airport, New Delhi-110003

7. **Ministry of Coal**

Shri P. Some Shekhar Reddy, Director (PG),
Room No. 303,B wing, Sastri Bhawan,
New Delhi

8. **Ministry of Mines**

Ms. Ajita Bajpai Pande, Joint Secretary (PG),
Room No.322 A wing
Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi

9. **Ministry of Commerce and Industry****(i) Department of Commerce**

Shri Neeraj Kumar Gupta,
Joint Secretary,
Room No.288, Udyog Bhavan,
New Delhi-110011.

(ii) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion

Shri Gopal Krishna,
Joint Secretary,
Room No.135, Udyog Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001.

10. **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution****(i) Department of Consumer Affairs**

Dr. Kewal Ram,
Sr. Economic Advisor,
Room No.30, A Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001.

(ii) Department of Food and Public Distribution,

Dr. Joy I Cheenath,
Joint Secretary,
Room No.158, Krishi Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001.

11. **Ministry of Communications and Information Technology****(i) Department of Posts**

Shri Rajender Kashyap
Deputy Director General (PG and QA)
Room No.312, Dak Bhavan,
3rd floor Parliament Street,
New Delhi-110001.

(ii) Department of Telecommunications

Shri S.S. Singh,
Deputy Director General (PG),
Room No. 1210,
Sanchar Bhavan, 20, Ashok Road,
New Delhi 110001

(iii) Department of Information Technology

Shri N. Ravi Shanker,
Joint Secretary/Director of Public and Staff
Grievances,
Electronics Niketan, 6, CGO Complex,
New Delhi-110003.

12. **Ministry of Home Affairs**

Shri K.C. Jain
JS (Cord. & PG), Room No.09, North Block,
New Delhi-110001

13. **Ministry of Culture**

Shri V.S. Madan
Joint Secretary, Room No.218,
'C' Wing, Shastri Bhavan
New Delhi-110001.

14. **M/o Corporate Affairs**

Shri Jites Khosla
Joint Secretary
Room No.507, A-Wing, Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi-110011

15. **Ministry of Defence**

Shri Ajay Tirkey,
Joint Secretary (Estt/PG) and CVO,
Room No.198 A, South Block,
New Delhi-110011

16. Ministry of Environment and Forests

Shri A.K. Goel,
Joint Secretary, (Admn) 4th floor,
Room No.440 Paryavaran Bhavan,
CGO Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110003.

17. Ministry of External Affairs

Shri A. Manickam,
Joint Secretary (CPV and CPO),
Room No.20, CPV Division
Patiala House Annexe,
Tilak Marg,
New Delhi-110001.

18. Ministry of Finance**(a) Department of Economic Affairs (Main)**

Shri Kumar Sanjay Krishana,
Joint Secretary, Room No. 40-B
North Block, New Delhi-110001.

(b) Department of Financial Services**(i) Banking Division**

Shri K.V. Eapen
Joint Secretary (BA)
Jeevan Deep Building (3rd floor),
Sansad Marg,
New Delhi-110001.

(ii) Insurance Division

Shri Trun Bajaj
Joint Secretary (B&I)
Department. of Finance
3rd floor, Jeevandeep Bld., Sansad Marg,
New Delhi-110001

**(iii) Investment Grievance Redress Cell
(Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI))**

Shri R.K. Nair,
Executive Director (Public Grievances, and
Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
SEBI Bhawan, Plot C-4A, G-Block, Bandra
Kurla Complex, Bandra, Mumbai-400051.

(b) Department of Expenditure

Shri Shakti Kanta Das,
JS(PF-I),
Room No.169 C, North Block
New Delhi.

(c) Department of Revenue (Hqrs.)

Shri Mukul Singhal
Joint Secretary (Revenue)
Room No.46, North Block, New Delhi

(i) Central Board of Direct Taxes

Shri S.C. Sarkar,
Deputy Secretary (HQ), CBDT
Room No.255,
North Block
New Delhi-110001.

(ii) Central Board of Excise and Customs

Shri L.K. Gupta,
Joint Secretary (Admn.-EC), Room No.155-C,
North Block, New Delhi-110001.

Directorate of Enforcement,

Shri S.K. Panda,
Special Director,
6th Floor,
Lok Nayak Bhavan, Khan Market,
New Delhi-110003

- (d) **Department of Disinvestment**
- Shri Sidhartha Pradhan,
Joint Secretary,
Public Enterprises Bhawan, Room No.520,
Block No.14, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003
19. **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**
- Shri K. Rajeshwar Rao,
Joint Secretary (PG),
Panchsheel Bhavan,
August Kranti Marg,
New Delhi-110049
20. **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- (i) **Department of Health**
- (ii) **Department of Family Welfare**
- (iii) **Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homeopathy**
- Shri Debasish Panda,
Joint Secretary,
Room No.146-A wing
Nirman Bhawan,
New Delhi-11
21. **Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises**
- (i) **Department of Heavy Industries**
- Shri Ambuj Sharma,
Joint Secretary,
Udyog Bhavan, Room No.183,
New Delhi-110011
- (ii) **Department of Public Enterprises**
- Shri G.S. Bothyal
Director (G),
Public Enterprise Bhawan,
Block 14,CGO Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110003.
22. **Ministry of Human Resource Development**
- (i) **Department of Higher Education**
- (ii) **Department of school Education and Literacy**
- Shri Sunil Kumar
Joint Secretary,
Shastri Bhavan, 'C' Wing Room No.215
New Delhi-110001
23. **Ministry of Women and Child Development**
- Shri Mahesh Arora, Director
Room No. 638,
Shastri Bhavan, 'A' Wing
New Delhi-110001
24. **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**
- Smt Stuti Kacker,
Addl. Secretary,
Room No.552, A Wing Shastri Bhawan,
Dr. R.P. Road, N.D-01
25. **Ministry of Labour and Employment**
- Shri S.K. Dev Verman
Jt. Secretary,
R.N.107, Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg,
New Delhi-110001
26. **Ministry of Law and Justice**
- (i) **Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative Department**
- Shri R.Ragupathi,
Joint Secretary,
4th Floor, 'A', Wing Shastri Bhawan,
New Delhi-110001

(ii) Department of Justice

Shri S.B. Biswas
 Director (HC&J)
 Jaisalmer House, 26 Man Singh Road,
 New Delhi

27. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Dr. Bibek Bandopadhyay,
 Director (PG),
 R.No.1020, Block No.14, Paryavaran
 Bhawan, CGO Complex,
 Lodi Road, N.D-03

28. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Shri P. Gopalakrishnan,
 Joint Secretary,
 87, Parliament House, New Delhi.

29. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**(i) Department of Personnel and Training**

Shri Dr Syamal Kumar Sarkar,
 Joint Secretary (AT&A),
 Room No.109, North Block,
 New Delhi-110001.

(ii) Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare

Shri M.P. Singh, Director
 Lok Nayak Bhawan, Room No.320, 3rd floor,
 Khan Market, New Delhi-1110003

30. Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

Shri K. Majhi,
 Director
 Room No.207-B
 Shastri Bhawan,
 New Delhi-110001

31. Ministry of Power

Shri Sudhir Kumar,
 Joint Secretary and F.A.
 Room No. 209, 2nd Floor, Shram Shakti
 Bhavan, Rafi Marg,
 New Delhi-110001.

32. Ministry of Railways, (Railway Board)

Shri Sunil Kumar,
 Executive Director (PG), 4th floor,
 Room No. 471, Rail Bhawan,
 New Delhi-110001.

33. Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways**(i) Department of Road Transport and Highways**

Shri Saroj Kumar Dash
 Joint Secretary (Admn, T and PG),
 Room No.516, Parivahan Bhawan, Sansad
 Marg New Delhi-110001

(ii) Department of Shipping

Shri Rakesh Srivastava,
 JS (Port and Admn), Room No. 411, Parivahan
 Bhawan, Sansad Marg
 New Delhi-110001

34. Ministry of Rural Development**(i) Department of Rural Development****(ii) Department of Land Resources****(iii) Department of Drinking water Supply**

Shri J.K. Mohapatra,
 Joint Secretary (Admn), and CVO
 Room No.162, Krishi Bhawan,
 New Delhi-01

35. Ministry of Science and Technology**(i) Department of Science and Technology**

Shri Rakesh Bhartiya
Director (PG),
Technology Bhavan,
New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016

(ii) Department of Biotechnology

Shri N.S. Samant,
JS (Admn. and PG),
Room no.711,
CGO Complex Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110003

(iii) D/o Scientific and Industrial Research

Shri Nikhilesh Jha,
Joint Secretary (PG)
Anusandhan Bhawan, 2 Rafi Marg,
New Delhi-01

36. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Shri B.S. Chhabra Director,
Room No.410, 4th Floor, Sardar Patel Bhavan,
Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001

37. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Dr. Vinod Aggarwal
JS (Admn)
Room No. 633,
'A' Wing, Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001

38. Ministry of Steel

Shri G. Elias,
Joint Secretary,
Room No.289, Udyog Bhavan
New Delhi-110011

39. Ministry of Textiles

Shri J.K. Sharma,
Joint Secretary,
Room No.270 Udyog Bhavan,
New Delhi-110011

40. Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Dr. Bachittar Singh,
Joint Secretary and Director of Grievances,
Room No.741,
'A' Wing, 7th Floor, Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001

41. Ministry of Urban Development

Ms. Aditi S. Ray
Economic Adviser
Room No.219-A, C Wing, Nirman Bhavan,
New Delhi-110011

42. Ministry of Water Resources

Shri S.S.K. Rao
Director, (Coord and PPP), Shram Shakti
Bhavan, Room No.623, 6th floor,
Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001

43. M/o Earth Sciences

Shri M.L. Sharma
Deputy Secretary,
Block-12, CGO Complex, Lodi Road,
New Delhi-110003

44. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Shri Sailash,
Joint Secretary (YA & PG),
Room No.114, C Wing, Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi-110001

45. **Department of Atomic Energy**

Shri V.P. Raja,
Additional Secretary,
Anushakti Bhavan, CSM Marg,
Mumbai-400 001.

46. **Department of Space**

Dr. R.G. Nadadur,
Joint Secretary, 6 Antariksh Bhavan,
New B.E.L. Road,
Bangalore-560094

47. **Planning Commission**

Shri A.N.P. Sinha,
Sr. Advisor (Admn.),
Room No.202,
Yojana Bhavan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi

48. **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**

Shri S.K. Chakrabati, Dy Secretary,
Ground Floor,
Sardar Patel Bhawan, New Delhi.

49. **Ministry of Minority Affairs**

Shri Sujit Datta,
Joint Secretary
Room No. 9th, Jeevan Prakash Building, KG
Marg, new Delhi.

50. **Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs**

Shri D.N. Srivastava,
Joint Secretary,
Room No. 906, 9th Floor
Akbar Bhawan, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi

51. **Reserve Bank of India**

Shri U.S. Pallwal,
Chief General Manager, RBI 4th Floor,
Amar Building,
Sir P.M. Road, Mumbai-400001

52. **Ministry of Tourism**

Shri Umesh Kalra, Director (PG)
Parivahan Bhavan,
Room No.126, Sansad Marg
New Delhi-110001

53. **Comptroller General of India**

Shri P.N. Murthy,
Director General (AEC),
10, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi

54. **New Delhi Municipal Committee**

Shri Parimal Roy, Chairman,
Palika Bhawan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi-110001

55. **Union Public Service Commission**

Dr. A.S. Khan,
Joint Secretary (Admn)
Dholpur House, Sahajahan Road,
New Delhi

56. **Staff Selection Commission**

Ms. Pritabha Mohan,
Member (Administration),
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003

57. **Govt. Of NCT of Delhi**

Shri P.K. Tripathi,
Principal Secretary (AR),

58. **Delhi Police**

Shri Y.S. Dadwal,
Commissioner of Police,
Delhi Police Headquarters,
MSO Building,
IP Eatate, New Delhi-110002

59. **Central Bureau of Investigation,**

Shri K. Salim Ali,
Joint Director (Admn.),
CBI Hqrs., Block 3, CGO Complex,
New Delhi-110003

60. **Delhi Development Authority**

Shri Dinesh Raj, Vice Chairman DDA
Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi

**Rules for disposal of Hazardous
Household waste**

1484. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy for disposal of hazardous household waste in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to recycle the waste from electronic and electrical goods carrying hazardous substances;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for collection, management and disposal/recycling of such hazardous household waste and equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM

RAMESH) : (a) and (b) The Government has notified the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 to regulate the collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid waste. The municipal solid waste includes "commercial and residential wastes generated in municipal or notified areas in either solid or semi-solid form excluding industrial hazardous wastes....".

(c) and (d) Recycling of electronic and electrical wastes is regulated under the Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movements) Rules, 2008. As per these rules, every person desirous of recycling or reprocessing hazardous waste including electronics and electrical waste is required to register with Central Pollution Control Board. Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Management of E-waste have been brought out.

(e) The Government has notified the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000. The salient features of these rules include the following:-

(i) All municipal solid wastes generated in a city or a town shall be managed and handled in accordance with compliance criteria and procedure laid down in the Rules.

(ii) Municipal Authorities are responsible for implementation of the provisions of these rules pertaining to collection, storage, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid wastes.

**Regulating Charges of Private Hospitals,
Clinics/Nursing Homes**

1485. SHRI S. SEMMALAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private hospitals, clinics and nursing homes are charging exorbitant fee from patients for treatment;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to enact any legislation to regulate the treatment charges by these hospitals, clinics and nursing homes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Health is a State subject and regulation of private hospitals including the fees charged by them is the responsibility of the State Government.

Enactment of a legislation for registration and regulation of clinical establishment is a priority for this Government.

[Translation]

Review of National Mental Health Programme

1486. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), about 7-15 percent of children suffer from significant mental disorder in the country;

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

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to review the contents of the National Mental Health Programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to provide better care facilities to the patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) As per a study conducted by the ICMR during 1995-2000 at

Bangalore and Lucknow, the prevalence rate of child and adolescent psychiatric disorders has been estimated at 12-13% in children aged 0-16 years (excluding specific learning disability). The prevalence rate at Bangalore was 12.5% and at Lucknow, 12.1%. The most common illness was nocturnal enuresis. The other common mental disorders were simple phobia, stammering, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and oppositional defiant disorder.

(c) to (e) The Union Government has reviewed the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) for the 11th Five Year Plan. With a view to address the acute shortage of qualified mental health professionals in the country, manpower development schemes have been added under the NMHP for setting up of centres of excellence in mental health and PG training departments in mental health specialities. Funding support is being continued for District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) under implementation in the existing Districts, upgradation of psychiatric wings of Government Medical Colleges/ General Hospitals and modernizations of Government Mental Hospitals on existing norms.

It has also been proposed to re-strategise the NMHP during the 11th Five Year Plan to extend DMHP to more districts in the country with added components of suicide prevention services, work place stress management, life skills training and counselling in schools and colleges. Further, it has been envisaged to include Public Private Partnerships for reaching out and providing services to the mentally ill persons.

[English]

Inflow of Workers from Abroad

1487. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of jobless people are coming from the Gulf due to ongoing economic recession;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government to render help to these jobless people;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal for the declaration of the projects or scheme for providing entrepreneurial loans at a low interest to these people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (e) Indian Missions in the Gulf Countries in Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar have informed that there has been no report of any large scale adverse impact leading to joblessness of Indian workers because of global economic slowdown and recession, though there has been report of some job losses. The Indian Mission in United Arab Emirates (UAE) has reported that accurate figures of return of Indian workers are not available. It is estimated that ranging from 50,000 to 1,50,000 workers have returned to India as a result of the delay in execution of projects due to economic slow down and recession. They have further informed that most of the workers have returned to India on leave without pay with the expectation that they would be able to return to work in the UAE once the situation improves.

Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs and Department of Financial Services) have reported that there is no information of any scheme or project in this regard.

Special Power Zone

1488. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Piparwar in Tandwa block of Chatra was declared as Special Power Zone in 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the present status of the project;

(c) the reasons for delay in the progress of the project;

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the time limit by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of the reply to part (a) of the question.

[Translation]

Production of Medicinal Plants and Herbs

1489. SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of medicinal plants and herbs in the country especially in Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, North-Eastern States and Uttarakhand during the last three years;

(b) the details of the financial assistance provided to promote cultivation of medicinal plants and herbs during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the total export of herbal medicines from these States during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) According to a study conducted by the National Medicinal Plants Boards through the Foundation for Revitalization of local Health Tradition

(FRLHT), Bangalore, the total production of medicinal plants in the country is estimated to be about 3.19 lakh metric tones. Most of the medicinal plants are sourced from the forest and wastelands. In all 960 medicinal plants are actively traded, Out of which 178 species have annual consumption of more than 100 metric tonnes (MTs). There is, however, no information available on the state wise production of medicinal plants in the country.

(b) Information is enclosed at statement-I.

(c) Information regarding the export of herbal medicines from the referred States is not available. However, information regarding export of various medicines / medicaments and medicinal plants / herbs during the last three years is provided in statement-II.

Statement-I

National Medicinal Plants Board

Department of AYUSH

The details of financial assistance provided for cultivation of medicinal Plants

(i) Information regarding financial assistance provided for cultivation under Central Sector Scheme of the National Medicinal Plants Board upto 2007-08 as under:-

| Sl.No. | State/UT | Year | | | | | | Grand Total | |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|
| | | 2005-06 | | 2006-07 | | 2007-08 | | No. of farmers assisted | Amount of assistance provided (Rs. in lakh) |
| | | No. of farmers assisted | Amount of assistance provided (Rs. in lakh) | No. of farmers assisted | Amount of assistance provided (Rs. in lakh) | No. of farmers assisted | Amount of assistance provided (Rs. in lakh) | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 6 | 18.610 | 30 | 46.660 | 15 | 32.809 | 51 | 98.079 |
| 2. | Assam | 2 | 0.910 | 4 | 5.418 | 2 | 0.672 | 8 | 7.000 |
| 3. | Manipur | 56 | 171.170 | 0 | 47.990 | 80 | 63.006 | 136 | 282.166 |
| 4. | Meghalaya | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0.000 | 9 | 5.150 | 3 | 5.150 |
| 5. | Mizoram | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0.000 |
| 6. | Nagaland | 14 | 17.180 | 10 | 14.160 | 23 | 20.386 | 47 | 51.726 |
| 7. | Sikkim | 11 | 14.740 | 52 | 60.200 | 45 | 24.597 | 108 | 99.537 |
| 8. | Tripura | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0.000 | 0 | 0.000 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 53 | 108.050 | 86 | 115.040 | 140 | 128.900 | 279 | 351.990 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------------------|---|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|----------|
| 10. Uttar Pradesh | | 6 | 7.870 | 106 | 116.980 | 15 | 10.380 | 127 | 135.230 |
| 11. Uttarakhand | | 20 | 22.260 | 35 | 57.730 | 0 | 0.000 | 55 | 79.990 |
| Total | | 168 | 360.790 | 323 | 464.178 | 323 | 285.900 | 814 | 1110.868 |

(ii) Information regarding financial assistance provided under "Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Medicinal Plants" implemented by National Medicinal Plants Board, Department of Ayush since 2008-09 is as under:

(Rs. in lacs)

| Sl No. | Name of the State | Funds Sanctioned | Funds Released/ to be released |
|--------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. | Madhya Pradesh | 543.38 | 543.375 |
| 2. | Tamil Nadu | 682.88 | 682.875 |
| 3. | Karnataka | 381.25 | 381.250 |
| 4. | Kerala | 238.67 | 238.670 |
| 5. | Bihar | 108.94 | 108.940 |
| 6. | Manipur | 368.00 | 368.00 |
| 7. | Maharashtra | 239.04 | 239.043 |
| 8. | Assam | 116.99 | 116.990 |
| 9. | Mizoram | 250.11 | 127.440 |
| 10. | Nagaland | 128.57 | 128.57 |
| Total | | 3057.83 | 2935.153 |

(iii) Information regarding financial assistance sanctioned to the states referred to in the question under Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Technology Mission for Integrated Development of

Horticulture in NE states, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand (TMNE) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) of Ministry of Agriculture is as under:-

| States | 2006-07 (Rs. in lacs) | 2007-08 (Rs. in lacs) | 2008-09 (Rs. in lacs) (Apr-Dec) |
|-------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Arunachal Pradesh | 18.85 | 39.00 | 0.00 |
| Assam | 0.00 | 65.00 | 0.00 |
| Manipur | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Meghalaya | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Mizoram | 26.00 | 117.00 | 88.14 |
| Nagaland | 26.00 | 33.80 | 13.00 |
| Sikkim | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Tripura | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2.60 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Uttarakhand | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 0.00 | 75.26 | 45.86 |
| Total | 70.85 | 330.06 | 149.60 |

Statement-II*National Medicinal Plants Board**Department of AYUSH**Export of Ayush products, Medicinal Plants and Herbs from India*

| Category | (Rs. in Crore) | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | 2006-07 (Rs. in Crore) | 2007-08 (Rs. in Crore) | 2008-09 (Apr. 08-Jan. 09 (Rs. in Crore) |
| Phytochemicals | 36.35 | 50.91 | 37.17 |
| Medicants and Medicaments of Ayurvedic System | 321.44 | 259.54 | 299.22 |
| Medicants and Medicaments of Homeopathic System | 3.05 | 2.74 | 3.78 |
| Medicants and Medicaments of Unani System | 1.13 | 0.70 | 3.42 |
| Medicants and Medicaments of Sidha System | 0.42 | 0.02 | 0.12 |
| Medicinal Plants and Herbs | 377.93 | 475.05 | 513.66 |
| Total | 740.32 | 788.96 | 857.37 |

*[English]***Pollution in Cities**

1490. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of pollution in various cities of the country is increasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey to find out the level of pollution in these cities;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of assistance including funds provided by the Union Government to the States and the funds spent therefrom during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, year-wise; and

(f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government against agencies/industries causing pollution in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with the help of concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs)

is monitoring the ambient air quality in the country at 346 stations covering 130 cities and towns.

The monitored data for ambient air for the last 03 years reveals that the levels of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) are within the prescribed air quality norms in residential areas in all the cities and those of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) are within norms in most of the cities with fluctuating trend. However, the levels of Respirable Suspended particulate Matter (RSPM) exceed the prescribed norms in many cities. The RSPM levels exceeded the prescribed norms in residential areas in 86 out of 125 cities monitored during 2008. The trend of RSPM levels in the last 03 years is fluctuating. The annual average of NO_x level in residential areas exceeded the prescribed norms at a total of 08 locations in Kolkata, Howrah and Delhi.

The causes of air pollution are vehicular movement, industrialization, burning of fuel in kitchen, operation of DG sets, etc.

(e) The funds provided by the Central Government

through CPCB for National Air Monitoring Programme to various SPCBs and PCCs during the last 03 years are mentioned at Statement. A provision of Rs. 400 Lakhs has been made for the current financial year, i.e., 2009-10.

(f) The Government has taken various measures to control air pollution, like implementation of notified emission standards for industries and generator sets. Implementation of action plans for air quality management in 16 cities is also being undertaken.

Implementation of emission norms for new and in-use vehicles and fuel quality in accordance with the Road Map of the Auto Fuel Policy, introduction of cleaner fuel in public transport and strengthening of mass transportation are underway.

The CPCB and concerned SPCBs/PCCs undertake inspection of industries to enforce the notified environmental norms and appropriate action including closure directions and prosecution are initiated in cases of violation.

Statement

Details of Payment Released to Various Monitoring Agencies under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)

| Sl. No. | Name of Monitoring Agency | 2006-07 (Amount in Rs.) | 2007-08 (Amount in Rs.) | 2008-09 (Amount in Rs.) |
|---------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh SPCB | 573750 | — | 9335917 |
| 2. | Assam SPCB | 368334 | 2025834 | 7186667 |
| 3. | Bihar SPCB | 394305 | — | — |
| 4. | Chandigarh PCC | 1615000 | 920833 | 1117500 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh ECB | 871250 | — | 682500 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 6. | Gujarat SPCB | 4324583 | 1884167 | 2110000 |
| 7. | Goa SPCB | 1190000 | | 1065833 |
| 8. | Jharkhand SPCB | 1728333 | 2406667 | 1185833 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir SPCB | 1376000 | 1747000 | — |
| 10. | Haryana SPCB | — | 441527 | — |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh SEP and PCB | 2295000 | 3992056 | 3573611 |
| 12. | Karnataka SPCB | 3105000 | 538333 | 1625417 |
| 13. | Kerala SPCB | 1097917 | 942083 | 1922916 |
| 14. | Maharashtra SPCB | 1133333 | 5581667 | 5132583 |
| 15. | Meghalaya SPCB | 524167 | — | 897667 |
| 16. | Manipur SPCB | 225000 | — | — |
| 17. | Madhya Pradesh SPCB | 510000 | — | 2155695 |
| 18. | Mizoram SPCB | — | 425000 | 810000 |
| 19. | Nagaland SPCB | 1586590 | 198333 | 623334 |
| 20. | Orissa SPCB | 1211250 | 892500 | 1867084 |
| 21. | Punjab SPCB | 250000 | 1133333 | 586000 |
| 22. | Puducherry PCC | 255000 | 1020000 | 405000 |
| 23. | Rajasthan SPCB | 2871250 | 3143333 | 2510000 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu SPCB | 1112084 | — | — |
| 25. | Tripura SPCB | 345000 | — | — |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh SPCB | 4016250 | 904306 | 9416445 |
| 27. | Uttarakhand EP and CB | 288055 | 690000 | 368333 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 28. | West Bengal SPCB | — | 1501667 | 1960416 |
| 29. | NEERI | 5986171 | 6324306 | — |
| Total | | 3,92,53,622 | 3,67,12,945 | 5,65,38,751 |

Note: SPCB - State Pollution control Board, SEP and PCB - State Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board, EP and PCB - Environment Protection and Pollution Control Board, PCC - Pollution Control Committee. NEERI - National Environmental Engineering Research Institute.

[Translation]

Indira Lift Irrigation Project in Rajasthan

1491. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for Indira Lift Irrigation Project from the State Government of Rajasthan is pending with the Union Government;

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

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be approved by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) Yes Madam.

(b) On the project proposal of Indira Lift Irrigation Project of Rajasthan, comments of the central appraising agencies on Canal design, cost, Irrigation Planning, Inter-state matters, Financial and Hydrology aspects were sent to the State Government during March 2004 to April 2006. The compliance of the state Government is awaited.

(c) The time taken for completion of appraisal process of the project depends on submission of satisfactory compliance to the observations of the central

appraising agencies and production of environmental and forest clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forest by the State Government.

[English]

Pending Irrigation Projects

1492. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation projects from various States including Tamil Nadu pending with the Union Government for approval/clearance;

(b) the reasons for the pendency;

(c) whether Government proposes to accord approval/clearance to all these pending irrigation projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) to (d) As on 1.7.2009, 101 new major and 85 new medium irrigation projects are under various stages of appraisal with the central appraising agencies. Of these, 37 major and 27 medium irrigation projects have been accepted by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects of the Ministry of Water Resources

subject to certain observations. The state wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

The time taken for clearance of these projects by the central appraising agencies depends on the promptness

with which, state Government provides satisfactory compliances to the observations of the central appraising agencies and provides statutory clearances from Ministry of Environment and Forest and Ministry of Tribal Affairs wherever such clearances are required.

Statement

State wise abstract of New Projects

As on 01.07.2009

| Sl.No. | Name of States | Major | | | Medium | | | Total | | |
|--------|-------------------|-------|---|-------|--------|---|-------|-------|----|-------|
| | | A | B | Total | A | B | Total | A | B | Total |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 3. | Assam | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 4. | Bihar | 5 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 6. | Goa, Daman, Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. | Haryana | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 4 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 2 | 12 |
| 13. | Kerala | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 11 | 2 | 13 | 24 | 3 | 27 | 35 | 5 | 40 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|-------------|---------------|----|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| 16. | Manipur | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 20. | Orissa | 2 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 10 | 2 | 11 | 16 |
| 21. | Punjab | 7 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 3 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 14 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 2 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 25. | Tripura | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 5 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| 27. | Uttarakhand | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Grand Total | | 64 | 37 | 101 | 58 | 27 | 85 | 119 | 64 | 186 |

A-Project under various stages of appraisal

B-Accepted by the advisory committee of MOWR subject to certain observation

Sea Erosion

1493. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether massive sea erosion has taken place in the coastal belt of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the damage caused by the erosion during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposals from these State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(e) the reasons for delay in according clearance to these proposals;

(f) the funds provided to the State Governments to check the sea erosion during the last three years and the current year; and

(g) the time by which the proposals are likely to be cleared by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per the information available from the State, a length of 249.56 km coastline in Karnataka, 478.14 km in Kerala and 641.00 km in Tamil Nadu has been reported effected by sea erosion due to sea waves, winds, tides, storms, mining of beach sand, etc.

(c) and (d) State Governments of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu submitted some project proposals for consideration under "National Coastal Protection Project (NCP) for External Assistance. These have been examined and forwarded to Asian Development Bank (ADB) for consideration. The ADB agreed to provide assistance for Project Preparatory Technical Assistance (PPTA). The state Government of Tamil Nadu has further submitted a proposal for protection of coastline to Central Water Commission which has been examined and certain comments have been communicated for compliance.

(e) The Government of Tamil Nadu has not replied to the comments of Central Water Commission.

(f) Water being a State Subject, anti-sea erosion works are planned and implemented by the State Governments as per their own priority. Some of the maritime States have approached the Union Govt. to provide central assistance. During XI plan period, a state sector scheme, "Flood Management Programme" amounting to Rs. 8,000 Crore under Central Plan has been approved 'in principle' by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 02.11.2007; under which the central assistance would be provided for anti-sea-erosion works also, in critical reaches, which have secured all mandatory clearances.

An amount of Rs. 3.80 Crore was released to the State of Karnataka in Year 2007-08 under the above scheme. Further, Asian Development Bank (ADB) has also considered Project Preparatory Technical Assistance (PPTA) with a grant of \$ 1 million for preparing a Sustainable Coastal Protection and Management Project which includes the States of Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.

(g) No proposal (s) is pending with the Union Government for clearance.

[Translation]

De-recognition of Medical Colleges

1494. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India (MCI) has recommended for derecognition of some of the Medical Colleges in the country including in the State Uttar Pradesh;

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

(c) the adverse impact on health services in the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Medical Council of India undertakes periodic inspection of the medical colleges in respect of recognized courses being run in that college in order to maintain the standard of medical education and health services in the country. The medical colleges which are found not meeting the requirement as per MCI Regulations are recommended to Central Government for withdrawal of recognition under section 19 of Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956. The details of medical colleges, State-wise including Uttar Pradesh, which have been recommended by MCI for withdrawal of recognition to the Central Government are enclosed as Statement. As per the provision of the IMC Act, 1956,

the State Governments, the concerned university and the medical colleges are consulted and given enough opportunity before any decision is taken in the matter.

Statement

Medical Colleges Recommended By MCI for Withdrawal of Recognition to the Central Government

| Sl. No. | Name of the Medical College | Management |
|---------|--|------------|
| 1. | M.G.M. Medical College, Indore, Madhya Pradesh | Government |
| 2. | Shyam Shah Medical College, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh | Government |
| 3. | Gandhi Medical College, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh | Government |
| 4. | Gajra Raja Medical College, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh | Government |
| 5. | Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh | Government |
| 6. | Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Medical College, Bangalore, Karnataka | Private |
| 7. | Dr. Punjabrao alias Bhausaheb Deshmukh Memorial Medical College, Amravati, Maharashtra | Private |
| 8. | B.R.D. Medical College, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh | Government |

[English]

Food Safety Norms for Commonwealth Games, 2010

1495. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to standardize food safety norms for catering establishments in the city in association with the Quality Council of India (QCI) in view of the Commonwealth Games, 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has informed that it proposes to bring together all stakeholders to upgrade the quality and safety of food establishments in the capital through development of safety and hygiene norms, consumer and industry driven food safety systems, training programmes and an auditing mechanism to be plotted by the Quality Council of India. The objective is to improve the safety and hygiene of food establishments in the capital in preparation for the large number of visitors expected during the Commonwealth Games 2010. This programme is essentially being implemented through consumer organizations, industry bodies, schools and colleges and voluntary organizations.

Tamiflu Medicine for Swine Flu

1496.DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tamiflu, an antiviral medicine, is most effective treatment for combating the Swine Flu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has enough stock of the said medicine to face any eventuality;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Private Hospitals are allowed to give treatment to Swine Flu patients; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Oseltamivir is the World Health Organization recommended antiviral medicine to treat Influenza AHINI (earlier referred as Swine flu) cases.

(c) and (d) Yes, There is adequate quantity of Oseltamivir. Ten million capsules are in stock. Another six million is in stock as banking arrangement with pharmaceutical companies.

(e) and (f) Isolation/critical care facilities have been identified in the Cities where international Airports, Ports and International Checkpoints are located for isolation and treatment of patients. In addition, such cases can be treated in any medical college or other tertiary care hospitals having isolation facilities. However, States like Karnataka have identified private hospitals in addition to Govt. facilities.

As of now, there is no community spread of Influenza A HINI in the country and Government hospitals can provide treatment facilities. Decision to involve private sector hospitals for treatment facilities would be taken as the situation evolves.

[Translation]

Encroachment of Indian Territory

1497. SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the neighbouring countries which have encroached upon certain portions of Indian territory and since when these are under their occupation;

(b) whether any area of land has been released by these countries during the last three years and the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Pakistan has handed over a certain area of Indian territory to China;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) Pakistan is in illegal and forcible occupation of approximately 78,000 sq. kms. of Indian territory in the State of Jammu and Kashmir since 1948. Indian territory under the occupation by China in Jammu and Kashmir since 1962 is approximately 38,000 sq. kms.

(b) and (c) No.

(d) to (f) Under the so-called China-Pakistan "Boundary Agreement" of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sq.kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. Government's position is that this so-called "Boundary Agreement" is illegal and invalid. This has been reiterated to the Chinese side in the on-going discussions on the Boundary Questions.

[English]

Allocation of Captive Coal Blocks

1498. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:
SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated captive coal blocks to various public and private sector companies;

(b) if so, the details of the coal blocks allocated to these companies in various sectors during the last three years and in the current year, sector-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether all these companies have commenced production of coal from the allocated blocks;

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

(e) whether the Government has cancelled or proposes to cancel the allotted coal blocks to those

companies who have not started production within the prescribed time period;

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

(g) whether some of the companies have not been able to get the required clearances on account of pending issues such as land acquisition, mining lease grant, forest clearance, approvals from financial institutes, etc.; and

(h) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) The details of captive coal blocks allocated to various public and private sector companies during the last three years and in the current year, sector-wise and year-wise are given below:-

| Company/Sector | No. of coal blocks allocated | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------|
| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 (Upto June, 2009) |
| A. Public Sector Companies | | | | |
| (a) Power | 8 | 13 | 3 | 1 |
| (b) Commercial Mining | 12 | 18 | 1 | — |
| (c) Iron and Steel | — | 1 | 1 | — |
| (d) Cement | — | — | — | — |
| B. Private Companies | | | | |
| (a) Power | 9 | 16 | — | 1.5 |
| (b) Iron and Steel | 5 | 3 | 8.5 | 3 |
| (c) Cement | — | 2 | 3.5 | 1.5 |
| (d) Coal-to-Liquid Project | — | — | 2 | — |
| Grand Total | 34 | 53 | 19 | 7 |

(c) and (d) No, Sir, As per the guidelines, coal production from a coal block should commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of under ground mine, from the date of allocation. If the coal block

is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and preparation of geological report. The blocks allocated are at different stages of development.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply given to parts (c) and (d) above.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. During the review meetings, the State Governments concerned were requested to expedite the process of land acquisition and other statutory clearances.

[Translation]

**Non-functioning units of Rajasthan
Atomic Power Plant**

1499. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH MEENA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first and the second units of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, Rawatbhata in Rajasthan are not functioning;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the time by which power generation by these units is likely to be restarted; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to compensate for the loss of power supply suffered by the States due to closure of the first and the second units of this plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) RAPS-1 was the first Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor which started commercial operation in the year 1973. The unit has been shut down from October, 2004 for techno-economic evaluation on its refurbishment / continuation of operations.

Feeder Replacement work on RAPS-2 (200 MWe) has been completed and the unit is now awaiting fuel loading. The fuel fabrication has also commenced at Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad and the operation of this unit is expected to commence from September, 2009.

(d) Rajasthan has been allocated power from other central generating stations including nuclear power reactors

at RAPP-3 and 4 and NAPS - 1 and 2. In addition, construction works on RAPP - 5 and 6 (2 x 220 MWe) also at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan have been completed and operation is expected to commence in year 2009.

[English]

Protection of Sun Temple

1500. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Sun Temple at Konark is reportedly developing cracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Archaeological Survey of India has conducted any survey of the monument; and

(d) if so, the steps, taken by ASI for proper maintenance and preservation of the monument?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (d) The conservation experts and scientists of the Archaeological Survey of India alongwith the concerned officers of the State Government of Orissa have recently conducted a detailed survey of the Sun Temple, Konark and found that no cracks are developing in the monument. The monument is well conserved and preserved.

Clearance under CRZ and FCA

1501. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for clearance under Coastal Regulation Zone and Forest Conservation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether clearance has been given to these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (e) The details of the proposals received

from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for clearances under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, with their present status is given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 stipulates a time limit of 60 days for conveying the decision on receipt of the complete documents.

Statement

| Sl.No. | Project Name | Date of receipt | Status |
|--------|--------------|-----------------|--------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

For Clearance under Coastal Regulation Zone notification, 1991

- | | | | |
|----|--|----------|---|
| 1. | Construction of Fish Landing Centre in Ekkiyarkypam village, Villupuram distt, by Fisheries Department, Nandanam, Chennai. [F. No. 11-27/2009-IA.III] | 02/03/09 | Considered in the 76th meeting of Expert Appraisal Committee held on 21st-22nd May, 2009. Committee has recommended for issue of clearance. |
| 2. | Tsunami emergency assistance project dredging of Kaduvaiyar river at Nagapatinam port, by Tamil Nadu Maritime Board. [F. No. 11-19/09-IA.III] | 27/02/09 | Considered in the 75th meeting of Expert Appraisal Committee held on 23rd-24th April, 2009. Committee recommended the project subject to submission of additional information. Letter has been issued on 03.06.2009 and information is awaited. |

For clearance under Forest Conservation Act, 1980

- | | | | |
|----|--|----------|--|
| 3. | Diversion of 3 ha. of forest land for formation of new road from Thekkalapatty to Vellampalli over 4 km. In Karungal RF under PMGSY scheme in favour of DRDA, Dharmapuri. | 16.06.09 | Proposal received recently and the same is under scrutiny. |
| 4. | Diversion of 22 ha. of forest land for laying transmission line over a distance of 10 km. Through Kuthiraimozhi Theri RF in favour of Executive Engineer, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Tiruneiveli. | 02.01.09 | To be considered in the next State Advisory Group meeting. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|---|----------|---|
| 5. | Diversion of forest land for iron ore mining in Shervoroys (south) range of Salem forest division in favour of M/s Tamil Nadu Iron Ore Mining Corporation limited (TIMCO) (Iron ore mining) | 11.01.08 | Site Inspection Report is awaited since 02.07.2008. |

**Meeting of Foreign Secretaries of
India and Pakistan**

1502. SHRI MANISH TEWARI:
SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Pakistan intend to resume bilateral talks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Foreign Secretaries of both the countries are likely to meet in the near future; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the issues likely to be addressed during the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) to (d) Subsequent to the Prime Minister's statement in the Parliament on 9th June 2009, Prime Minister met the President of Pakistan on the sideline of the SCO-BRIC summit in Yekaterinburg on 16th June 2009 and conveyed India's expectation that the Government of Pakistan will honour its commitments to take strong and effective action to prevent the use of Pakistani territory for terrorist attacks on India. It was agreed that the two Foreign Secretaries would discuss the primary issue of terrorism before the leaders of India and Pakistan met on the sidelines of the NAM summit at Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt in mid-July 2009.

**Clearance for Irrigation Projects in
Andhra Pradesh**

1503. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the Irrigation Projects from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh are pending for necessary clearance by the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for such pendency, project-wise; and
- (c) the time by which the projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) to (c) The status of new projects under appraisal with Central Appraising Agencies is given in the enclosed Statement.

As soon as satisfactory compliance to the observation of central appraising agencies and required clearances from Ministry of Environment and Forest and Ministry of Tribal Affairs is provided by the State Government, the project is considered for clearance by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects of the Ministry of Water Resources.

Statement

ANDHRA PRADESH

A. PROJECTS UNDER VARIOUS STAGES OF APPRAISAL

As on. 1.7.2009

| Sl. No. | Name of Projects | Major/ Medium | River/ Basin | District Benefited | Date of Receipt | Benefits (Th. Ha.) | Estt. Cost (Cr.) | Status |
|---------|---|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Sri Pada Sagar Lift Irrigation Scheme (Yellampally Barrage) | Major | Godavari | Karimnagar and Medak | 07/07 | 187.00 | 5157.52 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments of Irrigation Planning sent to Project Authorities on 26/5/09. State Government is to send compliances. |
| 2. | Rajiv Sagar Lift Irrigation Scheme (Dummugudam) | Major | Godavari | Khammam | 11/2007 | 81.00 | 1930.70 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on Hydrology and Interstate issues were sent to Project Authorities on 7/12/07 and 7/3/08 respectively. State government is to send compliances. Compliance to the comments on Embankment and Foundation aspects was received on 13/2/09 and 28/1/09 which were examined and further comments sent on 20/3/09 and 1/4/09 respectively. Compliance received on the comments of Foundation aspects only on 15/5/2009. State Govt. has to send remaining compliances. |
| 3. | Vamsadhara Project Stage-II Phase-II* | Major | Vamsadhara | Srikakulam | 02/2007 | 43.41 | 1212.04 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DPR was under various stage of appraisal in CWC. Meanwhile, there was direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court to |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----|--|--------|-----------------------|--|----------|-------|---------|---|
| | | | | | | | | Central Govt. to constitute a Water Dispute Tribunal within a period of six months from 6.2.2009 and to refer to it the dispute relating to the construction of the side Channel Weir and Flood Flow Canal Project at Katragada on the river Vamsadhara by the state of Andhra Pradesh. |
| 4. | Indira Sagar Lift Irrigation Scheme (Dummugudam) | Major | Godavari/ Khammam | Khammam, West Godavari and Krishna District. | 01/08 | 81.00 | 1797.90 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on Hydrology issues were sent to Project Authorities in March 2008. • Comments on interstate issues were sent on 24/2/2009. • Comments of Barrage and Canal Design Directorates sent to project authorities in May 2009. <p>The state Government is required to submit compliances of above.</p> |
| 5. | Janjhavathi Project | Medium | Janjhavathi/ Nagavali | Vizia-nagaram | 01/2002 | 9.970 | 121.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrence of Government of Orissa for submergence in their territory to be provided by the state Government. |
| 6. | Modikuntavagu# | Medium | Godavari | Khammam | 10/06 | 6.600 | 23.66 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments on Hydrology issues were sent to Project Authorities in February 2009. Compliance is to be provided by the state Government. |
| 7. | AP Irrigation Livelihood Improvement Project (JBIC Assistance) Sub Projects* | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Wyra | Major | Krishna | Khammam | March 07 | 9158 | 46.00 | Hydrology to be finalized and abstract of cost to be prepared as per CWC norms. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-------|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------|---------------------------|----------|-------|-------|---|
| II. | Taliperu | Major | Godavari | Khammam | March 07 | 10000 | 13.20 | Hydrology to be finalized and abstract of cost to be prepared as per CWC norms. |
| III. | Sathnala at Kanpa | Major | Godavari | Adilabad | March 07 | 10474 | 48.39 | do |
| IV. | Swarna at Jowly | Major | Godavari | Adilabad | March 07 | 3621 | 14.50 | do |
| V. | Lankasagar | Major | Krishna | Khammam | March 07 | 3175 | 12.00 | do |
| VI. | Malluruvagu | Major | Godavari | Warangal | March 07 | 2023 | 12.00 | do |
| VII. | Dindi | Major | Krishna | Nalgonda, Mahboobnagar | March 07 | 4250 | 15.00 | do |
| VIII. | Gajuladinne | Major | Krishna | Kurnool | March 07 | 12875 | 55.00 | do |
| IX. | Swarnamukhi Anicut System | Major | Swarnamukhi | Chhittor | March 07 | 4130 | 27.55 | do |
| X. | Gandipalem | Major | Manneru | Nellore | March 07 | 6475 | 29.30 | do |
| XI. | Lower Sagileru | Major | Penna | Kadapa | March 07 | 5325 | 19.00 | do |
| XII. | Paleru bitragunda anicut system | Major | Paleru | Prakasam | Feb. 08 | 2962 | 19.00 | do |
| XIII. | Cumbum medium irrigation project | Major | Gundlakamma | Prakasam | Feb. 08 | 2810 | 16.00 | do |
| XIV. | Pakhal medium irrigation project | Major | Krishnaunneru | Warangal | Feb. 08 | 5777 | 45.60 | do |
| XV. | Rallappadu Medium irrigation project | Major | Manneru | | Feb. 09 | 6478 | 34.60 | do |

Note: AP irrigation livelihood improvement project is an ongoing JBIC assisted project. Other component of the JBIC project are (i) 59 new minor irrigation tanks minor irrigation projects, (ii) Formation and capacity building of WUA (iii) Project Consultancy Service etc. Benefits are tentative which include stabilization of existing command also.

*Under PPO, cwc., #Under Field office CWC.

B. PROJECTS ACCEPTED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF MOWR SUBJECT TO OBSERVATIONS

As on 1.7.2009

| Sl. No. | Name of Projects | Major/ Medium | River/ Basin | District Benefitted | Date of Receipt | Benefits (Th.ha.) | Estt. Cost (Cr.) | Status |
|---------|--|------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Pulichintala Irrigation Project | Major | Krishna | Guntur Krishna Prakasham West Godavari | 7/93 | 575 | 506.20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is being put up in the next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Project of the Ministry of Water for considering techno-economic clearance to project |
| 2. | Krishna Delta System Modernisation | Major | Krishna | Guntur Krishna Prakasham West Godavari | 1/96 | 575 | 659.16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is being put up in the next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Project of the Ministry of Water for considering techno-economic clearance to the project |
| 3. | Vamsadhara Project Stage II (Neradi Barrage)* | Major | Vamsadhara | Srikakulam | 5/83 | 53.64 | 275.74 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project was accepted by TAC in its 51st meeting held on 4.12.91 subject to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> clearance of MoEF and MOTA concurrence of Orissa Govt. for submergence in their territory Compliances to above is to be submitted by the State Government. |
| 4. | Pedderu Reservoir# | Medium | E. Flowing/ Sarda | Vishakha- patnam | 9/91 | 6.46 | 26.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted by TAC in November 1993 subject to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> clearance of MOTA and provision of sufficient fund by the State Govt Compliances to above are to be submitted by the State Government. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------|-------|------|-------|---|
| 5. | Yerravagu# | Medium | Yerravagu/ Godavari | Adilabad | 3/99 | 4.46 | 31.28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted by TAC in January 2000 subject to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) review of design flood at the time of construction, (ii) clearance of R&R plan from MOTA (iii) provision of adequate funds. Compliances to above are to be submitted by the State Government. |
| 6. | Suddavagu# | Medium | Suddavagu/ Godavari | Adilabad | 3/99 | 5.66 | 56.48 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted by TAC in its 73rd Meeting held on 31.5.2000 subject to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Review of design flood at the time of construction, (ii) Approval of R&R plan by MOTA and (iii) provision of adequate fund. Compliances to above are to be submitted by the State Government. |
| 7. | Surampalem Res. Scheme# | Medium | Burdakalva/ Godavari | East Godavari | 10/99 | 4.88 | 46.70 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accepted by TAC in January 2000 subject to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Review of design flood at the time of construction (ii) clearance of R&R plan from MOTA- (iii) provision of adequate funds. Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has submitted replies in the last week of September 2006 except clearance of R&R Plan by MOTA. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|----|-------------------------------|--------|-------------------------|------------------|---------|-------|-------|---|
| 8. | Surampalem Phase-II* | Medium | Burdakalva/ Godavari | East Godavari | 7/2000 | 5.12 | 49.50 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accepted by TAC in December 2000 subject to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Provision of adequate funds, (ii) Review of design flood of Surampalem Reservoir and Bhupathipalem Reservoir at the time of construction based on observed data. (iii) Clearance of R&R Plan of Surampalem and Bhupathipalem Reservoir Schemes by MOTA (iv) clearance for diversion of 180 ha. Forest land to Bhupathipalem Reservoir Scheme • Subsequently, it was clarified that no forest land is involved. • State Government is to comply with remaining observations. |
| 9. | Peddagedda Reservoir Project* | Medium | Vegavati/ Nagavali | Vijayanagara | 01/2002 | 4.858 | 32.11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project was considered in the 81st meeting held on 4.8.2003 and was found acceptable subject to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Concurrence of State Finance Department (ii) Forest clearance from MOEF (iii) Approval of R&R Plan by MOTA and (iv) Review of design flood at the time of construction. • State Government is to comply with the observations. |

*under PPO;

under Field office of CWC.

Diphtheria and Measles

1504. SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children died due to Diphtheria and Measles in the country during the last three years and in the current year, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the number of children vaccinated against these diseases during the said period, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The details are given at Statement-I.

(b) The details are given at Statement-II.

Statement-I

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | DPT Death cases | | | | Measles Death cases | | | |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------|------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 (Prov.) | 2009 (Prov.) | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 (Prov.) | 2009 (Prov.) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | — | 0 | 0 | 10 | — | 0 | 2 |
| 3. | Assam | — | 0 | 0 | — | — | 50 | 78 | — |
| 4. | Bihar | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6. | Goa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 8 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. | Haryana | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. | Jammu Div | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Kashmir Div | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 13. | Kerala | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------|--------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 3 | 0 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16. | Manipur | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. | Orissa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 33 | 0 |
| 21. | Punjab | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 11 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 25. | Tripura | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. | Uttarakhand | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 0 | 1 | 0 | — | 2 | 2 | 2 | — |
| 28. | West Bengal | 30 | 33 | 24 | 6 | 45 | 18 | 55 | 7 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 0 | 0 | — | — | 0 | 0 | — | — |
| 31. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32. | Daman and Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33. | Delhi | 0 | 0 | 36 | 7 | 13 | 0 | 13 | 9 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 35. | Puducherry | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | | 66 | 69 | 69 | 19 | 96 | 96 | 190 | 21 |

Notes: —/NR : Not Reported/Not received

Source : Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Statement-II

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | D.P.T. Immunisation for Children (III Dose) | | | | Measles | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| | | 2005-06 Achievement | 2006-07 Achievement | 2007-08 Achievement | 2008-09* Upto Dec'08 Achievement | 2005-06 Achievement | 2006-07 Achievement | 2007-08* Achievement | 2008-09* Upto Dec'08 Achievement |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| I. Major States | | | | | | | | | |
| (Population > 20 million) | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1,543,966 | 1,505,259 | 1,564,191 | 1,127,067 | 1,524,712 | 1,471,194 | 1,506,146 | 1,022,080 |
| 2. | Assam | 581,214 | 621,956 | 637,580 | 411,348 | 570,715 | 612,258 | 572,546 | 379,154 |
| 3. | Bihar | 1,446,056 | 2,028,358 | 1,277,302 | 659,565 | 1,329,340 | 1,817,749 | 1,171,508 | 842,827 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 626,905 | 605,886 | 587,434 | 362,836 | 616,913 | 601,794 | 588,513 | 413,326 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 1,213,337 | 1,211,932 | 1,211,932 | 815,110 | 1,169,733 | 1,170,354 | 1,170,354 | 826,107 |
| 6. | Haryana | 548,404 | 570,643 | 559,352 | 333,777 | 529,636 | 543,969 | 552,045 | 399,746 |
| 7. | Jharkhand | 677,576 | 733,827 | 682,444 | 417,592 | 734,159 | 695,677 | 653,839 | 441,129 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 1,094,827 | 1,092,494 | 1,082,879 | 764,111 | 1,036,885 | 1,035,473 | 1,040,265 | 767,779 |
| 9. | Kerala | 536,424 | 526,300 | 504,352 | 344,409 | 542,018 | 500,046 | 476,608 | 358,851 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 1,950,408 | 1,897,493 | 1,849,200 | 1,267,642 | 1,942,122 | 1,878,896 | 1,835,597 | 1,344,763 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 2,079,367 | 1,984,169 | 1,983,696 | 1,269,794 | 1,984,167 | 1,891,520 | 1,873,507 | 1,211,070 |
| 12. | Orissa | 850,624 | 817,910 | 799,418 | 432,496 | 840,283 | 788,074 | 781,868 | 431,280 |
| 13. | Punjab | 531,806 | 536,117 | 498,503 | 277,429 | 510,755 | 503,062 | 463,316 | 327,593 |
| 14. | Rajasthan | 1,752,430 | 1,685,976 | 1,711,203 | 1,205,435 | 1,693,619 | 1,650,528 | 1,665,288 | 1,084,460 |
| 15. | Tamil Nadu | 1,129,310 | 1,130,245 | 1,140,122 | 814,214 | 1,131,304 | 1,120,967 | 1,132,719 | 704,226 |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | 5,320,615 | 5,457,184 | 5,317,827 | 3,127,816 | 5,180,650 | 5,103,901 | 5,243,913 | 3,328,173 |
| 17. | West Bengal | 1,621,658 | 1,588,878 | 1,525,676 | 714,877 | 1,520,463 | 1,522,628 | 1,505,096 | 1,049,253 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| II. Smaller States | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 12,676 | 20,778 | 13,193 | 10,609 | 22,247 | 19,373 | 11,731 | 12,519 |
| 2. | Delhi | 251,804 | 261,358 | 237,988 | 138,659 | 232,772 | 239,676 | 225,722 | 161,954 |
| 3. | Goa | 25,821 | 24,238 | 23,768 | 18,057 | 23,543 | 23,018 | 23,355 | 16,793 |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 131,548 | 129,173 | 127,471 | 93,795 | 128,308 | 126,284 | 125,056 | 88,866 |
| 5. | Jammu and Kashmir | 284,000 | 296,255 | 299,246 | 194,627 | 277,982 | 285,987 | 275,979 | 183,193 |
| 6. | Manipur | 35,599 | 48,064 | 21,436 | 18,986 | 36,436 | 47,360 | 25,510 | 19,932 |
| 7. | Meghalaya | 48,640 | 65,886 | 70,565 | 43,424 | 46,991 | 58,883 | 50,988 | 37,729 |
| 8. | Mizoram | 19,104 | 21,897 | 18,963 | 14,168 | 18,087 | 18,813 | 17,970 | 13,996 |
| 9. | Nagaland | 22,384 | 24,615 | 26,917 | 15,117 | 20,291 | 22,377 | 24,153 | 12,452 |
| 10. | Sikkim | 11,427 | 11,427 | 10,735 | 7,229 | 10,496 | 10,496 | 10,917 | 7,754 |
| 11. | Tripura | 62,168 | 59,216 | 51,336 | 38,816 | 58,500 | 59,841 | 51,292 | 38,593 |
| 12. | Uttarakhand | 231,430 | 222,690 | 218,270 | 136,497 | 218,428 | 211,311 | 201,757 | 142,477 |
| III. Union Territories | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 6,705 | 5,745 | 6,117 | 4,164 | 5,555 | 5,968 | 5,557 | 3,710 |
| 2. | Chandigarh | 15,987 | 15,858 | 16,383 | 9,772 | 16,731 | 15,618 | 16,859 | 10,697 |
| 3. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 7,625 | 7,778 | 7,277 | 5,234 | 6,950 | 7,099 | 7,153 | 5,740 |
| 4. | Daman and Diu | 2,878 | 3,589 | 3,356 | 1,916 | 3,351 | 3,391 | 2,955 | 2,113 |
| 5. | Lakshadweep | 1,622 | 1,033 | 1,033 | 408 | 910 | 1,092 | 1,092 | 387 |
| 6. | Puducherry | 16,185 | 16,352 | 16,459 | 10,751 | 15,934 | 16,328 | 16,209 | 10,752 |
| IV. Other Agencies | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | M/O Defence | 24,680 | 25,318 | 56,979 | 37,529 | 23,828 | 14,615 | 28,749 | 21,648 |
| 2. | M/O Railway | 24,268 | 22,903 | 30,916 | 17,164 | 18,257 | 16,895 | 16,198 | 11,228 |
| All India | | 24,741,478 | 25,278,800 | 24,191,518 | 15,162,440 | 24,043,072 | 24,112,515 | 23,372,329 | 15,734,349 |

*Provisional Figures

Source: Statistics Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Use of Asbestos Cemented Pipes in
Drinking Water Projects**

1505. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asbestos Cemented (AC) pipes used for Drinking water projects is a health hazard;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) From the available literature, there does not appear to be any health hazard from asbestos cemented pipes used for drinking water.

(c) Does not arise.

New Coal Deposits

1506. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether new coal deposits have been found during the last three years and in the current year;

(b) if so, the details of deposits found, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has Drawn up any action plan to explore coal from these new coal deposits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Continuous exploration activities in the country have established

additional coal resources in many coalfields. During the period January, 2006 to March, 2009, the inventory of Geological Resources of Indian coal has increased by 13,909 million tonnes due to establishment of additional coal resources in the country.

(b) The state-wise break-up of 13,909 million tonnes of additional coal resources is given as under:

| State | Additional Coal Resource Estimated (in million tonnes) |
|----------------|---|
| West Bengal | 512 |
| Jharkhand | 2814 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 1223 |
| Chhattisgarh | 3041 |
| Maharashtra | 1078 |
| Orissa | 3228 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 1781 |
| Assam | 12 |
| Meghalaya | 117 |
| Nagaland | 2 |
| Sikkim | 101 |
| Total | 13909 |

(c) and (d) New coal resources are generally estimated through Regional Exploration. This needs to be followed by Detailed Exploration in potential areas for mine planning studies leading to production of coal by formulation of Project Reports. Coal India Limited/ allocates of Captive Mining Blocks have XI Plan schedule of production from some of the blocks whereas more blocks would be taken up in subsequent plan period according to suitability for production.

Mining in Forest Areas

1507. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining activities are increasing in the forest areas in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government is considering any amendment in the Forest Rights Act to give power to environmentalist to prevent mining in forest areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent mining activities in forest areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) So far, 1631 projects pertaining to mining of various ferrous and non-ferrous minerals have been accorded approval by the Central Government involving approximately 1,22,157 ha of forest land since promulgation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The forest areas involved in mining had varied from year to year depending upon the number of proposals received and types of mineral resources mined as per the developmental needs of the Country.

(c) to (e) The diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes is regulated under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The provisions of the Act and the mechanism established thereunder permits diversion of forest land only when no alternatives were available. Further, the land use for different purposes is optimized. As a result we could achieve large saving of forest areas from getting diverted (from 1.5 lakh ha per annum during pre-FC Act (25.10.1980) period to about 31,000 ha per annum at present).

Himalayan Cultural Heritages

1508. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Himalayan regions are a major attraction for cultural and religious tourism;

(b) if so, whether special measures are being undertaken for the development of Himalayan cultural heritage;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the hill States of the Himalayan regions are consulted in this regard;

(e) if so, the reactions of the States thereto; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The monuments/sites protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in the Himalayan regions are well maintained, conserved and preserved. The ASI has provided tourist amenities like drinking water, toilets, signages, information brochures, wheel chairs, approach pathways, interpretation centres, etc. at these protected monuments in conjunction and consultation with the concerned State Governments. These amenities are reviewed and upgraded from time to time and as per needs.

[Translation]

Gross Domestic Product

1509. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of all sectors including Agricultural Sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the year 2008-09, Sector-wise;

(b) whether the Government is likely to achieve the estimated GDP during the year;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the GDP for the last three years and the current year; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) The statement giving percentage of all sectors including Agricultural sector in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the year 2008-09, Sector-wise is as follows:

Sector Wise Percentage Distribution In GDP at Current Prices (%)

| Industry | 2008-09 (RE) |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing | 17.5 |
| 2. Mining and quarrying | 2.5 |
| 3. Manufacturing | 15.8 |
| 4. Electricity, Gas and Water Supply | 1.6 |
| 5. Construction | 8.9 |
| 6. Trade, Hotels, Transport and Communication | 25.3 |
| 7. Financing, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services | 14.0 |
| 8. Community, Social and Personal Service | 14.4 |
| 9. GDP at Factor Cost | 100.0 |

Note : RE—Revised Estimate

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission does not set annual Targets for growth in GDP. The GDP growth targets are given for the plan period as a whole. As per the Planning Commission, the average annual growth target in GDP during Tenth and Eleventh Five Year Plan is 7.9% and 9.0% respectively. The achieved growth in GDP for the last four years i.e. from 2005-06 to 2008-09 is as follows:

Growth Rate of GDP at Factor Cost at Constant (1999-2000) Prices

| Year | % Change Over Previous Year |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) | |
| 2005-06 | 9.5 |
| 2006-07 | 9.7 |
| 2. Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) | |
| 2007-08 | 9.0 |
| 2008-09 (RE) | 6.7 |

(d) As per Economic Survey 2008-09, the global financial meltdown and consequent economic recession in developed economies have been a major factor in India's economic slowdown. Government and RBI have taken both fiscal and monetary measures in order to restore the growth momentum, including measures for providing impetus to manufacturing sector. The fiscal measures, inter-alia, include increase in plan expenditure, reduction in indirect taxes, etc. The monetary and credit related measures taken by the RBI relate to provisioning of adequate liquidity and credit delivery, reduction in cash reserve and statutory liquidity ratios (CRR and SLR) for banks, etc. These measures have been supplemented with sector specific credit measures for exports, housing, micro and small enterprises and infrastructure.

Decline in Sex Ratio

1510. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the boy-girl ratio is decreasing in various States in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The child sex ratio for the age group of 0-6 years in 2001 is 927 girls per thousand boys against 945 recorded in 1991 Census State/UTs wise Sex ratio and Child Sex ratio as per 1991 and 2001 Census is enclosed as Statement.

The major reasons for declining sex ratios include Sex Selection followed by Female Foeticide, Female Infanticide, Early Childhood neglect the girl child, Son Preference, Dowry, Insecurity and Male bias in Enumeration of Population.

(c) The steps taken by the Government include inter-alia the Constitution of a National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) for detecting violation of the Act and conducting of raids, Monitoring through the Central Supervisory Board under the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms, Sensitizing stake holders including the Judiciary and public prosecutors, holding of workshops/seminars and community awareness through Auxilliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), as well as facility for on-line Complaint registration facility and online filling of "Form F" by clinics.

Statement

State/UT-wise Sex ratio and Child Sex Ratio during 1991 and 2001

| India and State/ Union Territory*/ District | Sex ratio | | Child Sex Ratio | |
|---|-----------|------|-----------------|------|
| | 1991 | 2001 | 1991 | 2001 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| INDIA | 927 | 933 | 945 | 927 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 896 | 892 | NA | 941 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 976 | 968 | 951 | 896 |
| Punjab | 882 | 876 | 875 | 798 |
| Chandigarh* | 790 | 777 | 899 | 845 |
| Uttarakhand | 936 | 962 | 948 | 908 |
| Haryana | 865 | 861 | 879 | 819 |
| Delhi* | 827 | 821 | 915 | 868 |
| Rajasthan | 910 | 921 | 916 | 909 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 876 | 898 | 927 | 916 |
| Bihar | 907 | 919 | 953 | 942 |
| Sikkim | 878 | 875 | 965 | 963 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 859 | 893 | 982 | 964 |
| Nagaland | 886 | 900 | 993 | 964 |
| Manipur | 958 | 978 | 974 | 957 |
| Mizoram | 921 | 935 | 969 | 964 |
| Tripura | 945 | 948 | 967 | 966 |
| Meghalaya | 955 | 972 | 986 | 973 |
| Assam | 923 | 935 | 975 | 965 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|------|-----|
| West Bengal | 917 | 934 | 967 | 960 |
| Jharkhand | 922 | 941 | 979 | 965 |
| Orissa | 971 | 972 | 967 | 953 |
| Chhattisgarh | 985 | 989 | 974 | 975 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 912 | 919 | 941 | 932 |
| Gujarat | 934 | 920 | 928 | 883 |
| Daman and Diu* | 969 | 710 | 958 | 926 |
| Dadra and Nagar* Haveli | 952 | 812 | 1013 | 979 |
| Maharashtra | 934 | 922 | 946 | 913 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 972 | 978 | 975 | 961 |
| Karnataka | 960 | 965 | 960 | 946 |
| Goa | 967 | 961 | 964 | 938 |
| Lakshadweep* | 943 | 948 | 941 | 959 |
| Kerala | 1,036 | 1,085 | 958 | 960 |
| Tamil Nadu | 974 | 987 | 948 | 942 |
| Puducherry* | 979 | 1,001 | 963 | 967 |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands* | 818 | 846 | 973 | 957 |

Source: Census 1991 and 2001, O/O Registrar General of India

*Union Territory

Save the Girl Child

1511. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the efforts made by the Union Government to control female foeticide in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has conducted any awareness programme especially for 'Beti Bachao Abhiyan' to check the female foeticide;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to start said programme in the tribal dominated and neglected areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The efforts made by the Union Government include the Constitution of a National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) for detecting violation of the Act and conducting of raids, Monitoring through the Central Supervisory Board under the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms, Sensitizing stake holders including the Judiciary and public prosecutors, holding of workshops/seminars and community awareness through Auxilliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), as well as facility for on-line complaint registration facility and online filling of "Form F" by clinics.

(b) to (e) A National Level meeting on 'Save the Girl Child' held on 28.4.2008 at New Delhi inaugurated Hon'ble Prime Minister, attended by the senior Health Officers from the Central and State/UT Governments and representatives of organizations active in the area of Child welfare.

All the State/UT Governments have been advise to replicate such a meeting in their respective States/UTs.

[English]

**Emergency Health Transportation
Facilities**

Statement**2006-07**

(Amount in Lakhs)

1512. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether delivery of healthcare services to the rural poor is affected to a large extent for want of dependable transportation facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the funds allocated under the National Rural Health Mission for undertaking various emergency health transportation facilities during each of the last three years and in the current year, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to enhance rural emergency health transportation services in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State-wise details showing funds approved under Mission Flexible Pool under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM] during the year 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 for Ambulance Services is enclosed as Statement.

(d) Under NRHM funds are released to State/UT Governments for ambulance services and other emergency response mechanism. In some case, State Governments have preferred to operate ambulance services run by their own facilities. In other cases, the State Governments have chosen to provide emergency response services through Public Private Partnership route. In both the cases, funds have been released to State Governments as per their requests under the NRHM.

| S.No. | State/UT | Amount Approved |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Madhya Pradesh | 588.00 |
| 2. | Rajasthan | 500.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 750.00 |
| 4. | Arunachal Pradesh | 240.00 |
| 5. | Manipur | 54.00 |
| 6. | Nagaland | 35.00 |
| 7. | Meghalaya | 90.00 |
| 8. | Andhra Pradesh | 1000.00 |
| Total | | 3257.00 |

2007-08

| S.No. | State/UT | Amount Approved |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Bihar | 1000.00 |
| 2. | Madhya Pradesh | 1040.00 |
| 3. | Uttar Pradesh | 4740.00 |
| 4. | Jammu and Kashmir | 400.00 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 319.00 |
| 6. | Goa | 48.00 |
| 7. | Assam | 1000.00 |
| 8. | Sikkim | 72.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|---------|---------|
| 9. | Mizoram | 90.00 |
| 10. | Tripura | 97.08 |
| Total | | 8806.24 |

2008-09

(Amount in Lakhs)

| S.No. | State/UT | Amount Approved |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Bihar | 8.40 |
| 2. | Jammu and Kashmir | 1000.00 |
| 3. | Madhya Pradesh | 3826.34 |
| 4. | Rajasthan | 2500.00 |
| 5. | Uttar Pradesh | 1843.81 |
| 6. | Uttarakhand | 1000.00 |
| 7. | Andhra Pradesh | 10000.00 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 4006.24 |
| 9. | Karnataka | 679.00 |
| 10. | Kerala | 1147.67 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 610.50 |
| 12. | Tamil Nadu | 954.97 |
| 13. | Assam | 5045.00 |
| 14. | Arunachal Pradesh | 90.00 |
| 15. | Manipur | 61.20 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 82.20 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------|---------------|----------|
| 17. | Mizoram | 182.40 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 119.00 |
| 19. | Sikkim | 201.01 |
| 20. | Tripura | 97.80 |
| 21. | Daman and Diu | 48.23 |
| Total | | 33503.77 |

2009-10

| Sl. No. | State/UT | Amount Approved (Rs. in Lakh) |
|---------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 6500.00 |
| 2. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 50.00 |
| 3. | Bihar | 40.32 |
| 4. | Daman and Diu | 10.88 |
| 5. | Goa | 420.00 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 2050.00 |
| 7. | Haryana | 580.00 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 1800.00 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 50.00 |
| 10. | Punjab | 2561.00 |
| 11. | Rajasthan | 2000.00 |
| 12. | Tamil Nadu | 3319.69 |
| 13. | Uttar Pradesh | 7309.45 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|-------------------|---------|
| 14. | Uttarakhand | 1080.00 |
| 15. | Kerala | 1094.00 |
| 16. | Maharashtra | 13.77 |
| 17. | Assam | 1972.00 |
| 18. | Arunachal Pradesh | 158.00 |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 360.00 |
| 20. | Sikkim | 16.92 |
| 21. | Tripura | 2400.00 |

Nationalisation of Rivers

1513. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to nationalize rivers to solve the inter-State disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the rivers identified for the purpose and the present status of the aforesaid proposal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) There is no proposal to nationalize rivers to solve the inter-State disputes. The Government has already enacted Inter State Water Disputes Act in 1956 for adjudication of water disputes and amended the same in 2002 for time bound adjudication of the disputes and the Act is now called Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of above.

Indigenous Manufacture of Medical Equipment

1514. SHRI P.C. GADDIGODAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of equipment used in medical field are being imported in the country resulting in high cost of such equipments to the patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance/support is rendered/proposed to be rendered by the Government to encourage the indigenous manufacture of such equipments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Strict Enforcement of PFA Act, 1954

1515. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing provision or the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 are inadequate and unable to prevent food adulteration in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering for strict enforcement of the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 has been amended from time to time to plug the loopholes, to make punishment more stringent and to empower consumers and voluntary organization for playing more effective role in its implementation.

The enforcement of PFA Act and Rules is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of States/U.Ts. The State/U.Ts. Governments are advised from time to time to check the adulteration and keep a strict vigil to enforce the provisions of PFA Act and Rules. In case of samples of food found adulterated or not conforming to the standards, action is taken under the provisions of PFA Act, 1954, which stipulate imprisonment of six months to life imprisonment depending upon the gravity of offence awarded by the courts. A new Act, namely, the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 has also been enacted to replace various food laws, including the PFA Act 1954 with more comprehensive provisions by consolidating them and for establishing the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying 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.

[Translation]

Attacks on Indians

1516. SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the present status of mutual relations between India and Australia in view of the recent racial attacks on Indians living in Australia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : The Australian Government has strongly condemned the recent racial attacks on Indian students and taken several steps aimed at ensuring the safety and security of Indians in Australia, both at federal and state level. As such, bilateral relations between India and Australia remain cordial and friendly, and continue to expand in diverse fields for mutual benefit.

[English]

Conference on Female Foeticide

1517. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any national level conference regarding eradication of female foeticide had been organized by the Indian Medical Association, UNICEF and National Commission for Women recently;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the outcome thereof;

(c) the effective steps taken, by the Government to implement the decisions taken in the said Conference; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) As per information received from Indian Medical Association, UNICEF and National Commission for Women no such conference has been organized recently.

U.S.-India Anti-Terrorist Strategies

1518. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the USA has expressed India to de-escalate tension on borders with Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) whether India has decided to adopt US anti-terrorist strategies to combat terrorism;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the assistance being provided by the USA to India in anti-terrorist strategies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) The IS President speaking to the Press on 19th June, 2009 said -*"I believe that there are opportunities that Pakistan and India can be in a dialogue together and over time to try to reduce tensions and find areas of common interest."* It has been India's long-standing policy that India-Pakistan relations are a bilateral concern of both countries themselves.

- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) India and the US have a long standing dialogue on combating terrorism, in which a wide array of issues in the field of counter-terrorism are discussed.

Toxic Waste from Aluminium Refineries in Orissa

1519. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether seepage of toxic waste from the aluminium refinery in Orissa has come to the notice of the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) According to the Orissa State Pollution Control Board, seepage/leakage of alkaline effluent from various installations of M/s Vedanta Aluminum Ltd. was observed flowing into the Vamsadhara river. The State Board has issued directions under Section 33 (a) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1947 and under Section 31 (a) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 to M/s Vedanta Aluminum Ltd. stipulating specific action points for time bound compliance. Corrective measures have since been taken by the industry resulting in significant improvement in water quality of Vamsadhara river. Presently the water quality parameters are well within the prescribed standards.

Health Facilities in Rural Areas

1520. SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been complaints from the people in rural areas that health related initiatives do not reach them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) 'Health' being a 'State' subject, the public health facilities are under the administrative control of respective State/UT Governments. However, as and when complaints are received, those are forwarded to State Governments for necessary remedial action.

Government has launched National Rural Health Mission [NRHM] in year 2005, to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to rural population, especially to the vulnerable sections. Financial assistance is given to the State/UTs for establishment of new Health Centres as well as for upgradation of existing Health Centres. The State/UT Governments assess their requirement and reflect the same in their Annual Programme Implementation Plan [PIP] under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM]. Thereafter, funds are released to them as per the approval of National Programme Coordination Committee [NPCC].

Selection of Backward Districts

1521. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 100 districts have been selected all over the country as the most backward districts;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has been conducting a survey for selecting more districts falling under this category;

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

(e) the time and manner in which the districts so identified are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) 250 districts have been identified for coverage under the Districts Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund.

(b) The list of districts includes five districts of Karnataka. The list is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Statement

List of 250 Districts covered under the Districts Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund.

Andhra Pradesh

1. Adilabad
2. Anantapur
3. Chittoor
4. Cuddapas
5. Karimnagar
6. Khammam
7. Mahbubnagar
8. Medak
9. Nalgonda
10. Nizamabad
11. Rangareddi
12. Vizianagaram
13. Warangal

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Upper Subansiri

Assam

1. Barpeta
2. Bongaigaon
3. Cachar
4. Dhemaji

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 5. Goalpara | 19. Madhubani |
| 6. Hailakandi | 20. Munger |
| 7. Karbi Anglong | 21. Muzaffarpur |
| 8. Kokrajhar | 22. Nalanda |
| 9. Lakhimpur | 23. Nawada |
| 10. Marigaon | 24. Pashchim Champaran |
| 11. North Cachar Hills | 25. Patna |

Bihar

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Araria | 26. Purbi Champaran |
| 2. Aurangabad | 27. Purnia |
| 3. Banka | 28. Rohtas |
| 4. Begusarai | 29. Saharsa |
| 5. Bhagalpur | 30. Samastipur |
| 6. Bhojpur | 31. Saran |
| 7. Buxar | 32. Sheikhpura |
| 8. Darbhanga | 33. Sheohar |
| 9. Gaya | 34. Sitamarhi |
| 10. Gopalganj | 35. Supaul |
| 11. Jamui | 36. Vaishali |

Chhattisgarh

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 12. Jehanabad | 1. Bastar |
| 13. Kaimur (Bhabua) | 2. Bilaspur |
| 14. Katihar | 3. Dantewada |
| 15. Khagaria | 4. Dhamtari |
| 16. Kishanganj | 5. Jashpur |
| 17. Lakhisarai | 6. Kabirdham |
| 18. Madhepura | 7. Kanker |

8. Korba
9. Korea
10. Mahasamund
11. Raigarh
12. Rajnandgaon
13. Surguja

Gujarat

1. Banas Kantha
2. Dahod
3. Dang
4. Narmada
5. Panch Mahals
6. Sabar Kantha

Haryana

1. Mahendragarh
2. Sirsa

Himachal Pradesh

1. Chamba
2. Sirmaur

Jammu and Kashmir

1. Doda
2. Kupwara
3. Poonch

Jharkhand

1. Bokaro
2. Chatra

3. Deoghar
4. Dhanbad
5. Dumka
6. Garhwa
7. Giridih
8. Godda
9. Gumla
10. Hazaribagh
11. Jamtara
12. Koderma
13. Latehar
14. Lohardaga
15. Pakur
16. Palamu
17. Ranchi
18. Sahebganj
19. Saraikela Kharsawan
20. Simdega
21. West Singhbhum

Karnataka

1. Bidar
2. Chitradurga
3. Davangere
4. Gulbarga
5. Raichur

Kerala

1. Palakkad
2. Wayanad

Madhya Pradesh

1. Balaghat
2. Barwani
3. Betul
4. Chhatarpur
5. Damoh
6. Dhar
7. Dindori
8. Guna
9. Jhabua
10. Katni
11. Khandwa
12. Khargone
13. Mandla
14. Panna
15. Rajgarh
16. Rewa
17. Satna
18. Seoni
19. Shahdol
20. Sheopur
21. Shivpuri
22. Sidhi

23. Tikamgarh
24. Umaria

Maharashtra

1. Ahmednagar
2. Amravati
3. Aurangabad
4. Bhandara
5. Chandrapur
6. Dhule
7. Gadchiroli
8. Gondia
9. Hingoli
10. Nanded
11. Nandurbar
12. Yavatmal

Manipur

1. Chandel
2. Churachandpur
3. Tamenglong

Meghalaya

1. RI Bhoi
2. South Garo Hills
3. West Garo Hills

Mizoram

1. Lawngtlai

2. Saiha

Nagaland

1. Mon

2. Tuensang

3. Wokha

Orissa

1. Balangir

2. Boudh

3. Deogarh

4. Dhenkanal

5. Gajapati

6. Ganjam

7. Jharsuguda

8. Kalahandi

9. Kandhamal

10. Keonjhar

11. Koraput

12. Malkangiri

13. Mayurbhanj

14. Nabarangpur

15. Nuapada

16. Rayagada

17. Sambalpur

18. Sonapur

19. Sundargarh

Punjab

1. Hoshiarpur

Rajasthan

1. Banswara

2. Barmer

3. Chittorgarh

4. Dungarpur

5. Jaisalmer

6. Jalore

7. Jhalawar

8. Karauli

9. Sawai Madhopur

10. Sirohi

11. Tonk

12. Udaipur

Sikkim

1. North District

Tamil Nadu

1. Cuddalore

2. Dindigul

3. Nagapattinam

4. Sivaganga

5. Tiruvannamalai

6. Villupuram

Tripura

1. Dhalai

Uttar Pradesh

1. Ambedkar Nagar
2. Azamgarh
3. Bahraich
4. Balrampur
5. Banda
6. Barabanki
7. Basti
8. Budaun
9. Chandauli
10. Chitrakoot
11. Etah
12. Farrukhabad
13. Fatehpur
14. Gonda
15. Gorakhpur
16. Hamirpur
17. Hardoi
18. Jalaun
19. Jaunpur
20. Kaushambi
21. Kheri
22. Kushi Nagar
23. Laltipur
24. Maharajganj
25. Mahoba
26. Mirzapur
27. Pratapgarh
28. Rae Bareli
29. Sant Kabeer Nagar
30. Shravasti
31. Siddharth Nagar
32. Sitapur
33. Sonbhadra
34. Unnao

Uttarakhand

1. Chamoli
2. Champawat
3. Tehri Garhwal

West Bengal

1. 24 Paraganas South
2. Bankura
3. Birbhum
4. Dinajpur Dakshin
5. Dinajpur Uttar
6. Jalpaiguri
7. Maldah
8. Medinipur -East
9. Medinipur West
10. Murshidabad
11. Purulia

World Bank Assistance to Water Sector

1522. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the World Bank has conducted any study in the water sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the findings of the report about India;
- (c) whether the World Bank has agreed to lend financial help to India for reforms in water sector; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) and (b) The World Bank has brought about a report titled, "India's water economy: bracing for a turbulent future" in January 2006. The report, in brief, indicates that India faces a turbulent water future and the current water

development and management system is not sustainable. The report examines the evolution of the management of India's waters, describes the achievements of the past, and the looming set of challenges. The report suggests what changes should be considered and how to manage the transition from the ways of the past to the ways of the future in a principled but pragmatic manner. This report focuses on two basic issues—the major water-related challenges facing India, and the critical measures required to address them. It calls for a reinvigorated set of public water institutions to sustain water development and management in India. The study examines the evolution of water management in India, describes the achievements of the past, analyses the challenges ahead, and suggests ways of evolving a sustainable water management system.

(c) and (d) The World Bank is providing financial assistance to 10 projects in water resources sector, the details of which are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Externally aided water resources project through World Bank

| S. No. | State | Name of Projects | Date of Agreement/ Completion | Amount of Assistance (US Million) Dollar) | Cumulative Disbursement upto 31.05.2009 (US Million Dollar) |
|--------|----------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Madhya Pradesh | Madhya Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project LN 4750-IN | <u>30.11.2004</u> 31.3.2011 | US\$ 394.020 | US\$ 84.68 |
| 2. | Rajasthan | Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr.3603-IN | <u>15.3.2002</u> 31.3.2010 | US\$ 119.0 | US\$ 97.29 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-----|-------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| 3. | Uttar Pradesh | UP Water Sector Restructuring Project Cr.3602-IN | <u>08.3.2002</u> 31.10.2009 | US\$ 111.0 | US\$ 64.04 |
| 4. | Maharashtra | Maharashtra Water Sector Improvement Project-LN4796-IN | <u>19.8.2005</u> 31.03.2012 | US\$ 325 | US\$ 78.36 |
| 5. | Karnataka | Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project Cr.3635-IN | <u>06.06.2002</u> 31.1.2012 | US\$ 75.02 | US\$ 46.83 |
| 6. | Andhra Pradesh | Andhra Pradesh Community Based Tank Management Project Cr.4291-IN & 4857-IN | <u>8.6.2007</u> 31.12.2012 | US\$ 189 | US\$ 13.69 |
| 7. | Karnataka | Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project C.4872-IN & 3635-IN | <u>14.1.2008</u> 31.1.2012 | US\$ 64 | US\$ 0.852 |
| 8. | Orissa | Orissa Community Tanks Management Project (7576-IN) | <u>27.01.09</u> 31.08.2014 | US\$ 112.000 | US\$ 4.14 |
| 9. | Tamil Nadu | Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization and Water Bodies Restoration and Management Project (Cr.No. 4846 (IBRD) & Cr. No. 4255-IN (IDA) | <u>12.2.2007</u> 31.3.2013 | US\$ 485 | US\$ 59.64 |
| 10. | Multi-State | Hydrology Project (Phase-II) Cr 4749-In | <u>19.1.2006</u> 30.6.2012 | US\$ 104.980 | US\$ 18.84 |

Import of Vaccines

1523. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether many Indian companies are importing vaccines from China;
- (b) if so, whether these vaccines are being inspected by Indian authorities as laid down under import registration rules; and
- (c) the names of companies registered for import of vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes.

(b) No. However, A National Level Committee of Experts, constituted by the Ministry of Health had inspected the Chengdu Institute of Biological Product, China for the purpose of registration and import of live attenuated Japanese Encephalitis vaccine (SA-14-14-2) in the year 2005. The said vaccine was approved as per Drugs and Cosmetic Rules.

(c) The name of companies registered for import of vaccines are:

- (i) M/s. Zhejiang Tianyuan Bio-Pharma
- (ii) M/s. Zhejiang Pukang, Bio-technology Co.
- (iii) M/s. Liaoning Cheng Da Biotechnology Co. Ltd.
- (iv) M/s. Changchun Institute, Biological Products.
- (v) Chengdu Institute of Biological Products, China.

Achievements in Health Research

1524. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the research that has been undertaken/is being undertaken by the Department of Health Research;

(b) the details of achievements of the Department made so far in this field; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for research in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques for the benefit of the common masses?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) A new Department of Health Research was created in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare by a Presidential Notification on 17.09.2007 with a view to provide focused attention on the promotion and co-ordination of basic, applied and clinical research and all attendant issues. The Department was formally launched on 5th October, 2007 and became operational from 1st April, 2008.

(b) During the period since the inception of the Department, the following activities have been completed:

- (i) Concept proposals for infrastructural development in respect of Special support to medical colleges and Establishment of model rural health centres.
- (ii) In addition, a plan for the establishment of National Viral Network has been prepared and Special schemes for development of Stem Cell units, Molecular Medicine Departments and Specialized/Advanced Centres of Excellence have been initiated.
- (iii) Action on enactment of the Ethics Bill and establishment of National Bio-ethics Authority has been taken.

(c) ICMR Institutes have been requested to continue to invest in development of diagnostic tests and therapeutic agents.

[Translation]

**Funds for Forestry and Wildlife
Conservation**

1525. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large amount of money meant for forestry and wildlife conservation has been lying unspent inspite of repeated orders of the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the unspent amount and the time since when the said amount remained unspent;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to utilize the funds fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) As on 30.06.2009, about Rs.9932.12 crores were available with the Ad-hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), which was constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its Order dated 05.05.2006 in I.A. No. 1473 in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad Versus Union of India and Others. The above amount has been remitted gradually into the account of Ad-hoc CAMPA by the States/Union Territories in accordance with the Apex Court Order of 05.05.2006. A statement showing the State-wise amount remitted into the account of Ad-hoc CAMPA is enclosed.

The Ad-hoc CAMPA could not release money to the States/Union Territories, as the Hon'ble Supreme Court did not authorize it to disburse monies remitted by them.

The Ad-hoc CAMPA filed a report on 07.07.2009, in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in compliance with its Order dated 25.02.2009 in I.A. No. 2143 in the Writ Petition (Civil)

No. 202 of 1995, seeking authorization to release money in phases as per Annual Plans of Operations (APOs) submitted by State/UTs. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has since granted its prayer, to do so, on 10.07.2009.

Statement

| Sl.No. | State/UT | (in Rs.) |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 109,906,133.00 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 8,978,325,571.48 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1,636,763,088.74 |
| 4. | Assam | 671,749,049.00 |
| 5. | Bihar | 773,448,981.00 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 17,652,067.00 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 12,321,350,743.39 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 16,829,000.00 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | — |
| 10. | Delhi | 1,224,523,363.00 |
| 11. | Goa | 1,211,970,919.58 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 2,496,471,445.00 |
| 13. | Haryana | 1,911,413,386.79 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 3,667,719,848.60 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | — |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 9,500,280,928.03 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 5,855,732,170.00 |
| 18. | Kerala | 175,090,762.58 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 19. | Lakshadweep | — |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 5,304,823,886.00 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 8,935,493,798.50 |
| 22. | Manipur | 74,568,219.00 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 9,675,979.00 |
| 24. | Mizoram | — |
| 25. | Nagaland | — |
| 26. | Orissa | 13,106,182,423.00 |
| 27. | Puducherry | — |
| 28. | Punjab | 3,305,472,163.50 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 3,259,088,410.85 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 800,924,612.00 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 197,130,414.00 |
| 32. | Tripura | 354,181,754.00 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 4,709,629,585.46 |
| 34. | Uttarakhand | 8,165,322,154.65 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 529,577,838.00 |
| Grand Total | | 99,321,298,695.15 |

[English]

Rise in Sea Level

1526. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- whether the sea-level is rising in the country;
- if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely impact of increasing sea level on the life of sea plants and animals;

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide incentives to the local people participating in the protection work in these areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As per the study conducted by the National Institute of Oceanography, of the tide gauge records from the north Indian Ocean for more than 40 years, it is observed that the sea-level rose by 1.06-1.75 millimetres per year in the past century. This estimate is consistent with the estimated global sea-level rise of 1-2 millimetres per year made by the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

(c) The sea level rise by itself is not expected to have any impact on animals living in the sea. Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change in its Assessment Report published in 2007 has reported that sea-level rise together with ocean warming and loss of sea ice is likely to increase risk of diseases in marine biota.

(d) The Government has declared the Coral Reefs in Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu and Nicobar Islands as Biosphere reserves. Coral reefs have been included in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

(e) and (f) Central Government provides financial and technical assistance to States and Union Territory Governments under the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz., Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats, Project Tiger and Project Elephant for activities aimed at wildlife conservation that includes the involvement of local communities for wildlife conservation including marine and coastal areas.

USCIRF Visit to India

1527. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) was intending to visit India in June, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the purpose of the visit;

(c) whether USCIRF commented adversely on certain issues concerning the religious freedom within the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government considers such comments as direct interference in the internal affairs of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) A delegation from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) had proposed to visit India in June 2009 to study religious freedom conditions in the country.

(c) and (d) The USCIRF released its Annual Report on 9 May 2009. The report did not include a reference to the religious freedom situation in India. However, the USCIRF had earlier, in a press release issued on 10 Jan 2008 expressed concern at the outbreak of communal violence in Orissa in 2007.

(e) and (f) Government of India does not take cognisance of comments made by such Commissions in foreign countries on internal matters of India.

Setting up of Vaccine Parks

1528. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up Vaccine Parks in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives of Vaccine Parks proposed to be set up; and

(d) the time by which this proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Government has no proposal to set up vaccine park in the country. However, Government is considering a proposal for setting up an Integrated Vaccine Complex (IVC) as a project of National importance to be implemented by HLL Life Care Ltd., a Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) and (c) The IVC will be a World class cGMP complete facilities which will cater to (a) the manufacture of vaccines that are required for the universal immunization programme (UIP) of the Government (b) Production of new generation vaccines and (c) a centre for research and development (R&D) standardization, testing and verification of vaccines.

(d) The first phase of the project which will cover the formulation, filling and packing UIP vaccine will be completed by the year 2012. The second phase of the Project which will cover the bulk biological production of UIP Vaccines and new generation vaccines will be completed by the year 2014.

Right of Vote to NRIs/Overseas Indians

1529. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce legislation for right to vote for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)/overseas Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) A Bill proposing grant of voting rights to Indian citizens who are away from their place of residence on account of employment, education or otherwise was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in February, 2006. The proposal permits Indian citizens residing outside India due to their employment, education, etc. to get their names registered in the electoral roll of the concerned constituency of their place of ordinary residence in India and cast their vote to the elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislatures in case they are present in their constituencies at the time of the elections. The Departmental Parliament Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice presented its Report on it to Rajya Sabha/laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 4th August, 2006. The report is under examination of the Ministry of Law and Justice, Legislative Department.

Re-opening of PSUs

1530. Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to re-open some of the closed Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) manufacturing coal mine project machineries in Joint Venture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI

SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) As per information received from Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Department of Heavy Industry, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation, Durgapur (MAMC), a Public Sector Enterprises under the administrative Control of the Department of Heavy Industry was closed on 2.1.2002 under the provision of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and its assets were taken over by the Official Liquidator appointed by the Calcutta High Court. When the process of sale of assets was in progress during 2007, Coal India Limited (CIL) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) approached the court for taking over the assets of MAMC (In liquidation) as a going Concern. Later, Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) also joined and formed Consortium for take over of MAMC under the directions of the Calcutta High Court. The Consortium approached the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for waiver of loan and interest outstanding against MAMC and the same is presently under consideration in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments.

[Translation]

Denial of Treatment in Hospitals

1531. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding denial of treatment to new born babies by certain hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (f) No complaint has been received for denial of treatment in Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and LHMC and associated hospitals. The above mentioned hospitals provide the treatment to all the patients irrespective of the status, caste and creed. However, due care is taken to refer the patients to the other public hospitals in case such facilities are not available in the Central Government Hospitals.

[English]

Development of Majuli Island as World Heritage Site

1532. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to preserve the unique cultural heritage of Majuli in Assam, the largest river Island in South Asia; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government so far to ensure enlistment of Majuli as a World Heritage Site at the next session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) To protect and preserve the cultural resources of the Majuli Island including its Sattras, the Government of Assam has enacted "The Majuli Cultural Landscape Region Act, 2006". Under the Act, the Majuli Cultural Landscape Management Authority and an Executive Group have been notified by the State Government. It has also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 185 lakhs for the improvement of the physical infrastructure of the Sattras.

Under its Majuli Development Project, the State Government has sanctioned a Cultural Centre for propagation of and training in Sattriya and Folk Dance, and has also given funds for the development of an

ethnic village for the conservation and promotion of the island's tribal culture. Regular workshops and training programmes are organized under the aegis of the Cultural Centre.

Manuscripts lying in the Sattras have been surveyed and documented by the National Manuscript Mission.

(b) As a prerequisite to the enlistment of the site in the World Heritage List, Majuli Island is included in the Tentative List of UNESCO. The process for its re-nomination for inscription in the World Heritage List under the "cultural category" has been initiated. A consultant is being appointed for the preparation of its nomination dossier which would, inter-alia, bring out its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), an advisory body of UNESCO for World Heritage inscriptions, would also be invited for site visit to evaluate and ascertain the OUV of Majuli Island.

Quota for Physically Challenged Persons

1533. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has enacted a law for providing three per cent reservation in services and educational institutions to physically challenged persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether despite the law, the deserving physically challenged candidates are deprived of the facilities/concessions meant for them; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government for proper implementation of the law in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF

THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) According to 'the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995', every appropriate Government shall reserve in every establishment not less than three per cent of vacancies for persons or class of persons with disability of which one per cent each shall be reserved for persons suffering from blindness or low vision; hearing impairment; locomotor disability or cerebral palsy in the posts identified for each disability except in establishments which are exempted by the appropriate Government by notification. The Act further provides that all Government educational institutions and other educational institutions receiving aid from the Government, shall reserve not less than three per cent seats for persons with disabilities.

(c) and (d) The Government has issued instructions regarding implementation of reservation for persons with disabilities in services in line with the provisions of the Act which all the Ministries/Department etc. follow. The University Grants Commission has issued circulars to all Universities requesting them, inter alia, to give three per cent reservation for persons with disabilities in the matter of appointment to the posts of Lecturer and other jobs and in the matter of admission to all courses. Schools under the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, also have provision of reservation of three per cent seats for disabled children.

Recommendations of National Knowledge Commission

1534. DR. K.S. RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations in the recently submitted report of the National Knowledge

Commission regarding higher education in the country; and

(b) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations to strengthen the State universities and giving them same treatment as that of Central universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) Relevant extracts of National Knowledge Commission's recommendations along with Note on Higher Education are enclosed as Statement.

(b) There is no specific recommendation on strengthening State Universities and giving them same treatment as that of Central Universities.

Statement

Higher Education

Higher education has made a significant contribution to economic development, social progress and political democracy in independent India. But there is serious cause for concern at this juncture. The proportion of our population, in the relevant age group, that enters the world of higher education is about 7 per cent. The opportunities for higher education in terms of the number of places in universities are simply not adequate in relation to our needs. Large segments of our population just do not have access to higher education. What is more, the quality of higher education in most of our universities leaves much to be desired.

Foundations are critical. NKC believes that an emphasis on expansion and reform of our school system is necessary to ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to enter the world of higher education. It is engaged in consultations on school education and will submit recommendations in this crucial area in due course. In this recommendation, it focuses on higher education. NKC has engaged in formal and informal consultation on

this subject with a wide range of people in the world of higher education. In addition, we consulted concerned people in parliament, Government, civil society and industry. The concerns about the higher education system are widely shared. There was a clear, almost unanimous, view that higher education needs a systematic overhaul, so that we can educate much larger numbers without diluting academic standards. Indeed, this is essential because the transformation of economy and society in the twenty-first century would depend, in significant part, on the spread and the quality of education among our people, particularly in the sphere of higher education. And it is only an inclusive society that can provide the foundations for a knowledge society.

The objectives of reform and change in our higher education system, as you have often stressed, must be expansion, excellence and inclusion, NKC recognizes that meaningful reform of the higher education system, with a long-term perspective, is both complex and difficult. Yet, it is imperative.

A. EXPANSION

1. **Create many more universities.** The higher education system needs a massive expansion of opportunities, to around 1500 universities nationwide, that would enable India to attain a gross enrolment ratio of at least 15 per cent by 2015. The focus would have to be on new universities, but some clusters of affiliated colleges could also become universities. Such expansion would require major changes in the structure of regulation.
2. **Change the system of regulation for higher education.** The present regulatory system in higher education is flawed in some important respects. The barriers to entry are too high. The system of authorising entry is cumbersome. There is a multiplicity of regulatory agencies where mandates are both confusing and overlapping. The system, as a whole, is over-regulated but under-governed. We believe that there is a clear need to establish an

Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE). The IRAHE must be at an arm's-length from the Government and independent of all stakeholders including the concerned Ministries of the Government.

- The IRAHE would have to be established by an Act of Parliament, and would be responsible for setting the criteria and deciding on entry.
 - It would be the only agency that would be authorized to accord degree granting power to higher education institutions.
 - It would be responsible for monitoring standards and setting disputes.
 - It would apply exactly the same norms to public and private institutions, just as it would apply the same norms to domestic and international institutions.
 - It would be the authority for licensing accreditation agencies.
 - The role of the UGC would be re-defined to focus on the disbursement of grants to, and maintenance of, public institutions in higher education. The entry regulatory functions of the AICTE, the MCI and the BCI would be performed by the IRAHE, so that their role would be limited to that of professional associations.
3. **Increase public spending and diversify sources of financing.** The expansion of our system of higher education is not possible without enhanced levels of financing. This must necessarily come from both public and private sources.
 - Since Government financing will remain the cornerstone, Government support for higher education should increase to at least 1.5 per

cent of GDP, out of a total of at least 6 per cent of GDP for education.

- Even this would not suffice for the massive expansion in higher education that is an imperative. It is essential to explore other possibilities that can complement the increase in public expenditure.
- Most public universities are sitting on a large reservoir of untapped resources in the form of land. It should be possible to draw up norms and parameters for universities to use their available land as a source of finance.
- It is for universities to decide the level of fees but, as a norm, fees should meet at least 20 per cent of the total expenditure in universities. This should be subject to two conditions: first, needy students should be provided with a fee waiver plus scholarships to meet their costs; second, universities should not be penalized by the UGC for the resources raised from higher fees through matching deductions from their grants-in-aid.
- India should nurture the tradition of philanthropic contributions through changes in incentives for universities and for donors. At present, there is an implicit disincentive in both tax laws and trust laws. These laws should be changed so that universities can invest in financial instruments of their choice and use the income from their endowments to build up a corpus.
- Universities should also seek to tap other sources such as alumni contributions and licensing fees. We need to create supportive institutional mechanisms that allow universities to engage professional firms for this purpose.
- It is essential to stimulate private investment in education as a means of extending

educational opportunities. It may be possible to leverage public resources, especially in the form of land grants, to attract more (not-for-profit) private investment.

4. **Establish 50 National Universities.** NKC recommends the creation of 50 National Universities that can provide education of the highest standard. As exemplars for the rest of the nation, these universities shall train students in a variety of disciplines, including humanities, social sciences, basic sciences, commerce and professional subjects, at both the undergraduate and post-graduate levels. The number 50 is a long term objective. In the short run, it is important to begin with at least 10 such universities in the next 3 years.

National Universities can be established in two ways, by the Government, or by a private sponsoring body that sets up a Society, Charitable Trust or Section 25 Company. Since public finance is an integral constituent of universities worldwide, most of the new universities shall need significant initial financial support from the Government. Each university may be endowed with a substantial *allocation of public land*, in excess of its spatial requirements. The excess land can be a subsequent source of income generation. Exceptions need to be made in existing income tax laws to encourage large endowments.

Further, there should be no restriction on the utilization of income in any given period or in the use of appropriate financial instruments. And these universities should have the autonomy to set student fee levels and tap other sources for generating funds. The National Universities we propose shall admit students on an all-India basis. They shall adopt the principle of *needs-blind admissions*. This will require an extensive system of scholarships for needy students. Undergraduate degrees in the National Universities, in a three-year programme, should be granted on the basis of completing a

requisite number of credits, obtained from different courses. The academic year shall therefore be semester-based and students shall be internally evaluated at the end of each course.

Transfer of credits from one National University to another shall also be possible. An appropriate system of appointments and incentives is required to maximize the productivity of faculty in these National Universities. Strong linkages shall be forged between teaching and research, universities and industry, and universities and research laboratories. The National Universities shall be department-based and shall not have any affiliated colleges.

B. EXCELLENCE

5. **Reform existing universities.** The endeavour to transform higher education must reform existing institutions. Some essential steps are:

- Universities should be required to revise or restructure curricula at least once in three years.
- Annual examinations, which test memory rather than understanding, should be supplemented with continuous internal assessment which could be given with a weight of 25 per cent in the total to be raised to 50 per cent over a stipulated period.
- NKC proposes a transition to a course credit system where degrees are granted on the basis of completing a requisite number of credits from different courses, which provides students with choices.
- Universities must become the hub of research once again to capture synergies between teaching and research that enrich each other. This requires not only policy measures but also changes in resource allocation, reward systems and mindsets.

- There must be a conscious effort to attract and retain talented faculty members through better working conditions combined with incentives for performance.
- The criteria for resource allocation to universities should seek to strike a much better balance between providing for salaries or pensions and providing for maintenance, development or investment. It should also recognize the importance of a critical minimum to ensure standards and strategic preferences to promote excellence.
- The elements of infrastructure that support the teaching-learning process, such as libraries, laboratories and connectivity, need to be monitored and upgraded on a regular basis.
- There is an acute need for reform in the structures of governance of universities that do not preserve autonomy and do not promote accountability. Much needs to be done, but two important points deserve mention. The appointments of Vice-Chancellors must be freed from direct or indirect interventions on the part of Governments, for these should be based on search processes and peer judgment alone. The size and composition of University Courts, Academic Councils and Executive Councils, which slow down decision-making processes and sometimes constitute an impediment to change, need to be reconsidered on a priority basis.
- The need is for smaller universities which are responsive to change and easier to manage..

6. **Restructure undergraduate colleges.** The system of affiliated colleges for undergraduate education, which may have been appropriate 50 years ago, is no longer adequate or appropriate and needs to be

reformed. Indeed, there is an urgent need to restructure the system of undergraduate colleges affiliated to universities.

- The most obvious solution is to provide autonomy to colleges either as individual colleges or as clusters of colleges, on the basis of criteria that have been stipulated in our note. However, this would be able to provide a solution for a limited proportion, or number, of undergraduate colleges.
 - Some of these affiliated colleges could be remodelled as community colleges, which could provide both vocational education and formal education.
 - A Central Board of Undergraduate Education should be established, along with State Boards of Undergraduate Education, which would set curricula and conduct examinations for undergraduate colleges that choose to be affiliated with them. These Boards would separate the academic functions from the administrative functions and, at the same time, provide quality benchmarks.
 - New undergraduate colleges could be established as community colleges, could be affiliated with the Central Board of Undergraduate Education or State Boards of Undergraduate Education, or could be affiliated with some of the new universities that are established.
7. **Promote enhanced quality.** The higher education system must provide for accountability to society and create accountability within. An expansion of higher education which provides students with choices and creates competition between institutions is going to be vital in enhancing accountability.
- There should be stringent information disclo-

sure norms for all educational institutions such as their financial situation, physical assets, admissions criteria, faculty positions, academic curricula, as also their source and level of accreditation.

- Evaluation of courses and teachers by students as well as peer evaluation of teachers by teachers should be encouraged.
- There must be a focus on upgrading infrastructure, improving the training of teachers and continuous assessment of syllabi and examination systems.
- It is particularly important to enhance the ICT infrastructure. Websites and webbased services would improve transparency and accountability. A portal on higher education and research would increase interaction and accessibility. A knowledge network would connect all universities and colleges for online open resources.
- It may be necessary to rethink the issue of salary differentials within and between universities along with other means of attracting and retaining talented faculty members. Such salary differentials between and within universities could be effective without being large.
- It is necessary to formulate appropriate policies for the entry of foreign institutions into India and the promotion of Indian institutions abroad, while ensuring a level playing field for foreign and domestic institutions within the country.
- The system of higher education must recognize that there is bound to be diversity and pluralism in any system of higher education, and avoid a uniform one-size-fits-all approach. This sense of pluralism must recognise, rather

than ignore or shy away from, such diversity and differentiation.

C. INCLUSION

8. Ensure access for all deserving students.

Education is the fundamental mechanism for social inclusion through the creation of more opportunities. It is, therefore, essential to ensure that no student is denied the opportunity to participate in higher education due to financial constraints. We propose the following measures.

- Institutions of higher education should be encouraged to adopt a *needs blind admissions* policy. This would make it unlawful for educational institutions to take into account any financial factor while deciding whether or not to admit a student.
- There must be a well-funded any extensive National Scholarship Scheme targeting economically underprivileged students and students from historically socially disadvantaged groups.

9. Affirmative action. A major aim of the higher education system must be to ensure that access to education for economically and historically socially underprivileged students is enhanced in a substantially more effective manner.

- Reservations are essential but they are only a part, and one form, of affirmative action.
- Disparities in educational attainments are related to caste and social groups, but are also strongly related to other indicators such as income, gender, region and place of residence. Therefore, we need to develop a meaningful and comprehensive framework that would account for the multi-dimensionality

of differences that still persist. For example, a deprivation index could be used to provide weighted scores to students and the cumulative score could be used to supplement a student's school examination score.

NKC recommendations require action at three different levels: reforms within existing systems, changes in policies and amendments in, or the introduction of, new statutes or legislation. The suggested changes would also be implemented at three different levels: universities, state Governments and the central Government.

It is important to recognize that there is a quiet crisis in higher education in India which runs deep. The time has come to address this crisis in a systematic and forthright manner. NKC recommendations constitute an important beginning; the changes suggested would make a real difference. Of course, the process of reform and change is continuous. There is more to be done; and NKC will continue to think about the next steps, but it emphasizes the urgency of the situation, because India's future depends on it. It is important to act here and now.

NATIONAL KNOWLEDGE COMMISSION NOTE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The spread of education in society is at the foundation of success in countries that are latecomers to development. In the quest for development, primary education is absolutely essential because it creates the base. But higher education is just as important, for it provides the cutting edge. And universities are the life-blood of higher education. Islands of excellence in professional education, such as IITs and IIMs, are valuable complements but cannot be substitutes for universities which provide educational opportunities for people at large.

There can be no doubt that higher education has made a significant contribution to economic development, social progress and political democracy in independent India. It is a source of dynamism for the economy. It has created social opportunities for people. It has fostered the vibrant democracy in our polity. It has provided a beginning for the creation of a knowledge society. But it would be a mistake to focus on its strengths alone. It has weaknesses that are a cause for serious concern.

There is, in fact, a quiet crisis in higher education in India that runs deep. It is not yet discernible simply because there are pockets of excellence, an enormous reservoir of talented young people and an intense competition in the admissions process. And, in some important spheres, we continue to reap the benefits of what was sown in higher education 50 years ago by the founding fathers of the Republic. The reality is that we have miles to go. The proportion of our population, in the age group 18-24, that enters the world of higher education is around 7 per cent, which is only one-half the average for Asia. The opportunities for higher education, in terms of the number of places in universities, are simply not enough in relation to our needs. What is more, the quality of higher education in most of our universities requires substantial improvement.

It is clear that the system of higher education in India faces serious challenges. And it needs a systematic overhaul, so that we can educate much larger numbers without diluting academic standards. This is imperative because the transformation of economy and society in the twenty-first century would depend, in significant part, on the spread and the quality of education among our people, particularly in the sphere of higher education. It is only an inclusive society that can provide the foundations for a knowledge society.

The challenges that confront higher education in India are clear. It needs a massive expansion of opportunities for higher education, to 1500 universities

nationwide, that would enable India to attain a gross enrolment ratio of at least 15 per cent by 2015. It is just as important to raise the average quality of higher education in every sphere. At the same time, it is essential to create institutions that are exemplars of excellence at par with the best in the world. In the pursuit of these objectives, providing people with access to higher education in a socially inclusive manner is imperative. The realization of these objectives, combined with access, would not only develop the skills and capabilities we need for the economy but would also help transform India into a knowledge economy and society.

We recognize that a meaningful reform of the higher education system, with a long-term perspective is both complex and difficult. Yet, it is imperative. And we would suggest the following building blocks in this endeavour. First, it is essential to reform existing public universities and undergraduate colleges. Second, it is necessary to overhaul the entire regulatory structure governing higher education. Third, every possible source of financing investment in higher education needs to be explored. Fourth, it is important to think about proactive strategies for enhancement of quality in higher education. Fifth, the time has come to create new institutions in the form of National Universities that would become role models as centres of academic excellence. Sixth, the higher education system must be so designed that it provides access to marginalized and excluded groups.

I. UNIVERSITIES

Universities perform a critical role in an economy and society. They create knowledge. They impart knowledge. And they disseminate knowledge. Universities must be flexible, innovative and creative. They must be able to attract the best talent whether teachers or students. They must have the ability to compete and the motivation to excel. We cannot even contemplate a transformation of our higher education system without reform in our existing universities.

There is, however, a serious cause for concern about universities in India. The number of places for students at universities is simply inadequate. The quality of education at most universities leaves much to be desired. The gap between our universities and those in the outside world has widened. And none of our universities rank among the best, say the top fifty, in the world. The symptoms are clearly visible, even if we do not wish to diagnose what ails our universities. Of course, every problem does not exist everywhere. And there are exceptions. But the following problems are common enough to be a cause for concern. First, curricula, which have remained almost unchanged for decades, have not kept pace with the times, let alone with the extending frontiers of knowledge. Second, learning and creativity are at a discount in a system of assessment that places a premium on memory rather than understanding. Third, the milieu is not conducive to anything beyond the class room, for it is caught in a 9.30 to 1.30 syndrome. Fourth, the academic calendar is no longer sacrosanct for classes or for examinations, as there are slippages in schedules so much so that, at several places, classes in the timetable are not held and results are often declared with a time-lag of 6 to 12 months. Fifth, the infrastructure is not only inadequate but also on the verge of collapse. Sixth, the boundaries between disciplines have become dividing walls that constitute barriers to entry for new disciplines or new courses, while knowledge is developing most rapidly at the intersection of disciplines. Seventh, the importance attached to research has eroded steadily over time. Eighth, the volume of research in terms of frequency of publication and the quality of research reflected in the frequency of citation or the place of publication, on balance, is simply not what it used to be. Ninth, as in most public institutions, there is little accountability, because there are no rewards for performance and no penalties for non-performance. Tenth, structures of governance put in place fifty years ago are not responsive to changing times and circumstances but the system is readily subverted by vested interests.

It is difficult enough to provide a complete diagnosis of what ails our universities. It is even more difficult, if not impossible, to outline a set of prescriptions for our universities. Nevertheless, it is clear that a reform of existing institutions must be an integral part of our endeavour to transform higher education. We recognize that this is easier said than done. Even so, we believe that reforms, in the following spheres, along the lines suggested by us, are not only possible but would also make a difference.

Number and Size: India has about 350 universities. This number is simply not enough with reference to our needs in higher education, or in comparison with China which has authorized the creation of 1250 new universities in the last three years. Yet, some of our universities are much too large, for ensuring academic standards and providing good governance. We need to create more appropriately scaled and more nimble universities. The moral of the story is not only that we need a much larger number of universities, say 1500 nationwide by 2015, but also that we need smaller universities which are responsive to change and easier to manage.

Curriculum: The syllabi of courses in universities, which remain unchanged for decades, need to be upgraded constantly and revised frequently. The laws of inertia reinforced by resistance to change must be overcome. Universities should be required to revise or restructure curricula at least once in three years. These revisions must be subjected to outside peer review before implementation. The process for such revisions should be streamlined and decentralized, with more autonomy for teachers, through a change in statutes wherever necessary. For existing systems often act as major impediments to a timely or speedy revision of curricula. There should be some mode of censure for departments or universities that do not upgrade their courses regularly. It needs to be recognised that it is very difficult to introduce new courses or innovative courses in universities

because of departmental divides. Appropriate institutional mechanisms should be put in place to resolve this problem.

Assessment: The nature of annual examinations at universities in India often stifles the teaching-learning process because they reward selective and uncritical learning. There is an acute need to reform this examination system so that it tests understanding rather than memory. Analytical abilities and creative thinking should be at a premium. Learning by rote should be at a discount. Such reform would become more feasible with decentralized examination and smaller universities. But assessment cannot and should not be based on examinations alone. There is a clear need for continuous internal assessment which empowers teachers and students alike, just as it breathes life back into the teaching-learning process. Such internal assessment would also foster the analytical and creative abilities of students which are often a casualty in university-administered annual examinations. To begin with, internal assessment could have a weight of 25 percent in the total but this should be raised to 50 percent over time.

Course Credits: The present system is characterised by too many rigidities and too few choices for students. Universities that are smaller, or run semester-based systems, are obviously more flexible. Even in large universities, however, it is necessary to introduce greater diversity and more flexibility in course structures. This would be the beginning of a transition to a course credit system, where degrees are granted on the basis of completing a requisite number of credits from different courses. Every student should be required to earn a minimum number of credits in his/her chosen discipline but should have the freedom to earn the rest from courses in other disciplines. It is essential to provide students with choices instead of keeping them captive.

Research: We attempted to create stand-alone research institutions, pampered with resources, in the belief that research should be moved out of universities.

In the process, we forgot an essential principle. There are synergies between teaching and research that enrich each other. And it is universities which are the natural home for research. What is more, for universities, research is essential in the pursuit of academic excellence. It is time to reverse what happened in the past and make universities the hub of research once again. This would need changes in resource-allocation, reward-Systems and mindsets. Substantial grants should be allocated for research. The provisions of these grants should be competitive and the criteria for these grants should be different from the usual criteria for non-plan and plan grants.

Faculty: There must be a conscious effort to attract and retain talented faculty members. This is necessary because talented students who are potential faculty members have choices that are more attractive in other professions in India or in the academic profession outside India. It is necessary to provide working conditions in the form of office space and research support combined with housing. But it may not be sufficient. This must be combined with some incentives and rewards for performance. There is, however, another dimension to the problem. Universities do not always choose the best in part because of native-son/daughter policies which leave them to select their own former students. This tends to lower quality and foster parochialisation in universities. Therefore, cross-pollination between universities should be encouraged. It may be worth introducing a ceiling, say one-half or even one-third, on the proportion of faculty members than can be hired from within the university. This would almost certainly engender greater competition and more transparency in faculty appointments.

Finances: There is a serious resource crunch in universities which leaves them with little financial flexibility. In general, about 75 per cent of maintenance expenditure is on salaries and pensions. Of the remaining 25 per cent, at least 15 per cent is absorbed by pre-emptive claims such as rents, electricity, telephones and examinations.

The balance, less than 10 per cent, is not even enough for maintenance let alone development. Laboratories and libraries languish while buildings crumble. But that is not all. In most universities, plan (investment) expenditure is less than 5 per cent of non-plan (maintenance) expenditure. Such a small proportion of investment in total expenditure can only mortgage the future. It is doing so. The time has come for some strategic thinking on the re-allocation of budgets for universities with some allocation for development grants and on needs other than salaries. The criteria for resource allocation should seek to strike a much better balance between providing for salaries/pensions and providing for maintenance/development/investment. These criteria should recognise the importance of a critical minimum to ensure standards and strategic preferences to promote excellence.

Infrastructure: The elements of infrastructure that support the teaching-learning process, most directly, need to be monitored and upgraded on a regular basis. This means particular attention to libraries and laboratories, in addition to class rooms, sports facilities and auditoriums. It is imperative that universities provide broadband and connectivity to all students and teachers in campuses. In parallel, information technology systems should be used for admissions, administration and examinations along with other relevant web services for campus communities. And, as soon as possible, a digital infrastructure for networking universities should be put in place.

Governance: There is an acute need for reform in the structures of governance of universities. The present system is flawed. On the one hand, it does not preserve autonomy. On the other, it does not promote accountability. The autonomy of universities is eroded by interventions from Governments and intrusions from political processes. This must be stopped. At the same time, there is not enough transparency and accountability in universities. This must be fostered. It is exceedingly difficult to provide

generalized prescriptions. Some steps, which would constitute an important beginning, are clear. First, the appointments of Vice-Chancellors should be based on search processes and peer judgment alone. These must be freed from direct or indirect intervention on the part of Governments. Once appointed, Vice Chancellors should have a tenure of six years, because the existing tenure of three years in most universities and five years in central universities is not long enough. Second, the size and composition of University Courts, Academic Councils, and Executive Councils slows down decision-making processes and sometimes constitutes an impediment to change. University Courts, with a size of 500 plus, which are more a ritual than substance, could be dispensed with. Large Academic Councils do not meet often. Even when they meet, decisions are slow to come. Thus Standing Committees of Academic Councils, which are representative, should be created for frequent meetings and expeditious decisions. The Vice-Chancellor should, then, function as a Chief Executive Officer who has the authority and the flexibility to govern with the advice and consent of the Executive Council which would provide checks and balances to create accountability. Third, experience suggests that implicit politicisation has made governance of universities exceedingly difficult and much more susceptible to entirely non-academic interventions from outside. This problem needs to be recognised and addressed in a systematic manner not only within universities but also outside, particularly in Governments, legislatures and political Parties.

II. UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES

Undergraduate education, which accounts for about 85 percent of the enrolled students, is the largest component of our higher education system. It is imparted through colleges where students enrol for first degrees in Arts, Science or Commerce. There are a total of about 17,700 undergraduate colleges. Of these, a mere 200 colleges are autonomous. The rest, as many as 17,500 colleges, are affiliated to, or constituent in, 131 universities. On average, each university has more than

100 affiliated colleges, but there are some universities each of which has more than 400 affiliated colleges.

This system of affiliated colleges for undergraduate education, which may have been appropriate fifty years ago, is neither adequate nor appropriate at this juncture, let alone for the future. It is cumbersome to manage. And it is to ensure minimal academic standards across the boards. The problem has at least three dimensions. First, it imposes an onerous burden on universities which have to regulate admissions, set curricula and conduct examinations for such a large number of undergraduate colleges. The problem is compounded by uneven standards and geographical dispersion. Second, the undergraduate colleges are constrained by their affiliated status, in terms of autonomy and space, which makes it difficult for them to adapt, to innovate and to evolve. The problem is particularly acute for undergraduate colleges that are good, for both teachers and students are subjected to the 'convoy problem' insofar as they are forced to move at the speed of the slowest. There is also a problem for undergraduate colleges that are not so good, or are poor, because universities cannot address their special needs or unique problems. Third, it is difficult to set curricula and assess performance for such a large number of students where there is such a large dispersion in performance at school before entering college. This reality tends to make courses less demanding and examinations less stringent across the board. In fact the design of courses and examinations needs to be flexible rather than exactly the same for large student communities.

There is an urgent need to restructure the system of undergraduate colleges affiliated to universities. In doing so, it is important to make a distinction between undergraduate colleges that already exist and undergraduate colleges that will be established in the future. It is also important to remember that undergraduate colleges are afflicted by problems which are very similar to those that afflict universities.

The most obvious solution is to provide autonomy to colleges, either as individual colleges or as clusters of colleges.

Individual colleges: Colleges with a proven record of academic excellence and efficient administrative functioning can be granted autonomy in terms of academic self-governance. Existing affiliated or constituent colleges should be granted autonomy in phases after due assessment by professional accreditation bodies. A review of performance of these colleges should be institutionalised and they may be granted university status on the fulfilment of stated criteria of academic and administrative performance. The college authorities should be given financial autonomy with regard to internal allocation of resources. However existing methods of financing should be retained. In operational terms, then, the autonomy would be accorded in setting of curriculum and evaluation of students.

College Clusters: Autonomy can be provided to clusters of colleges, selected on the basis of criteria such as similar standards or geographical proximity. These colleges could then form a group, complementing each other, offering different courses between them. In time, these clusters could be upgraded to universities. The course-credit system can be implemented in these autonomous clusters, whereby different colleges offer semester-based courses on a credit system and credits can be transferred across colleges. A mechanism for the administration of courses across colleges and for the resolution of problems should be institutionalized with provision for representation in committees.

Such autonomous colleges, or clusters of colleges, would constitute a part of the 1500 universities we propose nationwide by 2015. It must be recognised, however, that this is, at best, a limited solution. There are two discernible problems.

The first problem with the model of autonomous colleges is the principal-agent problem of providing autonomy as an option. It becomes necessary to

distinguish between the motivations and the capabilities of colleges. We need to make a distinction between colleges that wish to become autonomous but do not deserve to, and colleges that have the capabilities to be autonomous but do not wish to opt for autonomy. For colleges that wish to become autonomous but may not be suitable, clear cut criteria should be put in place as a filtering mechanism for colleges wishing to attain autonomous status: critical number of faculty and disciplines, governance, track record in terms of students, faculty and research, administrative competence measured by utilization of grants, regularity of audits, office resources and account maintenance, contribution to university processes, infrastructural facilities and ratings, if available, by accreditation agencies. For colleges that can be autonomous but do not wish to be, appropriate incentives have to be designed, especially for the teaching staff to encourage a move towards autonomy. Institutional incentives relating to funding and resource generation and professional incentives for staff including positions of professors, research grants and greater mobility should be provided.

The second problem with the model of autonomous colleges is that it would be able to provide a solution for a limited proportion, or number, of undergraduate colleges. There would be a significant number of undergraduate colleges that would remain because they may not have the capabilities to become autonomous or join an autonomous cluster. The obvious solution would be for this latter group to continue as affiliated colleges with their present universities. In that event, problems will persist not only for these undergraduate colleges but also for their affiliating universities. Nevertheless, a proportion of these undergraduate colleges will continue to be affiliated to their present universities on the basis of stipulated criteria. There are two other possibilities that could be explored.

The first possibility is that some of these affiliated colleges could be remodelled as community colleges. These colleges could provide both vocational education

through two-year courses and formal education through three-year courses. This would serve the needs of a particular segment of the student population better. They could focus on promoting job-oriented, work-related, skill-based and life-coping education. These community colleges could provide a unique opportunity to provide holistic education and eligibility for employment to the disadvantaged.

The second possibility is that we establish a Central Board of Undergraduate Education along with State Boards of Undergraduate Education which would set curricula and conduct examinations for undergraduate colleges that choose to be affiliated with them. These Boards would separate the academic functions from the administrative functions and at the same time provide quality benchmarks. Governance would become much simpler. It is possible that some of the existing undergraduate colleges, particularly those that are at some geographical distance from their parent university, may wish to affiliate themselves to these Boards.

New undergraduate colleges are bound to be an integral part of the expansion of opportunities in higher education. Where would these be located? It would be difficult for them to become autonomous colleges without a track record. It may be possible for some to join a cluster of autonomous colleges but this would be more the exception than the rule. It would not be possible for them to affiliate with existing universities which are already overloaded. Hence, there are three possible options for new undergraduate colleges to come. First, they could be established as community colleges. Second, they could be affiliated with the Central Board of Undergraduate Education or State Boards of Undergraduate Education. Third, they could be affiliated with new universities that are established.

There are, of course, issues related to governance, curricula, examinations, course credits and access which arise in the context of undergraduate colleges. These have

been discussed in the context of universities in the preceding section of the note.

III. REGULATION

There is a clear need to establish an Independent Regulatory Authority for Higher Education (IRAHE). Such a regulatory authority is both necessary and desirable.

It is necessary for two important reasons. First, in India, it requires an Act of Legislature of Parliament to set up a University. The deemed university route is much too difficult for new institutions. Entry through legislation alone, as at present, is a formidable barrier. The consequence is a steady increase in the average size of existing universities with a steady deterioration in their quality. The absence of competition only compounds problems. Second, as we seek to expand the higher education system, entry norms will be needed for private institutions and public-private partnerships. The institutional framework for this purpose must be put in place here and now.

It is desirable for four important reasons. First, it would minimise conflicts of interest as it would create an arm's-length distance from stakeholders. Second, it would replace the present system which is over-regulated but under-governed, through more appropriate forms of intervention. Third, it would rationalize the existing system where mandates are both confusing and overlapping. Fourth, it would dispense with the multiplicity of regulatory agencies to provide a single-window clearance.

The present regulatory system in higher education is flawed in many respects. The barriers to entry are too high. The system of authorizing entry is cumbersome. And there are extensive rules after entry, as the UGC seeks to regulate almost every aspect of an institution from fees to curriculum. The system is also based on patently irrational principles. The UGC Act section 3.1.2(a) suggests that permission for receiving grants will be accorded only if the Commission is satisfied that the

existing institutions in the state are not adequate to serve the needs of the state. The other regulators, say in the sphere of professional education, are often inconsistent in their adherence to principles. There are several instances where an engineering college or a business school is approved, promptly, in a small house of a metropolitan suburb without the requisite teachers, infrastructure or facilities, but established universities experience difficulties in obtaining similar approvals. Such examples can be multiplied. These would only confirm that the complexity, the multiplicity and the rigidity of the existing regulatory structure is not conducive to the expansion of higher education opportunities in India.

In sum, the existing regulatory framework constrains the supply of good institutions, excessively regulates existing institutions in the wrong places; and is not conducive to innovation or creativity in higher education. The challenge is therefore to design a regulatory system that increases the supply of good institutions and fosters accountability in those institutions. An independent regulator has to be the cornerstone of such a system.

The proposed IRAHE will rationalize the principles on which entry is regulated. There are two aspects to this rationalization: what is to be regulated and what are the principles used for regulation.

In higher education, regulators perform five functions: (1) Entry: licence to grant degrees. (2) Accreditation: quality benchmarking. (3) Disbursement of public funds. (4) Access: fees or affirmative action. (5) Licence: to practice profession.

India is perhaps the only country in the world where regulation in 4 of the 5 functions is carried out by one entity, that is, the UGC. The purpose of creating an IRAHE is to separate these functions. The proposed IRAHE shall be responsible for setting the criteria and deciding on entry. It would, in addition, license agencies to take care of accreditation. The role of the UGC will be limited to

disbursing public funds. Issues of access will be governed by state legislation on reservations and other forms of affirmative action. And, professional associations may, in some institutions, set requirements to determine eligibility for conducting a profession. All other regulatory agencies such as the AICTE will need to be abolished while the MCI and the BCI will be limited to their role as professional associations. These professional associations could conduct nationwide examinations to provide licences for those wishing to enter the profession.

The second aspect of regulation is the principle used to regulate. The IRAHE will determine eligibility for setting up a new institution based on transparent criteria rather than discretionary controls. Its main role would be to exercise due diligence at the point it approves a licence to grant degrees. In doing so, it would assess the academic credibility and the financial viability of the proposed institution on the basis of information submitted in accordance with the stipulated criteria. It will apply exactly the same norms to public and private institutions, just as it will apply the same norms to domestic and international institutions.

The IRAHE would be constituted as follows. It would have a Chairperson and six Members. The tenure of the Chairperson would be six years. The tenure of the Members would also be six years. One-third of the Members of the Authority will retire every two years. The Chairperson would be a distinguished academic from any discipline with experience of governance in higher education. The Members would be distinguished academics drawn from the following sets of disciplines: physical sciences, life sciences, social sciences, humanities and professional subjects such as engineering, medicine, law or management. The IRAHE could have some part-time members or standing committees drawn from academia to advise the Authority in each of the aforesaid sets of disciplines. The Chairperson and the Members of the IRAHE would be appointed by the Prime Minister based on the recommendations of a Search Committee.

The IRAHE would have to be established by an Act of Parliament. It would be the only agency that would be authorized to accord degree granting power to higher education institutions. It would also be responsible for monitoring standards and settling disputes. It should also be thought of as the authority for licensing accreditation agencies. The IRAHE must be at an arm's-length from the government and independent of all stakeholders including the concerned Ministries of the Government. The Acts of the UGC, AICTE, MCI and BCI would have to be amended. The role of the UGC would be re-defined to focus on the disbursement of grants to, and maintenance of, public institutions in higher education. The entry regulatory functions of the AICTE, the MCI and the BCI would be performed by the IRAHE, so that their role would be limited to that of professional associations. These professional associations could conduct nationwide examinations to provide licenses for those wishing to enter the profession.

IV. FINANCING

The expansion of our system of higher education, which is both necessary and desirable, is not possible without financing. For an increase in supply of quality education depends upon an increase in investment which, in turn, requires financial resources. There are several sources of such financing.

Government Support: There is no system of higher education in the world that is not based upon significant public outlays. And government financing will remain the cornerstone of any strategy to improve our system of higher education. The present support for higher education, at 0.7 per cent of GDP, is simply not adequate. In fact, over the past decade, in real terms, there has been a significant decline in the resources allocated for higher education, in the aggregate as also per student. In an ideal world, Government support for higher education should be at least 1.5 per cent, if not 2 per cent of GDP, from a total of 6 per cent of GDP for education. This is easier said than done. But the

Government should endeavour to reach these levels by 2012. Even this magnitude of state financing, however, would not suffice for the massive expansion in higher education that is an imperative. Therefore, it is essential to explore a wide range of possibilities which can be complements to the increase in public expenditure.

Better Asset Management: Most public universities are sitting on a large reservoir of untapped resources in the form of land. In effect, with some imagination, many of our universities can be converted into institutions that are similar to land grant universities. Each university should thus have an innovative asset management plan. Such plans should be in consonance with objectives of universities. At the moment, however, universities have no strategy in this sphere. And there is considerable room to think in strategic terms about the use of physical assets in the possession of universities. It should be possible to draw up norms and parameters for universities to use their land as a source of finance.

Rationalization of Fees: On an average, fees constitute less than 10 per cent of total expenditure in our universities. And in most universities, fees have remained unchanged for decades. In theory, universities have the freedom to decide on fees. In practice, however, universities have not exercised this freedom in part because of some genuine concerns about access but in larger part because of the rhetoric and populism in the political process. The problem has been compounded by the UGC method of providing grants-in-aid to bridge the difference between income and expenditure. Consequently, there is no incentive for universities or colleges to arise income through higher fees as that sum would be deducted from their UGC (or State Government) grants. The low fees in public universities, without any means test, have meant unquantifiable benefits for unintended beneficiaries. But private players and foreign institutions have not been restrained in charging fees that the market can bear. The time has come to rethink, as we have no choice but to rationalize fees. It is for universities to decide the level of fees but, as a norm, fees should meet at least

20 per cent of the total expenditure in universities. In addition, fees need to be adjusted every two years through price indexation. Such small, continuous, adjustments would be absorbed and accepted far more easily than large, discrete changes after a period of time. This rationalization of fees should be subject to two conditions: first, needy students should be provided with a fee waiver plus scholarships to meet their costs; second, universities should not be penalized by the UGC for the resources raised from higher fees through matching deductions from their grants-in-aid.

Philanthropic Contributions: It is clear that we have not exploited this potential. In fact, the proportion of such contributions in total expenditure on higher education has declined from more than 12 per cent in the 1950s to less than 3 per cent in the 1990s. It should be possible to nurture this tradition of philanthropy through changes in incentives for universities and for donors. In the present system, there is an explicit disincentive. If universities mobilize resources from elsewhere, they are in effect penalized through a matching deduction in their grant-in-aid. What we need to do is exactly the opposite. Universities which mobilize resources through contributions should be rewarded with matching grants-in-aid. At present, there is also an implicit disincentive in both tax laws and trust laws. Endowments of universities can only be placed in specified securities where rates of return are low and barely keep up with rates of inflation. What is more, trusts must spend 85 per cent of the income stream from the endowment in the same year, so that only 15 per cent of the income stream can be used to build up the corpus in the endowment. These laws should be changed so that universities can invest in financial instruments of their choice and use the income from their endowments to build up a corpus.

Other Sources: Obviously, universities must not be driven by commercial considerations. But it would be both prudent and wise to tap other sources such as alumni contributions, licensing fees, or user charges (for facilities in universities used by people from outside). We need to

create supportive institutional mechanisms that allow universities to engage professional firms for this purpose. Mobilizing resources, even from former students, is a task that cannot be performed by academics because it needs specialised talents and experience. Current UGC practice also penalises universities for any resources mobilised with a matching deduction from the grants-in-aid provided to the institution. Rather than penalizing universities for raising resources, the UGC should incentivise them. In addition, universities must have the autonomy and flexibility to mobilise resources from elsewhere by creating or using appropriate institutional mechanisms.

Private Investment: In three professions-engineering, medicine and management-there has been a *de facto* privatization of education so that two-thirds to three-fourths of the seats are in private institutions. But private investment in university education, where more than 70 per cent of our students study, is almost negligible. It is essential to stimulate private investment in higher education as a means of extending educational opportunities. We must recognise that, even with the best will in the world, Government financing cannot be enough to support the massive expansion in opportunities for higher education on a scale that is now essential.

Public-Private Partnerships: It might be possible to leverage public funding, especially in the form of land grants, to attract more (not-for-profit) private investment. The present system of allotment of land, where political patronage is implicit, discourages genuine educational entrepreneurs and encourages real estate developers in disguise. In principle, it should be possible to set up new institutions in higher education, not just more IITs and IIMs but also more universities, as public-private partnerships where the Government provides the land and the private sector provides the finances. Such public-private partnerships which promote university-industry interface would also strengthen teaching and research.

International Students: India is not an attractive

destination for international students, not even as much as it used to be 30 years ago. It is time for us to make a conscious attempt to attract foreign students to India for higher education. This would enrich our academic milieu. This would enhance quality. This would be a significant source of finance. Even 50,000 foreign students charged fees at an average rate of US\$ 10,000 per annum would yield US\$ 0.5 billion: the equivalent of Rs. 2300 crores per annum in current prices at current exchange rates. The other side of the coin is perhaps even more important. Estimates suggest that there are about 160,000 students from India studying abroad. If their average expenditure on fees and maintenance is US\$ 25,000 per student per year, Indian students overseas are spending US\$ 4 billion: the equivalent of Rs. 18,400 crores per annum in current prices at current exchange rates. This has an enormous potential as a source of finance for higher education in India, if only we could create more opportunities for students with increased places and enhanced quality in our system.

V. QUALITY

The introduction of an independent regulator in higher education, the reform of existing public universities and the creation of national universities, taken together, would contribute to enhancement of quality in higher education. But this needs to be supported with some pro-active steps that would foster quality in higher education.

Accountability: The quality of higher education depends on a wide range of factors. But accountability, at every level, is a critical determinant. The higher education system must, therefore, provide for accountability *vis-a-vis* the outside world and create accountability within the system. Accountability of universities must not be confused with control of the state. Institutional mechanisms, based on checks and balances, constitute the most effective system for this purpose. The essential objective of accountability to society must be to empower students to take decisions rather than simply increase the

power of the state. Stipulated performance criteria or inspections are forms of control. We need to create systems that enable students, or their parents, to choose between and assess universities.

Competition: The supply constraint on higher education is an impediment to accountability. When students have relatively few choices, institutions have greater power over them. An expansion of higher education which provides students with choices and creates competition between institutions in going to be vital in enhancing accountability. Such competition between institutions within India is, of course, essential. But the significance of competition from outside India, more qualitative than quantitative, must not be underestimated. For this purpose, we must formulate appropriate policies for the entry of foreign institutions into India and the promotion of Indian institutions abroad. Such policies must ensure that there is an incentive for good institutions and a disincentive for sub-standard institutions to come to India. The present regime does the opposite: sub-standard players rush in while premier universities stay away as they care more about their autonomy and wish to set benchmarks for themselves. However, a level playing field should be ensured and all rules that apply to domestic institutions should also be applicable to foreign institutions. At the same time, policies must encourage rather than discourage Indian institutions to create campuses abroad not as business opportunities but as competition opportunities in their quest for academic excellence. Of course, expansion abroad should not be at the cost of domestic provision either at present or in the future.

Accreditation: So far, we have sought to create accountability by increasing the powers of Government regulators. Yet, it has done little to improve the quality of higher education. Consider, for example, the National Accreditation and Assessment Council. This system has three characteristics which significantly erode its credibility. First, it grants one institution, the NAAC, monopoly power

over accreditation. Second, NAAC itself does not have the capacity to rate all the institutions. It has rated just about 10 percent of the total number so far. Third, the methodology of NAAC is much too discretionary. Instead of vesting one institution created by the state with monopoly power, the IRAHE may be empowered to license a number of accreditation agencies, public and private, to do the ratings. In doing so, the regulator would set standards for them. This will need to be accompanied by stringent information disclosure norms for all educational institutions, including the source and level of their accreditation. The rapid growth in higher education, particularly in the private sector, has created a strong need for empowering students and parents with reliable information from a credible accreditation process. This system can be supplemented with the creation of self-regulatory bodies in the higher education system and the freedom to seek recognition from global accreditation systems.

Internal Systems: In most universities, the main stakeholders, students, are minimally part of any mechanism for accountability. Obviously, student evaluations need to be used with care. Even so, they can be part of a baseline set of accountability measures which could at least establish whether classes scheduled in the timetable are held. But that is not all. Evaluation of courses and teachers by students is also needed, just as much as we need peer evaluation of teachers by teachers. Such internal systems of evaluation would strengthen accountability in the teaching-learning process. These must be combined with institutional mechanisms for accountability in other dimensions of university systems.

Information: Almost everywhere, information in the public domain is an important source of accountability. Higher education should be no exception. There should be disclosure norms for universities and institutions imparting higher education. They should be required to place basic information relating to their financial situation, physical assets, accreditation ratings, admissions criteria,

faculty positions, academic curricula, and so on, in the public domain. This would empower students and parents and enable them to make informed choices. Information, along with competition, fostered by increased supply, will close the accountability loop.

Incentives: Even if we cannot introduce penalties for non-performance, it is necessary to introduce rewards for performance. We must, of course, recognise that universities are different from the hierarchical worlds in Governments and corporate structures. The web of incentives is far more subtle. Even so, the time has come to think of salary differentials within and between Universities as a means of attracting and retaining talented faculty members. The salary differentiation among teachers within the same university needs to reflect the opportunity costs for teachers in some departments. This will help retain talent in some disciplines where remuneration in the market is much higher than in other in some disciplines where remuneration in the market is much higher than in other subjects. Salary differentiation may enable some universities to develop centres of excellence in some disciplines. At the same time, it is important to ensure that disciplines which are essential for a good liberal education such as social sciences and humanities, as well as basic sciences which are not necessarily rewarded by the market, are given appropriate incentives to attract both teachers and students. Such salary differentials between and within universities could be effective without being large. Indeed, there is a good reason to stipulate a maximum ratio for differences in salaries between faculty members so as not to threaten the identity of the professoriate. Obviously, universities cannot compete with salaries elsewhere, but they should endeavour to provide a comfortable minimum for all, with some premium for those who perform. It is also important to think of other incentives, such as housing, good facilities for teaching and research and some flexibility for non-teaching professional activities so long as these do not impinge on the primary responsibilities to the institution.

Differentiation: We have to recognize that there is bound to be diversity and pluralism in any system of higher education. Therefore, in a country as large as India, we cannot afford to adopt the principle that one-size-fits-all. We must allow diversity to blossom. This could have many dimensions: curriculum, specialization, institutional architecture, students' composition, and so on. Similarly, differentiation is inevitable if not natural. Even if we do not wish to recognize it, such differentiation is a reality. Students and parents have clear preferences, possibly implicit rankings, based on their perceptions derived from available information. Our sense of pluralism must recognise, rather than ignore or shy away from, such diversity and differentiation. It is characteristic of every higher education system in the world. For higher education is about a quest for excellence. It is, at least in part, about distinction and not always about levelling. The institutions which excel are the important peaks that raise the average. They are also role models others seek to emulate. And institutions that become such role models could mentor and guide other selected institutions.

VI. NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

We need to create substantial additional capacity in higher education for achieving a quantum jump in the gross enrolment ratio for a rapidly expanding population of young people. It would be expeditious to do so by simply expanding on our existing educational infrastructure. A fundamental paradigm shift in our understanding of quality and standards in higher education, however, requires creating completely new institutions that operate unconstrained by the current institutional and regulatory framework. We recommend the creation of up to 50 National Universities that can provide education of the highest standard. As exemplars for the rest of the nation, these universities shall train students in a variety of disciplines, including humanities, social sciences, basic sciences, commerce and professional subjects, at both the undergraduate and post-graduate levels. The number 50

is a long term objective. In the short run, it is important to begin with at least 10 such universities in the next 3 years. It is worth noting that the National Universities need not all be new universities. Some of the existing universities could also be converted into National Universities, on the basis of rigorous selection criteria, to act as exemplars. We recognise that there could be a human resource constraint if faculty members are not available in adequate numbers to establish these universities. But, for such centres of academic excellence, it should be possible to attract talent from among those who choose other professions in India or the academic profession outside India.

National Universities can be established in two ways, by the Government, or by a private sponsoring body that sets up a Society, Charitable Trust or Section 25 Company. Since public finance is an integral constituent of universities worldwide, most of the new universities shall need significant initial financial support from the Government. This could be in several forms. Each university may be endowed with a substantial *allocation of public land*, in excess of its spatial requirements. The excess land can be a subsequent source of income generation, its value rising over time due to the growing stature of the university. In the case of privately executed Charitable Trusts, exceptions need to be made in existing Income Tax laws to encourage large *endowments*. In particular, there should be no restriction on the utilization of income in any given time period, the Trusts should be allowed to invest their funds in financial instruments of their choice, and all proceeds from the sale of capital assets should be exempt from capital gains tax. These universities shall have the autonomy to invest in financial instruments of their choice, by employing private fund managers if required. Appropriate mechanisms also need to be out in place for the optimal *management of physical assets*, like laboratories, libraries, classrooms and other facilities. Finally, these universities shall have the autonomy to set *student fee levels* and tap other sources for generating funds such

as industry collaborations, overseas operations, as also commercial use of university facilities and alumni networks.

The National universities we propose shall admit students on an all-India basis. They shall adopt the principle of *needs-blind admissions*, thereby ensuring that an applicant's ability or inability to pay shall not influence the admission decision made by a university. Further, once admitted, the university should ensure that no student has to forego his/her place due to financial constraints. This will require a host of scholarships, freeships, bursaries and awards for economically disadvantaged students. At the undergraduate level, a nationwide test that objectively measures the verbal, quantitative and analytical abilities of applicants shall be administered by an independent testing body. Admissions shall be based on a combination of Class XII results, scores from the nationwide test, application materials including written work and personal statements, as also interviews. At the postgraduate level, admissions shall be based on a combination of the applicant's academic record, application materials, interviews and academic or professional references that indicate his/her aptitude for further studies in the relevant discipline.

Undergraduate degrees in the National Universities shall have a duration of three years so that these are in conformity with the duration of undergraduate courses elsewhere in India. In the first year, students shall have the opportunity to study foundation, analytical and tools courses before choosing a specific discipline in the second year. They shall also have the option, at the end of the second year, of completing an integrated five-year master's degree. Degrees should be granted on the basis of completing a requisite number of credits, obtained from different courses. Each student shall be required to earn a minimum number of credits in his/her chosen discipline, and shall have the freedom to earn the rest from courses in other disciplines. The academic year shall therefore be semester-based and students shall be internally evaluated

at the end of each course. Transfer of credits from one National University to another shall also be possible. A wide variety of courses shall be offered, in traditional academic disciplines, employment-oriented specific areas and cross-cutting competencies. Syllabi shall be revised every year to keep up with changes and current developments in various disciplines. Departments that do not update their syllabus for two consecutive years shall be asked to provide justification. Students shall have the option of taking up internships in private companies or research institutions in lieu of a certain number of credits.

An appropriate system of appointments and incentives is required to maximize the productivity of faculty in the National Universities. There shall be scope for salary differentials between national Universities and also between disciplines. Faculty training will be contingent on periodical reviews of research output and student evaluation. The most accomplished faculty members shall be encouraged to teach undergraduate courses. There shall be no career advancement schemes and appointments at every level shall be through open competition. The total number of faculty positions may be specified, but there should be complete flexibility in choosing the level at which faculty appointments are made, so that, for talented faculty members, career paths are not constrained by the number of vacancies. In order to maintain the quality of the National Universities, mechanisms should be in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and progress of teachers including peer reviews. The procedures and results of these evaluations will be open and transparent.

The research outputs of these universities shall be vital contributors to India's socio-economic development and progress in science and technology. Strong linkages shall be forged between teaching and research, universities and industry, and universities and research laboratories.

The National Universities shall be department-based

and shall not have any affiliated colleges. Each department will administer undergraduate and post-graduate courses. Non-teaching functions should be outsourced wherever possible, and a maximum ratio of 2:1 should be maintained between non-teaching and teaching staff. Each university should appoint an internal ombudsman for the redressal of faculty, staff, student and public grievances. Administrative processes, wherever possible, should be streamlined and made transparent and accountable by the use of information and communications technology.

VII. ACCESS

Education is an essential mechanism for inclusion through the creation of social opportunities. It is, therefore, essential that in addition to ensuring that no student is denied the opportunity to participate in higher education due to financial constraints, access to education for economically and historically socially underprivileged students is enhanced in a substantially more effective manner.

Economic barriers to higher education can be addressed by ensuring financial viability for all students wanting to enter the world of higher education. This can be done through two strategies. One is to adopt a *needs blind admissions* policy. This would make it unlawful for educational institutions to take into account any financial factor while deciding whether or not to admit a student. Every institution will be free to use a variety of instruments to achieve this aim: scholarships or cross-subsidies. In addition, academic institutions would be able to set a fee of their own choice subject to the provision that there are at least two banks that are willing to finance the entire cost of education at that institution, without any collateral other than the fact of admission. The cost of education includes not just fees but also reasonable living expenses including costs such as hostel and mess fees and any other expenses associated with the course of study. Since commercial banks may be wary of funding economically

deprived students, especially in non-professional courses, we need a well-funded and extensive National Scholarship Scheme targeting economically underprivileged students and students from historically socially disadvantaged groups, particularly students from rural and backward areas. The success of this proposal depends on generous government support. For instance, the Government should endeavour to make available about 100,000 scholarships for such students. These scholarships should be set at a level where students are empowered to go to any institution of their choice.

We also need to undertake more proactive forms of affirmative action to ensure inclusion of marginal and excluded groups. Reservations are essential but they are a part, and one form of, affirmative action. Disparities in educational attainments are related to caste and social groups, but are also strongly related to other indicators such as income, gender, region and place of residence. Access to quality higher education is further limited for students from certain types of schools. Therefore deprivation of educational opportunities is a multi-dimensional problem and attention needs to be paid to different salient levels of deprivation faced by students. A meaningful and comprehensive framework would account for the multidimensionality of differences that still persist. Such a deprivation index could provide weighted scores to students and the cumulative score could be used to supplement a student's school examination score. After adding the score from the deprivation index, all students could compete for admissions.

The indicators need to be easily identifiable and verifiable for the system to work effectively. They should cover the different types of disadvantages that a student could face at the school level, and while applying for admissions to higher education. This system serves the dual purpose of considering various disadvantages and ensuring that a reserved category student who has otherwise enjoyed other benefits does not get great preference at the time of admissions.

Illustrative indicators of backwardness that need to be measured by such an index could include *social background* covering caste (keeping in view regional variations), religion and gender, *family education history*; *family income*, *type of school* distinguishing between Government and private schools and between schools from different locations, the medium of instruction, *place of residence* distinguishing between urban and rural areas and accounting for regional deprivation by sorting districts along an index of infrastructure or access to social benefits and *physical disability*.

[Translation]

Research and Development in Yoga

1535. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently conducted a review of the schemes for promoting Research and Development (R&D) in the field of Yoga in the country;

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

(c) the details of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) working in R & D in Yoga in the country and receiving grants from the Government alongwith the details of their performance and utilization of funds; and

(d) the action taken against NGOs found guilty of misusing the funds and their names thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The scheme for Extra-Mural-Research (EMR) in all AYUSH systems including Yoga has been reviewed and modified. Revised guidelines can be viewed at website indianmedicine.nic.in.

(c) The details regarding grants given to the NGOs working in the said scheme for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given at Statement-I and II, respectively. Performance of these NGOs was reviewed by the Project Evaluation Committee and was found to be satisfactory

except in case of one NGO i.e. Ashram Atmadeep (Research Centre for India's Heritage), Gurgoan, Haryana.

(d) Provision of further grants to Ashram Atmadeep (Research Centre for India's Heritage), Gurgaon, Haryana has been discontinued.

Statement-I

List of NGOs given grant-in-aid for Research and Development under extra-mural-research Scheme of Department of Ayush during the Year 2007-08.

| Sl. No. | Title of the Project | Name of the Institution | Total Project Cost (in Rs.) | Funds released (in Rs.) |
|--------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Karnataka | | | | |
| 1. | Efficacy of Yoga based lifestyle interventions in Preventive Cardiology and Diabetology | Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Sansthan, Bangalore, Karnataka | 20,00,000/- | 8,30,000/- |
| 2. | Assessment of insulin Sensitivity in Yoga practitioners and non Yoga practitioners using euglycemic hyper insulinemic clamps | Department of Physiology and Nutrition, St. John Medical College and Hospital, Bangalore, Karnataka | 13,35,400/- | 5,19,700/- |
| Maharashtra | | | | |
| 3. | Critical edition of Yogaupanishad (Yogakundalyupanishad, Yogacudamanyupanishad Trisikhhabrahamopnisad) | Lonavla Yoga Institute, Lonavla, Dist. Pune, Maharashtra | 9,14,200/- | 4,13,300/- |
| 4. | Yoga for Prevention and Control of Suicidal Tendency and Restoring Mental Health in Indian Adolescent Students | Scientific Research Deptt., Kaivalyadhama, Lonavla, Pune Maharashtra | 22,56,000/- | 9,68,000/- |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|----|--|---|-------------|-------------|
| 5. | Stress management in mothers of students appearing for competitive examination through yoga. | International Board of Yoga, Mumbai. | 20,00,000/- | 14,41,800/- |
| 6. | Encyclopedia of Traditional Asanas | The Lonavla Institute of Yoga, Lonavla, Distt. Pune | 15,00,000/- | 1,00,000/- |
| 7. | Hathatatvakaumudi of Sundardeve – A critical Edition | The Lonavla Institute of Yoga, Lonavla, Distt. Pune | 8,00,000/- | 50,000/- |

Statement-II

List of NGOs given grant-in-aid for Research and Development under Extra-Mural-Research Scheme of Department of Ayush during the year 2008-09.

| Sl. No. | Title of the Project | Name of the Institution | Total Project Cost (in Rs.) | Funds released (in Rs.) |
|--------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Maharashtra | | | | |
| 1. | Critical edition of Yogaupanishad (Yogakundalyupanisad, Yogacudamanyupanisad Trisikhhabrahamopnisad) | Lonavla Yoga Institute, Lonavla, Distt. Pune, | 9,14,200/- | 3,18,060/- |
| 2. | Critical Edition of two Yogapanishads | Lonavla Yoga Institute, Lonavla, Distt. Pune, | 10,94,000/- | 5,25,700/- |
| Karnataka | | | | |
| 3. | Effect of Naturopathy and Yoga on Diabetes outcomes – A Randomized controlled trial | Nisarga Trust, Sirsi, NK | 20,49,500/- | 7,46,750/- |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------------|--|--|-------------|-------------|
| 4. | Effect of Yoga practices on stress and cognitive functions in 7-9 year old school going children | St. John's Research Institute, Bangalore | 19,80,793/- | 13,39,242/- |
| West Bengal | | | | |
| 5. | Effects of Yoga on C-reactive protein and other Biomarkers in Coronary Atherosclerosis | Vidyasagar Technological Institute of Physical Education and Sports, Purba Medinipur | 14,56,750/- | 11,65,400/- |

Population Below Poverty Line

1536. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the World Bank Report on 'Global Economic Prospects for 2009,' the percentage of population below the poverty line in the country has exceeded as compared to that of Sub-Saharan Africa;

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

(c) the number of poor people in the country as per the assessment of the Government; and

(d) the criteria fixed for such assessment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) As per the World Bank Report entitled Global Economic Prospects for 2009, the

percentage of the poor population in India (those living on less than \$1.25/day) is 41.6 percentage for the year 2005 as against 50.9 percent for sub-Saharan Africa. However, on account of higher population, the number of poor in absolute terms in India exceeds that of sub-Saharan Africa.

(b) Government of India does not use poverty estimates based on international poverty lines.

(c) As per the Planning Commission estimates, the numbers of persons living below poverty line (BPL) for the year 2004-05 is estimated to be 301.7 million accounting for 27.5% of the total population.

(d) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below poverty line at national and state level, separately in rural and urban areas. The national poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs. 356.30 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month in urban areas. The number and percentage of persons living below poverty line are estimated using the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years.

[English]

Setting up of CAMPA in the States

1537. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has requested all the State Governments to set up Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authorities (CAMPA);

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

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to upgrade the degraded forest cover across the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to spend Rs. 11,000 crore on afforestation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof including the manner in which the said amount will be allocated to the States and spent therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) As the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) and Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), as envisaged in the Order dated 29.10.2002 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202 of 1995 of the Supreme Court of India, could not become operational, a meeting of the Chief Secretaries of States/UTs was convened on 30.03.2009. The meeting was chaired by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. The meeting concluded that State Level CAMPAs be constituted and model guidelines be prepared for adoption by the State/UT Governments. Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment and Forests prepared guidelines for establishing CAMPAs in the State/UTs and putting in place a funding mechanism for enhancing forest

and tree cover and conservation and management of forests and wildlife by utilising funds received towards Compensatory Afforestation, Net Present Value (NPV), etc., currently available with the Ad-hoc CAMPA. The State CAMPA would provide an integrated framework for utilizing multiple sources of funding and activities relating to protection and management of forests and wildlife. Its one of the tasks would be regenerating natural forests and building up the institution engaged in this work in the State Forest Department. The guidelines propose to release the amounts, remitted into the account of Ad-hoc CAMPA by States/UTs, to the concerned States/UTs in accordance with the Annual Plan of Operations (APOs) prepared by them.

Environmental Clearance for Development of Road Projects

1538. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA:

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from several States including Jharkhand, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for grant of environmental clearance for various road development projects undertaken by them during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details of all such proposals received from the States, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon and the present status of each of these proposals;

(d) the number of proposals which are pending with the Union Government for environmental clearance and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which environmental clearance is likely to be granted to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The details of road development proposals received for environmental clearance from various States including Jharkhand, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh during last three years with their present status is enclosed as statement.

(d) and (e) The Environmental Impact Assessment Notification of September 2006 stipulates a time limit of 60 days for conveying the Terms of Reference to the applicant on receipt of application with all necessary documents. Further, a time limit of 105 days, after the receipt of the complete application with all necessary documents, has been provided for the appraisal and conveying the decision

Statement

Environment Clearance for Development of Road Projects

| Sl.No. | State | Name of Projects | Status |
|-------------|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2006 | | | |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar | Construction of 6 km stretch north-south road from Caappell bay to Joginder Nagar in Great Nicobar. | Clearance issued on 13.03.2006 |
| 2. | Haryana | 4/6 lane Kunali-Manesar-Palwal expressway Project in the state of Haryana. | Clearance issued on 22.02.2007 |
| 3. | Jammu and Kashmir | Road from Kotmocom to latoa village at Jammu. | Clearance issued on 10.03.2006 |
| 4. | Kerala | Forest road under NABARD assest RIDF scheme. | Clearance issued on 14.06.2006 |
| 5. | Madhya Pradesh | Bhopal-Sehore-Dewas road 4-lane road project SH-18. | Clearance issued on 31.01.2007 |
| 6. | Uttar Pradesh | Agra-Itawah btoad Ganga line project in Distt. Agra | Clearance issued on 21.02.2006 |
| 2007 | | | |
| 7. | Gujarat | Construction of additional two lanes from roads selected under VGF on BOT basis. | Clearance issued on 29.05.08 |
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | EC for J&K Megalaya road project. | Clearance issued on 15.05.07 |
| 9. | Karnataka | Construction of expressway from outer ring road to international airport in Devanahalli Taluk, Karnataka. | Clearance issued on 06.07.2007 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | Jaora-Mandsaur-Neemuch-Nayagaon road C4 line project SH-31. | Clearance issued on 4.04.07 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-------------|----------------|--|---|
| 11. | Maharashtra | 4 laning of Berala-Chikhali-Amdapur-Khamgaon Sector-I SH-16. | Clearance issued on 17.01.08 |
| 12. | Maharashtra | 4 laning Jalna Deulgaon Raj-Berela sector-I SH-176 | Clearance issued on 16.01.08 |
| 13. | Uttar Pradesh | Taj expressway project. | Clearance issued on 11.04.07 |
| 2008 | | | |
| 14. | Gujarat | Construction of additional two lanes from roads section under VGF on BOT basis Ahemdanad-Viramgam-Malviya. | Clearance issued on 29.05.08 |
| 15. | Gujarat | Construction of additional two lanes from roads section under VGF on BOT basis Rajkot-Jamnager-Vadinar. | Clearance issued on 29.05.08 |
| 16. | Gujarat | Construction of additional two lanes from roads section under VGF on BOT basis Deesa-Patanwada-Gundari. | Clearance issued on 7.11.08 |
| 17. | Karnataka | Karnataka SH improvements project-II. | Clearance issued on 13.01.09 |
| 18. | Kerala | 4/6 laning of Walayar-Vadakkancherry section state of Kerala. | Clearance issued on 15.09.08 |
| 19. | Maharashtra | 2 lane to 4/6 laning of Talegoan-Amravati Section in state of Maharastra. | Clearance issued on 05.08.08 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 2 lane to 4/6 lane from Farraka to Raiganj section State of West Bengal. | Clearance issued on 16.09.08 |
| 2009 | | | |
| 21. | Andhra Pradesh | Link Roads- M74, 54C, 55A, 55B, 55C 65A, 67C-Chinthamani by pass Andhra Pradesh boarder. | Terms of Reference issued on 05.06.2009 |
| 22. | Jharkhand | Govindpur-Jmatara-Dumka-Barhat-Sehebganj road, by Road Construction Department, Government, of Jharkhand. | Considered in the Expert Appraisal Committee meeting held on 12th-14th March, 2009 and 25th-26th June 2009. Committee recommended for issue of clearance. |

**Launch of Dedicated Satellites by
ISRO**

1539. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) proposes to launch dedicated satellites particularly Ocean, Communication, Surveillance, etc. in the coming years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the indigenous satellites likely to be launched by ISRO; and

(c) the benefits that are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of satellites proposed to be launched in 2009 are:

(i) **Oceansat-2:**

This satellite replaces Oceansat-1, which is meant for collecting data on the ocean surface colour and wind.

(ii) **GSAT-4:**

This experimental communication satellite to demonstrate advanced technologies, scheduled to be launched in 4th quarter of 2009.

(c) The benefits which are likely to accrue from these satellites are as under:-

(i) **Oceansat-2:**

The data from this satellite is used for measurement of sea surface colour in multi-spectral bands, which is used to identify Potential Fishery Zones and also winds on the surface of the ocean, helping weather forecast.

(ii) **GSAT-4 :**

This satellite is used as a test bed for qualifying advanced communication satellite technologies, using KA band and associated satellite systems. The satellite is also used to demonstrate satellite technologies like ion propulsion, satellite tracking etc. In addition, this satellite will carry an experimental payload for satellite-based air navigation called Gagan, which improves the accuracy, availability and integrity of GPS signals.

[Translation]

MPLAD Scheme

1540. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds spent under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) so far;

(b) whether the Government has reviewed the benefits, achievements and outcome of the said scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any discrepancies, such as diversion of the funds to other schemes which are not enlisted under this Scheme have been found in the implementation of the Scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to ensure proper utilization of funds under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) As per the monthly progress reports received from the nodal district authorities, an amount of Rs. 18304.59 crore has been spent as on 30.6.2009, out of Rs. 19514.25 crore released since inception of the MPLAD Scheme.

(b) and (c) The Ministry has started an initiative for physical monitoring of sample works executed under the Scheme by NABCONS, an independent agency, apart from the provisions of review and monitoring of the Scheme by the Centre, State and district functionaries, as per MPLADS guidelines. From the study, the agency has found that the MPLAD Scheme is a unique scheme for economic and social infrastructure building. The local community has accepted the scheme due to its inherent strong elements, and it has had a positive overall impact on the economic and social life of the people, both in rural and urban areas including SCs and STs and other sections.

(d) to (f) No diversion of funds to other schemes has been reported.

[English]

Setting up of Virology Institute

1541. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Governments including Kerala for setting up of Virology Institute in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these Institutes are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Government had asked Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in February, 2007 to revive the NIV Field Station at Gorakhpur (U.P.) and establish a new Field Station of NIV, Pune at Allapuzha, (Kerala).

(c) Both the field stations of NIV, Pune at Allapuzha (Kerala) and Gorakhpur (U.P.) have been set up in March, 2008.

Slowing down of Growth Rate

1542. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of the country has slowed down due to global economic recession;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to focus on sectors that have been adversely affected by global economic recession;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) The rate of growth of Indian economy (measured in terms of GDP at factor cost at 1999-2000 prices) declined from 9 percent in 2007-08 to 6.7 percent in 2008-09 on account of global financial meltdown and consequent economic recession in developed economies.

(c) and (d) The Government proposes to increase investment in infrastructure, telecommunications, power

generation, airports, roads, railways and address the slow down in manufacturing and export sectors.

(e) Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have taken both fiscal and monetary measures in order to restore the growth momentum, including measures for providing impetus to manufacturing sector as well as export sectors. The fiscal measures, inter-alia, include increasing plan expenditure, reduction in indirect taxes etc. The monetary and credit related measures taken by the RBI relate to provisioning of adequate liquidity and credit delivery, reduction in cash reserve and statutory liquidity ratios (CRR and SLR) for banks, etc. These measures have been supplemented with sector specific credit measures for exports, housing, micro and small enterprises and infrastructure.

[Translation]

Pollution in Mining Mineral Rich Areas

1543. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of pollution is increasing particularly in mining mineral rich areas of the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any regular assessment of the level of pollution in such areas during the last three years and the current year;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) to (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is

monitoring ambient air quality at the national level in various cities and towns and in critically polluted areas near mineral rich areas. The States of Jharkhand, Orissa, Rajasthan and Karnataka have a major share of mineral rich areas of the country. The ambient air quality being monitored in the cities/towns of these States near the mining mineral rich areas include Bangalore, Belgaum and Mangalore in Karnataka, Dhanbad and Jharia in Jharkhand, Talcher and Angul in Orissa and Udaipur in Rajasthan. The ambient air quality results of these towns have indicated that the levels of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are within the national ambient air quality standards. However, the levels of respirable suspended particulate matter (RSPM) exceed the standards. The levels of RSPM in the cities of Jharia, Angul, Bangalore and Mangalore are increasing and there is a fluctuating trend in the cities of Dhanbad, Talcher, Udaipur and Belgaum during the last three years and current year. The relevant ambient air quality data is enclosed as statement.

(e) The steps taken for preventing air pollution in such areas include :

(i) A comprehensive industrial document on iron ore mining has been prepared and the guidelines are being implemented through the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs).

(ii) Standards for coal mines have been notified for ensuring their compliance.

(iii) Action Plans have been prepared for the critically polluted areas including the mining areas for restoration of environmental quality.

(iv) The mining projects are required to take environmental clearances from the Government.

(v) Guidelines have been prepared for rehabilitation of mined areas.

(vi) The ambient air quality standards have been notified for compliance.

Statement

| | Cities | Location of the station | Type of station | 2006 | | | 2007 | | | 2008 | | | 2009 (Jan. to Apr.) | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|---------------------|-----|------|
| | | | | SO2 | NO2 | RSPM | SO2 | NO2 | RSPM | SO2 | NO2 | RSPM | SO2 | NO2 | RSPM |
| Jharkhand | Dhanbad | Regional Office | R | 19 | 52 | 109 | 20 | 52 | 107 | 19 | 44 | 131 | 19 | 44 | 247 |
| | Jharia | MADA | I | 20 | 55 | 163 | 20 | 52 | 180 | 19 | 45 | 200 | 18 | 43 | 301 |
| Orissa | Talcher | T.T.P.S. Colony | I | 9 | 19 | 91 | 8 | 18 | 74 | 10 | 19 | 90 | — | — | — |
| | | Coal Field | I | 9 | 19 | 85 | 10 | 15 | 89 | 14 | 24 | 99 | — | — | — |
| | Angul | Industrial Estate | I | 7 | 14 | 107 | 6 | 17 | 128 | 6 | 22 | 127 | 6 | 23 | 157 |
| | | NALCO Nagar Township | R | 5 | 21 | 69 | 5 | 19 | 71 | 8 | 18 | 89 | 8 | 17 | 90 |
| Rajasthan | Udaipur | Regional Office | I | 8 | 46 | 109 | 13 | 34 | 143 | 13 | 31 | 67 | 5 | 25 | 107 |
| | | Town Hall | R | 7 | 43 | 65 | 8 | 28 | 65 | 8 | 25 | 69 | | | |
| | | Amabmata | R | 7 | 36 | 60 | 7 | 23 | 78 | 7 | 23 | 61 | 6 | 26 | 103 |
| Karnataka | Bangalore | Graphite India Limited | I | 23 | 39 | 156 | 17 | 41 | 124 | 16 | 42 | 161 | 16 | 17 | 46 |
| | | KHB Industrial Area | I | 21 | 37 | 55 | 16 | 39 | 77 | 15 | 40 | 71 | 15 | 41 | 89 |
| | | Peenya Industrial Area | I | 18 | 35 | 79 | 17 | 39 | 86 | 15 | 41 | 123 | 15 | 41 | 48 |
| | | Amco Batteries | R | 20 | 37 | 42 | 17 | 38 | 62 | 15 | 40 | 76 | 15 | 43 | 82 |
| | | Yeshwantpura | R | 18 | 37 | 54 | 17 | 39 | 64 | 15 | 41 | 104 | 15 | 43 | 230 |
| | | Lakkamanahalli Industrial Area | I | 2 | 4.5 | 45 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 90 | 3 | 12 | 100 | 4 | 14 | 102 |
| | | Rani Chennamma Circle | R | 2 | 4.5 | 67 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 145 | 3 | 12 | 107 | 4 | 13 | 83 |
| | Belgaum | Karnataka SPCB | I | 2 | 14 | 29 | 2 | 16 | 39 | 2 | 14 | 33 | 2 | 17 | 46 |
| | Mangalore | Stides Premises | I | 8 | 4.5 | 52 | 7 | 4.5 | 62 | 7 | 7 | 60 | 7 | 6 | 66 |

All values are in pgm/m3

[English]

**National Ganga River Basin
Authority**

1544. SHRI VARUN GANDHI:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA);
- (b) if so, the composition and terms of reference;
- (c) the fund allocated/released to NGRBA;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken to ensure accountability of these funds;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to constitute such Authorities for other rivers in the country also;
- (f) if so, the details of such rivers identified; and
- (g) the significant improvement in water management achieved or likely to be achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Central Government by a Notification dated 20.02.2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganga River, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Authority, and it has as its members, the Union Minister concerned, and the Chief Ministers of the States through which Ganga flows, viz., Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, among others. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and

execution of programmes for abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga in keeping with sustainable development needs.

(c) and (d) An outlay of Rs. 250 crore has been proposed for NGRBA in the Union Budget for 2009-10. Funds will be released to Project Implementing Agencies in the States as per prescribed procedure viz. based on physical and financial progress of the works, utilisation certificates, etc.

(e) to (g) At present, there is no proposal to constitute River Basin Authorities for other rivers in the country.

Road Network with Myanmar

1545. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Myanmar has been linked with the National Highway 39 at Moreh in Manipur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and the status of the progress made in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to initiate bilateral discussions with Myanmar to enhance road connectivity;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the mutual benefits which are likely to accrue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) Yes. Moreh (Manipur) is connected to Myanmar via Tamu-Kaletwa-Klaemyo (TKK) road which has been constructed and upgraded with Indian Government assistance by BRO in 2001.

(d) to (f) India and Myanmar are also in discussions to undertake other road projects including road from

Zawkhather (Mizoram)/Rhi into Myanmar. These roads besides providing a valuable cross border link between India and Myanmar, enhance cross border trade, tourism and economic development of the areas on both sides of the border.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal to Industrial Units

1546. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various coal companies are supplying sub-standard coal to the industrial units and power plants particularly in backward areas;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received in this regard during the last three years and in the current year, company-wise, state-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against companies for supplying sub-standard coal and to ensure regular supply of quality coal to these units in the backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) Subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd. supply coal as per linkage/Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) to the Power plants and industrial units in various states including those in backward areas for such grades of coal as produced by the concerned subsidiary coal companies. For quality assurance, joint sampling facility is extended to the Thermal Power Stations and all large consumers having annual requirement of 0.4 million tonnes and above. Thus question of supply of substandard coal to any plant does not arise.

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited, no specific complaint has been received in respect of supply of sub-standard coal. However, complaints on supply of stone boulder and wet/sticky coal are received from time to time by Coal India Ltd. through Ministry of Coal and Ministry of power. Complaints are also sometimes received directly by coal companies from the consumers mainly from Power Houses. The number of such complaints received from power plants by different subsidiary companies during last three years are as under :

| Year | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| No. of Complaints | 814 | 773 | 530 |

The break-up of company-wise and State-wise complaints received during the last three years are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Coal India Ltd. on receipt of specific complaints from industries and thermal power plants etc. takes up with the concerned subsidiary companies for necessary investigation and redressal thereof. Similar action is taken by the subsidiary companies on receipt of complaints directly from the consumers wherever they are located including those located in the backward areas.

On investigation of such complaints it has been observed that some complaints of sticky/wet coal, mainly received during the rainy season, are unavoidable. As far as the issue of stone boulders is concerned, Power Houses are compensated for the stone/boulders segregated at the unloading end after joint assessment.

[English]

Population of Leopards

1547. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population of leopards has decreased during the last three years in the country including in Andhra Pradesh;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard and also to prevent/avoid man-wild animal conflict in National Parks/Wild Life Sanctuaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Fluctuation in the population of wild animals is a natural phenomenon and various reasons like predation, diseases, competition, man-animal conflict, heat stroke, etc. are attributed to it. However, the Ministry is not aware of any such report showing decline in the leopard population during last three years in the country, including Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Important steps taken by the Government for conservation of Wildlife including leopard in the country are as follows:

1. Threatened species of wildlife, including leopards are placed in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
3. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including rare animals.
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
5. The State/UT Governments have been re-

quested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.

6. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of wildlife.
7. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', a new component has been added for initiating 'Recovery Programme for critically endangered species and their habitats' during the 11th Five Year Plan period.

In addition, following steps have also been taken to mitigate man-animal conflict:

1. Rescue operations of animals found too close to human habitations are being carried out.
2. Increased vigil and extensive patrolling by forest staff is done.
3. Compensation is paid to people on death, injury to human life, crop damage and cattle lifting by wild animals.
4. Financial assistance is provided for erection of solar power fencing/electric fencing, creation barrier etc.
5. Mass awareness campaigns among local people and schools in the fringe areas of the forests are carried out by the State Forest Department.
6. Involvement of local people in protection works through eco-development and Joint Forest Management programmes.

[Translation]

Modern Facilities in Government Hospitals

1548. SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether state-of-the-art medical facilities exist in Government hospitals *i.e.* Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified the hospitals where child mortality rate is increasing;

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

(e) the details of remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e) In so far as the Central Government Hospitals viz. Safdarjung and Dr. RML Hospital and All India Institute of Medical Sciences are concerned, these hospitals are providing state-of-the-art medical facilities in Pediatric, Neonatal, Cardiology, Gynae Deptts, Trauma Care Centres Burns, Plastic and Maxillo-facial Surgery, Cardiac Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, Radiology and Anesthesia etc. thereby providing more tertiary care to the patients. The best available tertiary care is given to children in these hospitals. In Dr. RML Hospital, the net child mortality rate has come down. These hospitals are in a continuous process to upgrade the departments by adding new equipments, medicines and technical devices to manage the cases.

[English]

**National Conservation Policy for
Historical Monuments**

1549. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a National Conservation Policy for historical monuments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to recognize historic cities as cultural artifacts worth protecting;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the historic cities proposed to be covered under the proposal, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal to formulate a national conservation policy for historical monuments. However, as per the existing practice, the monuments declared protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 are maintained and conserved by the Archaeological Survey of India as per archaeological principles depending upon the availability of resources and needs of intervention.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, in important historic cities, historical buildings have been declared protected as of national importance under the relevant provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958.

(e) Does not arise.

National Policy on Vaccines

1550. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a national policy on vaccines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Government of India already has a Comprehensive Multi Year Plan for immunization in India for 2005-10. The Government has been working on drafting a Multi year plan for Immunization in the country for the period of 2010-2017.

The Government in the near future would be considering to make a vaccine policy for the country.

Supply of Medicines Free of Cost to poor

1551. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched a scheme for supply of essential medicines to the poor and needy persons free of cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of medicines as well as the diseases that are proposed to be covered under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The Government has operationalised National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) for comprehensive reforms in public health delivery system to ensure access to quality health services for poor and needy patients especially in the far flung rural areas. NRHM also envisages comprehensive improvements in procedures for procurement of medicines and other consumables and supply chain management so as to ensure that all essential medicines are available to the poor and needy in the hospitals.

The Government also provides direct financial

assistance to patients who are living below poverty line and are suffering from major life threatening diseases. Under the Rastriya Arogya Nidhi, this assistance helps the patients receive medical treatment at any of the super speciality hospitals/institutions or Government hospitals.

NRHM is a sector wide initiative and provides overarching umbrella to existing National programmes of Health and Family Welfare including Reproductive and Child Health (II), National Disease Control Programmes, Integrated disease Surveillance. NRHM envisages all round improvement in health facilities as per Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) and all essential medicines necessary for this purpose are covered.

Smart Card for Patients under NRHM

1552. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue smart cards for patients under the National Rural Health Mission;

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

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in issuing the proposed cards?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) No. There is no proposal before the Ministry for issuing smart cards under National Rural Health Mission.

Harassment of Indian Immigrants in U.K.

1553. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian immigrants are facing harassment in foreign countries, particularly in UK;

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

(c) the measures taken/being taken to protect the interests of Indian immigrants?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) Government have received some reports of harassment of Indian migrants in some countries. So far as United Kingdom (U.K.) is concerned, reports from Indian Mission in U.K. suggest that there is no such information or harassment of Indian migrants in U.K.

Instances of complaints of exploitation of Indian emigrant workers by Recruiting Agents (RA), Foreign Employers (FE) and unscrupulous middlemen are received by the Ministry and the Indian Missions abroad from time to time. These complaints mainly pertain to cheating, overcharging, contractual violations by employers such as non-payment/delayed payment of salary, non-availability of medical facilities and proper food, unhygienic living conditions etc.

On receipt of such complaints and after due enquiry action is initiated against the RAs or unregistered agents concerned.

State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised to instruct all Police Stations to keep a strict vigil on the activities of unscrupulous agents.

Foreign Employers (FEs) who are found to be harassing the Indian Workers are placed in the Prior Approval Category. At present, 355 FEs are in Prior Approval Category List.

Protecting emigrants against malpractices and exploitation requires bilateral cooperation. Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been signed with United Arab of Emirates (UAE) in December, 2006, with Kuwait in April, 2007, with Oman in November 2008, with Malaysia in January 2009, and with Bahrain on 17th June 2009.

[Translation]

Neo-Natal Deaths

1554. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of neo-natal deaths have been reported in various parts of the country;

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

(c) the corrective action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) The reported Neonatal Mortality Rate for India is 36 per thousand live births (Sample Registration Survey 2007). The estimates of the Neonatal Mortality Rate as reported by the Registrar General of India (RGI), Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2007 State wise is given as statement. The primary causes of neonatal deaths are :

- Sepsis,
- Low birth weight and
- Asphyxia

(c) The Reproductive and Child Health programme (RCH) II [2005-10] under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) [2005-12], comprehensively integrates interventions that improve child health and addresses factors contributing to mortality amongst children.

The Components of child health programme which help reduce child morbidity and mortality are as follows :

- (i) Essential newborn care
- (ii) Immunization
- (iii) Infant and young child feeding

- (iv) Vitamin A supplementation and Iron and Folic Acid supplementation
- (v) Early detection and appropriate management of Acute Respiratory Infections, Diarrhoea and other infections
- (vi) Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood illnesses (IMNCI) and Pre-Service IMNCI
- (vii) Facility Based New Born Care.

Statement

Neo-Natal Mortality Rates, India and Major States, 2007

| Sl. No. | India/Major States | 2007 |
|---------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | INDIA | 36 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 33 |
| 2. | Assam | 34 |
| 3. | Bihar | 31 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 41 |
| 5. | Delhi | 20 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 37 |
| 7. | Haryana | 34 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 31 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 39 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 28 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 26 |
| 12. | Kerala | 7 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|----------------|----|
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 49 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 25 |
| 15. | Orissa | 49 |
| 16. | Punjab | 29 |
| 17. | Rajasthan | 44 |
| 18. | Tamil Nadu | 23 |
| 19. | Uttar Pradesh | 48 |
| 20. | West Bengal | 28 |

Source : Sample Registration System, RG India

Note : Neo-natal mortality rate = Number of infants dying within the first month of life (under 28 days) in a year per 1000 live births of the same year.

[English]

Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act

1555. SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in contravention of the provisions of Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, sex determination clinics are operating illegally in the country including Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) Cases are registered in contravention of the PC & PNDT Act, comes

to the notice of the State/District Government. Last three years as per NCRB, total of 86, 125 and 96 cases were reported in the country during 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

States/UTs have taken the steps to implement the Act including an award scheme launched for those giving information on sex selective elimination of daughters, establishment of State/districts levels inspection and monitoring teams, Involvement of Panchayats in the campaign for the cause of girl child, Task force under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretaries to monitor clinics and Awareness campaigns for the public, service taker and service provider on legal issues relating to the PC & PNDR Act, 1994.

Obesity among Women

1556. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a multi-centric study (2005-08) on nutrition-related diseases in women has indicated a high prevalence of obesity and cholesterol levels in women over 35 years of age in the country;

(b) if so, whether the report has been examined; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) As per information available Department of Science and Technology had funded a multi-centric study in 2005 on 'Development of appropriate prevention and interventions strategies for nutrition related non-communicable disorders among women in post reproductive period' with All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi as the coordinating centre. The study is still in progress.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Illegal Coal Mining

1557. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining operations are being carried out in various coalfields in the country including Magadh and Ashoka Collieries located in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such cases detected during the last three years and the current year, company-wise and colliery-wise;

(d) whether incidents of illegal coal mining take place in connivance of officials and coal mafia;

(e) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government against the culprits; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to check illegal mining of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) to (c) Illegal mining is mostly taken place in old and abandoned mines, small and isolated patches, out crop areas and areas, which are not in the leasehold areas of public sector coal companies. Due to clandestine nature of illegal mining activities, the exact quantum of coal, so mined, cannot be ascertained.

However, following the raids conducted by the security personnel of coal companies as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Government, the approximate quantity of coal recovered during the last four Years is as under:

(Upto May, 2009)

| Company | 2009-10 (Prov.) | | 2008-2009 | | 2007-2008 | | 2006-2007 | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|
| | No. of Cases/ Incidents | Qty. of coal recovered (in tonnes) | No. of Cases/ Incidents | Qty. of coal recovered (in tonnes) | No. of Cases/ Incidents | Qty. of coal recovered (in tonnes) | No. of Cases/ Incidents | Qty. of coal recovered (in tonnes) |
| ECL | 193 | 1510.00 | 708 | 6529.00 | 262 | 2497.00 | 417 | 3528.00 |
| BCCL | 65 | 271.67 | 284 | 2050.96 | 61 | 131.00 | 59 | 63.00 |
| CCL | 19 | 0.00 | 157 | 93.00 | 508 | 429.90 | 460 | 404.00 |
| NCL | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 00.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| WCL | 0 | 0.00 | 1 | 11.00 | 3 | 41.00 | 6 | 38.50 |
| SECL | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 00.00 | 1 | 40.00 | 16 | 541.31 |
| MCL | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 00.00 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| NEC | 4 | 0.00 | 4 | 00.00 | 5 | 0.00 | 3 | 0.00 |
| Total CIL | 281 | 1781.67 | 1154 | 8683.96 | 840 | 3138.90 | 961 | 4574.81 |

| | | | | | |
|------|---|-----------------------------|------|---|----------------------------------|
| ECL | = | Eastern Coalfields Limited | SECL | = | South Eastern Coalfields Limited |
| BCCL | = | Bharat Coking Coal Limited | MCL | = | Mahanadi Coalfields Limited |
| CCL | = | Central Coalfields Limited | NEC | = | North-East Coalfields |
| NCL | = | Northern Coalfields Limited | CIL | = | Coal India Limited |
| WCL | = | Western Coalfields Limited | | | |

No report of illegal mining in Ashoka and Magadh Coalfield has been received.

(d) to (f) As per information received from CIL, there is no information regarding connivance of official and coal mafia in the incident of illegal coal mining taking place.

Since law and order is a State subject, primarily it is the responsibility of State/District Administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining.

However, following steps are being taken by the companies to prevent illegal mining:

- Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.
- Concrete walls have been erected on the mount of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.

- (c) Regular raids/checks being conducted by security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are being deployed at pithead depots.
- (d) Surprise raids/checks being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.
- (e) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying of signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place".
- (f) Dumping of overburden is being done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined.
- (g) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- (h) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.
- (i) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security setup.
- (j) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the state Authorities.
- (k) Committee/task force has been constituted at different level (block level, sub-divisional level, district level, State level) at some subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.

[Translation]

Migration of Indian Labourers

1558. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the

Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Indian labourers going abroad has increased tremendously during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of the last three years and the current-year;

(c) whether there is shortage of manpower and lack of proper infrastructure in the Immigration Offices to deal with increasing number of workers going abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) The out-flow of Indian labourers has been increasing continuously though during the current year it has slowed down. More than ninety percent of Indian Emigration is to the Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries.

The following are the figures of emigration clearance given during last three years and the current year :

| | | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|---|--------|
| (i) | 2006 | — | 676912 |
| (ii) | 2007 | — | 809453 |
| (iii) | 2008 | — | 848601 |
| (iv) | During 2009 (January to June) | — | 327356 |

(c) to (e) As regards Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, there is no shortage of manpower or infrastructure in Protector of Emigrants' (POE) offices.

As informed by Ministry of Home Affairs (Foreigners Division) there is no shortage of Manpower or lack of infrastructure in the airport Immigration Offices i.e.

Immigration Check Posts (ICPs) and Registration Offices, which are managed by Bureau of Immigration (BoI), viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Amritsar. Further, there is no lack of infrastructure at the other International Airports where immigration control is being managed by the State Governments as agency of the Central Government. However, shortage of manpower has been reported from a few other ICPs which are being managed by the State Governments.

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) have also informed that to augment the security screening and also to facilitate passengers with a view to mitigating their hardships, the immigration system has been modernized at major international airports with the upgradation of the computer systems, implementation of Immigration Control Software (ICS), installation of Passport Reading Machines (PRMs) and Questionable Document Examiner (QDX) Machines, etc. Furthermore, the State Governments have been requested by MHA to ensure the deployment of adequate manpower at each of the ICPs under their control.

Pending Projects under Forest Conservation Act

1559. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of projects are pending with the Union Government relating to Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat under Forest Conservation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for their speedy disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (c) At present, 26 proposals from Gujarat and 21 proposals from Madhya Pradesh are pending for grant of prior approval for diversion of forest land for non-forestry

purposes under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

The Central Government has taken steps for speedy disposal of proposals by making provisions of general approval for diversion of forest land up to 1 ha for developmental purposes to the State Government. The Central Government has delegated powers to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Incharge of its Regional Offices to decide proposals involving less than 5 ha of forest land except for mining and de-reservation. Proposals involving forest land upto 40 ha are processed by the concerned Regional Office through the State Advisory Group. Only proposals involving more than 40 ha are processed in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The mandatory site inspection by officials of the Central Government is for proposals involving more than 100 ha of forest land as against 50 ha in the past. These steps have expedited the decision making process.

[English]

Conference on Climate Change in Bonn

1560. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conference of parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held in Bonn recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) The sixth session of the Adhoc Working Group - Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA), the eighth session of the Adhoc Working Group - Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) and the thirtieth session of the subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) took place

from 1-12 June 2009 in Bonn. While the negotiations in AWG-LCA were aimed at enhancing the implementation of the Convention through long term cooperative action amongst the all Parties to the Convention in the areas of mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance for Climate Change as per the Bali Action Plan, the negotiations in AWG-KP were held for deciding the emissions reduction commitments of Annex I Parties in the second Commitment Period (post -2012) under the Kyoto Protocol.

It is expected that an agreed outcome would be reached and a decision adopted at the fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP-15) and fifth Meeting of Parties (MOP-5) to the Kyoto Protocol to be held in December 2009 at Copenhagen.

Cultural Heritages in the Country

1561. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cultural heritage centres and other places of heritage/ archaeological importance identified in various States especially in backward and rural regions as on date;

(b) the measures taken by the Union and the State Governments for their protection and conservation; and

(c) the funds allocated for this purpose during the last three years and in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protects and maintains 3675 protected monuments/sites spread over in different parts of the country including rural and backward regions.

(b) Conservation, preservation, maintenance, development of environs and creating tourist related amenities at the centrally protected monuments/sites are regular activities. The are undertaken by the ASI as per the need and subject to availability of resources.

(c) Funds allocated, year-wise, are indicated below:

| Year | Rs. in Lakhs |
|---------|--------------|
| 2006-07 | Rs. 10860.43 |
| 2007-08 | Rs. 12893.70 |
| 2008-09 | Rs. 13588.00 |
| 2009-10 | Rs. 13065.00 |

Organ Donation

1562. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to provide free second class railway pass and health insurance cover to persons who consent to donate their organs;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has consulted the Ministry of Railways in this regard;

(c) if so, the response of the Ministry of Railways thereon;

(d) whether the Union Government has mooted a lucrative proposal to promote cadaver organ donations under the National Organ Transplant Programme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to simplify organ donation and make it more transparent?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (f) The Honorable High Court of Delhi in CWP No. 813/2004 vide its order dated 06.09.2004 had set up a Committee examine the provisions of Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 and the Transplantation of Human Organs Rules, 1995. The report was submitted on 25.5.2005. A National Consultation was held on 18.5.2007 and the report was submitted in the second fortnight of August, 2007. Thereafter, a meeting was conducted by HFM on 18th September, 2007. Taken into consideration the recommendations of the Committee set up by the Delhi High Court and the recommendations emerging from the National Consultation, it was decided to amend the Transplantation of Human Organs 1994 and to launch a national programme for promoting organ donation. It was also decided that certain incentives need to be introduced to promote cadaver donations. The recommended incentives are:-

- (1) Comprehensive health care scheme may be evolved by the Government.
- (2) Life long free renal/liver checkup, follow-up and care in hospital, (including its other branches, if any), where organ donation has taken place.
- (3) To secure the donor against mortality risk due to organ donation related reasons, a customized Life Insurance policy of Rs. 2 Lakhs for 3 years with one time premium to be paid by Recipient.
- (4) Certificate of appreciation to all live donors by State/local Government with an identity card endorsing his eligibility to obtain and avail various benefits recommended here. The card should prominently display a slogan such as "Thank you for saving a life".
- (5) Compensation for any expenses/loss of income incurred as specified in Section 2 (k) of the THOA Act.

- (6) 50% concession on fare in 2nd Class by Indian Railways for the spouse or one child or parent(s) of the cadaver donor.

Ministry of Railway has been requested to consider the incentive of concession in 2nd class by Indian Railways for the spouse or one child or parents of the cadaver donor.

Linking of CGHS Dispensaries to States Civil Hospitals

1563. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether CGHS dispensaries in the States are proposed to be linked to State's Civil Hospitals with modern equipment to provide better facilities to CGHS beneficiaries in the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) As per extant instructions, CGHS beneficiaries are permitted to avail treatment in hospitals set up by a State Government/ Municipal Body. Wherever CGHS is presently functioning, it refers its beneficiaries to Specialists in Government hospitals (including those set up by State Governments/ Municipal Bodies) for advice about the treatment to be given to the beneficiary.

[Translation]

Diseases due to Genetically Modified Food

1564. CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of genetically modified foods are resulting in several diseases as the genes of frog and fish are introduced in some food products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Rule 11 of the Rules for the Manufactures, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cell, Rules 1989 notified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 provides that food stuffs, ingredients in food stuffs and additives including processing aids containing or consisting of genetically engineered organisms or cells, shall not be produced, sold, imported or used except with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) under that Ministry. No generically modified (GM) Food crop has been approved for commercial release in India by GEAC.

[English]

Foreign Secretary's Visit to U.S.A.

1565. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's Foreign Secretary visited USA in the recent past; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) After the assumption of office by the new US Administration, Foreign Secretary visited the USA during March 9-11, 2009 in response to an invitation by the US Government - who wanted to continue their consultations with the Government of India. During the visit, Foreign Secretary and his US counterpart also reviewed India-US bilateral relations and

discussed bilateral, regional and global issues of shared interest.

Guidelines for Water Conservation

1566. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared the draft guidelines for Water Audit and Water Conservation for domestic, irrigation and industrial purposes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the impact of these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) and (b) Central Water Commission has prepared a "General Guidelines for Water Audit and Water Conservation for Domestic, Irrigation and Industrial Purposes". The guidelines broadly cover various steps of water audit including water supply and usage study, process study, system audit, discharge analysis and water audit report. Aspects related to irrigation, domestic and industrial usages of water have been covered in the report. The guidelines have been circulated to the States. Government of Maharashtra has initiated the process of water auditing in the irrigation sector.

Public participation in RTI implementation

1567. SHRI RAJAI AH SIRICILLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to create awareness among public about their participation in the implementation of the RTI Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF

THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has taken various steps to create awareness about right to information which include preparation of audio and audio-visual spots for broadcast and telecast; display of posters in the post offices in rural areas; publication of guidelines for information seekers; grant of funds to the State Information Commissions for awareness generation including grant to the Andhra Pradesh State Information Commission. The steps taken by the Government are not State specific.

Conservation of Wetlands in the Country

1568. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wetlands and lakes in the country, State-wise including in Gujarat;

(b) whether wetlands and lakes are being encroached;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to bring in a regulatory regime on wetlands and lakes/water bodies to protect them from frequent encroachments;

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

(f) the funds allocated/released by the Government for conservation of lakes and wetlands during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) No specific information is available on the number of wetlands and lakes in the country. However, the number of wetlands and lakes identified under the National Wetland Conservation Programme and National Lake Conservation Plan state-wise respectively, including Gujarat are given at Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, Many of the wetlands and lakes in the country are shrinking in size due to encroachments, anthropogenic pressures, uncontrolled siltation, weed infestation, discharge of sewage and industrial effluents, surface run-off of pesticides and fertilizers. However, no authentic data is available on these aspects.

(d) and (e) As envisaged in the National Environment Policy, 2006, a legally enforceable regulatory mechanism to ensure conservation and wise use of wetlands has been prepared.

(f) Details of funds released by the Central Government for conservation of wetlands and lakes state-wise during the last three years and the current financial year are given at Statement-II.

Statement-I

| S. No. | State | Number of Wetlands | Numbers of Lakes |
|--------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1 | 1 |
| 2. | Assam | 3 | — |
| 3. | Bihar | 3 | — |
| 4. | Chandigarh | 1 | — |
| 5. | Gujarat | 8 | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|-----|-------------------|----|----|-------|---------------|-----|----|
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | 5 | — | 17. | Orissa | 5 | 1 |
| 7. | Haryana | 2 | — | 18. | Puducherry | 1 | — |
| 8. | Jammu and Kashmir | 12 | 1 | 19. | Punjab | 4 | — |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 2 | — | 20. | Rajasthan | 1 | 5 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 7 | 16 | 21. | Sikkim | 6 | — |
| 11. | Kerala | 5 | 1 | 22. | Tamil Nadu | 3 | 2 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 13 | 4 | 23. | Tripura | 2 | 3 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 3 | 14 | 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 16 | 1 |
| 14. | Manipur | 1 | — | 25. | Uttarakhand | 2 | 5 |
| 15. | Meghalaya | 1 | — | 26. | West Bengal | 6 | 3 |
| 16. | Mizoram | 2 | — | Total | | 115 | 57 |

Statement-II

Funds released for Wetlands:

(Amount in rupees lakhs)

| Sl.No. | State | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 | Total |
|--------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 35.85 | — | 47.259 | — | 83.109 |
| 2. | Assam | 82.08 | 50.34 | — | — | 132.42 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 78.50 | 13.90 | 47.36 | — | 139.76 |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 83.09 | 40.00 | 30.188 | — | 153.278 |
| 5. | Jammu and Kashmir | 31.00 | 33.00 | 129.39 | — | 193.39 |
| 6. | Karnataka | 28.29 | 36.497 | 33.075 | — | 97.862 |
| 7. | Kerala | 16.23 | — | 15.75 | — | 31.98 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|-------|----------------|--------|---------|----------|--------|----------|
| 8. | Madhya Pradesh | 19.00 | 49.40 | 42.94 | 10.97 | 122.31 |
| 9. | Manipur | — | 30.00 | — | — | 30.00 |
| 10. | Mizoram | 17.92 | 53.00 | 71.99 | — | 142.91 |
| 11. | Orissa | 54.95 | 90.00 | 27.00 | 70.44 | 242.39 |
| 12. | Punjab | 105.14 | 103.27 | 73.78 | 30.85 | 313.04 |
| 13. | Rajasthan | 61.45 | 53.00 | 13.44 | — | 127.89 |
| 14. | Sikkim | — | 16.36 | 53.31 | 34.10 | 103.77 |
| 15. | Tamil Nadu | 23.25 | 99.60 | 153.40 | 91.38 | 367.63 |
| 16. | Tripura | — | — | 24.70 | — | 24.70 |
| 17. | Uttar Pradesh | 76.00 | 28.54 | 119.74 | 57.18 | 281.46 |
| 18. | Uttarakhand | — | — | 2.334 | — | 2.334 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 127.19 | 92.355 | 185.025 | 48.64 | 453.21 |
| Total | | 863.34 | 750.262 | 1070.679 | 343.56 | 3027.839 |

Funds released for Lakes:

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------|------|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1. | Jammu and Kashmir | 3000 | 3166 | 1250 | 1071 | 8487 |
| 2. | Karnataka | 450 | 259 | 484 | — | 1193 |
| 3. | Madhya Pradesh | 458 | 875 | 60 | — | 1393 |
| 4. | Maharashtra | 230 | 100 | 0755 | 200 | 6055 |
| 5. | Orissa | 100 | — | 100 | — | 200 |
| 6. | Rajasthan | — | 1344 | 13615 | — | 27055 |
| 7. | Uttar Pradesh | 149 | 100 | 400 | — | 649 |
| 8. | Uttarakhand | 733 | 428 | 340 | — | 1501 |
| 9. | West Bengal | 100 | — | 400 | — | 500 |
| Total | | 5220 | 6272 | 4471 | 1271 | 17234 |

Per Capita Income

1569. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is intra and interstate disparity in the per capita income;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the per capita income of each State and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to increase per capita income of each State of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) As per the information available from Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the Per Capita Income (PCI) of the different states measured in terms of per Capita Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at current prices for the year 2007-08 is given in the Statement. Inter-state variations in per capita income are largely due to natural resource endowments, level of industrialization, differences in human capital indicators viz. education, health, differences in population level, etc. However, there is no uniform pattern that seems to be applicable to all the states. The estimates for intra-state disparity of PCI are not maintained centrally.

(c) The Government has been taking several measures to increase the per capita income of States in a balanced manner. The policy instruments in this regard include plan and non-plan transfer of resources from the Centre to States favouring less developed States, tax incentives for setting up of private industries in the backward regions, etc. A number of programmes have been initiated to reduce income disparity between States. These include Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), Hill Area Development Programme and Border Area Development Programme, etc.

Statement

State-wise Per Capita Income for 2007-08 at current prices (in Rs.)

| Sl.No. | State/UT | Per Capita Income |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 34063 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 27398 |
| 3. | Assam | 21464 |
| 4. | Bihar | 11135 |
| 5. | Jharkhand | 19928 |
| 6. | Goa | 105582 |
| 7. | Gujarat | NA |
| 8. | Haryana | 58531 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 40134 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 24214 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 35555 |
| 12. | Kerala | 41814 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 18051 |
| 14. | Chhattisgarh | 25360 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 47051 |
| 16. | Manipur | 19258 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 26636 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 27501 |
| 19. | Nagaland | NA |
| 20. | Orissa | 23403 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| 21. | Punjab | 44923 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 23053 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 33553 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 40757 |
| 25. | Tripura | NA |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 16060 |
| 27. | Uttarakhand | NA |
| 28. | West Bengal | 31722 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | NA |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 110676 |
| 31. | Delhi | 78690 |
| 32. | Puducherry | 63524 |
| All-India Per Capita NNP | | 33283 |

Source : Based on information from Central Statistical Organisation

[Translation]

Funds under AIBP

1570. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government grants funds to State Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds granted under the schemes during the last three years and in the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the under-developed States in the country have been granted special funds on priority for the development of irrigation facilities in such states; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) Yes Madam.

(b) The Union Government provided funds under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to ongoing major/medium irrigation projects and surface water Minor Irrigation Schemes as per guidelines of the AIBP in force from time to time. The State-wise details of central assistance released under AIBP during 2006-07 to 2009-10 are given in Statement.

(c) and (d) Projects benefiting drought prone/tribal area and projects in the States having irrigation development below national average may be included in AIBP in relaxation to one to one criteria of inclusion of a new project under AIBP which states that a new project may be included in AIBP only on completion of an ongoing project under AIBP on one to one basis. Further projects benefiting drought prone/tribal area are eligible for 90% grant assistance under AIBP. The grant assistance being provided to the normal area is 25%.

As per AIBP guidelines in force, north eastern States, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand are classified as Special Category States and projects in these States are eligible for 90% grant assistance under AIBP. The projects in undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa are also treated at par with Special Category States and are provided with 90% grant assistance under AIBP.

Release of funds under AIBP is based on submission of AIBP release proposal by the State Government as per AIBP guidelines on year to year basis with adequate budget provision in the State Budget.

Statement

*State-wise details of Central Assistance(CA)/grant released under AIBP from 2006-07 to 2009-10
(as on 07.07.2009)*

| Sl. No. | State | Amount (Rs. in Crores) | | | |
|---------|-------------------|------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 843.4220 | 987.7692 | 855.1800 | 662.6610 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 27.0000 | 47.1800 | 33.9580 | 0.0000 |
| 3. | Assam | 30.2685 | 77.3380 | 405.9540 | 98.4907 |
| 4. | Bihar | 3.2300 | 62.2400 | 109.7029 | 18.6300 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 10.7050 | 96.9640 | 193.0402 | 60.8853 |
| 6. | Goa | 1.9100 | 32.4800 | 39.2300 | 0.0000 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 121.8885 | 585.7200 | 258.6100 | 0.0000 |
| 8. | Haryana | 3.1700 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 3.9300 | 114.0500 | 119.3178 | 0.0000 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 37.7716 | 199.2251 | 393.0661 | 0.0000 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 1.2900 | 9.2244 | 3.7200 | 0.0000 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 160.3729 | 349.9000 | 442.4190 | 182.7980 |
| 13. | Kerala | 16.6468 | 0.0000 | 0.9045 | 3.8120 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 48.3100 | 500.3450 | 473.7824 | 446.7544 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 465.5213 | 972.2500 | 2257.8313 | 1.9785 |
| 16. | Manipur | 156.3042 | 130.9870 | 221.6733 | 0.0000 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 0.7500 | 1.1600 | 24.8009 | 0.0000 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 14.2354 | 34.3434 | 50.7176 | 0.0000 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 10.5995 | 40.5100 | 48.5979 | 0.0000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 20. | Orissa | 133.8846 | 624.3590 | 724.4387 | 201.7852 |
| 21. | Punjab | | 13.5000 | 9.5400 | 0.0000 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 11.6000 | 156.5300 | 178.6200 | 8.1100 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 3.3236 | 3.2400 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| 24. | Tripura | 22.5131 | 8.1000 | 43.1750 | 0.0000 |
| 25. | Tamil Nadu | | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 81.8954 | 150.6900 | 315.4732 | 0.0000 |
| 27. | Uttarakhand | 84.7298 | 265.6500 | 371.6580 | 33.4782 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 6.7000 | 8.9500 | 22.8100 | 0.9144 |
| Total | | 2301.9722 | 5445.7051 | 7598.2213 | 1720.2977 |

[English]

**Removal of Environmental Regulators
from Boards of Companies**

1571. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to remove environmental regulators from the boards of companies;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any complaint from certain Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs) regarding violation of environmental rules like granting environmental clearance;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry into these matters;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the erring officials; and

(g) the effective measures taken by the Government to ensure transparency in the environmental clearance process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) While constituting the Expert Appraisal Committees, based on the available bio-data of Experts, scrutiny is done so that there is no conflict of interest.

(c) to (f) Complaints have, in the past, been received regarding matters such as non-implementation of conditions stipulated in the environment clearance letter, non adherence to the prescribed standards, change in scope

of the project and change of project standards, change in scope of the project and change of project location. These complaints are duly examined and wherever necessary, site inspections are got conducted through the Regional Offices of this Ministry as also the Central/State/Union Territory Pollution Control Boards. Inputs from the respective State Governments are also obtained whenever required. The matters like those relating to change of scope of the project or change of location, any complaints received before the grant of Environment Clearance (EC) are referred to the Expert Appraisal Committees for obtaining their recommendations before taking a decision.

(g) In order to increase transparency in the clearance process, the information has been put in public domain, through the website of the Ministry, relating to (i) status of pending projects, (ii) schedule and agenda of the meeting of Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs), (iii) minutes of the EAC meeting, (iv) Environment Clearance letters and (v) circulars, guidelines, instructions relating to Environmental Clearance.

[Translation]

Report of Law Commission on Poverty

1572. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 223rd Report of the Law Commission has emphasized the need for ameliorating the lot of the have-nots;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the main recommendations of the Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The 223rd Report of the Law Commission has emphasized the need for according top priority to implementation of the judgements rendered by the Supreme Court in their letter and spirit in order that the lot of the have-nots is ameliorated.

(b) The Report of Law Commission states that various laws, both direct and indirect, have been enacted to eradicate poverty. It has observed that various labour laws have been enacted, such as the Minimum Wages Act 1948, Workmen's Compensation Act 1923, Maternity Benefit Act 1961, payment of Bonus Act 1965, etc. in the direction of alleviating the lot of the poor.

(c) The Report has been forwarded to the concerned Ministries and departments by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

{English}

Tripartite MOUs for Tiger Protection

1573. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sign tripartite agreement with the State Governments and Director Project Tiger, in order to share responsibilities and better utilization of funds for tiger protection;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which Memorandum of Understanding is likely to be signed;

(c) whether the Union Government also proposes to review the resettlement and rehabilitation of forest-based Van Gujjar and other villagers from the core areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government further proposes to involve the local population in protecting the bio-diversity and habitation of the jungles; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A format for a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Environment and Forests. (acting through the National Tiger Conservation Authority), State Governments and the Field Director of the Tiger Reserve has been approved, prescribing respective responsibilities and reciprocal commitments linked to fund flows for ensuring effective tiger conservation in the country. The said NOU would be implemented this year while providing Central assistance to tiger States under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger.

(c) and (d) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger guidelines has been revised in 2008 for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, inter alia, includes funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in the core or critical tiger habitats, from the earlier package of Rs.1 lakh/family to an enhanced package of Rs.10 lakhs/family.

(e) and (f) Central assistance under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger is provided to tiger States for involving the local people in protection and antipoaching operations. The initiatives taken by the Government of India for strengthening tiger conservation are enclosed at Statement.

Statement

Milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection/conservation of tigers and other wild animals

Legal steps

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation

Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau.

2. Enhancement of punishment in cases of offence relating to a tiger reserve or its core area.

Administrative steps

3. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.
4. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, inter alia, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
5. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.
6. Declaration of eight new Tiger Reserves and in-principle approval accorded for creation of four new Reserves, namely Sahyadri in Maharashtra, Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh, Ratapani in M.P. and Sunabeda in Orissa.
7. The revised Project Tiger guidelines have been

issued to States for strengthening tiger conservation, which apart from ongoing activities, inter alia, include funding support to States for enhanced village relocation/rehabilitation package for people living in core or critical tiger habitats (from Rs.1 lakh/family to Rs.10 lakhs/family), rehabilitation/resettlement of communities involved in traditional hunting, mainstreaming livelihood and wildlife concerns in forests outside tiger reserves and fostering corridor conservation through restorative strategy to arrest habitat fragmentation.

8. A scientific methodology for estimating tiger (including co-predators, prey animals and assessment of habitat status) has been evolved and mainstreamed. The findings of this estimation/assessment are bench marks for future tiger conservation strategy.
9. An area of 29284.762 sq. km. has been notified by 15 Tiger States (out of 17) as core or critical tiger habitat under section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006 (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal). Two tiger States (Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) have taken a decision for notifying the core or critical tiger habitats (2765.04 sq.km.). The State of Madhya Pradesh has not identified/notified the core/critical tiger habitat in its newly constituted tiger reserve (Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary).
10. Memorandum of Understanding developed for better/concerted implementation of conservation inputs through tiger reserve States.

Financial steps

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

International Cooperation

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.
13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at the Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, with directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. The resolution was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stock-piles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

Reintroduction of Tigers

15. As a part of active management to rebuild Sariska and Panna Tiger Reserves where tigers have become locally extinct, reintroduction of tigers/tigresses have been done.

Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

16. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, inter alia, contains action points relating to tiger protection. Based on the one time grant of Rs.50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Rs.93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore and Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Central Assistance will be provided to States for creation of STPF in remaining 10 Tiger Reserves in 2009-10.

[Translation]

Satellites Launched by India

1574. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the space satellites launched by the country during the last three years and the current year along with their functions and launching stations;
- (b) whether any satellite launch failed in its mission;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the details of the financial losses incurred as a result thereof;
- (d) the rank/position of India in the world in satellite launching technology; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to strengthen the satellite launching infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES ; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The names of the spacecrafts launched by India and their functions during the last three years are given in the Statement.

(b) The launch of Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle-F02 (GSLV-F02) with Indian National Satellite (INSAT) - 4C spacecraft that took place on 10 the July 2006 did not succeed.

(c) The primary cause of the mission failure was attributed to loss of thrust in one liquid strap-on motor due to malfunctioning of propellant regulator. The direct cost of this failed mission was Rs. 246 crores. A National level expert committee has analysed the causes of failure and suggested corrective measures in the quality control/inspection procedures. These have been incorporated in the subsequent flight of GSLV - F04/ INSAT - 4CR mission on 2.7.2007 which was successful.

(d) and (e) India has two launch vehicle systems i.e. (i) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which is primarily meant for launching 1 to 2 tonnes class of satellite to the near earth orbit of 400 - 800 km.; (ii) Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV), used for launching two tonnes of communication satellites to the geo-synchronous orbit. Such technologies are available with USA, Russia, Japan, European Union and China. Indian launch vehicles are on par with these countries.

Present GSLV capacity allows India to launch 2.2 tonnes satellite in the Geo-synchronous orbit and development of GSLV - Mk - III is taken up to enhance this capability to 4.5 tonnes.

Statement

| Sl. No. | Name of the satellite | Launch Date | Launching Station | Function of the Satellite |
|---------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. | INSAT-4C | 10-07-2006 | Sriharikota | Communication and Broadcasting |
| 2. | CARTOSAT-2 | 10-01-2007 | Sriharikota | Mapping/Cartography |
| 3. | SRE-1 | 10-01-2007 | Sriharikota | Experimental technology satellite |
| 4. | INSAT-4B | 12-03-2007 | French Guayana | Communications and Broadcasting |
| 5. | INSAT-4CR | 02-09-2007 | Sriharikota | Communications and Broadcasting |
| 6. | CARTOSAT-2A | 28-04-2008 | Sriharikota | Mapping/Cartography |
| 7. | IMS-1 (TWSAT) | 28-04-2008 | Sriharikota | Remote Sensing |
| 8. | CHANDRAYAAN-1 | 22-10-2008 | Sriharikota | Scientific study of moon |
| 9. | RISAT-2 | 20-04-2009 | Sriharikota | Remote sensing |
| 10. | ANUSAT | 20-04-2009 | Sriharikota | Experimental communication satellite |

[English]

Decreasing Ground Water Level

1575. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI A. SAMPATH:
SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of fast decline in water levels in various parts of the country, leading to acute shortage of Water;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether areas/locations have been identified, which have witnessed such fast depletion of ground water;

(d) whether Government proposes to levy user charges for conservation and optimal utilisation of water;

(e) if so, the details thereof and other remedial measures taken/being taken by the Government to maintain normal water level in the affected areas of States; and

(f) the details of awareness and training programmes organized by Central Ground Water Authority to educate public and the results if any achieved in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) to (c) As per studies conducted by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), decline in ground water levels has been observed in various parts of the country due to increasing extraction and less recharge of ground water. The CGWB has identified the areas affected by over-exploitation.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal before the Government to levy user charges for conservation and optimal utilisation of water. The measures taken by the Government include implementation of scheme for artificial recharge of ground water through dugwells, implementation of the schemes for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies, implementation of scheme for demonstrative rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water, circulation of a Model Bill to States/UTs to facilitate regulation of ground water development.

(f) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has organized 384 mass awareness and 299 training programmes on public awareness, water management, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.

**Compulsory International Passport
for HAJ 2009**

1576. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL :
SHRI UMASHANKAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether compulsory International Passport is required for Haj pilgrims during the year 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Government has issued new policy guidelines to all the Passport Offices after consultation with the National and State Haj Committees to ensure that no Haj pilgrim faces any hurdles in obtaining his/her passport to undertake the pilgrimage. All passport offices have been instructed that the Haj passports should be handed over to the Haj pilgrims/Haj Committee within the due date stipulated by the Committee to ensure that no Hajis face any difficulty in undertaking the sacred journey.

**Conducting of Events in Protected
Monuments**

1577. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) permits use of protected monuments for conducting certain events;

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

(c) the nature of events being permitted by ASI and the charges fixed therefor; and

(d) the details of permission granted by ASI for conducting events during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) permits conduct of cultural events of high standards preferably classical music, dance and drama in the back-drop of the selected monuments (List is given in the enclosed Statement-I) and at the specifically identified locations in their precincts and as per the approved guidelines (Statement-II).

(d) The details of the permissions granted by ASI for the conduct of cultural events during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement-I

List of monuments where cultural events could be permitted

1. AGRA CIRCLE

- i. Ram Bagh
- ii. Akbar's Tomb (outside)
- iii. Diwan-i-Aum (Agra Fort)
- iv. Kankali Tila, Mathura
- v. Open are outside Badshahi Gate, Fatehpur Sikri

2. AURANGABAD CIRCLE

- i. Lawns of Bibi-Ka-Maqbara, Aurangabad
- ii. Open area in front of Rock-cut caves, Ellora
- iii. Open area Fort, Daulatabad

3. BANGALORE CIRCLE

- i. Open area Elephanta Stable, Hampi
- ii. Open area Vithala Temple Complex, Hampi
- iii. Open area east of Keshava Temple, Somnathpur
- iv. Open area Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebidu
- v. Open courtyard, Chenna Keshva Temple, Belur
- vi. Open area and cloistered court of Bahubali statue, Shravana Belgola
- vii. Open area surrounding the Bahubali statue, Karkala

viii. Open area Fort, Chitradurga

ix. Open lawns, Tipu's Palace, Bangalore

x. Open area surrounding Tipu's Tomb, Srirangapatna

xi. Open area-Daulatabad Bagh Palace, Srirangapatna

xii. Shri Harihareshwara Temple, Harihara

xiii. Eshwara temple, Arasikere

xiv. Fort Devanahalli

xv. Someshwara temple, Kolar

xvi. Open area Group of temples. Nandi

xvii. Anantapadmanabha Temple complex, Karkala

xviii. Fort, Bellary

xix. Open area around monuments, Hampi

4. BHOPAL CIRCLE

i. North of Chitragupta temple, Khajuraho

ii. Tansen Tomb, Gwalior

iii. Open area around Sas Bahu temple, Gwalior

iv. Open area to the west of Shiva temple, Bhojpur

v. Open area Jahaz Mahal, Mandu

5. BHUBANESHWAR CIRCLE

i. Open area around Raja Rani Temple, Bhubaneswar

ii. Open area Mukteshwar temple

iii. Parashu Rameshwar Temple

iv. Open area Sun Temple, Konarak

- v. Sita Bhanji
- vi. Haripur Garh
- vii. Sita at Ratnagiri
6. CHANDIGARH CIRCLE
- i. Open area surrounding Jal Mahal, Narnaul
- ii. Fort, Nurpur
- iii. Open area, Kangra Fort
- iv. Dakhni Sarai
- v. Fort Bhatinda
7. CHENNAI CIRCLE
- i. Brihadishwara temple, Tanjavore
- ii. Brihadishwara Temple, Gangaikonda Cholapuram
- iii. Aravateshwara Temple, Darasuram
- iv. Group of temples, Rock cut caves, Mahabalipuram
- v. Open area Group of temples, Moovar Koil
- vi. Fort area Sadras
8. DELHI CIRCLE
- i. Arab ki Sarai (Humayun's Tomb Complex)
- ii. Outer lawn isakhan Tomb (Humayun's Tomb Complex)
- iii. Jahaj Mahal
- iv. Roshnara Garden
- v. Open area Qutb Minar Complex
- vi. Lawn and outer open area, Purana Qila
- vii. Open area Quila Raipithora
- viii. Open area Red Fort (area of Ram Lila and inside)
9. DEHRADUN CIRCLE
- i. Rudranath Temple complex, Gopeshwar, Distt. Chamoli
10. DHARWAD CIRCLE
- i. Open area Durga Temple complex, Aihole
- ii. Open area Jyotirling Group of Temples, Aihole
- iii. Open area north of temples, Pattadakal
- iv. Open area between Group of temples, Ashtur
- v. Open area within the Fort Gulbarga
- vi. Open are Mahmud Gawans Madarasa, Bidar
- vii. Open area surrounding Gol Gumbaz, Bijapur
- viii. Lawns of Imbrahim Rauza, Bijapur
- ix. Open area, Navaraspur
- x. Open area Group of monuments, Lukkundi
- xi. Open area around Mahadevi Temple, Ittagi
- xii. Open area towards west of Siddeshwara Temple, Haveri
- xiii. Madhukeshwara temple complex, Banavasi
- xiv. Mukteshwara temple, Chandadanpur
- xv. Open area Fort, Souda
11. GOA CIRCLE
- i. Open area within the Fort, Aguda
- ii. Mahadev temple complex, Tambdi Surla
- iii. Open area Safa Masjid, Ponda

12. HYDERABAD CIRCLE

- i. Area within Golconda Fort
- ii. Siddhout Fort, Cuddapah
- iii. Sankaram, Vishakhapatnam
- iv. Ramappa Temple, Palampet
- v. Area within the Fort, Warangal
- vi. Open area around transplanted monument Nagtarjunkonda and Anupa (during day only)
- vii. Area surrounding Amaravati, the stupa site

13. JAIPUR CIRCLE

- i. Anna Sagar, Baradari
- ii. Ancient Site at Bhangarh
- iii. Deeg Palace, Deeg, Distt. Bharatpur
- iv. Fort, Bayana
- v. Group of Temples, Badoli
- vi. Mahanal Temple, Menal
- vii. Group of Temples, Bijolia
- viii. Fort, Chittaurgarh
- ix. Fort, Kumbalgarh
- x. Fort, Ranthambore
- xi. Fort, Jaisalmer
- xii. Archaeological Site, Ludrava
- xiii. Ghat/Jahangiri Mahal, Pushkar

14. KOLKATA CIRCLE

- i. Oper area in front of Cooch Behar Palace

- ii. Open area surrounding Bishnupur Group of Temples, Bishnupur

15. LUCKNOW CIRCLE

- i. Residency Lucknow
- ii. Open area Fort, Jhansi

16. MUMBAI CIRCLE

- i. Open area Elephanta
- ii. Fort Raigarh
- iii. Palace complex Shaniwarvada, Pune

17. PATNA CIRCLE

- i. Archaeological Site, Sarnath
- ii. Archaeological Site, Nalanda
- iii. Open area Sher Shah Tomb, Sasaram

18. RAIPUR CIRCLE

- i. Group of monument, Sirpur

19. RANCHI CIRCLE

NIL

20. SHIMLA CIRCLE

- i. Open area Vice Regal Lodge, Shimla

21. SRINAGAR CIRCLE

- i. Palace Ramnagar
- ii. Open area of the Fort, Ramnagar

22. TRISSUR CIRCLE

- i. Open area within the Fort, Bekal
- ii. Area within Fort St. Angelo, Kannur
- iii. Fort at Pakkad

23. VADODARA CIRCLE

- i. Open area/Garden around Sun Temple, Modhera
- ii. Open area within the ciradel, Pavagarh
- iii. Fort, Diu
- iv. Fort area, Moti Daman
- v. Fort area Nani Daman
- vi. Area around step well, Patan

Statement-II

The guidelines issued by the archaeological survey of India alongwith list of centrally protected monuments/sites where cultural events could be permitted

1. As a matter of course, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will not like to permit the use of monuments and land attached to such monuments for holding functions/events. The circles may, however, permit such use only as an exception if the DG, ASI/SA, Circle is fully satisfied that the function/event is unlikely to cause any damage, whatsoever, to the monument, its land and other built structures standing thereon.
2. The circles would accord permission in only those monuments, which are identified for holding cultural events. They will also delineate the area/parts of the monument where such events can be held.
3. The DG, ASI/SA, circle may refuse permission to hold functions in the identified monuments/sites in case ASI had undertaken recent renovation/beautification works and the holding of such event may interfere with the work/damage the renovations.
4. If a monument is not listed for allowing the holding of cultural events, the DG, ASI may grant such permissions after calling for a report from the concerned SA. The DG, ASI however reserves the right to disallow any such request. His decision will be final.
5. Permission can be granted for holding cultural events of a high standard, preferably classical. For this purpose, cultural events would mean classical music, dance and drama. In deciding whether an event is a cultural event or not, the decision of the DG, ASI would be final.
6. No permission would be granted for any function/event where the admission is regulated by sale of tickets or by levy of admission charges.
7. No permission would be granted for any event which involves any commercial/religious activity like sales, exhibition-cum-sales etc.
8. Permission for holding functions would be granted only to Government departments and public bodies. No permission would be granted to private individuals, private bodies or other commercial organizations. In deciding whether the requests for holding a function is from a public body or not, the decision of the DG, ASI would be final. While considering the requests from public bodies, the DG, ASI/ SA, Circle would consider the previous history and activities of the organization the purpose for which the event is being held and the nature and duration of the cultural event.
9. Permission issued will be valid only for one day except in exceptional cases where for reasons to be recorded, such permissions may extend to more than one day. All temporary structures must be constructed and removed within the same day by 11 p.m. All function must conclude by 10 p.m. No music or loudspeaker etc. will be allowed thereafter.

Any violation will lead to a police complaint by ASI officials.

10. No construction activity of any type will be permitted except for putting up a temporary rostrum or stage, which can be moved away. In putting up such temporary structures there will be no masonry activity.

11. As the conduct of the event within the monuments or its precincts is likely to cause damage to the built infrastructure and its environs, the ASI would levy the following charges for usage:-

(a) For conducting an event in the land attached (outside) to a protected monument Rs.25000/- per day and where a part of the built monuments (inside) is also likely to be used along with the land Rs.50000/- per day would be charged. (in select monuments in Delhi).

(b) In other circles for conducting cultural event, Rs.10000/- would be charged per day (for one day only) for using the area attached (outside) to a protected monument and where

a part of the protected monuments is also likely to be used, Rs.25000/- per day would be charged.

D.G., ASI may decide if other differential needed.

In addition to the above, ASI would also demand a refundable security deposit of Rs.50000/- per day in all monuments in Delhi. In other circles, this refundable security deposit would be Rs.30,000/-. This security deposit would be refunded within a week after the function after deducting expenditure, if any that the ASI has incurred in clearing the area of litter/garbage etc. or in repairing damages, if any.

The ASI would be free to impose appropriate conditions on various aspects like parking, maximum number of visitors, noise and luminous levels etc. to ensure that the monument and its environs are protected and preserved and the conduct of the event would not cause any damage to the monument (physically) or its cultural integrity.

The above guidelines have come into force with effect from on 14th January, 2005.

Statement-III

Details of cultural events conducted at centrally protected monument and sites during the three years

| Sl. No. | Name of Circle/ Monument/Site | Details of Cultural Events during the years | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| | | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Bangalore Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Group of Monuments at Hampi | Hampi Utsav by Govt. of Karnataka | Hampi Utsav by Govt. of Karnataka | 1. Hampi Utsav by Govt. of Karnataka | Nil |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|-----|
| | | | | 2. Dance Programme by Govt. of Karnataka | |
| 2. | Fort Chitradurga | | | Durga Utsav by Govt. of Karnataka | |
| 3. | Hoysaleswara Temple, Halebid and Channakeshava Temple at Belur | | | Holi Utsav by Govt. of Karnataka | |
| Bhopal Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Tomb of Tansen, Gwalior | Tansen Samorah by Sangeet Kala Academy, Bhopal | Tansen Samorah by Sangeet Kala Academy, Bhopal | Tansen Samorah by Sangeet Kala Academy, Bhopal | Nil |
| 2. | Western Group of Temples, Khajuraho | Dance Festival by Sangeet Kala Academy | Dance Festival by Sangeet Kala Academy | Dance Festival by Sangeet Kala Academy | Nil |
| 3. | Shiv Temple, Bhojpur | Cultural Festival by M.P. Govt. Bhopal | Cultural Festival by M.P. Govt. Bhopal | Cultural Festival by M.P. Govt. Bhopal | Nil |
| Bhubaneswar Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Raja Rani Temple | Cultural Programme by Distt. Administration | Cultural Programme by Distt. Administration | Cultural Programme by Distt. Administration | Nil |
| 2. | Mukteshwar Temple | Cultural Programme by Distt. Administration | Cultural Programme by Distt. Administration | Cultural Programme by Distt. Administration | Nil |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| Chandigarh Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Bhatinda Fort | Cultural Programme by DC, Bhatinda | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| Chennai Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Vacant portion of the Fort Maidan on the southeastern side within protected area of Vellore Fort, Vellore | Holding meetings, Exhibition and parking of Buses by Tamil Nadu State Road Transport Corpn. | Holding meetings, Exhibition and parking of Buses by Tamil Nadu State Road Transport Corpn. | Holding meetings, Exhibition and parking of Buses by Tamil Nadu State Road Transport Corpn. | Holding meetings, Exhibition and parking of Buses by Tamil Nadu State Road Transport Corpn. |
| Delhi Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Qutb Minar | Qutb Festival by DTTDC, Delhi | 1. Qutb Festival by DTTDC, Delhi 2. Cultural Programme by Times of India through DTTDC | Nil | Nil |
| 2. | Purana Qila | 1. Dada Music by DTTDC, Delhi 2. Cultural Programme by City Group 3. Cultural Programme, by TCI 4. Cultural Evening by Global Union Energy | 1. Cultural event by Appollo Hospital 2. Cultural Programme by GNN, Indian Bureau Chief 3. Band Concert, by DIG, BSF 4. Cultural | 1. Cultural Programme by ICCR 2. Cultural Programme by Indian Oil Corporation 3. Cultural Programme by Back Stage Pvt. Ltd. 4 Cultural Programme by | 1. Classical Dance by VP, Times of India 2. South Asia Cultural Festival by DG, ICCR |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | |
|----|----------|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | Venture Ltd. 5. Italian Orchestra Show by DTTDC 6. Cultural Evening by Ministry of Defence 7. Classical Dance and Sarod by ASI, Ministry of Culture 8. Cultural Programme by Ministry of Commerce and Industry 9. Musical Performance by Times of India 10. Ananya Festival, by DTTDC 11. Cultural Programme by Asia Pacific, Ministry of Urban Development | Programme by Indian Air Force 5. Cultural Programme by Ranjit Datta, Pt. Jasraj 6. Classical Programme by Times of India 7. Ananya Festival by DTTDC 8. Concert Programme by Ministry of External Affairs 9. Fortune Global for Meet by South Asia Time Life New Service 10. Cultural Programme by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 11. Cultural Programme by ICCR | DG, ICCR 5. Cultural Programme by Director, School of Drama 6. Cultural Programme by Secretary, Sahitya Kala Parishad 7. Delhi Painting Competition by Director, Onest Solution Pvt. Ltd. 8. Cultural Programme by VP ITDC | | |
| 3. | Red Fort | Nil | 1. Kavi Sammelan Cultural Programme by Urdu Academy 2. Fortune | 1. Kavi Sammelan Cultural Programme by Urdu Academy 2. Torch Run by | 1. Kavi Sammelan Cultural Programme by Urdu Academy 2. Display Flag Bedhte Kadam by. | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|----------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | Global for Meet by South Asia Time Life New Service | Special Olympic Asia Pacific | Heritage Motaring Club of India |
| 4. | Humayun's tomb | | 1. Special Show by Executive Producer, CNN. IBN | | |
| 5. | Kotla Feroz Shah | Nil | Light and Sound Show Programme by Secretary, Education, Govt. of NCT Delhi | Nil | Nil |
| 6. | Roshnara Tomb, Kashmeri Gate, Jantar Mantar and Uggarsain ki Boali | Nil | Nil | Public Art Festival by Public Art and Ecology | Nil |
| Dharwad | | | | | |
| 1. | Open area of Naneshwar Temple, Lakkundi | 1. State Festival, Lakhundi Utsav by District Authority, Gadag 2. Folk Dance, Heritage Songs Cultural Programmes by District Authority, Gadag | Nil | State Festival, Lakhundi Utsav, by District Authority, Gadag | Lakhundi Utsav 2009 by District Authority, Gadag |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2. | Open Area of Bidar Fort, Bidar | Cultural Programme on Bahamani Sultans, District Administration, Bidar | Nil | Bidar Utsav, 2008, by District Administration, Bidar | Bidar Utsav, 2009, by District Administration Bidar |
| 3. | Open area of group of Temples Pattadakal | Nil | Chalukya Utsav, 2007, by Distt. Administration, Bagalkot | Chalukya Utsav, 2007, by Distt. Administration, Bagalkot | |
| Goa Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Mahadev Temple, Tambdisurla | Dhalo and Fugdi by Department of Culture and Village Panchayat | Dhalo and Fugdi by Department of Culture and Village Panchayat | Dhalo and Fugdi by Department of Culture and Village Panchayat | Dhalo and Fugdi by Department of Culture and Village Panchayat |
| Hyderabad Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Warangal fort, Warangal | Nil | Cultural Events by State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh | Nil | Nil |
| Jaipur Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Kumbalgarh Fort | Kumbalgarh Festival by Govt. of Rajasthan | Kumbalgarh Festival by Govt. of Rajasthan | Kumbalgarh Festival by Govt. of Rajasthan | Nil |
| 2. | Badshahi Bagh, Khamnor | Nil | Vidhik Shakshrta Sammelan by Govt. of Rajasthan | Nil | Nil |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|------------------------|--|-----|---|---|-----|
| 3. | Anna Sagar Baradari, Ajmer | Nil | Nil | At Home Function by Govt. of Rajasthan | Nil |
| Lucknow Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Residency Building, Lucknow | Nil | Cultural Programme, by State Bank of India, Lucknow | Nil | Nil |
| 2. | Dilkusha palace, Lucknow | Nil | Cultural Programme, by Adjutant General, Lucknow | Nil | Nil |
| Patna Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Kushinagar | Nil | Function by Shanti Buddha Bhoomi Pilgrim Organisation | Nil | Nil |
| 2. | Shahi Fort, Jaunpur | Nil | Nil | Cultural Programme by Distt. Collector, Jaunpur | Nil |
| Srinagar Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Ancient Palace, Ram Nagar, Udampur, Jammu and Kashmir | Nil | Bhajan Sandhya by Municipal Committee, Ramnagar | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|------------------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| 2. | Pari Mahal, Srinagar | | Cultural Event (Santoor Recital) by Directorate of Tourism, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir | | |
| 3. | Devi Bhagwati Temple, Manwal | Akhand Jyoti on Navratras (twice a year) free of charges | Akhand Jyoti on Navratras (twice a year) free of charges | Akhand Jyoti on Navratras (twice a year) free of charges | Akhand Jyoti on Navratras (twice a year) free of charges |
| Shimla Circle | | | | | |
| 1. | Ruined Fort, Kangra, H.P. | 1. Annual Function of Jain Community by President, Swetamber Jain Kangra Committee 2. Krishna Janamashtmi by Pradan, Municipal Corporation Nurpur | 1. Annual Function of Jain Community by President, Swetamber Jain Kangra Committee 2. Krishna Janamashtmi by Pradan, Municipal Corporation Nurpur | 1. Annual Function of Jain Community by President, Swetamber Jain Kangra Committee 2. Krishna Janamashtmi by Pradan, Municipal Corporation Nurpur | |
| Vadodara Circle | | | | | |
| | Sun Temple, Modhera, Distt. Mehsana, Gujarat | Nil | Uttarardh Utsav/National Dance Festival, by Collector and DM, Mehsana | Uttarardh Utsav (National Dance Festival), by Collector and DM, Mehana | Uttarardh Utsav (National Dance Festival), by Collector and DM, Mehsana |

Teesta Irrigation Project

1578. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Teesta Irrigation Project in West Bengal is progressing at a slow pace;

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

(c) the funds allocated and released for the project during the last three years and the current year;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to expedite the progress of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) and (b) Teesta Irrigation Project was approved by the Planning Commission in the year 1975 at an estimated cost of Rs.69.72 crore. The latest estimated cost of the Project is Rs.2988.61 crore. The cumulative expenditure incurred on the project upto the end of March, 2009 is Rs.1153.43 crore. The reasons attributed to the slow progress of the project are:-

(i) Inability of State Government to provide adequate funds to the project in time.

(ii) Delay in acquisition of land for canal system.

(c) The details of Budget provision made by the Government of West Bengal and expenditure incurred on this project by them during the last three years are given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

| Year | Budget provision | Expenditure incurred |
|-----------|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2006-2007 | 94.10 | 39.954 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----------|--------|-------|
| 2007-2008 | 94.85 | 62.01 |
| 2008-2009 | 115.79 | 57.54 |

The budget allocation provided by Government of West Bengal during 2009-10 is Rs.237.19 crore.

(d) Irrigation is a state subject and the irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the concerned State Governments from their own resources as per their own priorities. However, Central Government provides financial assistance to the State Governments under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for expeditious completion of ongoing projects as per the guidelines of the programme in force from time to time. The Central Loan Assistance/Grant released for Teesta Project is Rs.152.924 crore so far. Further, this project has been included in the list of National Projects and is eligible for 90 per cent Central Grant as per the guidelines of the National Projects.

(e) The project is planned to be completed by March, 2015 as per information received from the Government of West Bengal.

Acquisition of Coal Mines Abroad

1579. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to acquire coal mines abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof including funds required for the purpose;

(c) the names of the public sector undertakings which have been involved for the purpose;

(d) the present status of the proposal; and

(e) the estimated income which is likely to be generated as a result of acquisition of coal mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has approved formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) through joint Venture between Coal India Limited (CIL)/Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)/Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)/National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) and National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), which has been registered as "International Coal Ventures Private Limited (ICVL). The purpose of ICVL is to invest in coal resources abroad to meet the coal demand of partner companies. The SPV has been approved to have an authorized capital of Rs.10,000 crores and an initial paid up capital of Rs.3,500 crores. ICVL has been registered as a company on 20.5.2009.

(e) As ICVL is at initial stage, it is not possible at this juncture to estimate the income likely to be generated as a result of acquisition of coal resources/ mines.

Sale of Drugs/Medicines by Chemists

1580. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trend of misleading advertisements about the drugs are increasing in the country;

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

(c) the details of the norms/guidelines issued by the Government for selling of medicines/drugs by Chemists; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to strictly enforce these norms for sale of drugs by Chemists and

the action taken against the Chemists who violate these norms?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) There are no reports of increasing trend of misleading advertisement in the country. The advertisement of drugs is regulated under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954. The Act is administered by the State Governments under their respective jurisdictions.

(c) and (d) The sale of medicines is regulated under the provision of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1954, through a system of licensing and inspections by the State Licensing Authorities appointed by the State Governments. Detailed provisions are provided under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules which are mandatory for both wholesalers and retailers of drugs as conditions of license. State Drug Control Authorities take action for violations of provisions in accordance to the penal provisions provided under the said Act.

National Water Mission

1581. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch a National Water Mission in the country;

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

(c) the manner in which the said Mission is likely to address the issues of climate change/global warming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA) : (a) to (c) The National Action plan on Climate Change has been

released in June 2008 which envisages institutionalization of eight national missions. National Water Mission is one of the eight identified national missions. Ministry of Water Resources has prepared the draft comprehensive Mission Document for National Water Mission through a consultative process. The objective of National Water Mission is "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources management". Five goals identified for the National Water Mission are (i) Comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources, (ii) Promotion of citizen and state actions for water conservation, augmentation and preservation, (iii) Focused attention on over over-exploited areas, (iv) Increasing water use efficiency by 20%; and (v) Promotion of basin level integrated water resources management.

[Translation]

Environmental Clearance to PMGSY

1582. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Governments for grant of environmental clearance for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY);

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) the number of cases which are pending for want of environmental clearance and the reasons for such pendency; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No proposal from any of the State Governments has been received by this Ministry for the grant of environmental clearance for the construction of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). The roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are not covered under Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 and hence they don't require Environmental Clearance.

(b) to (d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) above.

[English]

Clinical Trials of Drugs on Human Beings

1583. DR. K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) are regulating the clinical trial of drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the norms/guidelines for such trials;

(c) whether certain companies were detected for violating guidelines on clinical trials of drugs on human beings;

(d) if so, the details of such companies;

(e) the action taken by the Government against such companies;

(f) whether the Government proposes to enact a law to regulate clinical trials in the country;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the time by which such law is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Clinical Trials in the country are regulated by Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) as per the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. The requirements and guidelines for undertaking clinical trials are specified in Rule 122DA, 122DAA, 122DB, 122E and Schedule Y of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules. Schedule Y also mandates that clinical trial is conducted as per Good Clinical Practices (GCP) Guidelines issued by CDSCO, Directorate General of Health Services, Government of India.

(c) to (e) M/s Wyeth Pharmaceutical Limited, vide their letter dated 20-10-2008 submitted the report of Serious Adverse Events (SAE) regarding death of a subject involved in a clinical trial of 13-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in India. After review of the SAE, CDSCO suspended the clinical trial on 6.11.08 in the country. Thereafter the clinical trial site, where the above said SAE occurred, was inspected by a team constituted by CDSCO, and it revealed various Good Clinical Practices (GCP) violations. Therefore sponsor (M/s Wyeth Pharmaceutical Limited), monitor (M/s GVK Biosciences Pvt. Ltd.) and the concerned investigator were issued warning letters asking corrective actions to be taken by them to prevent such violations in future. The clinical trial remains suspended at all the twelve sites from 06.11.08 to 22.04.09. The sponsor submitted various corrective actions taken to ensure GCP compliance. CDSCO scrutinized the same and decided to revoke the suspension on 23.04.2009 from all the sites except the inspected site. Further monitor and investigator of the inspected site also submitted details of corrective action taken by them, based on which the suspension from the inspected site was also revoked on 2.06.09.

(f) to (h) Government has introduced the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill 2007 in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st August, 2007 in the Rajya Sabha on the

21st August, 2007, which inter alia seeks to incorporate separate regulatory provision in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 for clinical trials. Further, draft rules approved by Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) for registration of Clinical Research Organisation (CRO) /Sponsor undertaking clinical trials in the country have been posted on CDSCO website for public comments.

Look East Policy

1584. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to revamp the 'Look East' Policy;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is also negotiating to conclude a Free Trade Agreement with the ASEAN as envisaged in the 'Look East' Policy;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) The 'Look East Policy' of the Government of India has been evolving since early 1990s with inputs from different Departments of the Government and we have been able to significantly deepen our engagement with ASEAN and other countries of South and East Asia. Exchange of high level visits and enhanced levels of bilateral trade and investment give frequent opportunities to upgrade the framework and content of the Look East Policy on a regular basis.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e) As part of Free Trade Agreement with ASEAN, the text of Trade-in-Goods Agreement has been finalized. Discussions on agreements in Investment and Services are to commence soon.

[Translation]

Workers Employed in Coal Companies

1585. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers employed in various coal PSUs in the country as on date, company-wise; and

(b) the quantum of coal produced through machine and manually separately during the last three years and the current year, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) COAL INDIA LIMITED AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

The number of workers employed in Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies as on 30.06.2009 are as follows :

| COMPANY | No. of workers as on 31.05.2008 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 |
| Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) | 87785 |
| Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) | 73846 |
| Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) | 53768 |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---------------|
| Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) | 60102 |
| South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) and Dankuni Coal Complex | 79056 |
| Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) | 19648 |
| Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL) | 15068 |
| Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. | 2298 |
| North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) | 2849 |
| Coal India Limited (CIL) (Head Quarter) | 737 |
| Total | 395157 |

SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED

The number of worker in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. as on 30.06.2009 is 70341.

NEYVELI LIGNITE CORPORATION LTD.

The number of worker in Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. as on 1.7.2009 is 14471.

(b) COAL INDIA LIMITED AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

The quantum of coal produced through machine and manually separately during the last three years and the current year, company-wise is as under : -

Figures in MT

| Company | 2008-09 | | 2007-08 | | 2006-07 | |
|---------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|
| | By Machine | Manually | By Machine | Manually | By Machine | Manually |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| ECL | 24.17 | 3.97 | 19.65 | 4.41 | 25.63 | 4.84 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|------|--------|------|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| BCCL | 23.48 | 2.03 | 22.92 | 2.29 | 21.35 | 2.85 |
| CCL | 42.07 | 1.17 | 42.76 | 1.39 | 39.84 | 1.48 |
| NCL | 63.65 | 0.00 | 59.62 | 0.00 | 52.16 | 0.00 |
| WCL | 43.89 | 0.81 | 42.51 | 1.01 | 42.00 | 1.21 |
| SECL | 100.34 | 0.80 | 92.75 | 1.05 | 87.32 | 1.18 |
| MCL | 92.68 | 0.06 | 87.94 | 0.07 | 79.93 | 0.07 |
| NEC | 0.96 | 0.05 | 1.01 | 0.09 | 0.94 | 0.11 |
| CIL | 394.84 | 8.89 | 369.16 | 10.31 | 349.17 | 11.74 |

The information regarding production through machine and manually in Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries for current year is being collected. The same would be laid on the table of the House.

SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED

Figures in MT

| | 2009-10 (April-June 2009) | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 |
|------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| By Machine | 11.437 | 40.496 | 35.778 | 32.133 |
| Manually | 0.820 | 4.046 | 4.826 | 5.574 |
| Total | 12.257 | 44.542 | 40.604 | 37.707 |

NEYVELI LIGNITE CORPORATION LTD.

Actual Lignite Production Figures in (Lakh Tonnes)

| | 2009-10 (April-June 2009) | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 |
|------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| By Machine | 58.76 | 213.07 | 215.86 | 210.14 |

Neyveli Lignite Corporation's mines are highly mechanized, the quantum of lignite produced manually is negligible.

Attacks on Indian Students in Foreign Countries

1586. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has recently asked the Union Government to file an affidavit explaining the steps taken for the safety of Indian students facing racial attacks in Australia and Canada;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the case before the Court?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The matter is sub-judice.

Reservation for SC/ST in Private Companies

1587. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to ensure reservation for SCs/STs and OBCs in private sector;

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

(c) the number of requests received by the Government from public representatives and other social organisations in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) to (d) The Government has received suggestions from various organizations for introduction of reservation in private sector. A Group of Ministers was formed in September, 2004 to examine the issue of affirmative action, including introduction of reservation in private sector, and to initiate a dialogue with the Industry and other associations to fulfil the aspirations of the Scheduled Caste And Scheduled Tribe youth. The Group met five times and also held consultations with the representatives of Apex Industry Associations. In October, 2006, a Coordination Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, to carry forward the dialogue with Industry on affirmative action in private sector. The Committee has held discussions with representatives of Apex Industry Cham-

bers/Associations. As decided in the third meeting of the Coordination Committee, held on 11.7.2008, a Group of Officers has been constituted in September, 2008 to study the issue of providing fiscal incentives to industries for setting up manufacturing units in backward districts with large SC/ST population.

[English]

Diversion of Forest Land

1588. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in some of the States including Haryana forest land is being diverted for non-forest use including petrol pumps and shopping malls; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for diversion of forest land for private commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, forest land is diverted for non-forestry purposes, *inter-alia*, for developmental activities including infrastructure development, irrigation, laying of pipelines/cables/transmission lines etc. So far, out of 1591 approvals, 146 approvals mostly pertaining to approach roads to the petrol pumps and shopping malls have been accorded in the State of Haryana involving 17.375 ha. of forest land.

Clinical Trial Registry

1589. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Clinical Trial Registry is freely available to the public;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all trials are being registered;

(d) if so, the number of trials registered in the Registry during the last three years and the current year;

(e) whether any discrepancies in the outcomes of trial protocols and published reports have been noticed by the Government; and

(f) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Clinical Trial Registry-India (CTRI), maintained by National Institute of Medical Statistics, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), is a free online registry of clinical trials at www.ctri-in.

(c) Currently all interventional trials are being registered in the CTRI. Observational and Bioavailability/Bioequivalence trials are not currently being registered. Trial Registration has been made mandatory with effect from 15th June 2009.

(d) The CTRI was launched on the 20th of July 2007. As of 13th July 2009, 338 trials have been registered.

During July 2007 to December 2007, 11 trials were registered.

During January 2008 to December 2008, 137 trials were registered.

During January 2009 to July 2009, 190 trials were registered.

(e) and (f) The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has not received report of any such discrepancies in the outcomes of trial protocols and published reports.

Maoists Links with other Outfits

1590. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maoists have established links with other outfits operating from other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the respective Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of these countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the concerned Ministry (MHA) and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Road Map for Bio-Technology

1591. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of road map prepared for the use of Bio-technology;

(b) whether the Government has encouraged the application of Bio-technology in the field of health care, agriculture and industrial sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of Biotech Parks and incubation centres functioning in the country and proposed to be established during Eleventh Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OFFICE; MINISTER OF

STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The Department of Bio-technology, Government of India formulated a National Bio-technology Development Strategy which was announced in October, 2007. The Strategy was formulated after detailed discussion with various Stake holders, Scientists, NGOs, Policy makers, Civil Societies and Industries.

The National Bio-technology Development Strategy aims at creating such tools and technologies that address the problems of the largest section of the society, provide products and services at affordable prices and make India globally competitive in the emerging bio-economy. The basic goal of the National Bio-technology Development Strategy is to enable emergence of an ecosystem that promotes innovation. The Strategy provides for producing more world class researchers, establishing centres of excellence and interdisciplinary networks in the university system, strengthening technology transfer and patenting skills, promoting biotech clusters and parks, building a strong regulatory system, improving transnational movement of biologicals, building new institutes in a few key areas where there is deficiency and link international partnerships to national goals. The Strategy is a comprehensive road map for addressing cross-cutting issues related to human resource development, infrastructure strengthening, promotion of industry and trade and public awareness, and an action plan for specific sub-sectors. The strategic action plan will direct the future priorities and activities in different sectors of bio-technology.

(b) and (c) The Union Government has taken a number of steps to promote application of bio-technology in the field of health care, agriculture and industry sector. The Department of Bio-technology (DBT) established as an independent Department of Ministry of Science and Technology in 1986, has been given the mandate for

promotion and development of bio-technology. Besides DBT, Department of Science and Technology, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Indian Council of Medical Research and Indian Council of Agricultural Research also support bio-technology research programmes. The main thrust of activities of DBT is on Promotion of application of bio-technology programmes, development of products/processes, promotion of public-private-partnership, Human Resource Development, enhancing capacity for technology transfer and commercialization, streamlining of regulatory mechanisms, effective management of intellectual property, creation of centres of excellence and strengthening of infrastructure. Research institutes, universities and voluntary organizations have been supported across the country. In the health sector, emphasis is on vaccine, diagnostics, biodrugs, implants and devices. In agriculture, emphasis is on drought, salinity, post harvest losses, nutraceuticals, biofortifeeds using marker assisted breeding and genetic modification where necessary.

(d) Four bio-technology parks supported by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India are presently functioning in the country. These are located in the States of Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow) and Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad) and two in Tamil Nadu (Chennai). There are also parks in Bangalore and Pune. New park is proposed at Mohali. Considering the importance of bio-technology parks for the growth of the bio-technology industry, Government plans to promote and support at least ten bio-technology parks by 2010, depending upon the feasibility of the proposals received from the State Governments. Proposals of Himachal Pradesh, Kamataka, Kerala, Assam and Gujarat have already been supported by the Government. The proposal from Orissa is in the planning/development stage by the State Government.

Trauma Centres along National Highways

1592. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of road accident victims die for want of immediate medical aid;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of Trauma Centres set up in the country along the National Highways, State-wise and location-wise;
- (d) whether the existing Trauma Centres set up are adequate;
- (e) if not, whether the Government proposes to set up more Trauma Centres in the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the location identified for the purpose; and
- (g) the time by which these centres are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (g) As per the report

of Transport Research Wing, Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, during the Calendar Year 2007, 479216 number of accidents were reported; 513340 persons were injured and 114444 died due to road traffic accidents in the country.

To address this problem, a revised scheme namely "Project for establishment of trauma care facilities along National Highways" during the 11th Five Year Plan" has been envisaged to develop a network of Trauma centres along the Golden Quadrilateral, North-South and East-West corridors of the National Highways to help the accident victims. The project envisages the availability of the life support ambulances every 50 Km. along with the National Highways. It also provides for three categories of Trauma centres, viz, L-I, L-II and L-III. The trauma care network has been so designed that no trauma victim has to be transferred for more than 50 Km. and a designated trauma centre is available at every 100 Km.

The centres which were provided financial assistance so far for establishment of Trauma Care Centres during the 11th Five Year Plan is given at Statement. These centres are under various stages of progress.

Statement

List of Trauma Centres sanctioned:

| State | Sl.No. | Name of Hospital/Medical Institution |
|---------|--------|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Gujarat | 1. | District Hospital, Himmatnagar (L-III) |
| | 2. | General Hospital, Valsad (L-II) |
| | 3. | Govt. Medical College, Surat (L-II) |
| | 4. | Distt. Hospital, Bharuch (L-III) |
| | 5. | Govt. Medical College, Vadodara (L-II) |

1

2

3

Tamil Nadu

6. Pt. Deen Dayal Upathayaya Hospital, Rajkot (L-II)
7. General Hospital, Morbi (L-II)
8. Civil Hospital, Radhanpur (L-II)
9. Sahyog Arogya Hospital, Bachau, Kutchh (L-III)
10. General Hospital, Porbundar (L-II)
11. CHC, Jetpur (L-III)
12. Krishnagiri Govt. Hospital, Dharampuri (L-III)
13. Govt. Medical College and Civil Hospital, Vellore (L-II)
14. Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital, Vellore (L-II)
15. District Hqrs. Hospital, Dindigul (L-II)
16. Govt. Medical College Hospital, Kanyakumari (L-II)
17. Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, Tirunelveli (L-II)
18. District Hqrs. Hospital, Karur (L-III)
19. District Hqrs. Hospital, Kovilpatti (L-III)
20. Govt. Rajaji Hospital and Medical College, Madurai (L-II)

Andhra Pradesh

21. Nayadupet Taluk Hospital, Nellore (L-II)
22. Medical College, Guntur (L-II)
23. Tuni Taluk Hospital, East Godavari, (L-III)
24. Taluk Hospital, Tekkali (L-III)
25. Distt. Hospital, Nellore (L-II)
26. Distt. Hospital, Ongole (L-III)
27. Andhra Medical College, Vishakhapatnam (King George Medical College) (L-II)

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------|-----|--|
| | 28. | Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Adilabad (L-II) |
| | 29. | Area Hospital, Kamareddy (L-III) |
| | 30. | District Hqrs Hospital, Nizamabad (L-II) |
| | 31. | Government General Hospital, Kurnool (L-II) |
| | 32. | Government General Hospital, Anantapur (L-II) |
| | 33. | Government District Hospital, Mehboobnagar (L-III) |
| | 34. | Community Hospital, Penukonda (L-III) |
| Karnataka | 35. | Tumkur Distt. Hospital, Tumkur (L-III) |
| | 36. | Sira CHC/Taluk Hospital, Sira (L-III) |
| | 37. | Chitradurga Civil Hospital, Chitradurga (L-II) |
| | 38. | Devangere Civil hospital, Devangere (L-III) |
| | 39. | Haveri Distt. Hospital, Haveri (L-III) |
| | 40. | Belgaum Distt. Hospital, Belgaum (L-III) |
| | 41. | Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli (L-II) |
| | 42. | General Hospital, Chickballapur (L-III) |
| Punjab | 43. | District Hospital, Jalandhar (L-II) |
| Maharashtra | 44. | Government Medical College Hospital Kolhapur, (L-II) |
| | 45. | B.J. Medical College, Pune, (L-II) |
| | 46. | Satara Distt. Hospital, Satara, (L-III) |
| | 47. | Govt. Medical College Hospital, Nagpur (L-II) |
| | 48. | Sub-District Hospital, Hinganghat, Wardha (L-II) |
| | 49. | Sub-District Hospital, Dahanu District, Thane (L-III) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------|---------------|--|
| Orissa | 50. | District Hospital, Balasore, (Level-II) |
| | 51. | District Hospital, Bhadrak, (Level-III) |
| | 52. | District Hospital, Khurda, (Level-III) |
| | 53. | SCB Medical College, Cuttack (Level-I) |
| Haryana | 54. | BSS General Hospital, Panipat (L-III) |
| | Uttar Pradesh | 55. |
| 56. | | BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur (L-II) |
| 57. | | District Hospital, Lalitpur (L-II) |
| 58. | | District Hospital, Jalaun (L-III) |
| 59. | | MLB Medical College, Jhansi (L-II) |
| 60. | | Shri Bhimrao Ambedkar Distt. Hospital, Etawah (L-I) |
| 61. | | SN Medical College, Agra (L-II) |
| 62. | | LLR Hospital and GSVM Medical College, Kanpur (L-II) |
| 63. | | District Hospital, Faizabad (L-III) |
| 64. | | District Hospital, Basti (L-III) |
| 65. | | District Hospital, Fatehpur (L-III) |
| West Bengal | 66. | Burdwan Medical College and Hospital, Burdwan (L-II) |
| | 67. | Sub-Divisional Hospital, Asansoi (L-II) |
| | 68. | North Bengal Medical College and Hospital, Siliguri (L-II) |
| Rajasthan | 69. | Islampur S.D. Hospital, Uttar Dinajpur (L-III) |
| | 70. | Taluka Hospital, Kotputli (L-III) |
| | 71. | SMS Medical College, Jaipur (L-II) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-------------------|-----|--|
| | 72. | JLN Medical College, Ajmer (L-II) |
| | 73. | District Hospital, Bhilwara (L-III) |
| | 74. | RNT Medical College, Udaipur (L-II) |
| | 75. | Civil Hospital, Dungarpur (L-III) |
| | 76. | Govt. Hospital, Sirohi (L-III) |
| | 77. | Govt. Hospital, Baran (L-III) |
| | 78. | Shri Sanwaliya Hospital, Chittorgarh (L-III) |
| | 79. | New Medical College Hospital, Kota (L-II) |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 80. | Govt. District Hospital, Udhampur (L-II) |
| | 81. | Mirza Mohammed Afzalbeg Memorial District Hospital, Anantnag (L-III) |
| Assam | 82. | Medical College and Hospital, Silchar (L-II) |
| | 83. | Civil Hospital, Haflong (L-III) |
| | 84. | Civil Hospital, Diphu (L-III) |
| | 85. | District Hospital, Nagoan (L-II) |
| | 86. | Govt. Medical College and Hospital, Guwahati (L-II) |
| | 87. | Civil Hospital, Bongaigoan (L-III) |
| Bihar | 88. | Sadar Hospital, Sasaram, Rohtas (L-III) |
| | 89. | AN Magadh Medical College Hospital, Gaya (L-II) |
| | 90. | Sadar Hospital, Kishanganj (L-III) |
| | 91. | Sadar Hospital, Purnia (L-II) |
| | 92. | Sadar Hospital, Madhepura (L-III) |
| | 93. | Darbhanga Medical College Hospital, Darbhanga (L-II) |
| | 94. | S.K. Medical College Hospital, Muzaffarpur (L-II) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|-----|--|
| | 95. | Sadar Hospital, Gopalgunj (L-III) |
| | 96. | Sub-Divisional Hospital Jhanjarpur (L-III) |

[Translation]

**Delayed Central Projects in
Maharashtra**

1593. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects running behind schedule in Maharashtra as on date;

(b) the percentage increase in the cost of these projects due to time overruns;

(c) the time by which each of these projects is likely to be completed; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to complete the projects expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) to (c) As on 01.04.2009, out of 889 projects costing Rs. 20 crore and above on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation relating to 16 infrastructure sectors, there are 84 ongoing projects in the State of Maharashtra. Of these, 7 projects, in two sectors namely Petroleum and Natural Gas and Railways, are running behind schedule with respect to their original approved schedule. Cost overrun in the 7 delayed projects is reported to be Rs. 6281.7 crore which works out to 181.28% of the original approved cost of Rs. 3465.28 crore. Cost overruns in projects is attributed to reasons such as geological problems, change in scope, delay in land acquisition, delay in supplies and general cost escalation due to time

overruns. A list of the seven delayed projects along with their anticipated date of commissioning is given in statement.

(d) The corrective steps taken by the Government to minimize cost and time over-runs in projects interalia include :

(i) Adoption of two-stage clearance system and stricter appraisal of projects before investment approval ;

(ii) Taking up of projects for implementation only after funds have been fully tied up ;

(iii) In-depth review of projects on monthly and quarterly basis by the Government ;

(iv) Follow up with the State Governments in respect of problems relating to land acquisition, rehabilitation related issues, forest clearances, infrastructure facilities, ensuring law and order at project sites etc.

(v) Setting up of Empowered Committees in different administrative Ministries for review of departmentally executed projects ;

(vi) Inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved issues ;

(vii) Setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns ;

(viii) Appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure ; and

(ix) Issue of guidelines on standard bidding documents for adoption.

Statement

*Details of the project running behind schedule w.r.t. original sanction in the State of Maharashtra
(Status as on 1.4.2009)*

| Sl. No. | Sector/Agency/Project | Capacity | Original Date of Approval | Original Date of Commissioning | Anticipated Date of Commissioning | Time Overrun (in months) | Original Cost (Rs. Crore) | Anticipated (Rs. Crore) | Cost Overrun w.r.t. Original Cost (%) | Total Expenditure (Rs. Crore) |
|--|---|----------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| PETROLEUM | | | | | | | | | | |
| HINDUSTAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. | Lube oil base stock quality up gradation | | 10/2006 | 4/2009 | 5/2010 | 13 | 638.90 | 1030.00 | 61.21 | 249.87 |
| 2. | Green fuels and emission control project at Mumbai Refinery | | 10/2002 | 4/2005 | 3/2009 | 47 | 1152.00 | 1731.00 | 50.26 | 1551.79 |
| OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION LIMITED | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. | Mumbai high South Redevelopment Phase-II | 346 MT | 6/2007 | 6/2009 | 4/2011 | 22 | 1252.75 | 5713.07 | 356.04 | 2928.92 |
| RAILWAYS | | | | | | | | | | |
| GAUGE CONVERSION | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4. | Miraj-Latur Road | KMS 374 | 4/1993 | 3/2001 | 3/2010 | 108 | 225.00 | 816.40 | 262.84 | 527.34 |
| METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT PROJECTS | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. | Kurla-Bhandup 5th and 6th Line Phase-I | KMS 10 | 4/1995 | 3/2002 | 12/2009 | 93 | 49.84 | 136.45 | 173.78 | 107.39 |
| NEW LINE | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. | Amravati-Narkher new line project | KMS 138 | 6/1994 | 6/1999 | 3/2011 | 141 | 120.90 | 284.27 | 135.13 | 206.37 |
| SIGNALLING AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. | CST Mumbai-Kurla-Thane-Kalyan Train Describer System | | 4/1996 | 3/1999 | 6/2010 | 135 | 25.89 | 35.79 | 38.24 | 19.79 |
| Total | | | | | | | 3465.28 | 9746.98 | 181.28 | 5591.47 |

**Conversion of Forest Villages into
Revenue Villages**

1594. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of forest villages in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to convert these forest villages into revenue villages including Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the time by which these forest villages will be notified as revenue villages; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) Of the 2,474 forest villages, spread over 12 States, 514 forests villages including 315 villages of Madhya Pradesh have, so far, been converted into revenue villages under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The details are given in Statements 'A and B'. The conversion of forest villages into revenue villages involves de-reservation of forests land, which has been restrained by the Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 13-11-2000 in W.P. (Civil) No. 337 of 1995. The State/UT Governments are required to obtain prior approval of the Supreme Court to convert forest villages into revenue villages.

Statement-'A'

| Sl. No. | Name of State/UT | Number of Forest Villages |
|---------|------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | Assam | 499 |
| 2. | Chhattisgarh | 425 |
| 3. | Gujarat | 199 |
| 4. | Jharkhand | 24 |
| 5. | Meghalaya | 23 |
| 6. | Madhya Pradesh | 893 |
| 7. | Mizoram | 85 |
| 8. | Orissa | 20 |
| 9. | Tripura | 62 |
| 10. | Uttarakhand | 61 (Habitation) |
| 11. | Uttar Pradesh | 13 |
| 12. | West Bengal | 170 |
| Total | | 2,474 |

Statement-'B'

| Sl. No. | Name of State | Name of Districts | No. of villages converted so far | Approved Area (in hectare) | Date of approval |
|---------|---------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Gujarat | Panch Mahal | 112 | 4,238.43 | 10.06.2005 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|-------|----------------|------------|-----|-----------|------------|
| 2. | Madhya Pradesh | Khargone | 67 | 8,893.747 | 12.08.2002 |
| | | Dewas | 13 | 1,001.38 | 21.10.2002 |
| | | Rajgarh | 1 | 44.50 | 21.10.2002 |
| | | Guna | 1 | 88.54 | 06.03.2003 |
| | | Sidhi | 12 | 235.45 | 16.04.2003 |
| | | Vidisha | 5 | 106.87 | 13.01.2004 |
| | | Badwani | 67 | 3,692.43 | 13.01.2004 |
| | | Dindori | 86 | 11,088.61 | 13.01.2004 |
| | | Chhindwada | 48 | 4,630.73 | 13.01.2004 |
| | | Raisen | 11 | 167.54 | 13.01.2004 |
| | | Sagar | 4 | 163.42 | 09.06.2005 |
| 3. | Maharashtra | Nandurbar | 73 | 4,073.95 | 24.12.2002 |
| 4. | Uttaranchal | Dehradun | 11 | 2,561.22 | 10.06.2005 |
| | | Nainital | 3 | 183.20 | 25.08.2008 |
| Total | | | 514 | 41,170.01 | |

[English]

Death of Birds

1595. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of death of birds are increasing in the country including Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and in the current year and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Fluctuation in the population of birds and animals is a natural phenomenon and various reasons like predation, diseases, competition, and consumption of insecticide treated seeds, heat stroke, etc. are attributed to it. Further, the details of deaths of birds are not collated at the level of the Central Government. However, there are no trends to indicate an increase in the number of deaths of birds in the country, including Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

(e) The important steps taken by the Government for the protection of birds are as given below:

- (i) Highly threatened and critically endangered bird species are included in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby affording them the highest degree of protection.
- (ii) Important habitats of birds have been declared as National Parks and Sanctuaries for their protection.
- (iii) Financial and technical assistance is provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes for conservation of wildlife including birds and their habitat.
- (iv) Provisions of strict penalties have been incorporated under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for violation of the provisions of the Act.
- (v) Awareness is generated amongst the people for conservation of wildlife including birds.
- (vi) Farmers are advised not to sow insecticide laced seeds.

Transparency in Environmental Clearance

1596. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the present environment clearance process is not so transparent; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to improve the clearance process and make it more transparent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests has proposed amendments in the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, vide S.O. 195(E) dated 19th January, 2009 for obtaining comments/suggestions from all concerned, which inter-alia include proactive/voluntary disclosure of information relating to grant of environmental clearance for ensuring effective implementation and enforcement of environmental regulation through the creation of societal vigil.

In order to increase transparency in the clearance process, the information has been put in public domain, through the website of the Ministry, relating to (i) status of pending projects, (ii) schedule and agenda of the meeting of Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs), (iii) minutes of the EAC meeting, (iv) Environment Clearance letters and (v) circulars, guidelines, instructions relating to Environmental Clearance.

Special Fund for Green Technology

1597. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to create special fund to promote Green Technology in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also released National Plan of Action for Climate Change; and

(d) if so, the details of the outlines of the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (d) National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released by the Prime Minister on 30th June, 2008. The National Action Plan outlines 8 National Missions in specific areas and several other initiatives that promote our development objectives while also yielding co-benefits for addressing climate change. One of the National Missions e-g- National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change envisages encouragement of private sector initiatives for development of innovative technologies for adaptation and mitigation through venture capital funds. The Mission also proposes to create a Climate Science Research Fund to support research. Adoption and promotion of energy efficient technologies is also the aim of the National Mission on enhanced energy efficiency.

Other 'initiatives' envisaged under the National Action Plan to facilitate adoption of clean technology include research and development in the area of ultra super critical boilers in coal-based power generation; setting up more combined cycle natural gas plants; promotion of nuclear energy through adoption of fast breeder and thorium-based thermal reactor technology in nuclear power generation; adoption of high-voltage AC and high voltage DC transmission to reduce technical losses during transmission and distribution; small and large scale hydro

power; promotion of renewable energy technologies such as bio-mass combustion and gasification-based power generation; enhancements in the regulatory/tariff regimes to help mainstream renewable-based sources in the national power system; and renewable energy technologies for transportation and industrial fuels.

Budgetary Support to Flagship Schemes

1598. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give a bigger push to its eight flagship schemes;

(b) if so, whether the Government has increased its Budgetary Support (GSB) by a mammoth 43% in allocation of flagship programme;

(c) if so, the extent to which these allocations are expected to implement these schemes in a bigger way; and

(d) the details of schemes where additional resources are proposed to be allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) Yes Madam. As against the Budgetary Allocation of Rs. 70,840 crore in 2008-09, Rs. 1,03,119 crore has been provided for flagship schemes in 2009-10 (July, 2009-Union Budget), which amounts to an increase of about 45% over 2008-09 BE.

(c) and (d) Statement indicating the details of the flagship schemes and the extent to which these allocations are expected to implement these schemes in a bigger way is enclosed.

Statement

Detail of Flagship programmes

(Rs. Crore)

| Sl. No. | Programme | Ministry/Department | 2008-09 BE | 2009-10 (Main Budget) BE | % change Col. 5 over Col. 4 (09-10 BE over 08-09 BE) | Remarks |
|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) | School Education and Literacy | 13100.00 | 13100.00 | 0.00 | <p>The programme seeks to provide access, equity, retention and quality in the area of elementary education. Two additional components focusing on Girl Children in educationally backward blocks to promote gender parity are:</p> <p>National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Education level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV).</p> |
| 2. | Mid Day Meals (MDM) | School Education and Literacy | 8000 | 8000 | 0 | <p>With the success achieved at primary stage, the scheme has been extended to the upper primary stage in 3,479 educationally backward blocks from 1st October, 2007. From 2008-09, the programme covers children up to upper Primary level (from class I to VIII) in all areas across the country.</p> |
| 3. | Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission | Drinking Water Supply | 7300 | 8000 | 9.589041096 | <p>Supplementing the States in their effort to provide safe drinking water to all rural habitations.</p> |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|--------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------|--|
| 4. | Total Sanitation Campaign | Drinking Water Supply | 1200 | 1200 | 0 | Total Sanitation Campaign Projects have been launched in 593 Districts covering 30 States/UTs. It is proposed to cover all the districts with Total Sanitation Campaign by the end of 11th Plan and achieve the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the number of people without access to Sanitation by 2010. |
| 5. | National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) (Health and AYUSH component including) | Health and Family Welfare | 12050 | 14127 | 17.23651452 | The NRHM envisages an architectural correction in the health delivery system to provide accessible, affordable and quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable sections. |
| 6. | Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) | Women and Child Development | 6300 | 6705 | 6.428571429 | Government is committed to universalisation of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme in the country. By March, 2012, all services under ICDS would be extended, with quality, to every child under the age of six. |
| 7. | National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) | Rural Development | 16000 | 39100 | 144.375 | To cover larger number of beneficiaries and to provide employment for more number of days to implement the NREGA. |
| 8. | Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) | Urban Development | 6890 | 12887 | 87.03918723 | For refocusing the attention of State Governments on the importance of urban infrastructure |
| Total | | | 70840.00 | 103119.00 | 45.57 | |

[Translation]

Review of Drug Regulatory System

1599. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pharmaceutical Industry has suffered heavy losses due to increasing volume of spurious drugs in the country during the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had constituted a Committee of Experts to undertake a comprehensive review of the Drug Regulatory System in the country including extent of evaluation of the spurious and sub-standard Drugs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Committee has since submitted its Report;

(f) if so, the main findings thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) No.

(c) to (f) Yes. An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, the then Director General and Secretary, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), was constituted in 2003 to examine drug regulatory issues including the problem of spurious drugs. The detailed report of the Committee is available on the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) website www.cdsc.nic.in. The salient items of recommendations of the Committee are as follows:—

(i) A new structure for the Drug Regulatory System in the country including the setting up of a National Drug Authority. A strong, well equipped, empowered, independent and professionally managed Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), which could be given the status of Central Drug Administration (CDA) reporting directly to Ministry of Health.

(ii) Measure to strengthen the drug regulatory infrastructure in Centre and States.

(iii) The Central Government should provide assistance to undertake scientific and statistically significant study in order to have a clear picture about the exact extent of spurious drugs in the country.

(iv) Stricter penalty for spurious drug manufacturers.

(g) The following actions have been taken on recommendations :

(i) The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill 2007 introduced in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st August, 2007 containing provision inter alia for formation of Central Drugs Authority and Centralized Licensing of Drugs.

(ii) Efforts have been undertaken continuously and consistently to strengthen the CDSCO with adequate infrastructure and manpower. All vacant posts are being filled up. 62 new post of Drugs Inspector and 10 new posts of Technical Officers have been created and are being filled up. The Department of Expenditure has been requested for sanction of more posts of Drugs Inspectors. Contractual staff (Technical data Associates and Data Entry Operator) have also been recruited to assist the regular staff. Under the Capacity Building Project through World Bank, assistance has been provided to upgrade testing facilities and to establish new

drug testing laboratories so as to enhance the capacity of the laboratories to test large number of samples. Under this project 23 States and 6 Central Drug laboratories have been strengthened through renovations, extensions and equipments.

- (iii) In order to assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country, a country wide Survey has been undertaken by the Ministry of Health, through CDSCO, on the basis of statistical principles provided by Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Hyderabad. Under this survey around 24,300 samples of 61 brands of drugs belonging to 9 therapeutic categories of 29 manufacturers from over 100 different Pharmacy outlets in different regions of the country and located in each stratum viz. Metros, big cities, district, towns and villages have been collected. This would help in identifying geographical areas where spurious drugs are available so that a focused monitoring is done by the concerned authorities in these areas for eliminating the menace of spurious drugs.
- (iv) The Drugs and Cosmetics Amendment Bill Act, 2008 now provides for stringent penalties to manufacturers of spurious drugs.

Agreements on Terrorism

1600. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has taken up the issue of terrorism with other countries after recurring incidents of terrorist attacks,
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof including the names of the countries with which the issue was discussed during the last two years and the current year; and
- (c) the details of agreements signed or likely to be

signed with these countries to address the issue of terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) Yes. India continues to engage, as part of its global cooperation on countering terror, other countries and raises the issue of terrorism against India at appropriate forums. As part of our efforts to combat the menace of terrorism, Joint Working Groups (JWGs) on Counter-Terrorism have been established with 27 countries or regional organizations (List attached as Statement). The JWGs provide a forum for counter-terrorism cooperation through sharing information and capacity building, promoting cooperation in counter-terrorism related technologies and equipment, and the strengthening of multilateral efforts in the area of counter-terrorism.

(c) The JWG meetings cover a wide range of subjects related to counter-terrorism. The JWG has served as a useful platform for cooperation in counter-terrorism through sharing mutual threat perceptions, assessing the regional security situation, coordinating approaches and action, and addressing common concerns such as drug-trafficking, financing of terrorism, bio-terrorism, aviation security, cyber security, law enforcement and extradition.

Statement

List of Joint Working Groups on counter Terrorism

| Sl.No. | Name of Country | Year of setting up |
|--------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Egypt | 1995 |
| 2. | Canada | 1997 |
| 3. | Germany | 1998 |
| 4. | U.K. | 2000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|------------|------|
| 5. | USA | 2000 |
| 6. | France | 2001 |
| 7. | E.U.* | 2001 |
| 8. | China | 2002 |
| 9. | Israel | 2002 |
| 10. | Kazakhstan | 2002 |
| 11. | Russia | 2002 |
| 12. | Croatia | 2002 |
| 13. | Uzbekistan | 2003 |
| 14. | Thailand | 2003 |
| 15. | Turkey | 2003 |
| 16. | Singapore | 2003 |
| 17. | Australia | 2003 |
| 18. | Tajikistan | 2003 |
| 19. | BIMSTEC* | 2004 |
| 20. | Mauritius | 2004 |
| 21. | Indonesia | 2004 |
| 22. | Myanmar | 2004 |
| 23. | Poland | 2004 |
| 24. | Japan | 2005 |
| 25. | Cambodia | 2005 |
| 26. | Pakistan | 2006 |
| 27. | Italy | 2007 |

[English]

Guidelines to Encourage Research and Development Projects

1601. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether guidelines have been issued by the Government to encourage research and development projects of small and medium pharma units in the field of bulk Drugs;

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

(c) the details of funds sanctioned by the Department of Science and Technology for research and development projects under the Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme during the last three years and the current year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Government have issued detailed guidelines regarding the Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme to enable drugs and pharma industry including small and medium pharma units in the area of bulk drugs to avail soft loans for R&D projects, grants-in-aid for clinical trials (Phase-I, II and III) to develop new drugs for neglected diseases of tropical region and to undertake collaborative R&D projects with public funded research institutes/ universities and industry. The soft loans are provided upto 70% of the total project cost @ 3% simple interest per annum. The repayment commences after the project period and the total amount including the interest is

*Regional Groups

recovered in 10 annual instalments. This information is also available in the website www.dst.gov.in.

(c) The details of funds sanctioned by the Department of Science and Technology for research and development projects under the Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme during the last three years (2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09) and the current year (2009-10) are given below:-

| Year | Loan (Rupees in crores) | Grants-in-aid (Rupees in crores) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 2006-07 | 43.71 | 43.86 |
| 2007-08 | 73.50 | 100.44 |
| 2008-09 | 50.02 | 35.76 |
| 2009-10 (upto June 2009) | 6.89 | 1.40 |

Safe Disposal of CFL

1602. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) are health hazards as per the report of Centre for Science and Environment;

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

(c) whether the Government has fixed any norms for manufacturing of CFL;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those violating the norms; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for safe disposal of CFL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Centre for Science and Environment has published an article entitled "Let there be CFL" in "Down to Earth" dated 31st January 2009. The Report, inter alia, mentions about the presence of mercury in Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) and its health hazards.

(c) to (e) A Task Force was constituted by the Government to evolve a policy on "Environmentally Sound Management of mercury in Fluorescent Lamps". The Technical Committee set up by this Task Force has developed the "Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Mercury Management in Fluorescent Lamps Sector". The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been requested to develop standards for mercury content in the Fluorescent Lamps (FLs). BIS grants and monitors BIS Certification Marks License to manufacturers to ensure that the CFLs being manufactured conform to the BIS specifications. According to the BIS, the quality of lamps manufactured by (i) M/s Crompton Greaves Limited, Vadodara, (ii) M/s Permalite Electricals (P) Limited, Delhi, (iii) M/s Atlas Industries, Delhi, (iv) M/s Glitter Overseas, Solan was found to be not as per the prescribed standards for CFLs. BIS has cancelled the Certification Marks Licenses of these four manufactures during 2008-2009.

Renovation of Heritage Monuments

1603. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to undertake renovation of some of the heritage monuments in Delhi in view of the Commonwealth Games scheduled to be held in 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of monuments to be renovated;

(c) whether any time schedule has been fixed for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds allocated and likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Forty six centrally protected monuments have been identified for facelift in Delhi. The details are enclosed as Statement.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. All the facelift works related to the identified monuments are slated for completion by August, 2010 at an estimated cost of Rs.25.73 crores.

Statement

Details of monuments identified for conservation under Commonwealth Games-2010

| Sl. No. | Name of the monument | Fund proposed (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Purana Qila Complex | 229.00 |
| 2. | Khairul-Manazi'l-Mosque | 37.00 |
| 3. | Sher Shah Gate | 75.00 |
| 4. | Humayun's Tomb Complex | 160.00 |
| 5. | Khan-i-Khana's Tomb | 45.00 |
| 6. | Subz Burj | 17.00 |
| 7. | Nila Gumbad | 40.00 |
| 8. | Bu-Halima Tomb | 15.00 |
| 9. | Arab-ki-Sarai | 65.00 |
| 10. | Bara Khambha | 13.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|---|--------|
| 11. | Group of monuments Hazarat Nizamuddin Complex | 22.00 |
| 12. | Safdarjung Tomo Complex | 25.00 |
| 13. | Lodi Garden Monuments (5 nos) | 25.00 |
| | (i) Muhammad Shah's Tomb | |
| | (ii) Bara Gumbad Masjid | |
| | (iii) Shish-Gumbad | |
| | (iv) Sikandar Lodi's Tomb | |
| | (v) Sathpula | |
| 14. | Najaf Khan Tomb | 55.00 |
| 15. | City Wall, Kashmiri Gate | 75.00 |
| 16. | Wazirabad Bridge, Tomb and Mosque. | 15.00 |
| 17. | Kotla Feroz Shah | 105.00 |
| 18. | Delhi Gate, Daria Ganj | 11.00 |
| 19. | City Wall, Daria Ganj | 50.00 |
| 20. | Khuni Darwaza | 15.00 |
| 21. | Jantar Mantar Complex | 65.00 |
| 22. | Lal Bangla | 5.00 |
| 23. | Ugrasen-ki-Baoli | 30.00 |
| 24. | Red Fort Complex | 275.00 |
| 25. | Ajmeri Gate: | 23.00 |
| 26. | Salim Garh Fort | 80.00 |
| 27. | Ashokan Rock Edict | 30.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--|--------------|
| 28. | Biran ka Gumbad | 20.00 |
| 29. | Dadi Poti | 20.00 |
| 30. | Sakri Gumti | 15.00 |
| 31. | Bara Khambha | 22.00 |
| 32. | Mohamadiwali Mosque | 20.00 |
| 33. | Lal Gumbad (Malviya Nager) | 35.00 |
| 34. | Teen Burji | 10.00 |
| 35. | 35 Siri Fort Wall | 50.00 |
| | (i) Stretch adjoining Panchsheel Park | 5.00 |
| | (ii) Stretch adjoining Asiad Village | 30.00 |
| | (iii) Stretch of the wall from Asiad tower to Siri Fort Sports Complex | |
| | Total | 85.00 |
| 36. | Hauz Khas Complex | 70.00 |
| 37. | Jahanpanah Wall | 55.00 |
| 38. | Qila Rai Pithora Wall | 105.00 |
| 39. | Satpula | 20.00 |
| 40. | Qutab Minar Complex | 95.00 |
| 41. | Jamali Kamali Tomb and Mosque | 15.00 |
| 42. | Ajim Khan's Tomb | 15.00 |
| 43. | Balban's Tomb and Ruins | 45.00 |
| 44. | Tughluqabad Fort | 30.00 |
| 45. | Ghiasuddin Tughlug's Tomb | 20.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|--------------------|----------------|
| 46. | Adilabad Fort | 40.00 |
| | Total | 2339.00 |
| | Contingencies | 233.90 |
| | Grand total | 2572.90 |
| | Say | 2573.00 |

University for PIOs/NRIs

1604. DR. K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated steps to facilitate the establishment and functioning of the proposed university for PIOs/NRIs during the current academic year;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its location and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact any law to facilitate the establishment and functioning of the said university;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said university is likely to start its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) to (e) The task of setting up the first PIO/NRI university at Bangaluru has been entrusted to the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust (MAHET). As per the recommendations of the Advisory Board, work is underway to draft a bill for being enacted into a legislation by an Act of Parliament for setting up the proposed PIO/NRI University as also more such universities to be located elsewhere in the country. The first PIO/NRI University is expected to start

functioning on completion of the necessary formalities and procedures prescribed by regulatory bodies.

**Enhancement of Allocation under
MPLAD Scheme**

1605. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the annual allocation of Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADs);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which this increase will be effected;

(c) whether there is also proposal to change the nomenclature of MPLADS; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) The proposal to enhance the quantum of MPLADS funds was sent to the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission for their approval. The Planning Commission has informed that they would appraise the project only after a judgement is delivered by the Supreme Court in this regard and also when there is clarity on availability of additional funds.

(c) and (d) The Lok Sabha Committee on MPLADS has recommended that the 'Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)' be renamed as 'Scheme for Local Area Development'. However, the Ministry is of the view that the unique nature of this Scheme would be lost if the nomenclature of the Scheme is changed.

**Withdrawal of Centrally Sponsored
Scheme**

1606. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to withdraw certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Abandoned Projects

1607. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries have abandoned/discontinued some of their projects during the last three years and in the current year;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor alongwith the names of such projects;

(c) the estimated loss suffered by the coal companies as a result thereof during the last three years and in the current year;

(d) whether the Government proposes to award these projects to other companies;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the funds provided by CIL for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details

of abandoned / discontinued mines/projects of Coal India Limited (CIL) during the last three years and the current year are given below :

| Sl.No. | Subsidiary | State | Name of Mine | Reason |
|--------|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Eastern Coalfields Limited | West Bengal | Sangramgarh Underground (UG) | On economic and safety grounds |
| 2. | Western Coalfields Limited | Madhya Pradesh | Pench East Opencast (OC) | Exhaustion of mineable reserve |
| 3. | Western Coalfields Limited | Maharashtra | Inder UG | Uneconomic |
| 4. | South Eastern Coalfields Limited | Madhya Pradesh | Nowrozavad (East) UG | Exhaustion of reserve |
| 5. | South Eastern Coalfields Limited | Madhya Pradesh | Kotma West UG | Exhaustion of reserve |
| 6. | South Eastern Coalfields Limited | Madhya Pradesh | Kotma OC | Exhaustion of reserve |
| 7. | South Eastern Coalfields Limited | Chhattisgarh | Kumda Old UG | Exhaustion of reserve |
| 8. | Mahanadi Coalfields Limited | Orissa | Deulbera UG | On safety ground |
| 9. | North Eastern Coalfields | Assam | Tipong UG | Production suspended due to imposition of Sec.22 (3) of Mines Act on 7.11.2008 |
| 10. | North Eastern Coalfields | Assam | Ledo UG | The mine was sealed off from surface on 7.11.2008 due to dangerous occurrence on 4.11.2008 and 7.11.2008 |
| 11. | North Eastern Coalfields | Assam | Baragolai UG | Production suspended due to imposition of Sec.22(3) of Mines Act on 7.11.2008 |

(c) Coal India Limited and subsidiary companies suffered no loss due to discontinuance / abandonment of the projects.

(d) and (e) Out of the above 11 mines, Sangramgarh UG mine has been identified for development through a joint venture partner to be selected through international competitive bidding.

(f) No funds have been provided by Coal India Limited for this purpose.

Ban on Coal Mining in Forest Areas

1608. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to ban coal mining in dense forest area;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to categories forests for granting coal mining in forest areas;

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

(e) whether any coal projects of Coal India Limited and its subsidiary are pending for want of environmental clearance during the last three years and in the current year;

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

(g) the time by which the clearance is likely to be accorded to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, in a recent meeting held between Ministries of Coal and

Environment and Forests, a proposal was mooted to identify "Go" and "No-Go" forest areas for coal mining to avoid any loss of time and money which may otherwise be incurred in exploration etc.

(e) to (g) 76 projects costing Rs. 20 crores and above have been approved during the period between April, 2006 and June, 2009. Out of these 76 projects, Environmental clearance for 28 projects has been obtained from Ministry of Environment and Forests and for balance 48 projects, the process of getting environmental clearance is in progress.

Allocation for Agro and Rural Development

1609. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita allocation and utilisation of funds for agro and rural development, especially in backward and rural areas during each of the last three years and in the current year, State-wise; and

(b) the allocation sought by the State Governments and the amount sanctioned by the Planning Commission for the said purpose during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Statement showing state-wise per capita outlay for Agriculture and Rural Development during the last three years viz. 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is enclosed.

(b) The size of the Annual Plan of States which basically consist of States own resources and Central assistance is decided by the Planning Commission after detailed discussions with the State Governments and assessment of resource availability. Sectoral distribution of the Annual Plan outlay which includes agriculture, rural development etc. is made by the State Governments after Working Group discussions with the various Subject matter Divisions of Planning Commission.

Statement

(figures in Rs.)

| Sl. No. | States | Per Capita outlay in Annual Plan 2006-07 | | Per Capita outlay in Annual Plan 2007-08 | | Per Capita outlay in Annual Plan 2008-09 | |
|---------|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| | | Agriculture | Rural Development | Agriculture | Rural Development | Agriculture | Rural Development |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 50 | 151 | 81 | 192 | 252 | 350 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 387 | 157 | 452 | 176 | 365 | 153 |
| 3. | Assam | 47 | 80 | 69 | 109 | 134 | 208 |
| 4. | Bihar | 10 | 104 | 27 | 103 | 39 | 98 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 106 | 260 | 145 | 196 | 266 | 258 |
| 6. | Goa | 292 | 203 | 304 | 208 | 328 | 245 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 87 | 75 | 163 | 91 | 281 | 138 |
| 8. | Haryana | 28 | 71 | 39 | 83 | 93 | 162 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 169 | 84 | 180 | 158 | 212 | 176 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 226 | 137 | 66 | 140 | 117 | 77 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 125 | 320 | 130 | 257 | 124 | 297 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 155 | 130 | 191 | 211 | 396 | 225 |
| 13. | Kerala | 94 | 515 | 100 | 72 | 109 | 78 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 38 | 197 | 79 | 205 | 128 | 242 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 55 | 98 | 67 | 141 | 88 | 130 |
| 16. | Manipur | 93 | 209 | 81 | 163 | 112 | 178 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|-----|---------------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|
| 17. | Meghalaya | 234 | 302 | 296 | 512 | 480 | 573 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 656 | 252 | 664 | 483 | 687 | 473 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 315 | 187 | 247 | 179 | 385 | 389 |
| 20. | Orissa | 15 | 43 | 23 | 64 | 78 | 59 |
| 21. | Punjab | 25 | 79 | 61 | 132 | 92 | 201 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 20 | 100 | 21 | 128 | 48 | 196 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 395 | 1479 | 570 | 2105 | 927 | 2378 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 59 | 231 | 80 | 234 | 195 | 293 |
| 25. | Tripura | 140 | 268 | 197 | 209 | 383 | 298 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 49 | 76 | 94 | 90 | 162 | 119 |
| 27. | Uttarakhand | 191 | 259 | 246 | 315 | 336 | 334 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 17 | 80 | 20 | 81 | 43 | 97 |

Population figures are as per projected population total as on 1st October for 2006, 2007 and 2008 in Report of Technical Group on Population Projections, National Commission on Population, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

[English]

Threat to Biodiversity

1610. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dhamra port being built in Orissa poses a threat to the biodiversity of Bhitarkanika National Park and Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary;

(b) if so, whether Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notification is being violated during the construction work of the ports;

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

(d) the corrective action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There are no reports received from the State Government indicating any adverse effect on biodiversity of the area.

(b) to (d) The Environmental clearance to the port was granted by the Ministry of Surface Transport in January 2000. The State Government has informed that the project authorities have engaged the International Union for

Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) and the Regional Research Laboratory to assist them in various aspects of environmental management so that the construction and operation of the port does not have adverse impact on the ecology of the area. Eastern Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests at Bhubneshwar has reported that environmental clearance conditions are at various stages of compliance.

Exploitation of Students by Agents and Middlemen

1611. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints against the agents and middlemen exploiting the students seeking admission for studies abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check exploitation of the students?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Available information is given in Statement.

(c) The Ministry is in the process of finalizing a legislative proposal to replace the existing Emigration Act 1983 with a new emigration law which envisages regulation of enrolment agencies with a view to lay down standards for the services provided by them and monitor their compliance to the standards. Students intending to go abroad for studies would be registered before their departure.

Statement

Australia

A complaint was recently received by the High

Commission of the India, Canberra from some Indian students against an education agent, Edulinks Educational Consultancy Agent in Kochi (Kerala). The students had alleged that the agent made false promises to them about their stay in Australia which included work permit for four years if the students are registered in a one-year course; two-month break between semesters to enable them to earn to help pay their fees; assistance with part-time jobs; and eligibility for permanent residence if they worked for 900 hours. The matter is being taken up with the Government of Kerala.

Switzerland

In April, 2008, complaint was received from an Indian student by the Embassy of India, Berne regarding cheating of CHF 20,200/- paid by him to Eagle College Suisse AG, Graduate and Business School, Switzerland. Another complaint was received from five Indian students on August 20, 2008 against the Swiss Management Academy (SMA), Hotel Rheinfall, Zentralstrasse 60, CH-8212, Neuhausen for fraud, misrepresentation and cheating. Two Indian agents were involved in the enrollment process were : (i) M/s M.P. Trading House, 1211, Maker Chambers V, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400021; and (ii) Ms. Jyoti Cassad, 53, LGF World Trade centre, Babar Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. The Embassy took up the matter with concerned Swiss authority(ies). The second complaint was also forwarded to Commissioners of Police, Mumbai and Delhi respectively for suitable action to check exploitation of Indian students.

United Kingdom

A complaint from Mr. Saravanan Chandramohan, an Indian citizen who came to the UK to study MBA in Wales in September 2008 was received by the High Commission of India, London. His sponsor, did not allow him to pursue his studies and forced him to work illegally in his shop. With the intervention of HCI,

London, the issue was resolved with the complainant returning to India as per his wish.

United States of America

Several petitions were received by the Ministry from the students and their parents of the American School of Aviation (ASA) at Atwater, USA which was shut down abruptly leaving around 100 Indian students stranded in 2008. The owner of the School, Mr. Prince Singh alias Manpreet Singh, filed bankruptcy without making refunds to the students who had paid fees of approx. US\$ 40,000/- for pilot courses. In this connection, it has been informed by the Sr. Manager, Allahabad Bank, Ludhiana that before the ASA declared their operations shut in USA, a company named ASA India Pvt. Ltd. was got incorporated at New Delhi and the Directors of the company are parents of the owner of ASA and huge amount of money has been transferred to this company's account. The matter was reported to the Enforcement Directorate for further investigations. The Consul General of India, San Francisco had taken up the case with the concerned authorities in the USA to help the students who were stranded there.

Conference of Forest Ministers of States

1612. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Conferences of the Forest Ministers of various States held during the last two years;

(b) the details of issues discussed in the said Conferences;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address the issues raised during these Conferences;

(d) whether the Government proposes to adopt

joint strategies to check cross border activities of poachers and those engaged in inter-State sale and export of animal products and plant species; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Ministry of Environment and Forests has not organized any Conference of Forest Ministers of various States during the last two years.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau in 2007, comprising of officials from Forests, Police and Customs to deal with the issues of wildlife crime including its international ramifications.

India is a signatory to many international conventions that deals with the protection of biodiversity and also regulating international trade in wildlife and its derivatives such as Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), World Heritage Convention, Convention on Migratory Species and Convention on Wetlands. In addition, India has signed a Protocol with Republic of China for taking up joint measures to crack down illegal activities of poaching of tigers, smuggling and selling of tiger bones and their derivatives. A Memorandum of Understanding has also been signed with Nepal to establish a Joint Task Force to check trafficking across the borders. Further, Inter State committees have also been constituted as and when required to check cross boarder activities of poachers.

Environmental Tribunal Bill

1613. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Green Tribunal (NGT) by revitalizing the old Environmental Tribunal Bill;

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

(c) the time by which the said bill is likely to be revitalized;

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help to reduce the load on the civil courts and speedy disposal of cases; and

(e) the details of the composition of proposed tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) A draft Environment Tribunal Bill was circulated to various Ministries for their comments in the year 2006. Subsequently, certain modifications have been incorporated in the said draft bill and now it is proposed to set up a National Green Tribunal (NGT). A draft NGT Bill has now been circulated to various Ministries, afresh, for their comments. It is not possible to allocate a specific timeline for the passage of the said Bill in the Parliament.

(d) The NGT intends to reduce the load of environment cases, of civil nature, pending in other courts and to help in speedy disposal of such cases. However, it is difficult to quantify the extent.

(e) The composition of the proposed tribunal is being finalized in the draft bill.

Subsidy on Coal for Poor Persons

1614. SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing any subsidy on coal supplied for the poor people's consumption;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Coal is not sold to different consumers by Coal India Limited (CIL) on subsidized rates as compared to the notified rates declared by CIL in the price notification issued for different grade/sizes of coal for different coalfields/coal companies.

Since the pricing of coal is fully de-regulated and no budgetary support is provided by the Government to the Coal companies, subsidizing of coal is not feasible. Moreover, in the national context, coal does not constitute a major source of fuel for domestic use.

Allocation for New Rajdhani Projects

1615. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has sanctioned and allocated special financial budget and plan-outlay for construction of New Rajdhani Project to the Government of Chhattisgarh during the last two Five Year Plans;

(b) if so, the details of funds earmarked and released in this regard;

(c) the status of New Rajdhani Project at present; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) No Madam, Planning Commission has not allocated special plan outlay for New Rajdhani Project to the Government of Chhattisgarh. Naya Raipur has been included under the Mission City Raipur

under JNNURM. City Development Plan for Naya Raipur has been approved. Projects of Water Supply and Basic Services to Urban Poor for Naya Raipur have been sanctioned under JNNURM.

(c) The Plan for the development of township has been approved by the State Government. Major roads are being constructed at a project cost of Rs. 302.60 crore. The construction of Secretariat building and Heads of Department building is in progress at a project cost of Rs. 179.12 crore and Rs. 230.00 crore respectively. A residential colony is also being constructed. Other infrastructure works such as, water supply, transportation, sewerage, and electricity are being planned, and are in different stages of implementation.

(d) The project has been planned to be completed by the year 2031.

[Translation]

Bharat Nirman Yojana

1616. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Nirman Yojana is falling short of achieving its targets;

(b) if so, the targets fixed and actual realization of the physical component of the scheme during the last two years and in the current year;

(c) the main reasons for not achieving the targets of the Projects; and

(d) the corrective action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) The targets of Bharat Nirman and achievements made during the last two years are enclosed as Statement.

(d) Bharat Nirman Yojana is being reviewed by the respective Ministries, Planning Commission and Committee on Rural Infrastructure for ensuring its success and achieving the targets.

Statement

| Component | Target for 4 years 2005-2009 | Physical achievement reported from 2005 to March 2009 | Target for two years 2007-2009 | Achievement in two years 2007-2009 | Reasons for shortfall |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Irrigation (in million hectare) | 10 | 6.518 | 5.70 | 2.9 | Land acquisition, M/o Environment and Forest clearance, resettlement, rehabilitation and non- availability of matching shares by the State Governments |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--|----------|----------|------------|------------|---|
| Drinking Water (Number of habitations) | 6,03,639 | 6,57,749 | 3,73,785 | 4,53,184 | — |
| Roads | | | | | |
| (a) Habitations | 66,802 | 31927 | 43,638 | 18,438 | Contractual problems, M/o Environment and |
| (b) Up-gradation and new connectivity in km. | 3,40,316 | 240424.3 | 2,23,577.7 | 15,72,42.3 | Forest, shortage of project implementation units, land acquisition and law and order problem in some states |
| Housing Number of houses (in lakh) | 60 | 71.76 | 42.54 | 41.25 | Achievement (71.76 lakh) is more than the targets |
| Electrification Number of villages | 1,25,000 | 62520 | 49,731 | 23,995 | The formal approval of programme was delayed |
| Number of BPL household (in lakh) | 230 | 62.53 | 152 | 55.8 | |
| Telephone connectivity Number of villages | 66,822 | 57181 | 32,518 | 10,212 | Non-availability of Satellite transponders and delay in supply of subscriber and equipments |

Use of Science and Technology in the Development of the Country

1617. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:

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

(a) the areas identified by the Government for the

use of science and technology in the development of the country;

(b) whether the Government provides special packages to certain sectors in this regard;

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

(d) the mechanism set up by the Government for application of science and technology for reducing

regional imbalances and upliftment of rural people including women and weaker sections of the society; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard during the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) The areas identified by the Government for the use of science and technology in the development of the country, include drinking water for household use, decentralized energy generation, security technology, biofarming techniques, medicinal and aromatic plants, natural resources management, nutrition related diseases, women technology parks, rural technology parks, health and sanitation, technology systems for non-edible oils, technology interventions for elderly, value addition in non-timber forest produces, sericulture. The Government has implemented the National Bamboo Mission Applications (NBMA) which has developed and demonstrated a vast array of technologies and applications.

(b) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Science and Technology partner with the concerned line ministries in both the Central and State Governments. Primarily the focus of societal projects supported by this Ministry has been referencing of technologies to the societal contexts in which the technologies need to perform. These projects include themes and programmes covering activities leading to upliftment of rural people, including SC, ST, women and weaker sections of society. In the Eleventh Plan, the Government has put particular emphasis on some impact making programmes on water, energy, nutritional security,

value added utilization of regional and local resources, etc. The Ministry of Science and Technology has successfully developed an algorithm whereby monitoring of crops on weekly basis using biomass index has become possible. The Government has also facilitated development of cost-effective technologies for use of rural entrepreneurs to earn their livelihood.

[English]

Amendment in Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973

1618. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

DR. K.S. RAO:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973;

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

(c) the time by which the amendments are likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) to (c) The Central Government decided to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 to allow Indian companies both in the public and private sectors to mine coal in the country without the existing restriction of captive mining and to be engaged in exploration of coal in the country. Accordingly a Bill, namely, the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Amendment Bill, 2000, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24.04.2000.

Due to stiff resistance from the trade Unions, the Bill could not be processed further after the report of the Standing Committee. It is not feasible to indicate any

timeframe to effect the amendment as the matter is in the Parliament.

Sale of Banned Drugs/Medicines

1619. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of drugs/medicines which are banned world-wide and in the country are being sold in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The decision to ban or withdraw a drug by the regulatory authorities is normally based on the risk assessment process, which is influenced by a number of factors such as disease pattern in a country, indications and dosages of the drug permitted, varying reactions of certain ethnic groups in a given population, availability of safer substitutes and overall safety profile of the drug. It is well known fact that administration of any drug is not absolutely free from side effects or adverse reactions in a statistically insignificant minority of the population.

Certain drugs or formulations withdrawn in one or some countries continued to be marketed in other countries including India. The rationality of such drugs had earlier been examined by various Expert Committees, set up for the purpose, from time to time. Based on the current knowledge available about the drugs and the nature of use in the country, these drugs were permitted to be used in the country and wherever considered necessary, restrictions were imposed on their use for certain indications only. There is an adequate mechanism in India to review the status of the drug formulation as and when any serious adverse event is reported in the International journals, WHO Newsletters or when a drug

formulation is reported to have been withdrawn in some countries. The use of the drug, so reported, is assessed in consultation with the experts, based on available technical information, benefit-risk ratio, local needs etc. The matter is further considered by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. Seventy Eight categories of drug formulations have so far been prohibited in the country by the Central Government, which were considered irrational or harmful in the context of present knowledge.

[Translation]

Promotion of Tribal Culture

1620. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes/programmes initiated to promote Tribal Culture in the country; and

(b) the funds allocated and utilized during the last three years and the current year, year-wise, and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of Coal to Thermal Power Stations

1621. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies are able to meet the total requirement of Mejia Thermal Power Station and various other consumers in West Bengal during Eleventh Plan Period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to supply coal to Thermal Power Stations of Damodar Valley Corporation and other consumers as per their demand on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) to (c) In the process of formulation of Annual Plan, demand of coal is assessed sector-wise by Ministry of Coal/Planning Commission, based on which the Annual Supply Plan of CIL is finalized by the Ministry of Coal. The annual plan does not incorporate either state-wise or individual consumer-wise demand.

In so far as Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) is concerned the trend of dispatch for last three years from CIL sources, and dispatch to Mejia TPS is given in the table below:

| | Figures in thousand tonnes | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 (Provisional) |
| Overall DVC | 9454 | 10136 | 11200 |
| Mejia TPS | 4406 | 4497 | 5275 |

The Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of dispatch of coal from CIL to DVC power stations in last three years has been 8.8% against national average of 6.3%. As far as Mejia TPS is concerned the growth rate was even higher at 9.4%. The receipt of coal at Mejia TPS could have been better if the unloading problem at the power station, resulting in disruption in movement of coal rakes, had been taken care of by the power plant.

Total dispatch of coal to West Bengal and dispatch of coal to power stations of West Bengal from CIL sources during the last three years is given in the table below:

Figures in thousand tonnes

| | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09 (Provisional) |
|---|---------|---------|--------------------------|
| Despatch to West Bengal | 30152 | 31142 | 33018 |
| Despatch to Power Stations of West Bengal | 24366 | 25501 | 28157 |

Similarly in case of West Bengal the CAGR in dispatch of coal during last three years has been 4.6%, which in case of Power Stations has been 7.5%.

(d) Under the provisions of New Coal Distribution Policy, dispatches of coal from CIL to all consumers, including Power Utilities, are to be governed by Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs). The Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) for signing FSAs by all power utilities, powerhouse-wise, including those of DVC have been decided by the Central Electricity Authority. The FSAs are made effective from April, 2009. The model FSA for Power Utilities has been developed in consultation with the Central Electricity Authority, wherein committed supplies/lifting is guaranteed at the level of 90% of Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ). There is adequate provision for incentives and penalties for deviation from the committed level of supplies. Thus the system in vogue is adequately equipped to ensure supply of coal to DVC as per their requirement. The status of coal supply to DVC during the period April-June, 2009 is given in the table below

Figures in thousand tonnes

| | ACQ as decided by CEA | FSA commitment for April-June, 2009 | Dispatch in April-June (Prov.) 2009 | %satisfaction of commitment |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Overall DVC | 11300 | 2825 | 2731 | 97 |
| Mejia TPS | 5200 | 1300 | 1237 | 95 |

Pollution Free Taj Mahal

1622. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated or proposed to formulate any scheme to make Taj Mahal pollution free;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH):

(a) to (c) The Government of India had notified a Taj Trapezium Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority in the year 1999 to monitor progress of implementation of various schemes for protection of the Taj Mahal and programmes for protection and improvement of the environment in the above said area. In addition, the Government has also formulated and implemented a scheme for the environmental protection of Taj Mahal. During the IX Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 222.21 crore was sanctioned towards 10 projects on the basis of 50:50 cost sharing with the Government of U.P. The details of the projects are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

| Sl. No. | Name of the Project | Cost approved (Rs. in crore) |
|---------|--|------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| (i) | Improvement in Electric Supply at Agra | 09.11 |
| (ii) | Gokul Barrage | 12.50 |
| (iii) | Widening of Agra by pass | 00.75 |
| (iv) | Storm Water Drainage System (Agra) | 06.60 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|--------|---|--------|
| (v) | Solid Waste Management | 07.49 |
| (vi) | Construction of one part at Agra by pass | 10.65 |
| (vii) | Improvement in Electric Supply in and around the rural areas of Agra and Fatehpur Sikri | 39.09 |
| (viii) | Improvement of Master Plan of Roads of Agra City | 21.22 |
| (ix) | Water Supply (Agra) | 72.80 |
| (x) | Water Supply (Mathura-Vrindavan) | 42.00 |
| Total | | 222.21 |

[English]

Marine Pollution

1623. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether marine pollution is increasing in the country;

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

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to create marine protected areas in the Exclusive Economic Zone and in territorial waters; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC

GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The increase in marine pollution is specific to a few locations and increasing trend is localized in nature. Nutrients like nitrate and pathogenic bacteria are the major pollutants that are observed to be increasing at several locations. For example, at Hooghly, Paradip, Mumbai, Kochi and Mangalore, increasing levels of nutrients are due to industrial effluents discharge, disposal of untreated sewage, agricultural runoff, operation of fertilizer plants near coastal cities, towns and handling of fertilizers in the ports and harbours. Further, the bacterial contamination (*faecal coliform*), exceeding Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) limits was observed at many places such as Hooghly, Paradip, Chennai, Pondicherry, Cuddalore, Tuticorin, Dwarka, Pipavav, Mumbai, Tarapur and Okha due to discharge of untreated domestic sewage in coastal waters.

(c) Government has taken several actions which include clean up of rivers under the National River Conservation Programme of Ministry of Environment and Forests to minimize pollution load into the coastal waters. A massive sewage treatment scheme has been implemented for treatment sewage of Mumbai. Incentives have been provided to the industries for installation of pollution control equipment. Common Effluent treatment plants have been installed in several industrial estates for treatment of wastes from small and medium scale industries.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Rehabilitation by SCCL

1624. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tribals of the forest area of Andhra Pradesh are deprived of their livelihood due to mining activities in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has directed SCCL to rehabilitate the affected persons of the area; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by SCCL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Whenever coal mining operations are taken up in the forest area, the livelihood of tribal people is affected either partially or fully and they are being compensated as per the Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) package of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) are provided by SCCL as per G.O. Ms.No.68, dated 08.04.2005 and subsequent G.Os issued by Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. Details of R&R provided to the affected persons of the area, so far are given as under:

(Rs. In lakh)

| S. No. | District | Name of the Project | Villages affected | No. of Project Affected Families (PAFs) | Resettlement and Rehabilitation Package amount paid |
|--------|----------|---------------------|------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Khammam | MNG OC-II | Kondapur H/o Samithisingaram | 42 | Alternate land of 84 Acres provided (prior to G.O. Ms.No.68, dt. 08.04.2005) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|----|----------|----------------------|---|-----|--|
| 2. | Adilabad | Dorli OC I and II | New Danthanpalli, Jandaguda, Rajaguda, Tadavagudem, Dorli Gummadiloddi, Ippagudem | 273 | Rs. 776.06 |
| 3. | Adilabad | Khairguda OCP | Aregudem | 63 | i) 315 acres of alternate land provided to PAFs. ii) Though they are not PDFs. they were paid Rs. 40,000/- each for construction of houses (prior to G.O. Ms.No.68, dt. 08.04.2005) |
| 4. | Adilabad | Khairguda OCP Exp | Aregudam Pedakunta | 71 | Rs. 366.46 |

As per provisions contained in the R&R Policy of the State Govt., SCCL has been taking steps to rehabilitate the affected persons on the area. In Manuguru OCP-II area benefits, such as development of house plot of 5 cents each, site for community agricultural land of 2 acres to each family etc. were provided to the affected persons. Similarly, in Dorli OCP-I, Dorli OCP-II and Khairaguda OCP expansion, house plot of 202 sq mtrs: drinking water with motor and pump, internal roads and drains, electrical lines, Rs. 50,000 to each family for house construction etc., were provided by SCCL to the affected people.

Establishment of Special Cell for Wild-Life Violation

1625. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Special Cell to register the cases of violation of laws relating to wild-life in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of violation of the said laws that have been reported during the last three years and the current year. Year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to deal with such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In order to check the problem of violation of laws relating to wildlife in the country, Ministry of Environment and Forests has constituted the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, comprising of officials from Forests, Police and Customs. Main mandate of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau includes collection and collation of intelligence related to organized wildlife crime, coordination with State Governments and other authorities in connection with the enforcement of Wildlife (Protection)

Act, 1972, developing infrastructure and capacity building for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assist State Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to Wildlife crimes.

(c) Details of cases of violations of concerned laws which have come to the notice of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau during the last three years and current year are given at Statement.

(d) Important steps taken by the Government to deal such cases and protection of wildlife cases are as follows:

1. Threatened species of wildlife are placed in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest degree of protection.
2. The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.
3. A network of Protected Areas has been established to conserve wildlife and their habitats including rare animals.
4. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set

up to check illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

5. The State/UT Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around wildlife rich areas.
6. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation of Wildlife.
7. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', a new component has been added for initiating 'Recovery Programme for critically endangered species and their habitats' during the 11th Five Year Plan period.
8. Training courses are also conducted for other concerned departments and enforcement agencies like Customs, Central Police Forces etc. for better appreciation of illegal wildlife trade.

Statement

Details of cases of violations of concerned laws which have come to the notice of Wildlife Crime Control Bureau during the last three years and current year:

| Year | Eastern Regional Office at Kolkata | Northern Regional Office at New Delhi | Southern Regional Office at Chennai | Western Regional Office at Mumbai | Total |
|---------------------------|--|---|---|---|-------|
| 2006 | 17 | 17 | 3 | 23 | 60 |
| 2007 | 25 | 7 | 4 | 49 | 85 |
| 2008 | 80 | 59 | 11 | 31 | 181 |
| 2009 (upto 30-06-2009) | 74 | 30 | 5 | 39 | 148 |

[Translation]

Irregularities in Medical/Dental Colleges

1626. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

SHRI S. SEMMALAI:

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding irregularities prevalent in granting recognition, collecting exorbitant fees for admission, etc. in medical/dental colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the nature of such complaints, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into these irregularities;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(e) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the irregularities in medical colleges?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (e) On the basis of newspaper reports that two medical colleges in Tamil Nadu namely, Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Porur (Deemed University) and Sri Balaji Medical College, Chennai (Deemed University) were allegedly demanding capitation fees, the Central Government sought reports from the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Medical Council of India

(MCI). The Government of Tamil Nadu have replied that notices have been issued to these two medical colleges but reply is awaited. Government of Tamil Nadu have further stated that action would be taken against aforesaid two medical colleges on the receipt of their replies. The MCI constituted an Inquiry Committee to investigate into the matter. The Committee has since submitted its reports to the Central Government which is under consideration.

Relaxation in Forest Conservation Act

1627. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction and development work in Tribal and Backward Areas are not being carried out due to Forest Conservation Act, 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Governments for giving relaxation under Forest Conservation Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has given/ proposes to give relaxation under the said Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) No, Sir. For the Tribal Areas, the Central Government has made provision of general approval under section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for underground laying of electricity cables and electric wires to individual households; drinking water supply/water pipelines; telephone lines which involve felling of trees not exceeding 50 number per project (below 60 cm girth class)

and the outside National Park or Wildlife Sanctuary and are laid along the roads and within the existing right of way.

Further, infrastructure development projects like power, roads railways, telephone lines/cables, drinking water facility, school, dispensary etc. designed for tribal areas are given priority under the Forest (Conservation) Act. These are also permitted activities under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Polio Cases

1628. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases of polio have been reported during the last three years and in the current year;

(b) if so, the details of such cases alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a large number of children are still vulnerable to polio even after administration of vaccine;

(d) if so, the strategies adopted to eradicate polio from the country; and

(e) the details of funds allocated, released and utilised by each State for the purpose during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, The details of the cases reported during the last three years and the current year is at Statement-I.

(b) In 2006 India reported 676 polio cases, out of which 648 cases were caused by the outbreak of Wild Polio Virus type 1 (WPV1).

In 2007, as the programme focused on reduction of WPV1, it was curtailed to 82 cases, but the country witnessed on outbreak of Wild Polio Virus Type 3 (WPV3). As a result, India reported 874 polio cases, 794 of them P3, and the majority were from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, where children were mostly given vaccine targeting P1 in the polio campaigns. Also the children in these two States had low routine immunization coverage with Trivalent Oral Polio Vaccine, which gives protection against all three types of polio viruses.

In 2008, the polio cases in India declined to 559 with WPV1 cases declining to 75 and the WPV3 outbreak curtailed to 484 cases.

Upto 10th July, 2009, 124 polio cases have been reported out of which 27 are P1 type and 96 are P3 type cases. One case is a mixed type of P1 and P3 types.

(c) Yes, as long as poliovirus transmission continues in any part of the country, children under five years of age are vulnerable to getting the disease.

(d) To stop the poliovirus transmission, India has taken a number of initiatives as per the recommendations of the India Expert Advisory Group on Polio Eradication, an advisory body comprising national and international experts.

As per the IEAG recommendations,

- Two nation-wide immunization rounds NIDs (National Immunization Days) are being held every year.
- About 6 Sub National Immunization Days (SNID) are implemented in UP and Bihar and neighboring areas at risk of spread including Delhi Mumbai and neighbouring districts.
- In addition, rapid and large scale Mop Up Immunization rounds are being carried out in response to each P1 case and P3 case detected outside the endemic area.

- Migratory populations from UP and Bihar are being identified in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat and these migratory children are being covered during the SNIDs in UP and Bihar.
- Social Mobilization activities are being intensified by involving the local influencers, community and religious leaders to improve community participation and acceptance of polio vaccine.
- State Political Leadership and Administration are continuously being updated on the identified gaps in the implementation of the Program.
- In order to reach every eligible child during the pulse polio round, in addition to the strategy of vaccinating children at fixed booths and house to house visit, efforts to vaccinate children in transit at railway stations, inside long distance trains, major bus stops, market places, at important religious congregations, major road crossings etc. through out the country have been intensified.

(e) The details of funds allocated, released and utilised by each State for the purpose during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise is at Statement-II.

Statement-I

State-wise Polio Cases from 2006-2009

| State/UT's | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 548 | 341 | 305 | 85 |
| Bihar | 61 | 503 | 233 | 34 |
| Delhi | 7 | 2 | 5 | 3 |

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-----------------------------|---|----|---|---|---|
| Rajasthan | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| Uttarakhand | | 13 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| Haryana | | 19 | 6 | 2 | |
| Maharashtra | | 5 | 2 | 2 | |
| West Bengal | | 1 | 2 | 2 | |
| Punjab | | 8 | 1 | 2 | |
| Orissa | | 0 | 1 | 2 | |
| Andhra Pradesh | | 0 | 5 | 1 | |
| Madhya Pradesh | | 3 | 0 | 1 | |
| Assam | | 2 | 0 | 1 | |
| Gujarat | | 4 | 1 | 0 | |
| Karnataka | | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Jharkhand | | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Chandigarh | | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Himachal Pradesh | | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Jammu and Kashmir | | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Tamil Nadu | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Chhattisgarh | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Kerala | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Daman and Diu | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Goa | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Puducherry | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Andaman and Nicobar Islands | | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Manipur | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Tripura | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Meghalaya | 0 | 0 | 0 | | Total | 676 | 874 | 559 | 124 |
| Mizoram | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | |

Data as on 10th July, 2009

Statement-II*Funds allocations and release for PLSE Polio Immunization Programme (2006-10)*

(Rs. in lakh)

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | Amount Released during 2006-07 | Expenditure Reported during 2006-07 | Amount Released during 2007-08 | Expenditure Reported during 2007-08 | Amount Released during 2008-09 | Expenditure Reported during 2008-09 | Amount Released during 2009-10 |
|---------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 97.65 | 87.65 | 50.02 | 50.02 | 87.50 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. | Assam | 1252.84 | 1252.84 | 735.46 | 735.46 | 1928.71 | 0 | 98.50 |
| 3. | Manipur | 129.98 | 129.83 | 64.99 | 64.99 | 117.73 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | Meghalaya | 110.12 | 138.84 | 79.04 | 59.59 | 282.71 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | Mizoram | 48.88 | 48.88 | 25.09 | 25.09 | 43.21 | 43.21 | 0 |
| 6. | Nagaland | 103.51 | 53.98 | 53.99 | 54.27 | 141.61 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | Sikkim | 28.24 | 14.12 | 14.65 | 14.99 | 24.88 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. | Tripura | 225.64 | 299.16 | 79.16 | 66.97 | 139.96 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. | Bihar | 4937.51 | 4571.52 | 6233.56 | 5363.60 | 7560.68 | 0 | 3245.80 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 2396.19 | 2408.02 | 1097.10 | 1052.18 | 1957.32 | 1878.41 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-----|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| 11. | Orissa | 657.03 | 652.90 | 564.06 | 534.69 | 1190.93 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 1439.16 | 1780.44 | 1430.46 | 1046.60 | 2596.48 | 0 | 155.15 |
| 13. | Uttar Pradesh | 16044.12 | 14567.90 | 17616.78 | 16249.02 | 24927.62 | 16962.45 | 5742.50 |
| 14. | Uttarakhand | 548.66 | 450.10 | 585.53 | 572.14 | 1188.55 | 676.3 | 283.56 |
| 15. | Chhattisgarh | 460.84 | 477.74 | 372.56 | 362.82 | 671.79 | 0 | 0 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 899.73 | 869.74 | 911.98 | 662.82 | 676.87 | 0 | 0 |
| 17. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 29.95 | 22.81 | 14.70 | 14.70 | 27.15 | 0 | 0 |
| 18. | Andhra Pradesh | 2186.12 | 2029.30 | 2710.10 | 2466.44 | 2996.13 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. | Chandigarh | 31.70 | 37.50 | 14.38 | 13.39 | 34.92 | 25.16 | 0 |
| 20. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 7.41 | 7.03 | 2.97 | 2.92 | 5.31 | 5.23 | 0 |
| 21. | Daman and Diu | 4.44 | 4.26 | 2.25 | 1.38 | 3.57 | 0 | 0 |
| 22. | Delhi | 708.02 | 572.37 | 1079.46 | 898.20 | 2151.06 | 0 | 449.98 |
| 23. | Goa | 18.98 | 10.19 | 9.78 | 9.40 | 17.98 | 15.33 | 0 |
| 24. | Gujarat | 1614.96 | 1492.86 | 1300.49 | 877.48 | 1127.01 | 0 | 62.56 |
| 25. | Haryana | 1049.08 | 865.51 | 827.03 | 143.64 | 1802.12 | 0 | 250.36 |
| 26. | Himachal Pradesh | 239.70 | 247.47 | 102.93 | 0 | 192.51 | 0 | 0 |
| 27. | Jammu and Kashmir | 261.56 | 314.76 | 179.38 | 0 | 338.03 | 0 | 0 |
| 28. | Karnataka | 1302.44 | 1150.97 | 735.07 | 700.07 | 999.13 | 0 | 0 |
| 29. | Kerala | 347.12 | 406.26 | 203.13 | 203.13 | 383.46 | 0 | 0 |
| 30. | Lakshadweep | 4.89 | 5.54 | 2.84 | 2.26 | 5.04 | 0 | 0 |
| | Maharashtra | 3348.2 | 2549.90 | 2516.63 | 2091.64 | 4233.23 | 3575.67 | 540.61 |
| 32. | Puducherry | 17.50 | 15.81 | 19.60 | 8.27 | 16.48 | 14.77 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|-----------------|---|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------|
| 33. Punjab | | 828.52 | 786.93 | 657.29 | 450.03 | 724.39 | 764.61 | 42.81 |
| 34. Tamil Nadu | | 968.39 | 979.71 | 512.66 | 494.44 | 969.70 | 0 | 0 |
| 35. West Bengal | | 2825.23 | 2473.88 | 1484.96 | 95.10 | 2239.45 | 0 | 169.69 |

Note:- (i) Expenditure for the financial year 2007-2008 and 2008-09 are provisional.

(ii) Zero Expenditure implies that State/UTs have not furnished the Utilization Certificates/Statement of Expenditure.

Removal of Corrupt Officers from Website

1629. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the list of some corrupt officers is being removed from the website of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC);

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

(c) the number of cases of corruption that has been disposed of by the CVC in the country particularly in Jharkhand and the number of cases pending with the Commission during the last three years and in the current year, Ministry-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) and (b) In December 1999, the Commission decided to publish the list of officers

of organized services against whom it had advised initiation of criminal/departmental proceedings for major penalty w.e.f. 01.01.1990. The list was displayed on the website and was being updated till August, 2002 in accordance with the records available with the Commission. Thereafter, the Commission decided to display names of only those officers against whom major penalty had been imposed. The list of such officers continues to be displayed on the Commission's website on monthly basis.

(c) The Commission's jurisdiction extends only over public servants of Central Government and Organisations/Corporations owned and controlled by Central Government. Information of cases handled/disposed by the Commission is not maintained Ministry or State or area wise like Jharkhand etc. Further, the Commission does not have jurisdiction over the officials of State Governments. However total number of cases disposed of by the Commission during the last three years and till May, 2009 in the current year is as under:-

| Year | Cases disposed of | Pendency (at end of year) |
|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 2006 | 4683 | 441 |
| 2007 | 4672 | 710 |
| 2008 | 4283 | 1193 |
| Upto May, 2009 | 1979 | 1447 |

(d) Details of number of officers (year-wise against whom Major penalty/punishment were imposed in cases where Commission had tendered its advice are as under:

| Year | No. of officers |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 2006 | 844 |
| 2007 | 765 |
| 2008 | 706 |
| Upto May, 2009 | 279 |

Invitro Fertilization Clinics

1630. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale and purchase of sperms and ovule are unethical trade going on under the guise of surrogate mother, by clinics engaged in artificial reproductive works;

(b) if so, the details of clinics engaged in the artificial reproductive works as on date, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact any law to check such an unethical practice;

(d) if so, whether the Government has urged the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) to formulate guidelines for such clinics; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : (a) to (c) No such reports have been received by the Government over the sale and purchase of sperms and ovule. There are, however, coverage of such issues in Print and Electronic media and other forum. To address such issues in detail a draft

Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Bill and Rules – 2008, has been prepared.

(d) and (e) Government of India issued guidelines to regulate the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Clinics in India prepared with the help of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Academy of Medical Sciences (India). The guidelines are available on this Ministry's official website www.mhofw.nic.in

[English]

Shortage of Doctors and Nurses

1631. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of doctors and nurses in the country;

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

(c) whether the Union Government had decided to introduce new schemes under the Development of Nursing Services Scheme;

(d) if so, the status of the said schemes; and

(e) the details of the other steps taken by the Government to increase the number of doctors and nurses to meet the growing demand?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Medical Council of India, allopathic doctors population ratio works out to 1:1584 approximately. In addition there more than six lakh practitioners of Indian system of medicine and Homoeopathy. Taking all these number together, the doctor population ratio comes to 1:1860 approximately.

In so far as nurses is concerned, as per the Bajaj Committee recommendations of Nursing Staffing norms, 10.43 lakh Nurses would be required by 2012. With the existing training capacity, 6.84 lakhs Nurses are expected to be trained by 2012. However the position of Nurses in the Central Government Hospitals is satisfactory.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to introduce new schemes under the project for Upgradation/Strengthening of Nursing Services (Human Resources for Health) during XI plan period. The necessary steps are under way for obtaining approval of competent authorities.

(e) The Government of India has proposed the following steps to meet the growing need of nurses:-

- (i) Establishment of Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery (ANM) and General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) schools in those districts which are not having both these training programmes.
- (ii) Establishment of post graduation Nursing (M.Sc Nursing) Institutions.
- (iii) Establishment of Regional Institute of Excellence.
- (iv) Establishment of Centre of Excellence in each State.
- (v) The National Rural Health Mission has been operationalised with the aim of providing accessible and reliable primary health care facilities especially to poor and the vulnerable section of the population.
- (vi) Medical Council of India Regulations are under revision with regard to land requirement, teacher-student ratio and introduction of public-private partnership which will facilitate starting of more medical colleges.

Pilgrims of Kailash Mansarovar

1632. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

DR. RAJAN SUSHANT:

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government conducts Kailash Mansarovar Yatra every year;
- (b) if so, the formalities involved therein alongwith the facilities provided to the pilgrims;
- (c) the amount each pilgrim has to pay;
- (d) whether the Government provides subsidy to the Mansarovar Pilgrims on the pattern of Haj Pilgrims;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether the Government of China has restricted the pilgrims from taking liquid and semi-liquid substances with them;
- (g) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (h) whether the Government has raised this issue with the Chinese Government; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Chinese Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) to (e) The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is organized for citizens of India by the Ministry of External Affairs in sixteen batches of upto 60 persons each from 1 June to the end of September every year in coordination with the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). An advertisement seeking applications is carried in several newspapers

and on Doordarshan and AIR in January every year. The selection of the Yatris is done through a computer generated gender balanced random selection process. In 2009, each Yatri is required to pay an amount of Rs. 20,000/- [Rupees Twenty thousand only] to KMVN and US\$ 700/- [US Dollars seven hundred only] to the Chinese side. Government does not provide subsidy to the Yatris.

(f) to (i) Government is aware that Chinese authorities at the border customs point in Lipulekh Pass are not permitting liquid and semi-liquid items to be carried into the People's Republic of China. It is the sovereign right of a country to regulate movement of goods across international borders. The matter has not been taken up with the Chinese side.

Symptoms and causes of Swine Flu

1633. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the details of the symptoms of Swine Flu and its causes?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Important clinical features of Influenza A H1N1 (earlier referred as swine flu) include fever, and upper respiratory symptoms such as cough and sore throat. It may affect lower respiratory tract with symptoms of difficulty in breathing. Head ache, body ache, running nose, fatigue diarrhea and vomiting have also been observed.

Influenza A H1N1 (swine flu) is caused by a new reassorted influenza AH1N1 virus which has antigenic components from human, avian and swine influenza viruses. Core antigenic components of this virus have affiliation for receptors in upper respiratory tract and lower respiratory tract which results in the symptoms.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House will now take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal—Not present.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Space for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 246/15/09]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Uranium Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 247/15/09]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 248/15/09]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Rare Earths Limited and the

Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT- 249/15/09]

- (iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Electronics Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT- 250/15/09]

- (v) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited and the Department of Atomic Energy for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT- 251/15/09]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section (3) of the All India Services Act, 1951:—

- (i) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 188(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2009.
- (ii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 189(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2009.
- (iii) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 190(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2009.
- (iv) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 191(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2009.

- (v) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 192(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th MARCH, 2009.

- (vi) The Indian Forests Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Second Amendment Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 193(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2009.

- (vii) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 194(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2009.

- (viii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 230(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2009.

- (ix) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Second Amendment Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 231(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2009.

- (x) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 253(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT- 252/15/09]

- (4) A copy of the Central Administrative Tribunal (Staff) (Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 445 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2009 under sub-section (1) of section 37 of Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT- 253/15/09]

- (5) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Space for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 254/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Coal India Limited and the Ministry of Coal for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 255/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Animal Welfare Board of India, Chennai, for the year 2007-2008.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 256/15/09]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 12 and 13 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:-

- (i) S.O. 1356(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2009 recognizing the

laboratories, mentioned therein, as environmental laboratories and persons specified in the notification as Government analyst for the period from 27th May, 2009 to 26th May, 2014.

- (ii) S.O. 2728(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2008 recognizing the laboratories, mentioned therein, as environmental laboratories and persons specified in the notification as Government analyst for the period from 25th November, 2008 to 24th November, 2013.

- (iii) S.O. 1355(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th May, 2009 recognizing the laboratories, mentioned therein, as environmental laboratories and persons specified in the notification as Government analyst for the period from 27th May, 2009 to 26th May, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 257/15/09]

- (4) A copy of the Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 97 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 2009 under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 258/15/09]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 38 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002:—

- (i) S.O. 783 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 2009 notifying the species of plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction, mentioned therein, and prohibit and regulate the

collection thereof subject to certain conditions in the State of Himachal Pradesh.

- (ii) S.O.997(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 2009 notifying the species of plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction, mentioned therein, and prohibit and regulate the collection thereof subject to certain conditions in the State of Kerala.
- (iii) S.O.998(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 2009 notifying the species of plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction, mentioned therein, and prohibit and regulate the collection thereof subject to certain conditions in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) S.O.999 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 2009 notifying the species of plants and animals which are on the verge of extinction, mentioned therein, and prohibit and regulate the collection thereof subject to certain conditions in the State of Uttarakhand.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 259/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Planning Commission for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 260/15/09]

MADAM SPEAKER: Item No.7, Shrimati Preneet Kaur—Not present.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 263/15/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 264/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute

of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, for the year 2007-2008.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 265/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, I am sorry. I was not present when my name was called earlier.

I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Narmada Control Authority, Indore, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 244/15/09]

- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 245/15/09]

12.01 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

[English]

Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 181st and 200th Reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests—Laid*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): I beg to lay this statement in pursuance of Direction No.73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II, dated 1st September, 2004 to inform the esteemed House about the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Eighty One Report (181st) report of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests. This report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for the year 2007-08. The Committee reviewed the progress made by MoES during the reporting period and considered the Demands for Grants (2007-08) in detail.

The Committee, while reviewing the working and considering the detailed Demands for Grants of MoES, analyzed the Demands for Grants with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Ministry and presented the 181st Report thereon to the House on the 27th November, 2007. The 181st report contains Twenty Three recommendations.

*Laid on the Table.

All the recommendations of the committee have been considered in the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Ministry has furnished a detailed Action Taken Report on these recommendations to the Committee on 16th February, 2009. The current status on the action taken is detailed in the Annexure which is laid on the Table.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 266/15/09]

I beg to lay this statement in pursuance of Direction No.73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II, dated 1st September, 2004 to inform the esteemed House about the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Two Hundred Report (200th) report of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests. This report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) for the year 2008-09. The Committee reviewed the progress made by MoES during the reporting period and considered the Demands for Grants (2008-09) in detail.

The Committee, while reviewing the working and considering the detailed Demands for Grants of MoES, analyzed the Demands for Grants with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Ministry and presented the 200th Report thereon to the House on the 23rd October, 2008. The 200th report contains Twenty recommendations.

All the recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Ministry has furnished a detailed Action Taken Report on these recommendations to the Committee on 8th June, 2009. The current status on the action taken is detailed in the appended Annexure which is laid on the Table.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 266-A/15/09]

12.02 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I beg to move the following:—

"That in pursuance of clause (k) of sub-section (1) of section 5 read with sub-section (2) of section 6 of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Act, 2008, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

MADAM SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (k) of sub-section (1) of section 5 read with sub-section (2) of section 6 of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Act, 2008, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

12.03 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Drought situation in the country

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House will now take up matters of urgent public importance in 'Zero Hour'.

Shri Sharad Yadav to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Madam Speaker, the matter that was attempted to be raised in the house as soon as you occupied the chair, was related to famine. In my whole life I have never seen such an uncertainty in the country. Bihar can be termed as waterlogged state. I will not be able to provide correct information about the whole country from the Tarai region of Himalayas to Uttar Pradesh to Bihar and to all parts of the country but I am of the opinion that nobody knows as much as the Members of this House do about the soil and land of this country. This crisis is so serious that if we do not explore a way or roadmap to find its solution, we would not be in a position to face the challenge in times to come. Water Situation has reached a new level of deterioration in the country. Pranab Babu is sitting here. I have never believed in God Indra, but I do believe that the earth and all living and non-living creatures are sustained by the ecology. Today the rivers are drying up, the course of Ganga is getting diverted upto 20 metres at a time. River Narmada used to be all season river is now drying up. The crocodiles in river Chambal are endangered as all season rivers are now drying up. Bhakhra Nangal is the biggest water reservoir of the country. It is also facing crisis. There is serious crisis of drinking water in many cities across the country. There are many areas facing water crisis including Delhi. The Minister of Power is not here, two-three Ministers had come from different State Governments. They are my old friends. They said that there was a huge short fall of hydro power generation. There will be crisis of power and drinking water. 75% of the land in this country that yields foodgrains is fed by monsoon rains. It is such a critical state; we all are sitting in the House. You are the Head of this house and we express our all concerns through you. The country had never faced such a serious.

We constituted a group of Ministers to tackle all these issues. We have held meetings of Secretaries. I would

request you that no solution is likely to be found to this problem with the way by which we have been working as a matter of routine. It will make no headway unless we allow the people of the whole country to get involved in this discussion and the decision making process in all respects. The leader of the House Pranab Babu is sitting here; through you I would like to request him that a lot of discussion has been held in his Ministry, his Secretaries have held a number of meeting; informations from states and provinces have already been received by him. In this country all Parties have their Governments in the States.

Madam Speaker, the State Governments have no funds, there is actual shortage of budget, but there are Ministers and MLAs from all the States who know the country's ground reality and it is possible that there may be more knowledgeable people but the Members of this House know each and every part of the country. A meeting of chief Ministers of the Country may be called to assess the situation of monsoon in various parts of the country. Swaminathanji is a great agriculture expert of this country. I admit that he is a knowledgeable person about crops and cultivation. Three day ago his suggestions were published in the Hindu newspaper that there have been rains at many places and seeds can be sown with this kind of rains in many states. We should call a meeting of all the Chief ministers immediately and discuss this issue with them. There are states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka and many others in various parts of the country where there have been rains ...(*Interruptions*)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : The whole country is facing drought...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV : Of course there is drought, but there have been rains at many places.

I want to say that Bihar which receives plenty of water, is also facing drought.

Madam, the whole Magadh region is facing drought for many years. Bundelkhand has been worst affected for

years, not for just one year but for 7-8 years continuously and it has become a desert entirely. Cattles have died and birds have fled away. It is severe crisis-It is facing scarcity of fodder, water and cattles and birds are dying. Animals which are most helpful in our agriculture, too, are perishing in this devastation. I just said that Dr. Swaminathan ji had given some suggestions a few days ago. Through you, I want to tell Shri Pranab Mukherjee to hold Chief Minister's meeting and an all party meeting soon to assess the situation of rain and the crops. Rajasthan, Punjab and Western UP have no possibility of any crop but where ever there is possibility, we should do something immediately and provide all necessary help.

Madam, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that this work is not going to be accomplished only by his Group of Ministers' meeting in Delhi. I do not want to say they are not competent. They are highly competent people but you do not get any information sitting here. Many things which the local people can tell you cannot be known while sitting here. Country should be run both from the top and from the bottom. This is such a crisis which necessitates immediate steps and if it is not done, your budget would be nothing but a drop in the ocean.

Madam, through you, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the immense crisis would blow him up and this crisis would leads to all kinds of problems. There will be all kinds of sufferings, like thirst and starvation and the animals, forests, earth, sky and all will suffer. There will be such a devastation that we may have never seen before. So, through you, I would request the hon'ble Minister of Finance, who is the leader of the House, not because I belong to a different party, but because I am really perturbed. That is why I would like to say that serious efforts should be made immediately in this regard. Call all the Chief Ministers and sit down together and find all the ways and means to tackle this crisis.

Madam, I am very much thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak. With this I conclude...
(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Shri Gopinath Munde.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : You take your seat for now.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Only the speech of Shri Gopinath Munde will go on record.

....(Interruptions)*

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE (Beed) : Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject. This time all the weather forecasts made by the Department of Meteorology have proved wrong.

It appeared from the forecast made by the Department that the country would receive good rainfall this year. But it proved wrong. Today the entire country is facing drought like situation. This is the worst drought after 1972. The situation in the entire country is very grim due to drought. Not only one state but many states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam and Maharashtra etc. are hit by the drought. The leader of the House is also present here today. The consequences may be dire if the Parliament does not understands the gravity of the situation in the country and takes measures to rectify it. The States do not have the required resources and funds to counter such a big crisis. They are not capable of tackling the situation of drought.

Madam, through you, I would like to inform the House that the condition of the farmers is not good. They are making their both ends meet by selling their cattles. The drinking water crisis is so grave that the people are compelled to buy water for drinking purpose. The situation in the country is very grim due to drought. Therefore, immediate measures should be taken for providing water and employment to them.

Madam, the condition of Maharashtra is very grim due

*Not recorded.

[Shri Gopinath Munde]

to drought. Today even in the rainy season, water is being supplied by tankers in 7500 villages. Not even 10 percent water is left in all the big dams of the country, though half of the month of July has passed by. This is a natural calamity. An inquiry should be held to ascertain as to how came the monsoon forecast by the Department proved wrong. The sowing of seeds done by the farmers has proved a futile exercise in the absence of rain and now if it rains the sowing will have to be done once again. The farmer will have to sell his land or his wife's jewellery in order to incur that expenditure, because he does not have money. Grant-in-aid or subsidy shall have to be given to the farmers in the country for sowing seeds. What will the Union Government do? It will pass the buck on to the State Governments. I demand that a central team should be despatched states hit by the drought. The budget session is going on, therefore a separate allocation for providing relief to states hit by natural calamity should be provided. A major crisis will emerge if the Union and State Governments continue to pass the buck on to each other.

One more major crisis has emerged that people are migrating to cities for employment. People are migrating from villages in search of jobs. This migration should be checked. Employment should be made available to the people hit by the drought in the village itself if they are not having potable water to drink, fodder to feed their cattles. The Union Government cannot shirk from its responsibility. Even in such grave circumstances, the hon. Minister of Agriculture says that there will be a good monsoon, there would be rain. Who can make such predictions about the future. Today condition is critical and the Union Government should take concrete measures to tackle this situation and should make some announcements and also allocate some funds in addition to budgetary allocation.

Today, the country is not facing the shortage of foodgrains. These people propagated during the election

campaign, that the godowns are full of foodgrains, whereas godowns are empty. If the current crisis prevails one will not get the foodgrains. Therefore, a policy in regard to export-import should be finalized. It will be dangerous if we export if we export the foodgrains. There are certain items for which demand has to be made today itself, because this drought is going to last for the entire year. Many short term and long terms measures have to be taken in this regard.

Like Bundelkhand which has been mentioned have drought situation also prevails in Marathwada and Vidharbha regions of Maharashtra. Efforts should be made to prevent drought in those areas and keeping in view the availability of water resources, the State Government are not able to cope up with the situation of availability of water in the dams for want of funds. Our NDA Government had tried to link the rivers like Ganga and Cauvery. Had the present Government tried to complete this project in stipulated time of five years probably, we would not have faced the drought today. Had the Government provided Rs. 10 thousand crore for linking Ganga-Cauvery, and had this project got completed, then we would not have faced drought today. It is not too late yet the drought has to be countered, the funds have to made available for tackling the drought, but it is not too late for linking the Ganga-Cauvery rivers. There is need to take the initiative. It is being said that even the Ganges is not having water. If the Government do not pay heed in this regard, the country will face a very severe crisis and the villagers, the poor and the farmers will incur losses.

I welcome him and felicitate him. He is the leader of the House and also the Finance Minister. He has given package to deal with the economic slowdown, but why cannot a package be made available in view of the drought for the villagers, the poor and the farmers of the country. Why does the Government not come forward to extend a helping hand to them? Since, they cannot raise their voice, they cannot approach the Government therefore, the Government must undertake the task of saving the villages and their cattle...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI GOPINATH MUNDE : Madam Speaker, a discussion on this issue should be held in the House.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Madam Speaker, thank you very much. You have taken the issue of drought very seriously. I do not want to repeat the views expressed by hon. Member Sharad Yadav ji and Munde Saheb. The issue is that drought is prevailing and it has hit almost the entire country. Northern India is completely in the grip of drought North India is the most affected whereas some other states are also affected.

Today the issue is that there is no water, ponds and pits do not exist any longer. Now ponds have been filled and land has been encroached. The Supreme Court has issued a direction to the Government asking it to dig all the old ponds, and to remove encroachments thereon. Besides providing water to animals the ponds also helped to checking fall in the water table. The water level has dipped. There is no water in tube wells. Handpumps are not successful. Today drinking water is neither available for the human beings nor for cattle. This is the situation today.

Secondly, the biggest crisis that is going to surface is that of foodgrains. The current crop has got ruined. Nothing will grow in Kharif season and it will also affect the next Rabi crop. The biggest issue is that water crisis will also leads to food crisis. Starvation will ensue and no water would be available. It will lead to loot, lathicharge, firing, snatching etc. for water and food? This is going to happen in the near future. Nobody will want to die hungry. Nobody will want that other people have food and he remain hungry. People will vigore to snatching food from one another. Hon'ble leader of the House is sitting here. He should take it seriously and call a meeting of all the leaders. You should declare famine and arrange for fodder soon. The poor people and labourers are on the verge of starvation. They have no work, they should be provided food immediately.

Madam Speaker, the question is that today water table is depleting and this is the grave crisis. Why do we worship Ganga? It feeds us, that is the reason the Ganges have given so much importance. Reports of scientists have said that there will be no water in The Ganges after 20-25 years from now. The scientists' report is there but I do not know as to how seriously the Government have taken it. The Ganges is going to dry up. What will be the situation when there will be no water in The Ganges? Every place will turn into be desert. The plains of Ganga and Yamuna which are the most fertile, which produce food will turn into desert.

The report of the scientists has been discussed much in the newspapers and magazines. I would like to know whether the Government have held any discussion about the situation that the country will have to face after the Ganges gets dried up. I would like to tell you that the entire country will turn into a vast desert. This grave situation will not confine to drought only. The situations arising due to it are the important. Though all the rivers are important, but the Ganges is so important for us that we cannot imagine without it. The Ganges contributes a lot in foodgrain production. Right from here to Kolkata cultivation is done in the plains of the Ganges. Today the plains of the Ganges are in the grip of drought. There is no water in ponds for animals. Water table is depleting, tubewells have failed and handpumps are not working. What the Government can do now?

We cannot say that this issue is concerned with the ruling parties or opposition parties. This issue is concerned with the whole country. So, the leaders of all the parties should held discussion on this issue. Suggestions should be invited from the leaders of all the parties in this regard. All the leaders are aware of it. The Leader of the House should meet the groups of leaders. You should meet the people of states to know the situation there. Leaders from states should be invited to have discussion in this regard. This issue concerns the country not the ruling parties or opposition parties.

Madam Speaker, I admit that this is a natural calamity, but the Government cannot sit silent by terming it natural

[Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav]

calamity. It is the responsibility of the Government to provide water, to make arrangements for production of foodgrains and to store water. The Government cannot shirk from its responsibility in the name of natural calamity. It is the responsibility of the Government to provide water be it from ground, dams or sea. One can term it natural calamity but the Government cannot shirk from its responsibility.

Madam Speaker, this is a serious issue. You should hold a discussion on this. This should not one or two-hour discussion rather there should be a day-long discussion on this issue. The situation of famine is prevailing today. Kharif crops have destroyed and there are no arrangements for the next crops, in these circumstances there will be starvation as there will be no foodgrains. Will we live on imported foodgrains? Ours is a predominantly agricultural country. If someone has increased the production, it is the farmer who has done so with their labour and wisdom. The Government has not provided much help. Farmers are also sitting here. I will tell you the names of such villages which are increasing agricultural production today and there is no contribution of the Government in it. Farmers have increased two and half times production by the dint of their labour and wisdom. So, I want to say that priority should be given to the farmers and the villagers. There is crisis in the cities also but engineers, MPs, MLAs, Minister, Chief Minister, Prime Minister, President and officers live in cities. If such situation arises in cities, there will be much hue and cry. Arrangement of drinking water will be made in cities, but what about remote, rural and tribal areas where there is contaminated water. There is no worry about Delhi, arrangements are made for Delhi...
(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Please conclude now

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : One day MPs will stand up and say that there is no water...(Interruptions).

Water was contaminated...(Interruptions). Water bottles are being sold. How much one has to incur for one bucket of water. This is the situation today. So, you will have to take some steps. You should convene cabinet meeting today itself. We have given our suggestions...
(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER : Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : If necessary, call the leaders, but there is no need of it at all. Moreover, suggestions have come up and you know that you have to act upon them...(Interruptions). I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. I want to say that there should be a whole day discussion on this serious issue...(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER : Please be silent.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi) : Madam Speaker, today famine like situation is prevailing in the entire country which the Hon'ble Member Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav has dwelve upon in length. It is a natural calamity and today all the farmers and the youths of the country are suffering. Nobody is responsible for it, it is not because of anyone but it is most unfortunate coincidence that the country is in the grip of famine after formation of UPA Government...(Interruptions) Tell me what is the fact...(Interruptions). Listen first what I am saying... (Interruptions). Governments comes and goes...
(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER : Please let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : I said that it is a coincidence; there is not your fault in it. It is unfortunate that the entire country is in the grip of famine after formation of UPA Government...(Interruptions). The farmers who are

the backbone of this country are the worst sufferers today. Cattle, birds and human being are suffering due to scarcity of safe drinking water in the entire hilly areas of the country. There is scarcity of drinking water and electricity in Delhi. People are compelled to use drainage water for drinking purpose which may lead to a grave situation during the ensuing days.

The country is facing grave power crisis due to scarcity of water. Hydel power projects which used to run by water....(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER : Please keep quiet. You address the chair please.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN : You have made your point, now keep quiet....(Interruptions)

I feel that keeping in view this serious problem, opinions should be elicited from the state Governments by calling a meeting of leaders of all the parties, Chief Ministers and the concerned Ministers on this issue. The hon'ble leader of the House is sitting here. He is a scholar and aware of the whole situation. As the member who has spoken before me has stated, Members of Parliament who are elected from their own constituencies, they know the ground realities and they know how to deal with this grave situation, so, I would like to say that their views also be taken into consideration. The grave situation that has emerged due to drought in the country should be pondered over seriously.

[English]

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Chennai North): Madam Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to speak on this subject. Madam, while associating with the feelings of the other Members of the House, I would say that Tamil Nadu is facing a grave problem. Usually, water from the Mettur Dam across Cauvery will be released for irrigation on 12th of June of every year. But this year, water has not been released so far because there is no water in Mettur Dam.

The farmers of the delta region are suffering because of this.

Madam, Tamil Nadu is situated at the end of this country. Normally, it is an accepted rule internationally that lower riparian areas should not be denied water by the upper riparian States. But here, Tamil Nadu is facing problems and water is not released for the State. Hence our farmers are suffering for want of water. One year's impact will continue for the next two or three years. That is the issue. If there is water shortage for one year, the impact will continue for the next two to three years. The Government should intervene, have discussions with the Chief Ministers of all the States particularly Tamil Nadu and see that some redressal measures are taken.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Madam, Speaker, today the country is facing very grave drought situation. Earlier, one or two states would face drought but this time the whole country is facing it. There is no state where there is no impact of drought. I would like to say that is a national disaster.

Madam Speaker, even today 79 percent population of our country depends on agriculture. This time seeds sown by the farmers in their fields got parched due to drought. Now they do not have any seeds to be sown for the second time. In our country, there are more than 50-60 percent regional, marginal and the poor farmers who keep seeds sufficient only for one time sowing. Today they do not have any seeds to sow.

Today the country is passing through such a phase that if the Government do not help them, there will be no crop in the country this time. Even if rain falls now in the country, there will be no crop. If the Government do not provide them timely help, the production will decline.

Secondly, our biggest problem is drinking water. This time we have also seen during elections that the people

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

had only demand i.e. water. Their demand was to give them water. There is crisis of drinking water in the country, particularly in villages. In towns, somewhere or the other drinking water is available, but villages are facing serious crisis of drinking water. People depend on tube wells and wells over there. Water in tube wells has registered a sharp decline. Wells have dried up there. Because of this, today diseases are spreading in villages, the people there are suffering from diarrhoea and are dying. This is also a very grave problem before us. We have to take case of it also. This House will take up issue, discuss it for the whole day, structured debates will be held out but there will be no solution to the problem with these debates, we have to find out its solution. We will have to formulate a short-term and long-term plan as to how we will deal with the problem if such a problem arises in our country in future.

MADAM SPEAKER : Now you conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Therefore, Dr. Swaminathan has suggested that the Central Government in consultation with the country's agriculture scientists, calling meeting of Chief Ministers and leaders of all the political parties should form a contingency plan to find out its solution and face the challenges. Today 80 per cent population of our country is facing these crisis.

MADAM SPEAKER : Now you conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Central Government will have to take some concrete measures to deal with these crisis. For this, State Governments, farmers will have to provided help. Prices of all items are rising...
(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: What Shri B. Mahtab says only will go on record.

(Interruptions) * ...

*Not recorded.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Madam, for allowing this discussion to be held in the House. As we all know, drought is a serious problem and it is treated as slow death. People who are affected by drought seldom come on to the streets. The devastation that is caused by drought is seldom seen by naked eye in comparison to the devastation that is caused by cyclone or by flood. So, drought is a problem which affects the farmers at large and the weaker section of the society at the most. So, when such issue has been raised in this House, knowing the sense of the House, Madam, you have very rightly accepted the suggestion of our leaders and have allowed a number of Members to participate in this burning issue today.

I come from a State in which there was no rain for the last ten months. A coastal State in the eastern part of this country, Orissa had not witnessed rain for ten months. But when the rain came hardly ten days back, for the last seven days Orissa is facing flood. When this House is deliberating on drought I am forced to draw the attention of the Government and this House to the calamity that has come upon us because of flood. The banks of river Baitarani have been breached. Large parts of Bhadrak and Jajpur Districts have been inundated. In the lower reach of Hirakud reservoir we have had a big cloud burst and the lower region of Mahanadi is facing heavy flood. Similarly, in the southern part of Orissa, in Rushikulya area of Ganjam District also flood situation prevails. An accident has taken place in Nayagarh District where a bus was washed away and casualties have taken place.

Madam, I have certain suggestion for the Government to consider. Already in Orissa the crop of highland variety of paddy has totally been destroyed. The crop of lowland variety of paddy has totally been destroyed because of heavy flood. I would draw the attention of the Government to extend full support to the State of Orissa. To help the farmers, a specific package be prepared to meet the challenge that the climate has posed to us. The dichotomy today is that most of the reservoirs in Orissa State are not yet full, but we are facing flood. Reservoirs like Hirakud,

Indiravati, Rengali, Upper Kolab, Chitrakunda and Badnalla are not full, but large parts of the area are under water.
...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER : Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : I have only a few suggestions to make. I will just take a minute.

For the short-term variety paddy, the time is already over. Khariff crop is in jeopardy; the farmers are in distress. The Central Government should prepare an action plan; preparation should be made for providing jobs to check migration; health programmes must be made at the most; rural development should prepare a special contingency plan to help rural folk; and lastly, sufficient seeds should be provided for Rabi crop. With these suggestions, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Raigad) : Madam Speaker, almost the whole country is facing drought. Through you, first of all, I would like to put my demand in the House that the Government should declare country drought hit at the earliest. Through you, I would like to put my one more demand in the House. The NDA Government led by the then Prime Minister hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee had formulated a river-linking project and at that time the work was started on it. But, the succeeding UPA Government put this project on back-burner and wound it up. I demand that the Government should retrieve that river-linking project.

Madam Speaker, today the whole country is facing drought. Our colleague Gopinath Munde said just now that water was being supplied with tankers. But, I want to tell that there are so many areas where there is no water to supply even through tankers, because rivers and wells from where water is taken out have dried up. So, water supply even through tankers is not possible. Such a situation is being faced in Maharashtra, particularly in Vidharbha and Marathwada.

Strange are the vagaries of nature. When on the one hand the whole country is facing drought, Mumbai is witnessing floods. There is flood in Raigad, Rathagiri and Sindhudurg in our Konkan area. Besides, there are floods in some part of Pune and Nasik district also. The Government has to fight against the situation caused by the drought in the country. There are some areas, states in the country where the situation of floods has emerged. These are the vagaries of nature that at one place there is flood, while at another place, there is drought. Sharad Yadav had now suggested that more attention is required to be paid to the states where there is availability of water, and sufficient rain fall is taking place if the Government intends to have good crops over there. For example, in Konkan area, Pune, Nasik in my constituency there has been sufficient fall, so the timely availability of fertilizers should be ensured over there. Apart from it, there is need to sow seeds second time in the areas where the same have parched during the first sowing. Such fields require second sowing. Now the situation is that even if it rains now, the Kharif crop will get ruined in the country. Therefore, let us admit that our Kharif crop has got ruined entirely. So, the Government needs to consider seriously in this regard.

MADAM SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : I am thankful to you for allowing debate on the issue intended to be raised by Sharad Yadav ji during 'Zero Hour'. This is an important issue. Today the whole country is facing famine and drought. I demand the Government to declare drought in the country at the earliest.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, I had called your name but you were not present.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar) : Madam, I was not aware.

MADAM SPEAKER : But you have sent your name. Are you speaking now?

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Yes, Madam, I am speaking.

Madam, farmers are affected either by drought or by flood. It is a common phenomenon. No doubt, the Government of India and the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has ventilated his ideas to protect the interest of the farmers at the grass-root level on a large scale. Sometimes, we are affected by drought or by floods. Sometimes, devastating storms affect us in the name of Tsunami or tornado or Aila. We are all affected by different kinds of natural calamities. But humanbeings cannot fight natural calamities on their own will or with their own interest. If you are willing to fight drought situation in the country, water conservation process is to be introduced at the district level or at least at the State level. This idea has to be floated. This process of conservation of water system should be announced as a policy of the Government of India so that at least the agricultural people who are really connected with the grass-root level can be benefited on a large scale.

Madam, in our State, Aila affected many areas. The Government of India has allotted Rs.1000 crore. In this connection, we will also request the Government to make a monitoring system for the amount which has been sent to see that it is properly spent. It should be taken care of that this fund is not diverted for other purposes of the State Government.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Karur) : Madam Speaker, all our Members are concerned about the drought condition prevailing in this country. This situation is prevailing in my State of Tamil Nadu also and because of this drought condition, most of the reservoirs in Tamil Nadu have dried up. With the result, the farmers are not in a position to do agricultural activities. The farmers who started some kind of agricultural activities are now severely affected. There is acute shortage of drinking water in our State of Tamil Nadu. Whenever I travel in the State, most of the people of my Constituency request me for providing drinking water and they are blocking us. They ask us as to what are we doing as representatives of the people in

this august House. They say that you should try to persuade the Government to see that drinking water is provided to all the citizens of this country. That is their demand. This is the high time that we have to think how to provide drinking water. Tamil Nadu is depending only on Cauvery water. All the drinking water projects are connected with the Cauvery water. So, if we are not able to get water from Cauvery, we would not have even the drinking water. In most of the cities of my Constituency, drinking water is being provided once in 15 days or 20 days. So, we are not able to get water. Therefore, I would request this Government to direct the Karnataka Government to release some water from Kabini and Krishna Rajasagar into Cauvery. This will help us not only in regard to drinking water but for agricultural operations also. We have to do this for Thanjavur and other delta areas.

Madam, Andhra Pradesh has started illegal construction of dam on Palar river. It would adversely affect T.N. Therefore, I would request the Central Government to intervene and direct the Government of Andhra Pradesh to stop the construction of dam on Palar river.

[Translation]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal) : Madam, situation in the entire country is very serious. It is not a political question, rather, the situation in the entire country is very serious. It is essential for the Government to take steps to tackle this serious situation at the earliest. I want that this situation should be declared as the national calamity and the necessary action should be taken in this regard. My second demand is that the Central Government should make a joint plan by associating all the states of the country to tackle this situation.

[English]

Madam, Speaker, let me give a few statistics. In the month of June the rainfall has been only 52 per cent of the total normal rainfall. It is much below normal. Only 30 mm rain was recorded in the month of June. Sowing of paddy is down by 25 per cent in the whole of the country.

This fall is not merely restricted to States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh. The production of oil seeds is down by 45 per cent.

[*Translation*]

The reasons for this is that the price rise is increasing.

[*English*]

There is an abnormal increase in the prices of essential commodities, particularly the agricultural produce like vegetables. The traders and wholesalers anticipating drought are increasing the prices of essential commodities. Also, anticipating drought, a terrible speculation is going on in the country.

[*Translation*]

Keeping in view these situations, I want that the Government should enlighten the House about the steps that it propose to take. I know that the Prime Minister had a meeting with the meteorological department. I am also acquainted with the facts that the Prime Minister's Office is talking to the department of power to know the reason of low generation of power. However, whether is being done, is being done at Cabinet level it is being done between South Block and North Block. So, the House is in dark regarding the Department in this regard.

[*English*]

What is happening in the Government is happening within the precincts of the North Block and the South Block. The Parliament has been kept in dark. Therefore, I am suggesting that it should be declared a national calamity; I am suggesting that there should be a meeting with the Chief Ministers of the States; I am suggesting a meeting with experts to discuss the possibilities of dry cultivation and also I am suggesting that Parliament should be made aware of what the Government is thinking to deal with a national catastrophe that has overtaken the country.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (Khammam) Madam Speaker the Government should seriously ponder over the famine situation prevailing to day in the country. I have gone through the budget and it appears to me that the Government have not given any package for farmers keeping in view the drought condition. It is on account of impending famine situation that the problem of agriculture, drinking water and power supply is going to crop up. we had food reserve of 65 million tonne for the last five years, however, now it has come down to 20 million ton. 20 million ton food reserve is not sufficient to provide food to poor people in the event of famine. Similarly, the Government should also seriously ponder over protecting farmers. Immediate action plan should be formulated for this. Besides, planning should be done in consultation with the Chief Ministers and Agriculture Ministers of the affected states. Along with this, a long term planning should also be done. Water of rivers of the country should be conserved. The Government should seriously ponder over good suggestions given regarding the river linking. There should be long term plan for river linking as well. Similarly, discussion should also be held on the report of the Swaminathan Commission. I would like to submit that the input cost of wheat worked out for last years by the Government is Rs. 421. After the workout now it is being propagated that Rs. 1080 has been given for wheat. Has any farmer earned fifty percent benefit? Thus the wrong input cost...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER : Now you please conclude.

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO : Madam, I am concluding in one minute. Injustice is being done against Andhra Pradesh. The Government should also ponder over it.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LALU PRASAD (Saran) : Madam, I associate myself with the views and concerns expressed by Hon. Sharad Yadav Ji, Mulayam Singh Yadav Ji, Geete Ji and Acharia ji. In the very beginning, during discussion on the

[Shri Lalu Prasad]

general budget, I had warned that the crisis of drought and famine is looming large and if attention is not paid in this direction in budget prepared by the Government, it will prove to be quite inadequate for the welfare of the common people.....(Interruptions) I know that there is paucity of time. Many Members are to speak. I would like to give suggestion to the Government that it should invite the leaders of all the political parties the Chief Ministers of the all states, the agriculture experts and the common farmers instead of their leaders of the from each state to discuss the matter because they are more informed about the type of crops suitable for each segment and each state. The Government may call them separately.

Madam, after the globalization of agriculture in the world the use of old seeds have been discontinued Dr. Lohja Ji used to say that the coarse grains like finger millet can be produced in water deficit area in summer. Earlier, people used to sow it after making small hole by sticks. Drought is being discussed. About Sathi paddy, barnyard millet and pado it is said that "Sathi hokar Sath din aur Barsha hokar Rat din". There is no rainfall because on account of global warming there has been a big hole in the ozone layer.....(Interruptions) So we should also see whether it is affecting the country. We will have to see it too. Kalyong has come. When these is preponderance of uttar devastation takes place and when Government fails to check the population growth then Malthus theory comes into play. No nature do its work.....(Interruptions) The Government should call a meeting and declare it as the national disaster. It is not the responsibility of the Government alone, rather, it is our responsibility as well. It is the responsibility of every political party, If there are hungry farmers, labourers and dry field, there will be discontent among people against the States and the Union Governments.

13.00 hrs.

The people's representatives whatever political parties they belong to too can not escape. Everywhere there will

be violence and people will resort to stone pelting against those living comfortably because they will be hungry. As far water is concerned there is scarcity of water in the country and violence is inevitable in the country for water. Such things certainly happens in such situation. These things should be addressed on priority basis. It is a question of nation, it is concerned with all. It is their Government, they are in power, they have resources and power so they should take initiatives in this direction.

I had suggested that the export should be stopped at the earliest. There is an urgent need to immediately stop the export of wheat, rice, pulse, food stuffs, meat, fish otherwise there will be a serious crisis and anarchy will prevail everywhere. There will be plundering and hungry people will indulge in robbery. What else can be expected from a hungry person? ...(Interruptions). Now the issue of fodder for cattles has come up while the cattle have died...(Interruptions). Ranjan Ji, I know what you are hinting at. You do not try be over smart...(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER : Now you please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : The people of India also know it...(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER : You may please sit down. Address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Today, large scale of drought and famine is prevailing. Therefore, if not today, tomorrow, the announcement in this regard should be made. All of us should collectively face it. This view is related not only to farmers but to the entire country. If we do not counter it collectively, then every family, every class, every community and all the sectors from farming to industry will get affected, it will not affect the farmer alone. I would like to suggest to urgently call the meeting and ban the export. It is true that the price of potato has risen to Rs. 16 per kilogram, and that of Tuar dal to Rs. 90 per kilogram, even

though it is not the preferred of pulses as it takes a lot of time for it to cook. There is a need to pay attention in this regard.

With these words, I would like to conclude.

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON (Unnao) : Madam Speaker, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Today, the issue on which discussion is going on is very serious. The entire country is concerned about it. As our senior leaders have said, there is rainfall at some places and drought at some other. I understand the situation of drought because on seeing the condition of drought in my parliamentary constituency Unnao, I cannot help. My self crying at the situation. The condition of women is very pathetic. Many blocks of my area have been declared black because water level in those blocks have receded below 250 metres and there is no scope to bore into the land. The situation of drought is prevailing not only in our country. Somewhere it is cold, somewhere hot and somewhere there is situation of drought. As Laluji also mentioned that global warming is a very big issue. It will take a pretty long time to discuss this issue. Therefore we will not hold discussion on this. Probably you would have read in paper that Himalayan Glacier is shrinking by 18-23 metre every year. The Government is not solely responsible for prevailing condition in this country. We too are responsible for it. It has happened because of us, the human beings. Today, it is the responsibility of 543 Members present here who are representing the entire country. I am of the opinion that apart from criticizing the Government and asking for holding meeting, all of us have a responsibility towards our constituency also. We people go to villages day and night during electoral fray. But why are we sitting here, why are we holding the discussion? This is our Government and after holding the discussion, the Government should announce package and tell us what to do with it. We will go there and work...*(Interruptions)*. The problem is, if I ... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Shri Munde, you have had your turn.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER : I have called Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON : I greet all my senior leaders with folded hands....*(Interruptions)*. Please give me an opportunity to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON : One minute, let me complete...*(Interruptions)*. Please give me an opportunity to speak.....*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER : Please be seated.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER : Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala, Please speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON : All senior leaders present here are aware that situation is very grave. But what will happen by saying that situation is grim. We are aware that our Government is doing something in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER : Only the speech of Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala will go on record, nothing else will go in record. Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala, please speak.

...*(Interruptions)**

MADAM SPEAKER : Please speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI ANNU TANDON : You are saying that meeting of Chief Ministers should be convened and discussion on this subject should be held. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh is too busy to attend the meeting as she is very busy in setting up parks and erecting statues...(Interruptions). If common people in Amethi stage dharna for electricity, they are dragged out of their houses and beaten.....(Interruptions).

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Shri Munde, you have had your turn. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Shrimati Annu Tandon, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER : Speak, if you are willing to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : You may speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha) : Madam, you shall adjourn the House since dine. All of us will return to our constituencies...(Interruptions) Nobody will sit in this House. This House is meant for discussion. We are voicing the sentiments of the people....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Only speech of Dr. Ajnala will go on in record.

...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Other hon. Members who want to associate may send their names to the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Now, we have to take item number 7 – Shrimati Preet Kaur.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER : Please sit down.

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib) : Madam, I would like to speak.

MADAM SPEAKER : When I was calling you, you did not speak. Now, sit down for a minute. I will just call you. Sit down for a minute. I will call. Sit down.

13.08 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE – *Contd.*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): Madam Speaker, I apologize to you for not being present in the House earlier.

I beg to lay on the Table –

*Not recorded.

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 261/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 262/15/09]

13.09 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Drought Situation in various Parts of the Country—(contd.)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER : I am calling you. When I called him, he didn't come to speak. Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala, now you speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Dr. Ajnala, I have just called you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER : The names of S/Shri Ghanshyam Anuragi, Shailendra Kumar, Ramkishun, R.K. Singh Patel, Dr. Ramchandra Dome, J.M. Aaron Rashid, Smt. Jayaprada, Smt. Susmita Bauri and Smt. Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi are associated with the subject raised by Shri Sharad Yadav.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA (Khadoor Sahib) : Madam Speaker, Thank you very much for allowing me to speak on this very serious issue relating to the farmers of the whole country as referred to by Hon'ble Member Shri Sharad Yadav ji. I am surprised to hear the views of Congress Party's lady member who said that this issue is not required to be raised in this House. I think she has been elected to this House for the first time and she does not know what to speak and what not to speak.

MADAM SPEAKER : Please speak on the topic. You please speak on your topic.

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA : First one should learn and then speak.

MADAM SPEAKER : You only speak on your topic.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA : She should learn first and then speak.

MADAM SPEAKER : Dr. Ajnala, if you wanted to speak in Punjabi, you should have given the notice beforehand. Please take care of this in future.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA : As far as Punjab state is concerned it is also in the grip of drought for the first time. The water level of Bhakhra Nangal Dam has come down by 40% and in Ranjit Sagar Dam the water level has come down to 116 meter. The water level of various canals in Punjab has also come down by 50%. We are facing this problem because of these dams also. And also done to delayed onset of Monsoon. Due to this we are facing severe power crisis in the state. Madam Speaker, you would be surprised to know that we have curtailed the working hours in our offices and schools because power shortage. We have also stopped power supply to the

[Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala]

industries in the state so that power could be made available to the farmers of Punjab. We have purchased electricity worth Rs.1200 crores for supplying it to the farmers of the state.

MADAM SPEAKER : You will have to give the notice. The rule is you have to give the notice beforehand.

*DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA : Madam please note it forever that I will always speak in Punjabi only and there is no second opinion about it. I have been speaking in Punjabi for years together.

Madam, This Congress Government has increased the price of diesel by Rs.2/-. The cost of agricultural input has increased by Rs.500-600 per acre due to increase in the price of diesel and power. Madam Speaker, the Hon'ble Minister is sitting here. I would like to make a request that as every state has its own specific requirements and problems the conference of Chief Ministers should be convened and they should discuss and decide about the requirements of each state which should also be met so that the people in this country could get two square meals a day. This is a very serious matter.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 p.m.

13.11 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to formulate a scheme for prevention of soil erosion caused by river Chambal**

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Bhind) : Due to Chambal river, ravines are getting eroded resulting in the conversion of several thousand acres of agricultural land into ravines. If the said erosion of ravines is not prevented, the farmers will have to face the consequences. Due to ravines several villages have also sustained losses.

I would like to request the Union Government to formulate a scheme to save the land in ravines from erosion by river Chambal.

- (ii) **Need to complete the gauge conversion of railway line between Ratangarh and Sardarsahar and construct a new railway line between Sardarsahar and Hanumangarh in Rajasthan**

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu) : Gauge conversion work of the entire railway line in Churu district is under progress. Gauge conversion work of 45 km. long railway line between Ratangarh and Sardarsahar remains unfinished. The people of this region were hopeful of getting sanction for the said work in this budget but it has not been included in it. Sardarsahar is an important town of my constituency. It is important from educational and business point of view as well. Students from all over the country come here to study. Migrants of this region move throughout the country for business. It is injustice with the

*Treated as laid on the Table.

people of this region to not convert the gauge of such an important zone. Several trade, social and political organizations of this region have demanded for the same many a time and have also submitted a petition before the Committee on Petitions, Lok Sabha. Besides, demand for a new rail line from Sardarsahar to Hanumangarh is being made for many years. Survey for the same has been done. With this line, whole of Punjab and Western Rajasthan will be directly connected to Ahmedabad and Mumbai. This region is rich in gypsum which is being supplied throughout the country. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to provide relief by according sanction for the gauge conversion of rail line between Ratangarh and Sardarsahar and for the construction of a new railway line between Sardarsahar and Hanumangarh.

(iii) Need to construct roads under Public-Private Partnership Scheme in Chhattisgarh

KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY (Durg) : With a view to extend the road transport facilities in the country, announcement for construction of roads with private investment under PPP scheme was made with much zest. However, even after the lapse of four years, work has not been started on the roads (in (1) Raipur-Bilaspur (2) Bilaspur-Orissa Border (3) Sarangarh to Saraipali (4) Sigma to MP Border and (5) Aarang Border, in Chhattisgarh. The scheme has become a victim of redtapism.

Due to the said reasons terrestrial road density per hundred square km. of Chhattisgarh has reduced to 26.18 km. against the national average of 76.80 km. Therefore, this work of urgent public importance may be started at the earliest.

(iv) Need to accord approval to the proposal of Government of Himachal Pradesh to levy tax on generation of power in the State

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (Hamirpur) : Madam Speaker, Himachal Pradesh is a hilly and border region. Hydroelectricity and forests are the main sources of natural wealth there. The State Government has several times

submitted a proposal to the Union Government to grant approval for imposing a generation tax of 10 paise per unit on the power generated through the hydropower projects in Himachal Pradesh. In this regard Rangrajan Committee had also recommended to grant approval to Himachal Pradesh for imposing generation tax. Himachal Pradesh itself has decided that there will be no deforestation for silviculture or under selective scientific felling in order to preserve the ecology of Indo-Gangetic Plains. Due to this it is incurring loss of several thousand crores of rupees per year. Therefore, the state may be granted approval to impose 10 paise per unit generation tax on the power generated there.

(v) Need for six-laning of G.T. Road from Delhi to Lucknow

SHRI AKHILESH YADAV (Kannauj) : G.T. road directly connects Delhi to Kanpur. Several districts like Aligarh, Etah, Kannauj, Mainpuri etc. are on this road. One can't imagine the heavy traffic plying on the present G.T. road. It takes more than 2 hours to cover a distance of even ten kilometer. Whether it is morning or afternoon, evening or midnight or any other time, the pitiable condition of women, children and senior citizens is very much visible whenever a bus packed with passengers gets stuck in the jam.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to immediately start the construction work by giving sanction to the proposal of six laning of G.T. road from Delhi to Kanpur taking into account the said work of urgent public importance.

(vi) Need to take steps to prevent the recurring floods caused by river Narayani in Deoria Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL (Deoria) : The eastern region of Uttar Pradesh particularly my parliamentary constituency Deoria faces the scourge of flood every year due to which hundreds of animals are killed and crops worth billions of rupees are destroyed. Flood also cause

[Shri Gorakh Prasad Jaiswal]

erosion of river banks leading to the villages being swept away in flood and the fields turning barren. The people also have to face a lot of inconvenience due to the soil erosion of Tamkuhi crown land along Narayani river, a lot of loss has resulted in my constituency. The sad thing is this that this scourge of flood has been going on for long time and no permanent measures have been taken to deal with it. The Union Government should provide a flood relief package to the State Government to minimise the loss due to flood and for setting up of hydel power plants and construction of canals for irrigation for permanent solution to the problem of recurring flood so that constructive use of flood water could be made for development works.

Through this House, I request the Government that a relief package be provide to the State Government to prevent flood in eastern region and find permanent solution to control flood.

(vii) Need to repair the dilapidated bridge at Pipraghat connecting Darbhanga and Khagaria districts of Bihar

[English]

SHRI MAHESHWAR HAZARI (Samastipur) : In Kusheswar legislative assembly which falls under my parliamentary constituency, there is Piparghat bridge which connects Darbhanga and Khagaria districts of Bihar. The bridge is made up of wood and at present is in a dilapidated condition. The people of my Parliamentary Constituency Samastipur, risking their lives, use this bridge while commutting to other districts to earn their livelihood.

Therefore my request to the Government is that while considering the public interest this Pipraghat bridge may be repaired without any delay.

(viii) Need to extend all service benefits of Postal Department Employees to Gramin Dak Sevaks in the country

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (Palakkad) : I would like to raise

an issue which affects the lives of lakhs of Grameen Dak Sevaks in the postal department. Even though they are doing the same kind of job that is done by the departmental employees they are not getting the benefits available to the departmental employees. Their plight is very pathetic because they are not getting even subsistence wages. Justice Charanjit Talwar Committee in its report in 1997 had categorically stated that the Grameen Dak Sevaks are the backbone of Postal department. That Committee also recommended that all benefits available to departmental employees should also be given to them. In this year, another committee headed by K. Gopinathan had submitted its report. Though the Communication Ministry had assured that this report will be implemented, nothing has been done in this regard. I urge upon the Government that Grameen Dak Employees should be given all benefits of departmental employees.

(ix) Need to allocate sufficient funds for Khurda-Bolangir railway line in Orissa

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): Khurda-Bolangir Railway line project was sanctioned in 1994. It connects Western Orissa with the State Capital and covers four districts Nayagarh, Boudh, Sonpur and Bolangir districts. The total length of the Railway line is 279 kms, but the work has been started on 30 kms track only. Due to allocation of insufficient funds the work is going on at a very slow pace which has created lot of resentment among the people of Western Orissa. Since this line is their heart line, I urge upon the Government to allocate Rs. 250 crore in the budget of 2009-2010 for completion of this project by the year 2014-2015.

(x) Need to run daily superfast train between Delhi and Manmad/Kopargaon in Maharashtra and provide better civic amenities at Shirdi for pilgrims

[Translation]

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE (Shirdi) : A large number of devotees visit the world famous Sai Baba

dham at Shirdi in district Ahmednagar of Maharashtra state but the area is lacking in proper civic amenities. The Union Government should allocate funds for developing the world famous Shirdi into a world class tourist centre along the lines of religious place situated in Nanded in which funds have been allocated for developing it into a tourist centre. Besides, there is a need for running a special superfast train for seven days a week from capital Delhi to Manmad/Kopergaon in wake of the increasing number of devotees coming to Sai Baba dham, Shirdi. There is also a need for increasing the reservation quota in all the classes of all trains passing from there and for providing a stoppage of atleast 5 minutes of all trains at Kopergaon.

Through this House, I request the Union Government to take effective steps for developing world famous Shirdi Dham as a tourist Centre, providing proper civil amenities for devotees, running special superfast train daily between Delhi and Manmad/Kopergaon and for increasing reservation quota in all trains passing from there.

(xi) Need for modernization of Tiruppur Railway Station in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI C. SIVASAMI (Tiruppur) : Tiruppur, my Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu is district headquarters and famous for garment exports, earning Rs. 11,000 crores in foreign exchange. Many foreigners are visiting this city. The condition of Tiruppur Railway Station is very pathetic and it lacks basic amenities. This railway station should be included in the modernization plan to cater to the needs of foreigners. To ease the traffic a new electric train between Palakad-Coimbatore-Tiruppur-Erode may be operated at least six times a day. Two new trains may be operated from Tiruppur to Chennai and from Tiruppur to Nagercoil via Erode, Madurai daily. Additional ticket booking counter, a separate reservation counter and five Railway over-bridges may also be provided at Tiruppur. In the recent railway budget, a new train has been announced between Shoranur to Coimbatore. The same may be extended to

Tiruppur. I plead the Government to fulfill the needs of the people of Tiruppur.

(xii) Need to provide additional funds under Coastal Security System to the Government of Maharashtra

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (Baramati) : In view of the recent terrorist attacks on Mumbai there is an immediate need to gear up construction activities of 12 marine police stations, 24 barracks, 27 check posts, card reader, computer and other equipments for which an amount of Rs. 4.49 crore is required and a request was forwarded to the Union Government on 3 February, 2009. An amount of Rs. 40.92 crore had been sanctioned under the Coastal Security Scheme for the Maharashtra State and an amount of Rs. 219.20 lakh was released for the construction of new police stations, barracks, check posts while an amount of Rs. 241.60 lacs was released for purchase of vehicle and other equipment by the Government of India. The utilization certificate for the fund released has been sent to the Government of India. The additional requirement of fund is related to:

| | | | |
|-------|---|---|----------------|
| 1. | New police station | — | Rs. 1.29 crore |
| 2. | Barracks | — | Rs. 1.13 crore |
| 3. | Check post | — | Rs. 1.08 crore |
| 4. | Card reader, Computer and other equipment | — | Rs. 1.00 crore |
| <hr/> | | | |
| | Total | — | Rs. 4.50 crore |
| <hr/> | | | |

Keeping in view the threats from coastal areas, it is requested that the Government of India should provide the amount to the State Government to complete the work at an early date.

(xiii) Need to review the Statutory Minimum Price of Sugarcane

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (Haikhanangle) : The Government has reduced the SMP of sugarcane as against what was

[Shri Raju Shetti]

recommended by Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP). Earlier also the Government did not approve the recommendations of CACP on this account. As a result of this sugarcane farmers are not happy. CACP works out the SMP of sugarcane on the basis of cost of cultivation and other costs invested in production of sugarcane. The CACP has recommended a price of Rs. 125/- per quintal. This has been reduced to Rs. 107/- per quintal by the Government at 9.5- recovery base.

I request the Government to reconsider its decision and accept the recommendations of CACP in toto. Otherwise sugarcane farmers will stop cultivating sugarcane and will be forced to import sugar from international market at high prices.

14.13½ hrs.

MOTION RE: SUSPENSION OF RULE 331G

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : Sir, I beg to move the following:—

“That the Rule 331G of the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in its application to the discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants (General) for 2009-201 be suspended.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Rule 331G of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in its application to the discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants (General) for 2009-2010 be suspended.”

The motion was adopted.

14.14 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, although Rule 331G of the Rules of Procedure has been suspended to enable the House to pass the Demands for Grants without the same being referred to the concerned Departmentally-Related Standing Committees, the Demands would, however, stand referred to the Standing Committees, after they have been constituted, for examination and report to the House.

14.15 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
2009-2010**

Ministry of Human Resource Development

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos.57 and 58 relating to the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants relating to Ministry of Human Resource Development 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 in respect of which intimation is received at the Table will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will also 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, 2010, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 57 and 58 relating to the Ministry of Human Resource Development."

Demands for Grants for 2009-2010 in respect of the Ministry of Human Resource Development submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha

| No. and Name of Demand | Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on February 24, 2009 | | Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of House | |
|--|---|---------------|---|---------------|
| | Revenue Rs. | Capital Rs. | Revenue Rs. | Capital Rs. |
| Ministry of Human Resource Development | | | | |
| 57 Department of School Education and Literacy | 13039,30,00,000 | 250,00,00,000 | 28280,28,00,000 | 500,00,00,000 |
| 58 Department of Higher Education | 584392,63,00,000 | — | 11036,37,00,000 | — |

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands. For Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. This is very important subject and it would have been much better if the senior cabinet ministers had been present during it.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): He will be coming and joining us soon.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi) : Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, Shri Pranab Mukherjee had given statement regarding education while speaking on Budget 2009-2010. He said that his objectives is:-

[English]

"To create a competitive, progressive and well regulated system of global standards that meets the aspirations of all segments of the society."

[Translation]

He has made a very great remark that [English] "to meet the aspirations of all segments of the society". [Translation] Along with it, should be competitive at world level and it should also be well corporatised and well regulated and progressive. These are nice sounding words and there cannot be any dispute over its motive. However,

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the real picture of the Ministry is different. First of all, I would like to say that some of observations made by the present hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development became a subject matter of debate throughout the country and they were published in newspapers. I am of the view that before I start highlighting various dimensions of the demands for grants it would be worthwhile to understand the purpose of education. Is it merely facing examination or is it meant for the creation of a pool of skillful people or is it meant to truly develop the human resources and also what exactly human resource is and if at all, it is to be developed, has it to be developed for the industry alone or for the betterment of the entire world. Human race is the superior in the universe; hence, its overall development is necessary. Mahatma Gandhi, Gurudev Ravindra Nath Tagore, Dr. Radha Krishnan, Dr. Kothari and Mudaliyar Commission have set targets for the purpose and recommended that basic aim of education is all round development and personality development of a person. It is correct that practically it is necessary to strengthen economic aspect of humans. There is no doubt that one should be familiar with acts and its efficiency alongwith it's technical skills should be improved but it is not the only mean to develop the human beings. Educationists all over the world say that overall development includes intellectual, emotional and physical development and spiritual development also in case of India and other Eastern countries. A person acts as an robot in absence of sensitivity. We are observing repercussion of the same, as people today ignore the wounded persons lying on the roads and quietly pass through. It shows lack of sensitivity. Emotional Quotient, which is a part of an education is not being given due weightage in education system. No provision has been made in the education system to impart "sharing and caring: values and how we can live together, behave in a friendly manner, does not discriminate against anyone. It is being done at a very small scale in certain institutions. When some Teachers Association and educationists raised their voice to incorporate the same in education system,

they are called backward. As a result of this educated person gradually start thinking of money only and loses his emotional attachment towards country, language, family and society. We would like to know what reforms are being done in education system, which are being loudly propagated these days. Whether winding up of class X Board Exam or formulating new regulatory system will prove to be sufficient in carrying out education reforms? I would like to suggest that if we are seriously considering this aspect then there is need to invite all types of views from educationists and all states of the country regarding education reforms. I may take some time. Whether change in curriculum would be sufficient? It is necessary I am agree with it. We have done so and it should be carried forward. But it should be taken into account that what kind of human values are we infusing to make them good human being? It is not proper to promote professionalism over ethics in education, every aspect has it's own value. Therefore, I would like to submit that all state Governments, educationists, school management, Government and political parties should consider the matter seriously and formulate a roadmap in this regard.

Sir, it is regrettable that petty issues in education sector have been politicized for the last so many years and there is dire need to resolve such matters cutting across the political lines. Having been Minister of Human Resource Development for 5-6 years I would like to say that there is need to formulate an education policy as per the international standards but to suit our Indian conditions.

We cannot adopt western models or practices as they are, in their present form as it further increase the confusion in our present education system.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that we had various reputed universities like Nalanda, Takshshilla and Vikramshila in the country which were benchmark in themselves where 10 to 12 thousand people were studying at that time. Students from all over the world use to study there. Our country had that status at that time.

It doesn't mean that we should adopt education system of Nalanda. There are significant changes in education system since then, but it is worth mentioning that it is always our priority to impart education with human values. In this way, we have contributed a lot in the international level. I feel good when I read that we are going to adopt these international practices in our country. We will certainly adopt good things but I would like to say that India has contributed a lot in the international level in the field of education and we should pay some attention towards those things also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, educationists, students and teachers should be aware of such rich tradition of ours. There is need to pay attention towards the facts that the ancient education system of India fulfilled the requirements of the country for thousands of years. Constant demand had been made for skilled force of the country worldwide. I am sorry to say that I have gone through all drafts regarding reforms and upgradation of education system but this aspect has been totally neglected.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is said that India should be innovative. I am completely agree with this. During my time I had created an innovation fund, but, I would like to make a humble submission that unless you are capable of original thinking, you cannot be innovative. Hence, first of all, India need to come up with original thinking and its system of education should be based on it. We need to develop our education system keeping in view our customs and traditions and requirements of our country in world perspective. Gurudev Ravindranath Tagore has taught us this lesson. Our country had also started the said system of education at elementary level at few places. There were several such institutions at the time of freedom struggle which were engaged in the work of infusing the feelings of empathy and patriotism among the people. This should be made the aim of our education and a consensus should be evolved in this matter. Our education system should be free of communalism. If it is said that we need to impart moral education then it should not be taken that we are talking about a particular religion or a particular way of

worship. This is a recommendation of the report of a Committee of this house which was adopted unanimously, that moral and value based education should be provided. We should think as to what should be those values. Whether they should be economic, intellectual, moral or spiritual values. What will be the economic behaviour, it will depend on this thing. Hence, education sector needs a serious attention. When we say that we want to bring about improvement and innovation in education system, then this message should clearly be brought before the country, the guardians, the teachers, academicians and State Governments. There are great personalities in the country who are doing a lot of work in the field of education, this matter should be discussed with them. Though, it might take some time. The programme should not be spoiled in haste. We need to pay serious attention on this matter.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have observed that Minister of Human Resource Development, in reply to a question in Rajya Sabha has stated that.

[English]

It says: "Both in the President's Address as well as my – that means, Mr. Kapil's – public pronouncements, we need to move forward in education on the basis of three large principles. The first one is expansion, then inclusion, and then excellence, which means 'access, equity and quality'."

[Translation]

No one will disagree with this. Education should be easily and equally accessible to all.

Sir, there should be no difficulty in achieving this target, but, it should be a quality education. I think it is not an impossible task but in present scenario, all these three aspects are not available, but it is to be seen how we are going to achieve this aim. Unless there is easy access and equality, the quality education cannot be provided to all and till then quality education will remain in the reach of limited people. He has talked about a concept of neighbourhood school to ensure easily accessible and equality based education.

[Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi]

Sir, when asked to define the concept of neighbourhood school, he said that if there is no school in any particular area, a school may be opened in its neighbourhood. Kothari Commission and Radhakrishnan Commission did not envisage this concept of neighbourhood schools. Had neighbourhood schools been opened in the country in true spirit, this wide gap would not have appeared in the field of education. The concept behind opening neighbourhood school is to provide education to all the people of that area whether they are poor or rich.

[English]

That is the concept of neighbourhood schools.

[Translation]

But, under this concept if you think that we expand the education by opening a school in any particular area where there is no school within the periphery of one kilometer, then it will not be called a neighbourhood school. Neighbourhood mean equal sharing, a need to get education with neighbour. There should be no differences or disputes between neighbours, castes and communities, poor and rich people. Concept of neighbourhood school was expressed to achieve this aim. If Minister of Human Resource Development go through the report of Kothari Commission, he may find that this concept was explained in detail in the report. It is a matter of regret that even after 40-50 years we have not been able to implement the important recommendations of Kothari Commission in our country.

Sir, I am not talking about the present Government only, no Government has been able to implement the report so far. Neither any State Government nor the Central Government could implement this report. I think that it is more difficult to implement this report today. I am well aware of the hardships which may come in the way of its implementation, but I think that if Minister of Human Resources Development still wants to give effect to the concept of neighbourhood school, then this matter can be

discussed, new ways can be explored and people can be convinced about this concept. If not today, then gradually during the coming 5, 10 or 15 years, we can get rid of this divisive education which differentiates between poor and rich, rural and urban people, one community and another community.

Sir, on one hand, Hon'ble Minister says that we should have equality but on the other, he talks about a separate Madarsa Board. If you want equality then there is no problem if it has different curriculum. New cases could be introduced there.

Sir, during our term we tried to introduce modern education i.e. Science and Maths with religion based education in Madarsas and funds had been provided by the Central Government for that purpose. We had implemented it in around 1850 to 1900 Madarsas and encouraged them to get education. It was all for bringing equality. We asked them to continue with their religion-based education, cultural education alongwith modern education. You can set up a separate board for them for getting religion based education, there is no problem in it but it is not clear whether they will have separate board for other subjects like Science etc. on the name of their community.

Sir, then they are saying that board exams should be abolished. Abolition of board exams is not a solution. It is said that students have examination pressure. But if this pressure is removed for here then it will occur at any other stage. Students will have to face board examination if not at the level of matric then at the intermediate level as while appearing in competitive exams for entrance or for getting job. So, if you want to make education pressure free then our education system should be joyous. [English] It should be a joyous and creative system of pedagogy, [Translation] in which a child could learn without any pressure or tension.

Are we able to create such a tension free environment in schools today? If not, then by when and how we will be able to create such a tension free education system?

Another pressure on students is their heavy school bags. It is easy to provide routine grants of Rs. 100 crore or 200 crore. There is no need for an intelligent and experienced person like Sibbal Sahab has it. Even a Chartered Accountant can do it. I will talk about this later.

I agree that our education system is in miserable condition and it needs improvement. I myself have experienced this and tried to improve it but I would like to state that there should be detailed discussion on improvement in this field. Improvement should not be based on the recommendation of one committee or on the report given by any small group in haste. I would like to draw your attention towards Yashpal Committee. I do not know whether the Government have accepted it or not but when I went through it I found that its report has been prepared in haste. After going through the report, it is clear as to how the committee was asked to change its terms of reference, its name and its functioning and then report was presented in haste. I would like to request, before its implementation a detailed discussion should be held at all levels and you should be very careful while implementing it.

I strongly support that autonomy may be given to our education system. Autonomy is very important to keep education free from party politics but what is the meaning of autonomy if you give the right of appointment to the post of vice chancellor to Governor, Minister, Chief Minister. In that case, there can be political intervention. I can give examples of several states where during the appointment of vice chancellor, Governor appointed a person who was suitable from political point of view or belonged to the same caste. After that, there was political intervention during the appointment of teachers. Even the appointment to the post of peon was made under political pressure. I would like to tell you that I had not approached anyone for appointment of any vice chancellor, professors, teacher or any other appointment or for any admission during my term as Minister. It is not expected for the persons who are holding prestigious posts like Minister or Governor to work politically motivated as they hold responsible post like Chief

of Education system. Politics is prevailed in education also, for example Rajasthan Board decided to introduce some subjects and the Integral Humanism of Deen Dayal Upadhyay ji was also included in it. But when Government changed the first thing it did to expunge it from the syllabus. Whether this system would bring autonomy? Whether it is not rendered people of incapable thinking? Whether today, we can say that views of Marx, Mahatma Gandhi and Jay Prakash Narayan or ideas of revolutionary's should not be incorporated in school curriculum? But if we are making such changes in curriculum and describing revolutionaries as terrorists, Jaats as dacoits and Gujjar as criminals, then what kind of autonomy we are providing? What kind of autonomy we want? These matters need to be considered seriously. If I want to incorporate my own beliefs and ideology in the curriculum, then its is not an autonomy. If you want real autonomy, then it required concrete base and we are ready to co-operate for the purpose. We want to establish such an institute, which can regulate the education system cutting above political lines. This institute should not confine to higher education only, but it should cover each level from top to bottom. Kothari Commission also recommended that there is need to constitute District Education Board at district level and educationists and teachers should be appointed as Members of that board. Since, such Board receives Government aid, therefore, you may appoint representative of the Government to maintain accounts and you may conduct audit of the accounts. You may conduct education audit on the lines of C and AG. But the education system should be streamlined from top to bottom in a manner which could be suitable for each zone of the country and some practical approach could be developed thereby.

There is no doubt that such an autonomous body is necessary, but it is controversial to bring each state under its purview because the requirements of Punjab, Rajasthan, Bihar, Kerala are different. Our country follow the concept of unity in diversity and you cannot ignore such diversity at least in the field of education. I can say on the basis of my experience as a teacher for 40-42 years that diversity is the major force, at least, in creating ideological approach

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in the field of education in the country. I remember that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru once came to our University. I still remember his speech. I quote his speech-

[English]

"These institutions are temples of our learning. These are the homes of ideas and idealism. If all is well with these institutions, everything is well with the country."

[Translation]

I would like to know that whether these universities are still infusing ideas and idealism? When I was a student, Jai Prakash Babu, Acharya Kriplani, P.C. Joshi, Z.A. Ahmed, Acharya Narendra Dev, Dr. Mukherjee, Jawaharlalji. Dr. Radhakrishnan came to express their views in the University, but not a single Vice Chancellor opposed them. Various hon'ble Members have studied in Allahabad University. No one ever opposed to listen to the views of any dignitary. Every faculty had the freedom to invite any person without any hindrance. There were various study circles in each hostel, where people from different countries expressed their views. We are the product of that tradition. I feel sad to see that certain Universities do not allow particular person to enter even in the campus area. Golwalkar ji came to express his views and Prof. Rajendra Singh has worked there as teacher who later on become 'Sarsanghchalak' (RSS Supremo), but nobody opposed to it. When my interview was going on for the post of Professor, an expert asked me that [English] do you belong to RSS?

[Translation]

As I was about to answer, the Vice Charicellor said.

[English]

'Mr. Expert, we do not consider the political ideas of any Professor as a question to be asked in Experts Committee.

You can ask on merits. You can ask about his subject, but you cannot question whether he belongs to RSS or to SFI or to Congress. That is not done in this University.' Do you do it now?

[Translation]

Whether such practice is being followed today? It is regrettable that how executive councillors have been appointed in the University for which I have contributed a lot for making it a Central University, out of the total appointments made people were belonged to District Committee Members of Congress party. What is this? Whether it will serve the purpose of providing autonomy? What kind of autonomy are you talking about? Autonomy should be provided with honesty, sincerity and transparency and we are ready to accept it. Autonomy does not mean that ruling party should be allowed to take undue advantage in the name of autonomy.

I was repeatedly asked on many occasions that ministry should get the right to made appointments in Central Universities instead of hon'ble President. I refused the proposal. Except for Retd. Chief Justice of India, I never recommended anybody from the Ministry during my tenure, to head the panel for the appointment of Vice-Chancellors. A lot of my friends are in education sector, they are highly learned and wanted to do it, but I told them that this would not be done. There should be a kind of transparency, impartiality so that nobody could raise his finger at the Vice-Chancellors. The various aspects of autonomy should be discussed in detail. We are ready to share our experiences with you. There are other people, parties who run the Governments in the States, Yes, I feel that your old pals, members of the communist party might think differently on the whole question of autonomy. I do not know whether they would agree or not, but apart from that, I think all the people who believe in democracy, free thinking, raising the standard of education will agree with this, but not before considering it from all aspects. Yashpal Committee is not the sole repository of it. All the recommendations of the Committee, its viability need deep consideration. It would

be very good if regulatory system is good, and free of babudom, But as the Government is going to do the funding babudom will be there but under control. It should not be allowed to dominate. Autonomy does not mean what IIMS said last time that they should be given money and it is upto them what they teach. This should not be allowed to happen. The institutions should keep this in mind that there should be regulation, be it self-regulation but it should be there and it should be politically motivated or from business point of view. It is not that whatever business houses or business interest or corporate sector say is autonomy and what the people of the country accept is not. What autonomy means is a serious issue.

When I was speaking about neighbourhood schools, you were not present here. It also requires consideration and this is something which can lead to the uniformity of education and unity of the country. Not very soon, but in the coming decade we can make much progress in this direction because it would start from below and the result would start coming out in 8-10 years, then we would be able to say that the child was taking the shape of the human, we wanted him to be. So, the hon. Minister should think over it seriously.

I would like to say one more thing in this regard. There is another option-Central schools. If this model could be paid more attention, it could fill the wide gap of education. So far, the aim of the Central Schools is to benefit employees of Central Government, personnel of army, para-military forces and people of transferable jobs, it is alright. But most of the Central Schools are situated in very good places. Two shifts could be run there. One for these people and another for the rest of the people. People want to study there. I would like to say very gladly that central schools have improved considerably since I started this task and owing to endeavours of five years, so much so that many of the IAS officers were willing to send their children there. Reforms can easily be brought in there as these schools are run by the Central Government and that is why, it can be turned into a model. Accessibility, quality and equity all three can be taken care of in a low budget under this

concept, Navodaya Vidyalayas are meant only for what you call OBC areas or scheduled caste areas. Their purpose is to promote education in these areas. Here, the aspects of equity and quality need to be taken care of because you have already provided accessibility. But these schools can provide quality education. I had made an experiment in Jammu and Kashmir. I gave approval to central schools there with the condition that they must have the children of Kashmir, civilians, police force, army and those whose families members were killed in terrorist attacks. Hostel were set up so that all the children could stay together. The Government should also make such experiments. These are innovations. Innovation does not mean erecting a building as has been erected in Tokyo. Innovation means endeavour to unite the Indian society, to bring in equity and quality in education, to inculcate the feeling of oneness in our children and to develop their intellectual, emotional, physical as well as spiritual quotient. No innovation can be done unless the child is examined physically as well as academically and his creativity is put to test. It is laborious task, there is need to evolve consensus and to take certain fiscal and other measures in this regard. The Government has to identify Model Schools and decide about the financial assistance and the mode of providing it and it has to hold more dialogues with State Governments in this regard.

Higher Education and Secondary Education are two different things. I said earlier also that 2-2½ crore children would be enrolled under Primary Education each year because we were making provisions to provide free and compulsory education. Each year 2-2½ crore children will be enrolled and if all of them continue their education, let us assume only 60 percent children make it to higher level, then each year 1½-2 crore children will be enrolled. If steps are not taken to control population, the percentage of school going children will increase further.

Population of the country is about 20-25 billion crore. If fertility rate remains to be 2½ percent, then population will increase accordingly and all these children will receive compulsory education, so such an expansion will not be

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possible before 5-6 years. What would be the fate of Secondary Education? The Government has mentioned about Secondary Education Mission, I agree with it, but if it is going to function with the assumption that education sector is in the hands of Government and is going to adopt lackadaisical approach, then there will be problems. Then it will be difficult to check commercialization in secondary education and to assess the quality of education. I still remember that when I introduced " Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan" various State Governments did not pay attention towards it for long. Not only our Government even Congress Governments did not pay due attention in this regard. I would like to say that the Government of Tamil Nadu showed promptness in implementing the scheme, but other Governments had to be persuaded. Hon. Lalu Prasad ji is not present here, he has to be coaxed into accepting the programme on the plea that children should not be neglected.

What I want to say is that the Centre Government should not escape from his responsibility saying that it is upto State Governments but persuade them in this regard. It is mainly our responsibility because children are future of the country. Since children are future of the country and we have the larger responsibility of the whole country and now it is a fundamental right too, so the responsibility of the Government has increased manifold.

I would like to request the Government that there is a need to pay attention towards this. Provisions made for the Secondary Education Mission are not sufficient. I am happy that the Government has declared 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan' as its Flagship Programme. I am happy because this programme was introduced by NDA Government under Shri Vajpayee ji's leadership. I got the opportunity to initiate this programme. I am concerned that if academic and fiscal monitoring of this programme is not done, then it might face the same fate as NREGA. Fiscal and academic monitoring of this programme is necessary. Provisions we made under the scheme have been discontinued. Former

Minister of Human Resource Development seems to have done away with those provisions. They are necessary. There are colleges in each districts. There are retired C&AG officers in each district, the Government may entrust then the task of monitoring of the scheme. We had assigned them task and it provided desired results. Through monitoring we would be able to find out whether Rs. Five thousands earmarked for the schemes are being utilized or not or whether the building has been constructed as per norms or not and whether the teachers are regular and good at their job or not? There are several colleges which have education department. The Government may assign the task of monitoring to the teachers from there to find out the reality. The Government may conduct academic monitoring and fiscal auditing every at a very low cost. It will check misuse of funds and enhance the quality. Quality has to be improved at the fundamental level itself. To improve the quality, it is necessary to associate the prestigious schools of the districts with these primary schools. It is very necessary. I am sorry to say regarding technical education and vocational education that desired progress has not been achieved so far. Education system cannot be improved merely by allocating funds. The Government may have increased the allocation by Rs. 100 crore or Rs. 200 crore but it is like a drop in the ocean as India is a large country. Allocation ought to be increased as it is necessary. I have no problems regarding allocation of funds. There are two three main things which I would point out but I would like to say if polytechnics, IITs, Engineering colleges are associated and the task of monitoring of polytechnics and IITs and formulating programmes with them, is assigned to a particular engineering college of that area particularly the NIT's which are likely to be opened in large number, then the Government would definitely find improvement in the quality of technical education in next five years. We had initiated this schemes but it has been discontinued. Quality is important for technical skills. Persons of all regions from cities to villages have the capability of innovation in our country. We exploited it fully. We created an innovation fund for it and invited applications in this regard. Many good

innovations were presented. People can come up with innovations provided that we encourage them and do not impose the terms and conditions of having the knowledge of English Language and of being educated. Even an illiterate person from village can have good ideas. People often come-up with new ideas to accomplish their work which is also the basis of innovation. But if he has no knowledge of English language he will not get your certificate. We need a scheme where certificates could be given to different innovations stating what special they have got. It would encourage people to be innovative in a big way. This is also an innovative experiment in the field of education. The Government should do such experiments. They can do such experiments in the field agricultural education and environmental education. We had started a scheme that every student would conduct a survey of his surroundings and present a report in this regard. When this scheme was started in Uttarakhand, the children of that area surveyed the environment, their areas, all the peculiarities and even what was lacking there. This can be done easily as not a single penny is required for this. But it is sad that such scheme are not there. A lot of work could have been done in last five years but it is sad that nothing has been done.

14.58 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI *in the Chair*]

The hon. Minister also stated that a large number of ITTs and IIMs would be set up which is good. But besides building and equipments the biggest need in this regard is faculty. Due to shortage of teachers we have to appoint retired teachers in engineering colleges who have to visit different colleges daily for teaching, Due to shortage of teachers the same faculty works in four five colleges. It needs attention. It is difficult to find sufficient number of teachers from primary level to higher level and to get trained teachers is even more difficult. Particularly in the field of technical education it is a more difficult. When new IITs will be opened good teachers of National Institutes of Technology would join them and to fill these vacancies

teachers of technical educational institutions would go there leaving vacancies there and in the meantime if any international institute is opened then there will be acute shortage of good teachers.

Then all good teachers of IITs will go there. So it is necessary to pay attention towards upgradation of quality and promotion of technical education. It is regrettable that enough research work does not take place in IITs. Their citation index is very low. Their research papers published in international journals are few in number.

15.00 hrs.

It is often said that when a person takes admission in IITs although he studies here but he only thinks about going aboard. It is important to make him stay in India only. Before the establishment of institutes in our country it is important to think it through. At that time I myself tried to find about the details of 10-12 institutes but I could not find even their sign boards. Before allowing them in India it is important to consider their curriculum, research capacity etc. I have come to know that the Government propose to introduce a law in this regard. I would suggest the Government to circulate a draft of this law to all. It would be a mistake to do this in a hurry thinking that international institutes would enhance the quality of education in the country. It can be improved by Indians only. The standard of Roorkee University of Indian Institute of Science is no less than any other world class institute. They have Indian faculty only. We can collaborate in research but before giving them the right to control our education system or allowing them to enter in this field a detailed discussion is necessary. This decision should be taken in haste.

At present during the time of recession they are trying to earn money through education sector in India. A member of Yashpal Committee had suggested that education companies should be registered to run educational institutions. They will commercialize education. It is also possible that they may produce professionals for any particular industry. But they will not work for primary

[Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi]

education, secondary education or general education they will only work the management and technical education. So the Government should pay attention towards this. It requires serious consideration as to how to overcome drawbacks wherever exist and no institution whether Indian or foreign should be permitted to commercialize education. The nation is not ready for the commercialization of education. It would not be good if education sector comes in the hands of certain rich and influential people.

I would like to raise one more issue before you. The Government should pay its attention to the fact as to what is our global position in human resource development. This is a vital index which compels us to think where we have to go. We are at 132nd position in the matter of global position which depends on GDP, per capita income, life expectancy and literacy rate. Egypt, Vietnam, Indonesia, Srilanka, Thailand Brazil are ahead of us. Russia and Poland are much ahead, Turkey is also ahead of us. We are at 132nd position while we are at 134th position in gross enrollment. Gross enrollment ratio is considerable issue. Many systematic arrangement have to be made from bottom to top. If we do not undertake, we will have to face much difficulties. This task would be even more difficult if the Government do not make efforts to raise expenditure on education upto at least 6 per cent and 9 per cent including public and private sector jointly. We are ready to support you on this issue. If you spend 6 per cent of GDP on education, we would support it. If public sectors, corporate houses from outside contribute in it, it is alright but we are not ready to give the complete control in their hands. The Government would make the cent percent funding. It would be better if you spend 9 per cent of GDP on education, otherwise it would remain 3 percent, 3.2 percent or 3.4 percent or 4 percent. It needs to be increased. I am saying this not for one Government, I am saying this for all the Governments, all the parties that as the children belong to the whole nation, not to a party. The situation will get worse tomorrow if education is not linked with employment and economic development.

I sense danger, as was being said in the morning today that an earthquake will hit the country due to drought. You can face the drought, but the intensity of the earthquakes will not be handled. If graduates and post graduates do not have employment and they do not see any possibility in future also, in such a condition, they take guns in their hands, nothing surprising. It needs attention. This gives rise in crimes, social tensions and gaps. Yes, in these circumstances, lawyer get good opportunities because as the scale of crime rises, they earn money. I submit to you that all the aspects should be considered thoroughly. This discussion is not meant for your grants only. You should meet the people with strong will, do not compel to do what Committee have said. Villages are vast area for secondary education, vocational education and research etc. The arrangements and provisions are to be made for it throughout the country.

I know that this is a very tough job as I got an opportunity to look after the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Woman and Child Development. You should try as we did. We could provide fundamental rights, implement Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, open triple IITs, a new IIT, 17 national institutes of technology, we could show three times increase in intake in information technology within six years period while in engineering and in remaining disciplines, there were more than double seats and there were no strikes regarding admissions.

Finally, I would like to make one more point, if you want to bring equality in education sector, then opportunities should be given not only to the students but also the teachers of scheduled castes and OBC. It has been told that there are many sectors where candidates are available but appointments are not being made. There are many facts which could be brought before you. I request you that you should ponder over all these issues.

As far as allocations are concerned, nobody is against it. Who can object if Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-day meal scheme are promoted. You should promote these schemes even more. Open new central schools, Navodaya

Vidyalayas, ICDS, there is no problem. But you should fix the target first. If its target is wrong or it is only political, it is all wasted. If the target is serious and sincere, if we want to make the country great in the tradition of Nalanda, Taxila, Vikramshila in the field of education when our skills have no limits, then I would say that attention should be paid towards it and model should be created. But you should not follow the footsteps of the previous Government as former Minister included many communal things in the syllabus. Made education free of it all. Mingling communalism with education is like poisoning the system completely. So, I would like to submit that when you are allowing universities to open its campus in Muslim dominating areas, if they have talent, they should explore more places. Why do you not invite BHU, why do you not invite Delhi University to open its campus? Encourage them, I have no objections if the Government unanimously agree on the issue that Central Universities are allowed to open their campus outside. Do sure make them open but the approach should not be so because it is called Aligarh Muslim University, so its campus would be opened there only. This approach is not acceptable rather dividing approach. Make education free from communalism, free from financial discrimination and link it with the soil of India and set a single target that no child will be left uneducated. For this, it is also necessary to ensure that the child is not hungry and his health is fine. All these things are linked with education. If right education is to be provided, an integrated comprehensive plan needs to be formulated. You bring the plan, we would make suggestions and if we feel that everything is alright, we will support it.

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO (Aruku) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

At the very outset, let me thank Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, who himself is a distinguished educationist, for his views that he has expressed. I was glad to hear from Dr. Joshi that as far as education is concerned and as far as human resources development is concerned, it is not party

problem of yours or ours. It is a national problem and I certainly like the spirit with which he said that the nation should take up this cause to go ahead.

I do not think anybody disputes the fact that the purpose of education should not be only economic oriented or even just result oriented. It should be looked at in its totality to develop the personality of a person, of human kind and to develop the values and imbibe such qualities that we have inherited from our ancestors for several, not years, but centuries.

Dr. Joshi made a mention about spiritual development. Yes, education should ultimately lead to spiritual development also but let me hasten to add that at least according to my thinking spiritual development need not necessarily be religious development. There is no need to link religion with spiritualism. Spiritualism is a cut above these narrow criteria and definitely and certainly I appreciate that spirit. But I would like to certainly de-link it and I would like the people of the country to think that spiritualism is not connected with either Hinduism or Islam or any other religion.

Sir, it was heartening to hear from Dr. Joshi that education is something which should not be saffronised. I agree with you and I congratulate you for having said that in this august House.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Please do not introduce politics now.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO : It is not politics at all. I am sorry if I hurt your feelings but you said it and I am only complimenting you. I am not saying this from a political angle or to score a political point. I am just appreciating from the bottom of my heart what you said. They are your personal views and I respect them.

As he mentioned earlier, I was going through the report of the Economic Survey. In that I also came across some figures given by the UNDTP Statistical update of 2008. The indications are that India's human development index

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ranks at 132. He also mentioned that that figure is lower than our per capita GDP rank which is 126 and the only reason for this is our low ranking in education. Therefore, there is no doubt that education is something which needs a kind of a fillip. It needs some kind of a drive and push at this particular juncture and I am sure that the entire House will be united on this particular aspect.

Before the beginning of the Budget Session, when both Houses met in the Central Hall, the President in her Address had said:—

"A National Education Council for Higher Education as recommended by the Yashpal Committee and the National Knowledge Commission to bring in reform on regulatory institutions will be formed."

Dr. Joshi has gone at length to express his views about the Yashpal Committee Report. I am not going into those details or disputing that. There are several committees and it is a continuous process. It is just that it was one of the latest committees which gave its recommendation. The Government did accept this particular recommendation which was also made by the National Knowledge Commission. The very fact that it was mentioned in the President's Address indicates the priority that the UPA Government is going to give for the development of education in our country. I hope, that this will be appreciated by one and all who believe that this is a sector which deserves priority.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this year, while presenting the Budget, the hon. Finance Minister had also stated that he is going to give a special kind of package to increase female literacy in our country. Necessary grants have been given from the General Budget to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. It is now up to the hon. Minister concerned to take this ahead. The hon. Minister of Human Resource Development had stated, I was reading somewhere, that he wanted to have a common syllabus through out the country. Personally, I am for that. I would

appreciate that. It is an ideal thing and I wish it happens. But the subject of Education is in the Concurrent List and different States have their own Boards. So, it will be a Herculean task but if the hon. Minister can persuade them and have a common syllabus, I am one of those who will be very happy because education is something that needs to be standardised.

Sir, Dr. Joshi spoke about the diversity that we have. Yes. We are a diverse nation. We have always talked about and boasted about unity in diversity. We, as a party, never talked about blanket uniformity across the board because we are a nation of sub nationals and unity is the maximum that we achieve in a diverse situation. But the moment we cross the line and talk about unity across the board, we will be asking for trouble. We can have unity in the syllabus and in some curriculum. But in other aspects, which are also relevant, like culture and heritage which differ from region to region and State to State, should be preserved. As far as those are concerned, the respective States should have a priority in taking steps to see that children of those States are imparted education in keeping with their culture and heritage and are not deprived and bereft of that kind of a knowledge which they have imbibed from their earlier generations.

Dr. Joshi spoke elaborately about the nomination of Vice Chancellors to Universities and teachers etc. But I would like to refer to a primary thing and that is about the system of education itself. The trend which has been growing and as is seen, a lot of pressure is being brought upon our students, especially at the secondary level. There is so much of competition; there is so much of cramming that a child has to do. Sometimes I wonder whether our education system, as it has evolved today, is something where we are testing the memorising capacity of a student, or are testing the intrinsic intelligence of a student. It is an one day affair. All of us have good days and bad days. I do not know if this is an ideal system to judge whether a student is meritorious or not. Parents are going through all kinds of problems because of this. This House, in the previous Lok Sabha of which you also were a Member,

had discussed on several occasions the issue of suicide by farmers. I think, it will be a sad day, if such a day will come, I hope the day does not come, if someday we have to discuss the issue of suicide by students. It is because this trend has been growing in the recent years. I personally feel that we should all put our heads together and evolve a new kind of system of education which will relieve the students of this kind of a pressure. I think, a continued evaluation system may help in this regard.

Many Western countries have adopted the semester system. We also have adopted the semester system in many of our institutions. But, I think, something needs to be done over here so that this pressure on students is relieved and students are actually judged on the basis of their actual and intrinsic intelligence. Accordingly, necessary changes should be made.

Sir, Dr. Joshi spoke about neighbourhood schools and shortage of teachers. I agree that this is a matter of concern. But, the point is, the children who are going to school are growing by geometric progression whereas the schools are growing in arithmetic progression. How do you meet this situation? This is a very major question. On the one hand, you say that we should have more schools and I agree with you fully but, at the same time, you say that you do not have teachers. So, something has to be done in this regard. I do not know the real answer to this point. We need good and more teachers but, at the same time, we cannot stop having more schools. You will appreciate the fact that, Sir, Government cannot satisfy the need for providing education to all. This is where private institutions and schools have had to come into play. I do not think that these schools were essentially meant to be elite schools but, in certain circumstances, they have happened. I wonder if the Government can step in in anyway to ensure that equal opportunities are provided in schools like these without making the schools totally elite schools wherever such institutions exist.

A new article was inserted in the Constitution. Article 21A was inserted to ensure that free education is provided

to all. But a legislation is needed to back up this new provision which was inserted to see that this actually is put into effect. Though this was inserted in our Constitution, it has not been effectively implemented so far. Our hon. Minister is also a legal luminary. I am sure that he will do something to ensure that provisions under this particular article of the Constitution is also effectively implemented so that our students benefit out of it.

Sir, there was also a proposal to have scholarships and social security schemes which could be phased out ultimately to smart cards. This has been mentioned somewhere in the speech of the Minister. Now, since we are thinking of a multipurpose photo identity card and a Commission has been set up for that, it would not be a bad idea to merge this aspect into that multipurpose identity card instead of having a multiple card. You can have one card into which this aspect can also be incorporated. I hope the Minister will take note of this aspect and when that process is on, I am sure, it can be incorporated into that.

Sir, from among the millennium development goals, universal education was one. You spoke about environment sustainability. These have to be imparted to our children in their curriculum or syllabus because environment is becoming a very vulnerable aspect now. All of us are looking at the global warming that is taking place. Today morning, we discussed in this House about the drought and floods in various parts of this country. I think this is all a result of the environmental imbalances or the assault of mankind and nature that have taken place over several decades. I think students need to be made aware and educated about these various aspects right from the primary school level so that when they grow up, they will definitely understand and know that this is also their responsibility.

It is not a question of getting more marks or getting good jobs. Of course, those are also important. But alongside with it, it is very necessary also to see that our culture and heritage are not forgotten by our future generations. Of course, now culture is under a separate

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Ministry. But it is very closely connected with our education, with the Ministry of Human Resource Development. These are closely intertwined and interlinked that you cannot really separate culture from the HRD. So, that is one aspect that we should remember when we prepare our syllabi, when we impart education to our children.

As far as the foreign universities and collaboration are concerned, the Bill is yet to come before Parliament. We do not know what actually the provisions of that Bill are going to be. But I do not see anything wrong in collaborating with foreign universities for getting some kind of knowledge, technology, research assistance, etc. which we do not have with us. I am sure the idea is not to let them take over our culture, our heritage or our universities. I am sure that is not what the Minister actually means or that is what he meant it to be. ...*(Interruptions)* I also share the views of Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi.

In fact, now you go into the internet. Some times when children do not get seats in a particular school or in a particular college, you see from the internet they get degrees from universities abroad. I think, inviting foreign universities to collaborate will create more opportunities. We will also reduce this kind of business which is going on. Several of them have not visited these universities. I do not know what examination they write. Maybe they send it by e-mail or through internet. Of course, you have to pay some fat sums for that. Ultimately these degrees or diplomas have no value at all. But our IITs and IIMs have produced the best of students. The cream, not only of students, compares well with standards not only of our own country but also at the global level.

I think, another very novel idea, which is mentioned in the President's Address was to develop the "Brain Gain" policy to attract talent from all over the world into the fourteen universities to be built in the Eleventh Plan, to position them as "Innovation Universities." Now, I think, we should work hard to see that this force which is there

outside our country should be brought back over here and used to educate our students for research in our country for which we will need facilities and we will have to create them. I do not think there are any two ways about them.

The Government has decided to open some Navodaya Vidyalayas about which Dr. Joshi was talking. I was going through this Report which said that there are going to be ten of them in Scheduled Castes dominated districts and ten of them in districts which are dominated by Scheduled Tribes. I would like to mention here that when you locate them in a district where Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Castes in a majority, that really does not serve the purpose totally. For example, as far as the Scheduled Tribes are concerned, they should be located in the scheduled areas. Now, you have a district where the scheduled areas or the tribal areas are three or four hours away from the district headquarters. In that district you may be having tribal population and you may be having Scheduled Caste population in another district. If you locate these institutions in a place which is far away from where they are concentrated, that really does not serve the purpose. So, as far as these institutions are concerned, I wish more Navodaya Vidyalayas are opened.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The Navodaya Vidyalayas are located in the most backward blocks of that district. That is the scheme today. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO : It is absolutely true.

Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister about the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). There are a lot of difficulties and problems about having these school buildings in tribal areas. Normally, I think, approximately Rs. 3 lakh are given for a room along with a verandah which is called one unit. But in the tribal areas which are hilly where the communication is difficult, where the cost of labour is more, and where the cost of transportation is more, the overall cost is more. So, I would implore upon the hon. Minister that he increases this grant for Sarva

Shiksha Abhiyan, to the school buildings located in such difficult areas, especially tribal areas.

Sir, I remember even for the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) when Rs. 35,000/- was given for a unit; for tribal areas, it was increased by Rs. 3,500/-. Similarly, due to lack of enough money, many of these schools are without buildings. Many of the wardens and hostels do not have proper accommodation.

As far as the mid-day meal scheme is concerned, when it rains or in hot summers, some time, it becomes very difficult because many of these ashram schools or tribal hostels do not have a proper place of accommodation to give this mid-day meal scheme to the children. They are all crammed in a small verandah or in rooms where they are staying. So, I think, some special provision is required to be given in such areas for Scheduled Tribe hostels and for the ashram schools and also for schools and institutions which have been made especially for the Scheduled Castes community. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it under the Ministry of Human Resources Development?

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO : Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Human Resources Development gives the money to the ITDS. They may be implementing it, but the money goes from here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO : Sir, fortunately or unfortunately, you cannot look at the Ministry of Human Resources Development in isolation. It is connected with so many other Ministries. So, I also wish that the hon. Minister can have a kind of Committee and assigns some of his bureaucrats to be in contacts with the officials of the other Ministries. It is not only for vigilance but also to see that the coordination is there between these different Ministries and areas where they have to coordinate. After all, they have to deal with so many other aspects.

Health is a very important thing. Health is not a part of the Ministry of Human Resources Development at all. But, at the same time, unless the health of the nation improves; health conditions improve — if children are sick —, how can they come to school and study?

Sir, in many of the tribal areas of my constituency even in this age and day, there are deaths which occur due to anthrax. This is something which is unheard of in other places. There are still areas where there are malarial conditions which exist. Drinking water facilities are not there. I do not expect the Ministry of Human Resources Development to provide drinking water. However, it is very necessary. How do you expect the child to sit in school for hours when he has no potable drinking water to drink, especially during the summer months? So, these are the aspects which one has to look into deeply, and give it a thought. A lot of coordination and perseverance is necessary. I am sure that the Government has the will and the hon. Minister has the perseverance to go ahead and see that he delivers what we all want.

As far as female literacy is concerned, I would suggest that you link the Self-Help Groups with education for women because they have been doing a lot of work. They have been in close contacts with the women in interior areas. I think they could be utilized for this particular purpose. Well, the Government cannot meet the demands of education for the entire population. I think the hon. Minister would be one with us. I fully agree and I do not think anybody in the House will disagree to the fact that they should not be totally commercialised. But where to draw the line and how it has to be done is something about which all of us have to put our heads together. The Ministry will have to bring in some basic guidelines to ensure that this does not happen beyond a certain point.

A word is also necessary about the need to monitor most of these schemes and what is happening. Here, you lay policy guidelines; you give a direction. The Central Government also starts something on its own. But ours is a federal structure. The State Governments have the

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responsibility. So, while it will not be prudent or wise to pass every buck on the State Governments as you have rightly put it, the State Governments also have a responsibility, which, I think, none of us can deny because from here, if we go beyond a certain point, then, there will be an uproar. Tomorrow, you will say that the Central Government is behaving in an autocratic manner, encroaching upon the Fundamental Rights and all kinds of things will be said. Further, the State Governments also cannot divest themselves from the responsibility that they have, especially in a field like education where most of the schools, primary and secondary, are actually controlled and manoeuvred by the States – whichever Governments are ruling in the respective States.

You spoke about non-communalisation of politics. None of us want politics to be communalised. But this cannot be a one-way thing. When we sit there, we will accuse you; when you sit there, you will accuse us. So, that cannot be the thing. After all, history and our heritage are facts. They are facts and facts cannot and should not be distorted by anybody. If somebody does it, it will have to be corrected.

You asked: Why should a Muslim University be there in Aligarh? Then, why should we have a Hindu University in Banaras?...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I did not say that. What I said was that when you are allowing them to open their campuses, why are you allowing them only in the Muslim majority districts. They should be allowed to have their campuses wherever they like.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO : If they wish to have it in any other place, they should be allowed to do it....*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Yes, they should be encouraged to do it.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO : Certainly. But naturally they will want it in the areas which would benefit

them the most. We have our Banaras Hindu University. There are so many other institutions also.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : The Banaras Hindu University is not a majority Hindu University. It is a University open to all. In the Act, it does not have the nomenclature as a minority University or a majority University.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO : So, I do not want to get into that controversy because, I think, this is not the proper debate. I do not want to dilute our entire discussion by going into these aspects which, I consider, are actually aberrations. They are really aberrations which you have to correct and see that these distortions do not take place in future. I think, for that, everyone has to cooperate.

Sir, there is only one question which I want to put to the hon. Minister which I have not been able to understand. When I was going through the Demands for Grants, I noticed that the Demands for Primary Education have been reduced. In the year 2007-08 or 2008-09, the Budget Estimate was Rs.50 crore but it came down. The Revised Estimate became Rs.10 crore. This year, I think, you have demanded only 0.1 crore. This is something which I could not understand. I am sure, there must be good reasons why you have done that. Maybe, you have incorporated those demands that you wanted under this head. Maybe, for some other purpose, it would be so. But I would like you to explain this aspect to us because there is certainly concern. I feel that money allotted for Primary Education has been reduced to that extent. I am sure, it is not so. There must be some other technical reason which, I am sure, you would explain.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : I think you are talking about pre-primary education and it is not for primary education. The primary education Budget has gone up.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO : In the Demands for Grants, there is a column for primary education. I am sure, the hon. Minister will clarify it.

Sir, with these words, I would commend that these Demands be accepted and I congratulate the hon. Minister and the Government for having stood by the commitments that we have made to the people. I am sure, the entire House will cooperate in this situation.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the discussion on demand for grants-2009-10 of Ministry of Human Resources Development. It is good that Kapil Sibalji is also present in the house, thank you Sir. I was just thinking that he will not be present in the House....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have ten minutes to speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Chairman Sir, what can I speak in ten minutes?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can speak a lot in ten minutes.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Chairman Sir, during the 62 years after independence, we constituted several Committees and Commissions like-Radhakrishnan Commission, Narendra Dev Commission, Kothari Commission, Ram Murti Commission, Yashpal Committee and Knowledge Commission etc. to expand the education. Today, about half of our population is below the age of 25 years which is directly related to the field of education. An amount of Rs. 36 thousand crore has been provided to the education sector in this budget. If we go through the Yashpal Committee report, it involves such issues that if we talk about them it will be like opening a Pandora's box.

It is very unfortunate that even after 62 years of our independence around 35 percent of our people are still illiterate and we have to educate them. Particularly, talented children belonging to lower income groups are deprived of higher education. It has been stated in the report of Arjun Gupta Committee that 83 crores and 65 lakh people of

the country survive on 20 rupees per day. In such a situation how can we provide higher education to the children belonging to lower income groups, it is a matter which needs serious consideration and is a big challenge before the Government. During the last budget also it was announced that 16 new Central Universities will be opened in the country. I think a Central University will be opened in each State and a provision of Rs. 827 crore have been made in this regard. I would like to state here that old Central Universities located in the States are in very pathetic condition. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards Allahabad University later on. At present, around three crore students are enrolled in tenth and 12 the classes and around 40 lakh students go for higher studies after passing intermediate. But, they are made to run from pillar to post and it is very difficult for them to get admission. You might be reading such reports in daily newspapers, even the situation in Delhi is worst. More than 90 percent children of the age group of 6 to 14 years are enrolled in schools today and the Government have made large scale arrangements for them. But, we need to make more provisions in this regard so that those children can get education ; since the children between the age group of 6 to 14 years are future of our country and future of our country depends on them. Government have also stated that schools may be opened in the sphere of one kilometer. Several hon'ble Members from opposition and ruling parties belonging to rural areas are sitting here and they are aware of the fact that in several areas, leave alone one kilometer, there is no school in the sphere of even one and half to two kilometer of area.

Sir, we have to make such arrangements. The provisions have also been made in the budget to open 1000 new polytechnics. There is a proposal to open one Central University in each State. You are already well aware of the conditions of Central Universities. If we look at the examination process of 10th and 12th classes, we find that there are large scale irregularities in the process of examinations. There is no limit of irregularities in 10th and 12th board exams. There is large scale corruption in

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

examination process. The impact of these irregularities is visible on young students between the age group of 17 to 23 years. Even today, we are not able to provide higher education to 85 percent of our students. We are not able to provide higher education to them. We need to pay a serious attention in this direction also.

Sir, in this budget, there has been a provision of launching a national secondary education campaign under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The secondary level education is the real challenge before us. We need to double our resources to provide secondary level education, only then we can make that system strong. This Government need to think seriously as to how to make provisions to provide the secondary level education to the additional 3 crore children. Presently, 72 thousand posts of teachers are lying vacant at secondary level and we have not been able to fill those post so far. Hence, I would like to know as how the Government is going to provide education to these 3 crore children. At the national level, right from elementary to the higher education level there is a need of 2 lakh new teachers, only then basic requirement of education can be met. We also need to double the number of existing secondary schools I think if this much secondary schools are opened, the level of secondary education can be raised in the country.

Sir, Hon. Minister has made a provision of Rs. 350 crore in the budget to open 6 thousand Adarsh Vidyalaya at block level. I would like to say that it would be better if these schools are opened at village or Nyay Panchayats level. Provisions for opening 3 thousand 500 hostels for girls have been made in the 11th Five Years Plan. The condition of Universities, hostels and most of the hostels of Navodaya schools is very poor. We are going to construct 3500 new hostels but, condition of our existing hostels, whether they are of Navodaya Vidyalayas or other higher educational institutions is pathetic and there is a need to renovate them. We need to pay serious attention towards this matter also. Rs. 60 crores were provided to

open 3500 hostels in the last year's budget but, this work has not been completed even during the period of two years.

Sir, I would like to say that efforts to improve the standards of higher education are being made but, it seems to me that target is still elusive. It has been mentioned that provision of Rs. 2000 crore will be made for higher education. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Allahabad University which is called mini Oxford. Allahabad university has produced Prime Minister also alongwith several Scientists, IAS and PCS officers. It has been more than three and half years since Allahabad University has been accorded the status of a Central University but still its condition is pathetic. A provision of Rs. 52 crore had been made for it but, an amount of Rs. 26 crore only has been spent on it during the period of last three years. All its basic infrastructure is in very dilapidated condition. No new course has been introduced there. 500 Readers and Professors are required to be appointed there but Government has not been able to do so.

As far as Allahabad University is concerned there is no medical faculty there. It is a very serious matter. If it has been accorded the status of a Central University then there should be a medical faculty also. Earlier, the Government proposed to introduce a medical faculty there but now, the Government has withdrawn its decision under some pressure from the present Government. I would like to request hon'ble Minister to introduce a medical faculty in Allahabad University which is called Mini Oxford and the medical College there should be brought under its control....(Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : 10 Minutes have been allotted to your party. You alone have consumed 10 minutes, how can I give you more time?

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : With there words I support these demands for grants, now my other colleagues will speak on this matter.

[English]

SHRI P.K. BIJU (Alathur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from Kerala which has the highest literacy rate in India. In our country, the majority of people are living in poor condition. The Arjun Sengupta Committee has pointed out that 80 per cent of the people are having an income of less than Rs. 20 per day. So, giving free and compulsory education to this section is the only way to uplift this section.

Sir, with your permission, I would like to quote Article 45 – provision of free and compulsory education for children – of our Constitution. Article 45 says:

“The State shall endeavour to provide, within a period of ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years.”

But, unfortunately, the Budget proposal of the Finance Minister is a manifesto of neo-liberal reforms in India which the Congress is promoting in the country for almost two decades. Our Government is not ready to learn lessons from the recent developments taken place in neighbouring countries to adopt the neo-liberal reforms. Those countries economy was collapsed. But our Government is again continuing the neo-liberal agenda in the field of education.

As per the budget proposals, an intensive privatization drive is proposed in the education sector also in accordance with Ambani-Birla Committee Report, National Knowledge Commission Report, and the recent Yash Pal Committee Report. The commonality among all these reports is commercialization and privatization of education. So, I fear that this Government is not interested to invest in social sectors especially in education. By the end of 2015, the Government's expenditure in education sector would go down from the current 3.02 per cent of GDP to 1.85 per cent of GDP. With this intention, the Government is proposing extensive privatization in the name of PPP and FDI in our country.

Why is the Government so fond of Ambani-Birla Committee Report? Why do you not implement the Kothari Committee Report? Do you think that the Kothari Committee recommendations are no more relevant? Universalisation of education is the key proposal in the Kothari Committee Report. That was also highlighted by the last UPA Government in their CMP. You must implement that recommendation if you are sincere enough to provide education to the poor in this country. Instead, you implement the recommendations of the corporate houses; that would protect only the interests of the rich.

You claim that this Budget is for poor and *aam aadmi*. What did the Budget give them? Through Article 21A of our Constitution, Right to Education has become a Fundamental Right in the year 2002. But, even today, we are not able to pass a Bill in this regard. Why? It is because of lack of sincerity of both the BJP Government and the Congress Government. The HRD Minister says that he will present the Bill soon in this Parliament. Then, where is the money to implement this?

I quote:

“As per an estimation, the financial requirement to implement the Act will be Rs. 2.28 lakh crore for a period of seven years. ...”

I would also like to quote the National Knowledge Commission's Report. Our hon. Minister, Shri Kapil Sibal was the Chairman of the CABE Committee. It says:

“The Kapil Sibal Committee that had prepared the CABE draft had estimated an expenditure of Rs. 2,20,643 crore for the period 2008-2012.”

But the provision of fund for this purpose is absent in this budgetary allotment. So, Sir, I humbly ask the hon. Minister to tell as to how it will be possible to implement the Right to Education Bill in our country. Where do you find money to ensure free and quality education for all the children between six and fourteen years? Not even a single penny has been allotted for this. There is no increase in

[Shri P.K. Biju]

the fund allocation for *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and reduce SC/ST scholarship*. Are you going to put this burden over the State Governments? Now, the majority of fund is coming from the State Governments for education in this country.

Sir, the Government has decreased the allocation for the Mid-day Meal Scheme. Such a decrease in the fund allocation for the children is shameful.

The Government has a lot of claims on economic growth development, GDP growth, etc. But what is the condition of schools in our country? Teachers are not there; furniture are not there; and proper sanitation facilities are not even there. These were clearly pointed out in the NUPEA Report and many other Reports. The Government has failed to understand this situation. So, how do we address all these long pending maladies in our education sector without sufficient allocation in the Budget? Do you think that the private sector will take the responsibility of educating the poor and excluded sections in our society? I would like to suggest that sufficient money should be allotted for the implementation of Right to Education, and also the allocation for SSA and Mid-day Meal Scheme should be increased.

Sir, the Government projects economic growth and development. Did the poor get anything? It is estimated that 10 per cent of GDP is required to provide quality education for all in this country. You talk about six per cent. But we spend only three per cent of our GDP for education. You plan to reduce it to 1.85 per cent by 2015. At present, the Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education in India is only 10 per cent; the world average is 40 per cent to sixty per cent in the developed and many other developing countries. Will it be possible to raise the GER to 15 per cent at the end of 2012 with the help of PPP? On the one side you introduce the Right to Education Bill, and on the other side you reduce the allocation substantially. Then, how do you achieve your goals?

15.58 hrs

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our HRD Minister has said that the Government would implement the Yash Pal Committee recommendations. It is included in his 100 days' action plan. The proposals are very dubious and against the rights of States in education. Our country is rich in its diversity. Therefore, every State plays an important role in designing the curriculum which is suitable for that State. It is a constitutional right, and education is in the Concurrent List. The Government is aware of this. But our HRD Minister has publicly stated that he is going to implement the common examination system throughout the country. That will affect the importance of the State and also the different cultures of various States in our country. The recommendations of the Yash Pal Committee violate the fundamentals of our system. It recommends the abolition of regulatory bodies like AICTE, UGC, MCI and other bodies, and the constitution of NCHER in our country. This is a highly objectionable proposal since it would certainly put our education system in wrong hands. It leads to more centralization in education.

The Yash Pal Committee recommendations are certainly a gospel of commercialization and privatization of education in the country. But the Government is not going to discuss the previous U.R. Rao Committee recommendations on AICTE and MCI in our relevant bodies.

16.00 hrs.

It recommends 100 per cent FDI in education, which is highly undesirable. More fees, more deemed universities, public-private partnership, all these would fasten the privatisation process in education and help only a small affluent group in our country. Now, education in our country is corrupted and indiscriminate privatisation and pollution of self-financing institutions are the cause of these. The existing rules have totally failed to control such institutions. Do you have an Act or a Central legislation to control such

institutions? Higher education is going to be a dream for millions of poor Indian students.

Sir, I say that the proposals of this Budget are against the interest of the poor in this country. This is a Budget that helps only the interest of corporate and private capitalists, who are interested to invest in the Indian education market and make profits out of the future of the students of this country. This is fundamentally against the principles that we follow in education. It is the duty of the Government to ensure education for crores of poor Indians, who reside in the countryside. No private sector is going to take interest in their case. The Budget is totally against the Dalits, Adivasis, minorities and marginalised sections in this country. It is a Budget for the corporate capitalists.

Therefore, Sir, I strongly oppose this neo-liberal Budget, which is simply repeating the recommendations of Ambanis and Birlas.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to deliberate on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of HRD for the year 2009-10.

At the outset, I must say that it is a truism that nothing is more important to common man than securing a better life for his children. The aggregate of this simple aspiration is the national goal of making India a leader in the comity of nations.

Mr. Kapil Sibal, the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development, has indeed given a good start by departing from his predecessor's preference for controversy over reform. A breath of fresh air has been sweeping through the corridors of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Five important years have been lost in education under his predecessor. India is still behind on meeting its Millennium Development Goal Commitment on Education for All by 2015.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is in tatters today. Not a day passes without problems manifesting themselves. So,

education reform should not be viewed from the narrow prism of Centre-State relations or rights and whether or not a small, urban elite is competitive. What comes across and forcing Governments is the consensus that education is no longer limited to transfer of knowledge. British Government's White Paper says:

"Education is about developing a sense of responsibility for pupil's health, environment and society, a respect and understanding for those of different backgrounds and skills for learning and life."

The three pillars – relevance, equity and excellence – are to be strengthened, every time, a Government decides to reform the system. I think, the Minister would do well to launch a nationwide consultation process. Today, the all-round deterioration of education is the result of combination of lack of political vision and bureaucratic apathy. The credibility of once proud institutions has vanished.

The only improvement discernible is in the pay packets of teachers.

Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore had great plans for an educational system that could bring relief to society from poverty, social discrimination and make one free. But the opposite has happened. The National Policy on Education in 1986 has served as the basis for the National Curriculum Framework for School Education which was developed through nation-wide consultation by NCERT in 2000. Many of the things that the Minister is articulating now were recommended quite lucidly in NCFSE-2000.

Compared to the earlier generation of parents, these days parents are spending medium to large-sized fortunes on their children's education, which in the long run leads to utter mismatch between acquired knowledge and local or national needs.

NCFSE-2000 had recommended to do away with examinations and marks and replacing them with grades.

[Shir B. Mahtab]

In 1990, Yashpal Committee, the earlier one, had recommended first to free the children from "burden of education". But a large section of teachers objected to it saying high standard must be maintained so that they do not find it difficult to clear Engineering and Medical Joint Entrance Examinations. Another influential group wanted children should be fitted out with skills matching the needs of universities in the United States of America, Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

If Mr. Minister has now decided to take the challenge of saving Indian education from the decay and despondency, you deserve wide and bipartisan support. On this part, you must ensure that the discourse on reform is not hijacked by people of a particular political persuasion. As it is said, the "history is written by the winning side" mentality which your illustrious predecessor upheld would lead to your mission losing all credibility.

Alternatives to examination regime need not be viewed with scepticism, but it is one of the needs of the time. The role of alternative, open and distance learning in the 21st century is a settled fact. Though 20 years have passed since the establishment of the National Open School and National Open University, distance education is still denied credibility. The blame for that must be fixed and the official class cannot deny the fact that they have blocked the expert views.

Vocational education should be strengthened and made relevant to local needs. Value education's importance in multi-cultural India was rejected by Mr. Minister's predecessor in violation of the Supreme Court's September 2002 Order. He also reduced environment education to a formality.

I would say it takes courage to face the truth. But for the man telling the truth, it calls for the ability to swim against the current, brave the scorn of the powerful and perhaps only wait for the history's vindication. The road to reform is not exactly strewn with flowers. Reforming the

financial economy or industrial scene is actually far less complicated than exposing an education system caught in a time warp to the winds of change. The mindset that big problems have only big solutions is outdated. Huge investments in assets, employees, technology, etc., are rarely known to have produced the desired results because what is unknown is where exactly are such investments to be made. The Government has to understand that improvement of behaviour is largely about the attitude of the people involved.

We should develop a culture of incremental improvements at every level. The Japanese concept of Kaizen is well suited for developing nations like ours. Firstly, we should stop talking of primary, secondary and higher education as separate entities and consider these as an integrated whole of the education system. There is a need to break the old rules by unclogging the mental blocks.

The Knowledge Commission has recommended to have 1500 universities instead of less than 400 universities that we have today. But, is it to multiply the already existing mediocre higher education? If India is to maintain an eight to nine per cent rate of growth over the next decade ensuring an escape from poverty, it will have to overcome a huge constraint of human resources. A vast quantitative and qualitative expansion of education is required.

India has to gear up to become a knowledge society. Today only five per cent of the labour force in the 20-24 year age group has formal vocational skills and there are only 2.5 million training places for skill acquisition as against the annual entry of 12 million persons into the labour force every year. There is a yawning gap.

The 2009 World Conference on Higher Education held by UNESCO this month has identified diversification as the second most important dynamic work in higher education. At the time of Independence, with a small number of universities and colleges offering degrees in a limited range of subjects, it was possible to assume that all universities

in India are equally good. Hence it was possible to fund and treat them equally. Today, there are more universities, a larger body of students and a greater diversity of subjects. In such a scenario, different institutions would serve different purposes. Hence, they would need to be funded and treated differently.

We are aware that there are two distinct models of higher education – first, the Anglo-American model which sees the higher education provisions as heterogeneous, encouraging diversity and the second, the Scandinavian model which is based on the assumption that all institutions are homogeneous, treats them equally and regards all programmes as equal. Our higher education system with a large population leading to mass enrolment should ideally support a diverse and decentralised system. This robust system would align itself with the nation's social diversity and the more complex division of labour in the economy today. Currently, the Indian system is highly centralised and is driven by an unrealistic myth of uniformity and a commitment to egalitarianism.

It is believed that inequality in the quality of institutions would create class related differences. No wonder, equalising quality drives everyone to an average level. Therefore, there is a need to increase a greater number of education providers. You facilitate private sector to fund education and rein in private institutes and enforce a strict law on capitation fees.

There was an Unstarred Question on 13th July 2009, just the day before yesterday, about the purpose of the National Literacy Mission.

The National Literacy Mission was started in 1988 and covered 597 districts, but the thrust today by this Government, by the Minister is on increasing female literacy and a target has been fixed that by 2012, 80 per cent women will be made literate. But the funding that has been provided and will be provided in the next three-year period is too meagre, too little. Within last 20 or 21 years, the amount has been spent or investment has been made which has brought a gap inbetween the genders – male

and female literacy. Though the gap has reduced since 1991 to 2001 by about hardly three per cent, but still a gap exists and that is very alarming. It is 21.59 per cent in 2001.

Lastly, I would like to mention a point relating to the Central Schools. A number of Members of this House do not have any Central School in their constituencies, but some of them are provided the facility to recommend two names to get admitted to the Central Schools, and it is a discretionary quota. It clearly mentions that you can recommend only two names for admission to the Central School, if it exists in your constituency. I would like to suggest, as it happens in the case of Rajya Sabha Members that the whole State is taken into consideration, a Lok Sabha Member may also be allowed to recommend, if their does not exist any Central School in his constituency, two names for admission to any Central School at least within his own State. At least, that can be done.

My last line would be that Central Schools have been approved by the Government, but I would only request the hon. Minister to allow those schools to function at least from this academic session. A number of schools have been approved for Orissa, even in my constituency also. I would request that those Central Schools should start functioning at the earliest.

With these words, I conclude and thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH (Arrah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in such an important debate. I wanted to participate in the debate on demands for grants of Ministry of Human Resources Development and then I thought about the importance of education. According to me the basic aim of education is all round development of children but, I am sorry to state that the present education system is not fulfilling the purpose of all-round development of children. I think present education system

[Shrimati Meena Singh]

is equipping children in such a manner so that they can earn more and more money. In principle, I am not against the idea of our children earning more money after completing their education. It is a matter of joy for us if our children earn good money after their education. But, I would like to know whether role of education does not go beyond this? Is it not the responsibility of our education system to make our children good citizens, patriots and good human beings who fulfill their duties towards all. Is it not the purpose of education to teach the children the lesson of morality? I think our education system should make our children good citizens also besides being employment oriented.

It is a matter of regret that since last few years, the Government is politicizing our education system. The education is being communalized to achieve vested political interests. History is being distorted repeatedly. Through you, I request hon'ble Minister that if we really want welfare of our children then education should be kept above politics.

Sir, presently, the officers sitting in Delhi decide the education policy of our country. If we hand over the funds, to be incurred on the education sector, directly to the concerned states, then the concerned State Government can spend that amount on education in a specific manner according to its need and more people could be benefitted in this manner.

Hon'ble Minister, new Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas are being opened district and funds are being incurred thereon. But, I am sorry to state that children of that area are not able to get admission in those schools. Sir, for instance I would like to state there is a Kendriya Vidyalaya in my constituency, Arrah, but only the wards of Central Government employees are able to get admission in the school and the presence of children of my constituency is negligible in that school. What is the purpose of opening a Kendriya Vidyalaya in a State if children of that State cannot study in those schools.

The Government is running the 'Sarva Siksha Abhiyan'. Broadly 'Sarva Siksha' means providing education to all. On the other hand, Government proposes to open model school in each District. Sir, I would like to know how many children can get education in a model school? Are we not discriminating against large number of children by opening such schools? Hence, I demand hon'ble Minister to provide funds to State Governments for promotion of education, so that State Governments can provide uniform education to all and there is no scope of any discrimination against children. Unless the Government provides the funds directly to State Governments, the tall claims of the 'Sarva Siksha Abhiyan' and fundamental right to education will remain on papers only.

Sir, at present the standard of education is low in Government schools and they are lacking in basic facilities to such an extent that most of the guardians are averse to sending their wards to Government schools. Incidents of Corporal punishment to the children and poor quality of education being given in these schools, frequently make news.

Our Education Minister is a learned lawyer and I hope that he will ensure that education is not politicized or commercialized. Alongwith this I expect that the benefits of funds being incurred on this sector will reach the children of marginalized sections of society. It is my only demand.

[English]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI (Shirur) : Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I only have a few recommendations to place here in the House regarding the Ministry of HRD.

Prof. Yash Pal Committee Report, which was presented recently, has recommended an apex body instead of UGC and other educational regulatory control boards. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister and the Government that the apex body should come into place at the earliest because there are many regulatory control bodies in the education line, which should be avoided.

I would also like to say something about the pay-scales and pension of university and college teachers. On the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations in respect of teachers, which are still not finalized, there is a lot of confusion at the UGC and HRD Ministry level about the new pattern and pay bands applicable to the university teachers and pre-2006 pensioners in the universities and colleges. This ham-handedness is creating a lot of resentment in these circles.

I would also like to mention that there is no clear policy about education, that is, from the base level to the higher or university level. For example, the hon. Minister recently expressed a view that there should be no exams at the X class level. There was a lot of opposition to this from various State Governments all over the country. As there is no clear policy, there is a lot of confusion in various State Governments and educational bodies. While we talk a lot about the dignity of the teaching profession, the prevalent confusion is actually lowering their moral standards. I would like to request the hon. Minister that he should make serious attempts to instill confidence and respectability to the teaching profession.

I would now like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister a case for his consideration. For appointment as lecturers, now called Assistant Professors, writing NET exam is a requirement, but the Ph.D holders and those with M.Phil degrees were exempted. The UGC in its July, 2008 resolution said that those candidates who have registered for M.Phil and would be completing the same by 30th of June, 2009 shall also be exempt from the said requirement. However, the UGC now proposes to withdraw that exemption for those M.Phil candidates which is causing a huge resentment. This was already brought to the notice of the Minister by the hon. Leader of our Shiv Sena Party.

Talking about Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, it has been quite successful and I thank the Government for providing a lot of financial support for higher education. Here, I would like to say that this Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan should also be

made applicable to secondary schools. The secondary schools which are in existence, particularly in rural India, are facing a lot of difficulties because no proper financial assistance has been given to them by the Government. So, I would request the hon. Minister to seriously consider providing financial assistance to the secondary schools under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Sir, today, in the morning, I asked a question about the students going abroad for higher education. As per the record, more than 2,64,000 students go abroad every year for higher studies. Can the Government consider establishing more IITs and IIMs in the country so that once they get admissions in these institutions, they no longer prefer to go abroad for higher education? I would request the Government and the hon. Minister to establish these institutions in every State, or at least in big cities as it would help all those students going abroad to study in India itself.

Vocational education is very important in today's world. There are many graduate students, who after completing their graduation, do not get any jobs with their B.A or B.Com degrees. Therefore, the main thrust should be on vocational education and more funds should be provided to vocational training so that the problem of our youth not getting jobs will be solved. I would like to request the hon. Minister to look into these main issues. With this, I would complete my speech.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (Baramati) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to first say that I would only make a few interventions as both Shri Kapilji and Shrimati Purandeswariji are totally compassionate and committed to improving the cause of education.

Shri Kishore Chandra Deoji earlier has spoken extensively about the macro problems. I would like to highlight the micro problems. Sir, in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, it is mostly said that the teacher's attendance, ability and motivation appear to be the weakest link of the elementary education programme. There are some reasons for it. One is that it is mainly the extensive teachers' training that is

[Shrimati Supriya Sule]

given. A teacher comes from one training, really sits for a few days in a class and again sent for another training. There is very minimal motivation amongst the teachers for all these upgradation skills. Upgradation is required. We are totally for it. But there has to be some plan and the duration for it. With this, the amount of documentation and the paper work and the reports that each teacher in a primary school has to do is huge. They spend a lot of time doing documentation to be given to the local panchayats, which takes away a lot of time of the teachers on curriculum.

Recently I was on a trip to Marathwada and Vidharbha regions of Maharashtra. With the quality of education, with the amount of money that is put into Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the dropout rates are still very high as our entire focus on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is more on school infrastructure and books. We are not giving the kind of results and the quality that we really need to.

Even on the issue of Madarsas, which is discussed by many senior Members, we really need to bring all these people under formal education. Nobody is against any religious schools. We all welcome it as each one has a right to it. But unless we bring all these institutions under formal education, there is going to be a section of the society which is going to be left behind. To give you an example about improving the quality, I would say that in my own constituency in Pune district, there is a block called Bhor. In Bhor what we have done is that we have achieved a record. All the children from the second standard learn tables from 2 to 35 and because of that the entire dropout rate has come down and the children have shown great improvement in mathematics. The same thing we have applied for teaching of English. They learn five English words – spellings and pronunciations everyday. But at the same time, I must make an intervention here that the teachers also need good training in English language. I was in a school like this and they were saying a nursery rhyme which is, 'Row, row, row your boat'. The poor rural

children were saying, 'Raw, rao, rao your boat'. It is not their fault. But when they go to senior schools, there is never a level playing field for the rural and urban children. I would urge upon the hon. Minister, through you, to make an effort to see how we can focus on quality, modern infrastructure in the future because the Government really has achieved a lot in the last few years.

The most important issue which the hon. Minister has mentioned is the universalization and access to secondary education. The Government in the Plan had talked about 6,500 model schools. But there are no guidelines still given to any of the States. We have lost almost two years of this Plan which had planned these model schools.

Then about the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, which is one of the best programmes by the UPA Government. There is only one hitch in it. It has very good programmes, the quality of education is very good, and the teachers are also getting very good training, but it has to be extended up to the 12th standard because these are for Adivasi girls, for generational learner. The hon. Minister has extended it till the 8th standard. We should address this issue and take it up to the 12th standard so that these people who are economically backward and have no background of education in the family would be taken to another level and they would get equal opportunity.

Besides this, next is the higher and technical education. It is a problem related to my State. Right now, all our teachers are on strike because the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission have not been implemented. I fully understand that it is in the interest of the teachers. We need to give it. The Government is working on it. But it is extremely difficult for the Government of Maharashtra to take on the entire financial load of the Sixth Pay Commission. So, I would urge upon the Government to see that if he can find a way out so that some of this load can be taken by the Centre. This even applies to Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan also. I know, in the Right to Education Bill, there are some recommendations of

making the division in the ratio of 75:25. Education is a very serious subject. I think the Government of India should be committed to helping the State in making some financial assistance in whatever way we can.

The other thing is fees and admissions. Fee structures need to be controlled and admissions should be made completely transparent. Let us have a comprehensive Act under which maybe you can advise the States so that there is no exploitation at any level. Today there are children who are getting extremely high marks. Even if they get those marks, they have to go to private colleges which charge extremely high fees.

The same thing is applicable to AICTE, University Grants Commission and the Medical Council of India. Their job really is only to look at quality. I say this with a heavy heart that quality is not what is really monitored by most of these agencies. I would urge upon you to address some of these issues, I think quality has to be our only motive in this Department.

The other two Bills I would like to refer to are the Right to Education Bill and the Foreign Universities Registration Act. If we get these both for discussion, I am sure it will be a big step forward for quality education and inclusive growth of all the children in the country.

Coming back to my State, there are two issues which do not directly concern you. But we would like you to throw some light on them since you mentioned about them in some of your interviews on television. One of them is talking about a common board. I totally support you on it. At the same time, we have a State Board which is doing an exemplary job. But unfortunately today the CBSE, the ICSE, and the Maharashtra State Board are completely at loggerheads. We cannot find a common ground for programmes. We have issues with admissions. There is a huge disparity which is breaking our social system in our State. I think we need to bring a Bill where under all these three systems can coexist with each other and live and let live. At the same time, I think we are totally in support of your efforts. If we could give quality education from

Kashmir to Kanyakumari, there would be no conflict of any kind in any child's mind.

Besides that is the policy regarding admissions. There is a flip flop by most Governments in the States on this. When the children go in for admissions almost in the month of June, there are issues, there are court cases going on, and the parents are in complete disarray. So, I appeal to you to make a national policy that if any State Government wants to make any change in its policies regarding admission, that Government has to take some corrective measures by December so that it leaves sometime. Even if there is any litigation, the issues have to be resolved before the examinations. I say this because the children of Maharashtra today have really had setbacks many times in the last two years because of policies being changed by the Government.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to reiterate what the FM said in his Budget Speech that a large percentage of the young population needs to be converted into a dynamic economic advantage by providing right to education and skills. I would like to mention, Kishoreji in his speech talked about it, the Skill Mission. He talked about HRD Ministry tying up with Labour Ministry. The original Skill Mission involved the HRD Ministry, the Labour Ministry and the Planning Commission. I think it was a great intervention he has made. So, I appeal to you that if this Skill Mission could be revived and if we can do skill development, every child gets an equal opportunity to live and to learn. Thank you, very much.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing the demands of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. This department is not meant for only imparting education or to make man literate. So, this department should not be taken as one. This department makes humans, it has been also considered as resource so that people could be utilized in the development process of the country. The wisdom or the inner strength of the man should be utilized in the

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positive way to bring up new generation with a sense of duty towards society. The concept behind it is somewhere this only. I am not saying something out of the world. Hon. Joshiji has described it quite elaborately. Burtrend Russell has said in his book which is noteworthy. He said that today's man is living somewhere in between in human skill and human foolishness. When we look at the West, we understand that this is happening. That is why he said that when we discuss human skill with human resources, if it fails to enlighten his mind, the end of the excessive development will be painful. Today, it is happening at one place or the other and we have to keep it in mind. When we talk of elementary education, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan comes first. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been implemented, it is good that every boy and girl goes to school. This is the objective that they may be provided with education for this we imposed education cess. Whether less or more, people have their share of cooperation and with this, we are proudly executing Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

Sir, when hon. Minister presented budget, I did not find in the budget the mention of anything whether it was Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan or Midday meal scheme. It is not so that it was not mentioned, but it felt that the budget has come to a halt, there is no progress, I would like to suggest that the work under these schemes are being done, I know that education is a subject of State, but I feel that money has been provided from here for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. You told that certain lac rooms, buildings have been constructed throughout the India, all this has happened, but how it all happened. When I visit my constituency, I find that education is under numb grip of bureaucracy and dumb mentality. Yashpalji has also said that education has to be brought out from it that I, too, feel the same way. The rooms built under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are built scattered. If you visit a village, you will find that a small room is built here, and another there. Another old and worn room is about to fall and nobody is taking care of it. I asked as to what is it? When we think of a school, we imagine a walled school building with a play ground outside with

boundary walls. We imagine such school building for a village.

Sir, the officers say that we are told that the room built under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan should look apart. The bathrooms under this scheme are also built in the middle. I think that a meeting should be held with the Minister of State and the amount sanctioned in the meeting should be utilized judiciously and in a planned manner, we should do it. I would like you to accompany me to some village and see yourself that amount is being spent, but not appropriately. The building is not utilized adequately and I feel that the building and rooms under construction should be made in a planned manner. A scheme should be formulated in collaboration with the State Government and the rooms under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan should not be build scattered.

Sir, next thing I would like to submit about the Mid Day Meal scheme. There is no increase for it in the budget. The budget is same as was the previous one. The concept of Mid Day Meal is that children attend the schools in the attraction of food, alongwith the other concept is that they should get food, full of protein i.e. the concept is to provide them nutrition. The way the scheme is being executed, prices are rising high, the fund you are providing for it, whether State is contributing in it or not, that is not being monitored. This scheme is in such a bad shape, better if it is discontinued. People should contribute in it. In Indian culture, people's participation is envisaged in education system. If you go back, you will find when we think of ashramas of old 'Rishies' and 'Munies', there we find that, whenever there was a marriage at any household in the village, he used to send a certain quantity of grain in the Ashram. It was part of his duties. This might be implemented here also, but the scheme should be formulated reasonably with people's participation, otherwise accidental things would mostly take place. The Government would spend crores of rupees. We would take all the credit here that budget of crores of rupees has been earmarked for Mid Day Meal scheme, but what really happens in this that the amount fixed in the budget by the Government,

is not reaching the required place and the required output is not being obtained thereby. It has been mentioned that 6000 Adarsh Vidyalayas will be opened under National Secondary Education Mission and it is very good proposal. There has been meagre provisions in this regard and the scheme is also not very solid. Therefore, I would like to give a suggestion in this regard.

The matter of kendriya Vidyalayas was being discussed. It is a fact that Kendriya Vidyalayas are now performing very well. There is a scope of further improvement. It will be better if these schools are transferred into Adarsh Vidyalayas and their number is increased. The way the tuition fee is being increased by the schools, it is becoming difficult to give education to the children. People, even State Government employees want to get their children admitted in Kendriya Vidyalayas. The people find it difficult to get their wards admitted due to non availability of schools in sufficient number. It will be better if the Government consider of making the Kendriya Vidyalayas more efficient and increase their number. One more thing has also been mentioned. I would like to say that it is not sufficient to construct the buildings of schools only. There are Adarsh Vidyalayas but we also need to think how the standard of education in these Adarsh Vidyalayas can be raised. The teachers face the worst predicament. Right from census to all other petty works, they are engaged in such task. We need to think that they are already over burdened yet the standard of education should be raised. Recently, the Government has proposed to abolish tenth class board exams and introduce the grading system in its place. But, this step alone is not sufficient, though, the children are promoted from one class to another but the level of education they get leaves much to be desired. It has been observed that only 3 percent students reach upto graduate level and out of those graduates 25 percent are not worthy of doing any work. I have studied these facts in a survey. Since, the level of education has not been maintained at elementary level itself hence, the foundation of children remains weak.

In the meantime, there has been some improvements in the standard of Jan Shikshan Sansthan. Jan Shikshan Sansthan is a very good concept. We find that employment oriented education is being provided there. I would like to say that it will be better if we strengthen these sansthans. Short duration courses are taught there to develop the skill of students. If the intended aim is achieved then some schemes for their upgradation may be introduced. Though, the budget provisions for higher education have been increased but, I think that a lot more is required to be done in this direction. In the present scenario we ask our children to continue their studies without any tension, but, leave alone the children, their parents are equally tensed about their studies. The fact is that the children as well as their parents both are in tension, but, it is not certain that even after talking so much tension they will be successful or not in their lives(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. Already you have taken ten minutes.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : I will not take more than two minutes. I would just like to say that we need to think about the requirements of the present education and whether we have sufficient number of schools, colleges or not. We need more doctors but, do we have sufficient number of medical colleges or not? Children would like to opt these fields but there are limited facilities. Presently, facilities are available for three lakh engineering students but most of the students would like to opt for computer science. We also need civil engineers but we do not have facilities regarding this trade. How can we improve the system of higher education according to the need of our country? We need to pay attention in this direction.

Sir, before I conclude I would like to say few words about value based education. We have three such institutes, namely, Rastriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Rastriya Ved Vidya Pratisthan which impart value based education to

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students. I just want to state that merely making provision for a few crore rupees will not serve the propose. Can we open a research institute with this amount? I am stressing upon value based education because if we do not impart value based education to the children then they will not be able to imbibe then later on. One of our Ministers made a statement regarding culture and custom of our population I was surprised to know that even a minister is not aware of culture and customs of our country. In our country, where there is no electricity in the villages, the people gather at a place and chant the hymns and recite the Ramayana in the light of an earthen lamp. I am talking of value based education because even a minister is not aware of the culture of country. Hence, value based education is essential. Preparing the courses is not sufficient in itself, we need to pay attention in this regard also. Foreign universities are coming here but we must ensure that they are registered and have good standard of education.

KUMARI MEENAKSHI NATRAJAN (Mandsaur) : Honourable Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views on behalf of my party regarding education system. Before expressing my views, I would like to thank the people of my constituency for electing me and showing faith in me and leaders of my party who have given me this opportunity to give my maiden speech in this temple of democracy. I hope that during the coming five years, I will learn a lot from intellectuals of all parties here.

Hon'ble Joshiji, who is not present in the House now had mentioned in the beginning of this debate about the ancient prestigious educational institutions and centers of India. It is true that our culture has given importance to knowledge and education from the very ancient time and believed in taking people from darkness to light through the brightness of knowledge and education. Today, when we are in a new millennium, we need to talk about our education system. Our cultural values and scripture say about the type of education system we need today. 'Ta Sikshaya Vimukte, Aur Vidya Dadati Vinmaya.' Our

education system should be free from boundations, discrimination and it should take us from darkness to light of knowledge. Education should bring politeness in a person. Our children have to take heavy school bags due to which their childhood has withered. I would like to quote Kabir Das ji in this regard, he had said that 'Pothi Padh Padh Jag Mua, Pandit Bhaya Na Koy, Dhai Akshar Prem Ke, Padhe So Pandit Hoy'. Our education system should spread the message of love and harmony and make a person a good human being. We need such an education policy which could encourage him to be a good citizen and to give respect to all religions and people of all sections equally.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that our UPA Government has taken historic steps in this direction. Our Father of Nation-Mahatama Gandhiji believed in free and compulsory elementary education for India. He said that real education can only be achieved through proper use of our body and mind. He also said that the aim of education should not only be the development of mental faculty of the children but it should be aimed at compassionate human being. For this, we need to coordinate between body and mind which will come through good education system. I would like to quote self experience in this regard. During the visit to my constituency, I got an opportunity to visit Sawan village. Several women came to meet me. One of them asked me a question which bothers me even today. I want to quote her example before you. She said that had I got proper education, I would have been in your place.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, unless we provide education to each and every women of the country, our education policy cannot be successful. Government have tried to bridge the gap between villages and cities by starting schemes like Sarvshiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal. People of villages should get same education as the people of the cities get. Today, we have to face various challenges, we need not to go far away we can take the example of Delhi here in this city on one hand we have colleges like Saint Stephens whose standards are very high and on the other there are

two colleges for girls 30 kilometers away which are in a pathetic condition.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the decision of hon'ble Minister to make education a fundamental right and implement it as early as possible. While making education a fundamental right, Government should also think about providing quality education. If we are able to provide quality education then all the difference will diminish.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to mention one or two important things. Today, Joshiji has mentioned about the change in syllabus and the political pressure and political interference. I am happy that being a senior Member, he has mentioned all this. But it is said that some states are trying to eliminate the name of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru—the First Prime Minister of India who played an importance role in freedom movement from the syllabus.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, in the State to which I belong, efforts were made by the State Government suddenly to eliminate certain lines of the poem by Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, this is very sad. It is painful that the people who led the freedom movement and later contributed in the building of nation from the square one are being treated like this. The future generations should know about them, then only we could proceed further bringing a new generation who would be able to understand the heritage and the composite culture of the country and which would lead the country further.

Sir, I would like to submit through you that hon. Minister has suggested many reforms to be undertaken in the examination system. I welcome all those suggestions, but, I would like to submit one thing, we have heard so many times since our childhood that one should learn from one's past mistakes. But nobody tells us what were the mistake we had committed. We get marks when write full note books in exam, if we were given the photocopy or the copy of those note books, might be, we would be able to do qualitative improvement in ourselves. I, therefore, request you to execute the same.

Sir, when National Knowledge Commission placed its recommendation, they admitted this in its background that only 60 percent people have to access higher education. They said that the present educational reforms would be implemented with three objectives and they set the targets for coming eight years, that is—expansion, excellence and inclusiveness. They furnished suggestions for setting up of 1500 universities.

17.02 hrs.

[DR. M. THAMBIDURAI *in the Chair*]

Sir, I would like to submit this much only that when we are discussing qualitative reforms in education system, the education revolution about which the National Knowledge Commission has talked about and, furnished their recommendations, contains this aspect also. That is why, I would like to say that our examination system does not test the common sense, creativity or constructive ability of a person, it just tests The capability of cramming. Do we want to make our future generation just a parrot fashioned or we want their creativity to come out, to bloom and give them medium so that they could step further in creativity by means of education. This has been mentioned in the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission also and the Commission too, has admitted that it would not be appropriate if memory continues to be tested instead of common sense and understanding.

Sir, I would like to submit that I welcome the step taken by the hon. Minister for opening doors to the teachers coming from abroad to import education here, because I feel that students who go abroad for education, come back and they not only serve the nation in a vast and better way, but they represent the country as a educational and cultural ambassador and make the nation proud.

Sir, Swami Vivekanand said that we have to rise above the 'Touch me Not-sim". I also would like to submit the same thing. If we have some kind of apprehensions, it should not be there, after all, why we should be scared of any external institute, teaching Centre or some foreign

[Kumari Meenakshi Natrajan]

university after so many years of independence? Mahatma Gandhi has very beautifully said " I do not want to be surrounded by walls and closed doors and windows. I only want to make bridges so that fragrance of cultures of native land and other countries may continue to flow around me." What are we afraid of? As Allama Iqbal said, "Unano, Misra, Roman, sub mit gaye jahan se, kuchh baat hai ki hasti mitati nahin hamaari."

I would like to submit this much only that whatever our hon. Minister of Human Resource Development had said, I welcome that. I would like to submit one last thing, the proposal of new scholarships is really appreciable. You have decided to take a giant leap for the students of socially backward and weaker sections. I am highly thankful to you for this. I would like to say only this, that after this historical step, it seems that no Eklavya in this country has to sacrifice his thumb for attainment of education. I hope this from you.

I am thankful to you for the opportunity you have given to me.

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Faridkot) : Thank you Chairman Sir, an important discussion is taking place in the Parliament. Education is the focal point of development of a country, until the population of a country gets literate the country cannot excel, especially the education in the level of primary, middle and higher level. Because this is the basic focal point of education, on this education the base of the population is developed. But our education has not been successful in the initial levels because of lack of permanent policy. As when the Governments and ministers change than our education policy also changes.

This is the reason that the drop out rate in the initial level of education is ever increasing, to rectify this, what

is needed that the education at the primary, middle, higher level should be of same level and same policy in the whole country. To reduce the drop out rate, mid- day meal scheme was introduced. It was a good scheme, but it had lots of weaknesses which have been highlighted by the media, press and the Members but have not been rectified. Speaking before me M/s Sumitra Mahajan had also highlighted these weaknesses.

Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan was a very good scheme but it has also failed, no benefits were derived by education out of this scheme.

Instead of sending the teachers to class rooms they have been assigned allied duties under Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan. Because if we have a general practical overlook of the work been done under Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan it can not be implemented practically.

To reduce unemployment vocational education should be encouraged. In every district there should be set up Kendriya Vidyalaya with residential accommodation. Poor girls and boys be given free education.

The introduction of computers in schools is a very noble scheme because today is the age of computerization. It is thought provoking that due to lack of electricity especially in villages the computers are lying idle, so my advice is that in villages Inverters and Generators be provided so that computers can be used.

In villages and backwards areas there should be made available accommodation for Teachers.

Regional school system should be introduced where both poor and rich can study together under one roof.

We have opened 'Anganwadi' in villages to look after poor children but we have not made good buildings for them. The food which is being given to children is also of low quality. The bonus which is given to Anganwadi workers and helpers is very less keeping in view the inflation, it should be increased. Buildings should be made available for Anganwadi.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

In private establishments their should be reservation for SC's, ST's and girls.

The Private Deemed Universities which are coming up like mushrooms have been indulging in large scale looting. They don't have any standards of education and no limit of fee. They charge any amount of fee both from rich and poor children. This should be regulated. The fee should be less for poor students in Technical and Medical Colleges.

Management Institutions and IIT's should be opened in Punjab, especially in Faridkot and Bhatinda constituencies because these areas are backward in the field of education.

The Central Govt. should give maximum grants to raise level of schools. The teacher deficiency be rectified, drinking water be made available in school, and separate washrooms for girls/boys be made available.

To increase the attendance of teacher in schools special benefits be given to them. How much we improve the educations system until we improve the village schools i.e. if we don't give special facilities to teachers, like village allowance, accommodation, benefit in income tax, good conveyance facilities; until than school system especially village school system won't improve.

I have worked for 30 years in education department and I know the problems faced by teachers but due to shortage of time I can't elucidate. Until we improve village education system than the overall education would not improve.

For increasing interest of sports amongst students the govt. Should give special attention. They should make special efforts regarding education in villages, as the maximum population of the country lives in villages.

Because of the faulty educational policy unemployment is increasing thus giving rise to drug addiction among students.

The future of the country is in grave danger, until we improve the education; gap between poor and rich would increase. In the present education system poor and those from villages have been left far behind education has been left only for rich due to the increase in private schools/universities, exorbitant fee is being charged at will. So the education policy should be such where both poor and rich can study together were everyone has equal facilities.

[English]

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (Tiruvallur) : Respected Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank our hon. Chairman for having given me an opportunity to express my views on behalf of the AIADMK Party on the Demands for Grants on HRD Ministry.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to our beloved leader, the General Secretary of the All-India Anna DMK Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Jayalalithaa Amma for having given me an opportunity to be here to speak in this august House.

I would also like to express my thanks to the voters of Thiruvallur Parliamentary Constituency for electing me with a vast majority.

Coming to the point, I would like to express my views on certain recommendations of the Yashpal Committee Report on restructuring the higher education.

The proposed major changes in the education system have come up for discussions at the national level.

Prof. Yashpal has put forward a broad framework for renovation and rejuvenation of the system by proposing the creation of an institution to be called National Commission for Higher Education Research, i.e. NCHER. Our education is heading for a big change. I would request our hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to be very cautious in making 10th Board examination as optional or even abolishing it. The merits and demerits have been discussed and debated in the media both in print and visual. There have been diverse opinions on this issue given by students, parents and eminent educationists.

[Dr. P. Venugopal]

School education at the primary, middle and high school levels constitute the basic foundation which develops intrinsic qualities and values among students. So, the 10th Board examination should not be abolished. In this context, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that 50 years ago, when there was a move to introduce *Kula Kalvi Thittam* in Tamil Nadu, i.e. Community and Caste Oriented Education, everybody, including Periyar and Anna, opposed it tooth and nail. Because of that, a great revolution had taken place and now we see many doctors and engineers from the poor and downtrodden and under-privileged communities. At this juncture, I salute them.

Sir, regarding the recommendations to replace the existing regulatory bodies such as UGC, AICTE, NCTE, DEC and MCI, we must be extra careful. There should be a regulatory mechanism for this to monitor our own education system.

Regarding the Yashpal Committee's recommendation on Deemed University status also we must be very careful. Deemed University status may be given with a quality tag attached to it. I really appreciate the recommendation that it would be mandatory for all the existing Deemed Universities to submit to the new accreditation norms within a period of three years failing which the status of the Deemed University should be withdrawn.

Regarding giving approval for certain courses, I would like to request the Government that the approval mechanism must be stipulated. A single window system should be evolved.

I request the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to implement the recommendations of Yashpal Committee regarding institutions like IITs and IIMs that they should be encouraged to diversify and expand their scope to work as full-fledged universities, while keeping intact their unique features, which shall act as pace setting and model governance systems for all universities.

In order to prevent the brain-drain, as most of the students after studies in IIT and IIM prefer to go abroad and in order to use their best talents for India, we must make the atmosphere conducive here so that they live and serve our motherland India itself.

Regarding the education conditions in higher education, we are lagging far behind as compared to the developed countries of the world. It is 10 per cent in India whereas in USA it is 75 per cent, in Japan it is 45 per cent and in European countries it is 40 per cent. So, we must take urgent steps to increase the present number of quality universities to at least four times the present number.

In India, among all other States, quality higher education is provided only in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Even Kerala, which is number one in literacy rate, is lagging behind in quality higher education. In USA and UK, education system is based on research-oriented method whereas our education system is only theoretical. Our education should be made research-oriented instead of theory-oriented. For that, university syllabus in States should be re-oriented and they should be brought at par with Central Universities. We have to promote research-oriented scientists.

Because of Periyar, Anna, MGR and Amma, a great revolution in the field of higher education has taken place in Tamil Nadu. There were only 9 Engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu during 1979 producing only 2,000 students. But due to the untiring efforts taken by MGR and former Chief Minister Amma Jayalalitha, there are more than 400 Engineering Colleges today in Tamil Nadu producing more than 1,00,000 Engineers every year. Because of the efforts of our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Jayalalitha Amma, steps were taken to open 'Tamil Nadu Open University' in Tamil Nadu.

The system of education loan for economically weaker sections must be liberalised and eligible students must be provided full subsidy during the period of moratorium.

While concluding, I would request the Government to add ethics as a compulsory subject in all schools. Sports

must be given the utmost importance in syllabus and extra curricular activities should be developed at any cost.

[Translation]

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi) : Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on such an important issue as education. Education is the basic need of society and first step towards development. Development of any society and or individual or family is possible through education only. The education system in our country is quite inadequate. Union Government has started 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan' in rural regions where education is basic need and most families living below poverty line and are not in a position to send their children to school. Various provisions have been made under 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan' for spread of education and for attracting children to schools and making them literate but still there are some lacunas which are visible at the ground level.

Education is the most important thing in the society but I am sorry to say that large number of people in the country are still illiterate. People living in villages are still illiterate because education facilities are not being provided to them. People living in rural areas are mostly poor. Various schools have been opened in rural areas but there are still schools with a single teacher. There are some schools where there is no teacher at all. These schools exist only on papers because there are no teachers. It is necessary to prepare a list of schools in the country where there are no teachers or which have only one teacher. How can a single teacher teach class I to Class V?

Incidentally, I have been a teacher. I have taught at an Inter College for 15 years. I have vast experience in this field and am aware of the ground realities. Through you I would like to say to the Hon'ble Minister that the Basic aim of 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan' is to educate poor people living in rural areas. When a poor person, who works hard to earn his livelihood somehow manages to send his children to schools but there is no teacher there then how can his children receive education.

Secondly there were no proper school buildings in the villages earlier. School buildings have been constructed but I am sorry to say that school buildings are being constructed with such inferior quality material that their roofs start leaking in just one monsoon. I know all this because I belong to village and often go there. Hence, children prefer to sit under a tree instead of under such poorly constructed roofs. An enquiry should be conducted in this regard.

Mid-day meal is being provided in the schools under the scheme. Children of our villages are poor, hence they may be provided nutritious diet. I hail from rural areas, I know otherwise too, as sometimes we read in the newspaper that there have been instances of serving poisonous food as mid day meal or finding insects in it. Children are being provided substandard meal. I would like to say that all this is going on the name of education. Whatever provisions have been made in the name of education are being misappropriated and funds earmarked for the purpose are so inadequate that it is impossible to provide good meal. I would like to say to the hon'ble Minister that since the aim of 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan' is to educate village children in rural areas, to provide them nutritious food and to attract them towards school, then sufficient provisions need to be made and enquiry should be conducted in this regard and actions should be taken against the persons involved in corruption from lower to higher level. I got an opportunity to go abroad being a Member of Uttar Pradesh Assembly. I would like to cite an example of China. The Provision has been made there to provide education to all. We asked them how they managed to make this scheme successful? They replied that if child remains absent from school then, three persons are punished for it - the village Head the guardian of the children and the Headmaster of the school are asked as to why the child is absent. When we adopt such stringent measure, only then 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan' will be successful.

Sir, so much about primary schools but the condition of Secondary Schools is similar to them only. There are

[Shri Gorakhnath Pandey]

no teachers there. Posts are lying vacant and people are opting for private schools. Poor people of the villages are not sending their children to Government Schools because poor quality education is imparted there. Therefore, they are opting for private school.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. One more Member from your party is going to speak; otherwise he would not get the chance.

[Translation]

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY : They know that the Government Schools are imparting poor quality education and they do not even have buildings and teachers at times what to speak of other facilities which are totally lacking. Therefore, they prefer Private Schools. Through you, I would like to the hon'ble Minister that 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyaan' will only be successful, when it is monitoring properly, enquiry is conducted in the matter and action is taken against the persons who are found guilty of corruption.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore) : Thank you, hon. Chairman, Sir, for calling me to participate in the discussion on this matter. At the very outset, I must extend thanks to the UPA Government particularly the former HRD Minister, the predecessor of our existing HRD Minister, for his endeavour to save education from communalization. Now the UPA Government have started their second inning. But, at the very beginning, our hon. HRD Minister has become a person of controversy with regard to the syllabus, the uniformity in the syllabus of school education. I think, he will think over it, as education is in the Concurrent List. It is not only in the Concurrent List; now more power is being given to the panchayat raj system. So, devolution of power is already in the process. This sort of uniformity in school education will not help us; it will not help the federal structure of our country.

Now I come to the subject, namely, Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Human Resource Development. In the course of the presentation of the General Budget, the hon. Finance Minister quoted Kautilya and he summed up with a comment that wealth be created before it can be taxed. It is disheartening that the nation's wealth creation is being seen in such a skewed manner as to include only money generation, while a country's true wealth is the quality of the human resource it possesses. In this regard, the Budget 2009-10 is disappointing in its neglect of the education sector.

Sir, I am referring to three aspects of education. Firstly, I am referring to universal education, elementary education or education for all; secondly I am referring to the access to higher education, and thirdly to the quality of education. I am coming to the budgetary allocation. The overall spending on education as proportion of GDP continues to be below the 6 per cent watermark which was set as early as in 1966 and was reiterated in 2004-05 in the National Common Minimum Programme.

It was 3.37 per cent in 2007-08. This is not being improved. No change has been made so far.

Sir, the overall spending on education as proportional of GDP is much below the six per cent watermark. The fund allocation for *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* and Mid-day Meal Scheme – this point has already been mentioned by my previous speakers – are on the decline from the Revised Estimate of 2008-2009.

Now, I come to other points. A plethora of Schemes are introduced. If we have a close look at all these Schemes, it will reveal that most of them are a case of 'old wine in a new bottle'.

Sir, the *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan* (RMSA) is the re-modelled version of SUCCESS, Scheme for Universal Access and quality at the Secondary Stage, which was formulated in 2008-09. The Scheme for setting up 600 model schools at the block level is the revamped new model school scheme introduced in the Union Budget for the year 2008-09. So, this is nothing new.

The National Means-cum-merit Scholarship Scheme for study in Class IX to Class XII is again the re-packaged Scheme announced in the Union Budget for the year 2007-08. There is a Scheme for providing hostel facilities to the students of secondary and higher secondary schools. There is a Scheme called 'Integrated Education for the Disabled at Secondary Stage'. This new revamped Scheme no longer includes schools at the primary and upper primary levels. It may be implying that disabled students no longer need such measure. This is quite absent.

The Scheme, SUCCESS – which is similar to SSA – introduced in 2007-08 with an outlay of Rs. 1,305 crore – has been discontinued now. Instead of launching all new national schemes for giving incentives to girls at the level of secondary education, you have provided only a meagre amount of Rs. 45 crore. It has been reduced to Rs. 45 crore from Rs. 1,305 crore.

Another worrisome aspect relates to the shifting of focus from one sector within education, that is, on elementary education without having substantial advancement to secondary and technical education. What has happened to elementary education? More so, the Right to Education Act has not yet been enacted. I do not know when the Right to Education Bill will be brought in this House for discussion and passing.

The withdrawal of adequate public funding on elementary education is quite unfortunate.

Sir, last but not least, I come to Public Private Partnership. This way might be viable in sectors such as infrastructure but it is a cause for concern and entitlement as basic education is being left to the private players. For instance, the new Institutes of Information Technology are proposed to be set up in PPP mode.

Several deemed Universities are coming up. What is the mechanism for monitoring them? What is the mechanism for monitoring the quality of education?

My last point is about the Central University.

Sir, there is a very historical background, which the Calcutta University is having. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to declare the Calcutta University as a Central University.

With these few words, I hope, the hon. Minister would see that the budgetary allocations are not reduced particularly in the Sarva Shikha Abhiyan, Mid-Deal Meals. Rather, he would provide more budgetary allocations to these schemes. Similarly, the importance of Elementary Education and Universal Education should not be minimised.

[Translation]

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI (Jalaun) : Sir, I would like associate myself with the hon. Member on this matter.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. You are permitted to do so.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on an important issue related to development of India and its intellectual opulence.

Our honourable Minister of Human Resources is a scholar who wants to make the higher education of India world class. It quite logical that if India wants to stay in competition then it is necessary to strengthen its education system at the level of higher education. This year additional Rs. 2 thousand crore have been allocated for higher education. Last year there was 9 percent increase in it and it seems that with increase we will be able to achieve that standard in higher education which will enable India to produce such man power which will be able to compete at international level.

Sir, Mr. Churchill had said that the intellectually empowered persons would be the future rulers. We

[Shri Jagdanand Singh]

welcome the steps taken for strengthening the institutions of India to pave the way for intellectual growth.

With regard to secondary education only Rs. 3 hundred crores have been increased. There is a need to increase the number of secondary level institutes in the country. If their number is increased then more and more people will opt to continue higher education after primary, basic and secondary education. But it is disheartening that only 3.50 crore rupees have been earmarked for this purpose which is insufficient. At present we have insufficient number of higher education institutions for providing education to three crore students who will enroll their names in future. I had raised a question during budget and want to raise it again here in front of honourable Minister that will the children who have taken education in villages be able to cope with higher education which the Government aspires to make world class. Our primary schools in villages are deprived of even basic minimum needs like building and furniture and are not in a position to provide good education to children of rural populace which includes farmers and labourers.

Sir, even today 45 lakh children have not even been enrolled in any primary school or educational institution. I would like to state that to whatever extent we are able to enroll but from the dropout rate it seems that the schools are not able to give them proper education. According to the report of Arjun Sen Samiti if the quality of primary schools is not improved then dropout rate will further increase. Our country could progress only through quality education. If intellectual property will be limited to some families only then it will be difficult to generate intellectual property in villages which we hope for. In the last budget primary schools were provided 13 thousand crore rupees out of which 8 thousand crore rupees were supposed to be spent on serving 'Khichri' to the student. Certainly our children need nutritious food but today people are not only hungry but they are intellectually starved too. If the people are not educated then they will remain hungry forever. And

the students who are getting 'Khichri' in schools today will always lead a life of beggar. I would like to request the honourable Minister to strengthen our primary education system and as there is a system of evaluating the performance of our colleges to ascertain their standard of education, a similar system should be introduced at district levels to evaluate the performance of our primary schools. It will help us to find out the status of our primary education institutes.

Concludingly, I would like to say that the demands for doing away with exam system is being raised from all quarters. I am not opposing this proposal but can we effectively put in place a system for the schools of our rural areas on the lines of evaluation system which has been adopted in private schools in urban areas.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH : If this system is not introduced in the primary schools of rural areas then the parents will not be able to know about the performance of their children since the existing system of half yearly or yearly exams will be abolished. If exam system is abolished the parents will not be in the position to now how their wards will perform at high school or higher level. The parents will not be able to know that after studying for so many years their children are ready for higher education or not.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are repeating the same point.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH : I just want to say that primary education system should be strengthened. If primary education system is not strengthened and equal opportunity of education is not provided to all then there

will be two category people, one belonging to India and another belonging to Bharat. There are schemes in the budget to raise the standard of education of the people belonging to 'India' but there is no scheme to raise the standard of education being provided to the children belonging to 'Bharat'. I urge upon the UPA Government to raise the standard of

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have a list of 13 speakers to speak on the Demands for Grants of HRD Ministry. Those who want to lay their written speeches on the Table, they can do so. It will be treated as part of the proceedings.

SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT (Mumbai North-Central) : Thank you Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of HRD.

I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry. The Ministry of Human Resources Development, to my mind, is one of the most important Ministries. I want to thank Madam Sonia Gandhi and the Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh Ji for selecting a very dynamic Head to lead this Ministry. I am sure that Shri Kapil Sibal Ji, the hon. Minister, would usher in a new era of educational reforms in the country. The youth look upon him with great hope.

The level of educational development is low in terms of quality, quantity and equality in terms of opportunity. The quality of general, vocational and technical education and research and development is not very encouraging. The children's drop-out rates are also very high.

I would like to quote from the HRD Ministry's opening web page:

"There has been an increasing awareness that the people of the country should be looked upon as its valuable resource, indeed the most valuable resource, and that a growth process should be based on the

integrated development of the citizen beginning with childhood and going through life."

Here, I would like to point out and would like to emphasize on 'childhood and going through life'. I think the role of the HRD Ministry should focus on childhood and development of that resource which is our children. I believe that no amount of reservation in higher education will be able to empower the weaker section if the foundation in itself is weak.

Sir, there is a great need to strengthen primary and elementary education. A majority of children in the country goes to Government schools which lack basic amenities like clean drinking water and toilets, which are in dilapidated structures with lack of ventilation, light and the list goes on. But the most important is lack of teachers. I would like to support my colleague Smt. Supriya Sule who mentioned the load in which the teachers have to work with. Most of the teachers are engaged in non-teaching activities like Census duties, Pulse Polio Campaigns, Election duties, etc. I wish that could change so that quality education can be imparted to our children.

Providing mid-day meal is a very important thing and is an incentive for children to stay in school and parents to bring them to school. Yet, it is not enough. No doubt, nutritional needs of the children, which are very important for growth and development, are taken care of. But we have not yet been able to give a conducive environment for children to enjoy schooling. Every child has a right to quality education. Maybe, the only way we will really see improvement in that is when it becomes mandatory that every Government official and all of us here have to enroll our children in Government schools. Maybe then we will really see a drastic change in the school education.

The way we parents look for good school for our children is that we look at certain criteria – specially, teacher-student ratio, the kind of curriculum, the environment. Is every child entitled to the same? Quality of education includes environment, curriculum, quality of

[Shrimati Priya Dutt]

teachers teaching aids and techniques and we have to look at all these factors when we speak of quality. Curriculum is the most important part of the education system and should be ever evolving to keep up with the times. Teachers' training must be more dynamic and teachers must be more productive and sensitive towards the needs of the children. A child spends most of his or her time in schools rather than at home. Therefore, a school is the most important aspect in the development of children to mould them into responsible citizens.

Every year our country sees a steady increase in teen suicides and most during the times of exams. I think all the Hon. Members sitting here have gone through the horror of exams along with their children sometime in their lives and would agree in what I am saying. Ten years of a child's life is spent in school from standard I to standard X. And then the future of that child is eventually determined by one exam. Does the past ten years become irrelevant? That is the question which I really want to ask. A great and urgent need is for reforms in our education system. We need to inject in it with so much more than mundane rote learning and lack of creativity. We are robbing our children of their childhood and their inherent need to create, evolve and explore. We restrict their minds just to textbook learning. We need to encourage learning through questioning, exploring and experimenting.

There are three very important points which I would like to suggest.

Sir, one is – make sports an integral part of the academic curriculum. Sports must be treated as a subject like any other learning skill. Marks must be given for participation and further excellence duly rewarded. This will help stimulate a much-needed sports culture in our country and allow us to tap into a larger resource base to find talented sportsmen. The process of marks being allocated to sports will also allow the necessary approval of stakeholders like parents, teachers and institutions.

Second is – introduce skill training at the secondary school level. This could mean basic skills that could help in self-employment and can raise the standard of skilled labour in our country. You give dignity to skilled labour in our country. These could be basic skill sets like carpentry, plumbing, tailoring, masonry, repairing etc. This form of training maybe attractive to a large number of population and may even curb the dropout rates in the secondary education.

Third is – there must be an effort made to motivate the 'keepers' or guardians of our education system. I mean the final level where the execution of our plans takes place. We must ensure that they are properly motivated to educate in the right manner. This motivation may come from many areas such as pay scales, proactive Government and bureaucracy, better training and friendlier schemes. All our plans finally lay in the hands of the enablers and if this level is not motivated enough, the system may never work.

Sir, the Constitution (86th Amendment) Act provides for free and compulsory education to all children of 6 to 14 years of age group a fundamental right. However, a suitable follow-up legislation has not yet been enacted. We are happy it is one of the priorities of the hon. Minister and the UPA Government.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is one of the most important milestones of the UPA Government and the Congress-led Government has made every effort to make the SSA a success.

The second hurdle and the most important hurdle a student faces is the transition from school level education to higher level learning. Yes, I say it is a hurdle as most hon. Members will agree, as they are faced with hundreds of students coming to them for admissions. That has become a great hurdle. We need regulation and transparency in admissions for higher education. The hon. Minister spoke of more polytechnics and vocational training institutions giving students an opportunity to choose subjects and streams of their interests that will bring a great

deal of relief as students will be able to pursue career paths they are interested in.

Sir, there has been a tremendous growth in higher education, IIMs, IITs etc. However, the quality of education in many centres of learning, specially those run by the private organisations is still a matter of concern.

We have seen a brain drain in our country for many years and I commend the vision of the hon. Minister who brings with him the idea of brain gain. Today we see many young students opting for higher education abroad and the middle class, upper middle class households save up money, take loans just to send their children abroad to study. The hon. Minister's vision to set up universities of excellence in our own country will be welcomed by students and their parents.

One more request that I want to make is that private participation in higher education is a welcome change. But there is an urgent need to have a check on the quality of education being imparted by these institutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please try to wind up.

SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT : Sir, just a couple of minutes, please.

Student evaluation of teachers is recommended and should be made an integral part of higher education.

Lastly, Sir, one of the key prerequisites of quality higher education is a large and highly capable pool of scholars who can provide academic leadership in teaching and research. Many of these scholars already exist or are moving into ranks of professorate in the foreign universities. The achievement of this goal requires a combination of several strategies including a change in the criteria for academic recruitment and promotion, significant improvements in the economic condition of the teaching profession, a very ambitious programme for the identification, training, support and placement of young scholars.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can lay on the Table of the House the remaining portion of the speech.

SHRIMATI PRIYA DUTT : Sir, just one minute.

It should include a major effort at repatriating successful Indian scholars from abroad.

With this, I thank you very much for giving me this time.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani) : Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

As far as education is concerned, there need not be any difference of opinion from this side or that side, irrespective of party politics, but if anybody wants to find fault, it is also easy. Dr. Murl Manohar Joshi in his speech was trying to find fault with sanctioning of Rs. 25 crore to Aligarh Muslim University in Malapuram. He was saying that there is something wrong in that and there is some special agenda in doing that. He was even saying why we cannot have universities like Banaras Hindu University in that way. Sir, I tell him – it is really condemnable – that as far as education is concerned, we should not make this kind of communal division. A very learned and senior person like him should not have stated like that. In this regard, I would like to submit that I had held the education portfolio for seven years in Kerala, representing Muslim League. It was during my period that a Sanskrit University in the name of Sri Shankaracharya was established in Kerala. We must see that kind of things in a secular way.

As far as education is concerned, our position with regard to education up to secondary level is perfectly all right. We know that National Curriculum Framework is there. I had been associating with that as the then Education Minister of Kerala. The system is totally changing. Teachers-centred education system is now converted into students-centred education system. Text-books-based learning is now completely converted into activity-based learning. Similarly instructive-ism is now converted into constructive-ism. These are all welcome steps.

[Shri Mohammed E.T. Basheer]

On SSA, I would like to say that it is really a blessing. I would request that some local flexibility may be given to the State Governments. More funds may be allotted for civil construction, repair and maintenance.

On Information, Communication Technology, ICT, I would like to say that we must make optimum use of that. As regards EDUSAT, we all know that there is a lot of potentiality in that. That is to be done. Similarly, in the remote areas, ICT can be very useful for imparting education, teachers' training and things like that.

On higher education, I would like to say that we are having 350 universities in our country. Now the Knowledge Commission has suggested to have 1,500 universities more. Quantity-wise whether it is required or not is a different point, which we will debate later, but what about their quality? If we examine the quantity-wise growth of the universities, I would like to say that it is not at all satisfactory. There is a list of top 50 universities in the world. Out of these 50, not even a single university is from India. So, what I am suggesting is that quality-wise growth will have to be given more emphasis.

The situation of our universities is really deplorable. I would like to say that the universities have been downgraded as degree-giving departmental stores. Their quality of education will have to be ensured. We have to do a loud thinking. Why should we continue with this gigantic affiliation system? According to my information, there are only three countries – India, Bangladesh and Pakistan – which are having this type of gigantic affiliation system. We do not need to have this system. We must develop small, small universities and give autonomous status to the colleges. In that way, we have to restructure that. We have to think about it.

This is the era of internationalisation of education. Today morning while replying to a question, the hon. Minister has stated that 2,65,324 students are studying abroad. The accurate figure is not available. What I am

asking is this. Why can we not attract foreign students to India? We can surely do it because of the three pertinent reasons.

18.00 hrs.

Firstly, the cost of education in India is less as compared to the western countries. Secondly, the medium of instruction in India is English. Thirdly, ours is a value-based education. Therefore, there is no risk in sending children to India. Hence, I am sure that at least from African and Gulf countries we will be able to attract students. ...
(Interruptions)

I was saying about the Prof. Yash Pal Committee Report. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, please stop for a minute. I will call you afterwards. Please take your seat.

Now, it is 6 o'clock. I want to know the sense of the House. Can we extend the time of the House by one more hour?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi) : Honourable Members have raised several important matters. The demands for grants may be discussed after these matters.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This matter will be over within an hour. Thereafter, you can mention it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Honourable Members have raised the issue of urgent public importance. Honourable Speaker has decided that zero hour will be taken up at 6 o'clock.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you are aware that we have decided that we can take 'Zero Hour' immediately after the Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request all the hon. Members to cooperate with the Chair. All Members can speak very briefly, and conclude their speeches within the time allotted to them.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Firstly, we will finish this business.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Zero hour may be started and rest of the discussion may be held after that. All the members are present.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will take up 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : 'Zero Hour' will be there. We will take it up at 7 o'clock. We will finish this business before 7 o'clock.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : The chair has decided to take up the zero hour at 6 o'clock.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have suggested in the beginning itself that those hon. Members who are having written speeches can lay their speeches on the Table of the House,

and it will be treated as part of the proceedings. It would allow other hon. Members to speak for three minutes or so, mention their points, and we would be able to finish this business. We can complete it before 7 o'clock, and immediately after that we will be able to take up 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : It will be to late then.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that the House will accept this decision.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, we are extending the time of the House.

Mr. Basheer, please wind up your speech because other hon. Members are also there who wish to speak on this issue.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER : Yes, Sir, I am going to wind up my speech. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate with the Chair. We will take up 'Zero Hour' at 7 o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are taking up 'Zero Hour' at 7 o'clock, and we have accepted it.

Mr. Basheer, please wind up your speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER : The Prof. Yash Pal Committee Report has suggested a new mechanism of regulatory body, which is most welcome. I would like to say that we must have a threadbare discussion on Prof. Yash Pal Committee Report, and the new Education Bill.

[Shri Mohammed E.T. Basheer]

It is better to have a discussion among the academicians outside the House also.

As far as SSLC is concerned, I am not in favour of stopping examinations for the Tenth standard. As regards reservation, I would like to say that we are all talking about the marginalised section of the society, and we say education for all. But our real purpose cannot be served until and unless we take some affirmative action. Therefore, I am suggesting that reservation should be implemented in the professional courses and other courses, also.

Lastly, I would like to make one more point. Why cannot we think about creating a new all-India cadre, namely, Indian Education Service (IES)? This point was discussed once in the Central Advisory Board for Education. The IES would be a good thing like IAS, IFS, etc. Normally, we are appointing IAS officers as heads of educational institutions and departments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The suggestion is well taken.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER : IES will be the best option, and the attitude is also very much required in this.

Lastly, I would like to mention that DIETs are also doing a marvelous contribution for quality improvement of the educational institutions and schools. Therefore, DIETs will have to be strengthened. Similarly, CeMAT also will have to be strengthened.

With these few observations, I would like to conclude my speech.

*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni) : Madam Speaker our Minister has brought very good reforms in the field of education.

Yashpal Committee report has to be implemented in the larger interest of the country.

You have to bring reforms in teaching profession. Teachers training colleges should be given much attention. They have to groom well like foreign countries like London and Germany.

Admission in Masters Degree like MBA, MCA, M. Arch., caution should be taken before taking a student in these masters degree.

Deemed universities are in mushroom growth. They are working only in commercial way. They have to be monitored by a special team of the HRD Ministry.

Kendriya Vidyalaya/ Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya to be opened in my district i.e. my constituency Theni District. Students Educational Loan should be given by the banks. It is very difficult to get the Student Education loan. The Banks are asking security even for one lakh. We have to make the system easier to the students. To start colleges, HRD Ministry is spending a few thousands crores for improving the standard of education in Software Industry. The Worldwide students are in the top. In same way we have to improve the standard of engineering studies also.

Sir, we are giving only theoretical studies to students. We have to give research oriented study so that they can do new inventions. I appreciate Tamil Nadu Anna University students who invented satellite which is put into orbit. Such education can only be very useful. I urge upon the Central Government to implement such things in all universities of this country.

Sir, in colleges ragging has to be stopped by enacting a strong legislation. In schools and colleges run by Government, the students-teachers ratio is very much alarming. Sir each class 120 students – one teacher in village. One teacher school is also there in hill stations and remote villages' teachers' attendance was very poor. No monitoring system is there to enforce it.

Those teachers who are working in hill stations and remote areas should be given more importance by

giving more DA-HRA an additional traveling allowance which you are giving in cities. Rural poor illiterate children's future is at a standstill. The Government must have a right system to motivate the teachers and the students too.

For students after +2 you have to give the choice to them to study whatever they want in higher studies like vocational/ Research. Sir, we don't have the record of how many of our Indian students are studying abroad. Recently in Australia, London and Canada our Indian students were attacked. Our government has to check these sorts of unwanted harassments to our students. IIT, IIM type of institutions have to be started in all districts to avoid our students going abroad and we are losing our foreign exchange and our boys' lives also.

Our UPA Government under the auspicious guidance of Madam Sonia Ji and our Honourable HRD Minister Shri Kapil Sibbal Ji is bringing good reforms in the field of education. I fully support these demands. With these words I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request all the hon. Members to be very brief while speaking, and try to conclude their speeches within three minutes each. I am saying this because the hon. Minister is going to reply to the debate at 6.30 pm. We have to complete this business by 7 o'clock because we have already assured the House that at 7 o'clock there will be 'Zero Hour'.

The next speaker is Shri S. D. Shariq.

[Translation]

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ (Baramulla) : Sir, it is all right.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate hon'ble Minister Shri Kapil Sibbal to get such department, where he has opportunity to make good human being and thereby creating a good human environment. There will be construction of roads and other things but God has selected him to make good human being and to create a good human environment and it will be a challenge for him.

Education does not mean reading the words and learning the rules of mathematics. Education makes a man a good human being, it develops character teaches manners, and provide a broad perspective to think. If all these things are existing in us, it mean we are educated persons. If it is not reflected in different aspects of our life then the whole exercise has got some lacunae. So far as environment is concerned there is little reference to the system of education and system of imparting training. I would request that environment education should essentially be provided and we should develop such system of education, in which education is connected with the different aspects of life and an educated person may get a dignified position in the society. If a person after attaining the degree of B.A. or M.A. doesn't get recognition in society even after so much struggle, it means that such education is irrelevant. The objective of education is that a person should get adjusted in such a way in society after attaining a certain level of education that he can lead a respectful and dignified life. If it is not so then educationists shall have to review the education system thoroughly. Regarding moral education, he has stated that [English] It is not necessarily a religious education. [Translation] moral education is a must. We see in our everyday life that at present our society is riddled with moral evils, there is loot, there is corruption prevailing in our society one cannot trust one's own kith and kin who are ready to stab one in the back. All this can be attributed to our moral downfall. There surely are some loopholes in our education system, in its application and in the method of imparting education. I would like to draw your attention and, through you, the attention of educationists of the nation towards this stark fact. There is need to raise the standard of training. Teachers are being imparted shallow training. [English] Standard of teachers' training is to be raised. [Translation] It should be kept in mind. Method of imparting education should be improved. Now-a-days we become very happy by teaching few English word like Papa, Mamma, Daddy, Morning and Evening to our children. We feel very happy about it and it is our frivolous attitude that we produce the child before our guests asking him to speak these words. We do not spare a thought that by putting

[Shri S.D. Shariq]

a school bag of 15 kg. on the shoulders of a child meant it carry only 5 kg. weight we are putting extra strain on him. There is something wrong in it. It did not happen earlier, and now it needs to be taken into account now. Gandhiji advocated montessorian method for Vardha Scheme, i.e. Learning by doing. Today we do not adopt it. We verbally exchange and speak English words and console ourselves that we are educated. We are literate but not educated. Education and culture should be inter-related. Even after getting education a person may be selfish but if he is cultured then he will be able to serve the masses despite being less educated. We should re-structure the education system to serve the purpose. My submission is that we should improve the pattern of examination.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to cooperate; otherwise the other Members will not be able to speak. I have to call the Minister to reply to the debate at 6.30 p.m.

[Translation]

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ : We shall have to change examination pattern. One cannot evaluate the intelligence of a student accumulated after the study of five years only in ten minutes. During today's age of privatization education has been commercialized. Fee or Rs. 20 - 50 thousand is charged from little children. We have no control over it and it needs to be taken into account.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Owaisi, please be brief and take only three minutes. The Minister is going to reply at 6.30 p.m. Hon. Member, you can lay rest of your written speech on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ : Sir, there is need to provide

computer education in remote areas. We should open two or three central schools in each constituency.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up. Mr. Owaisi, please start your speech now. You have to take only three minutes to speak. We should complete all the speeches by 6.30 p.m. at which time the Minister will start his reply. Please cooperate with the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI S.D. SHARIQ : The objective of education is the all round development of the child which include moral, physical and cultural development. Hence, there is an urgent need to give priority to sports.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad) : Sir, I will put it in a very concise way.

[Translation]

It has been written in Alawa newspaper that 'Sabak Padh fir sadakat ka, Shujat ka, Adalat ka, liya jayega kam tujhse duniya ki ibabat ka.

[English]

Sir, education is the cornerstone or a foundation-stone in which societies and nations build their future. As there is a paucity of time, I will just finish it at the level of minorities. According to Sachar Committee, State-wise literacy levels, by gender, in urban areas – Muslims are 70, Scheduled Castes are 68; in rural, Muslims are 53, Scheduled Castes are 49. If we take the same figures in UP, for Muslims it is 55 and for Scheduled Castes it is 58; in West Bengal, for Muslims it is 66 and for Scheduled Castes it is 68. The mean year of schooling for children between the age group of 7 years and 16 years for Muslims is 3.26 and for the Scheduled Castes, it is 3.35. If we come to UP, the Muslims are 2.60 and the Scheduled Castes

are 3.09. If you take the proportion of enrolment of children between the age of 6-14 years about the socio-religious communities, once again Muslims are very low. If we juxtapose that with the number of Muslims who have completed primary schools, it is only 60.9 per cent, for middle schools it is 46.5, and for matriculates it is 23.9. Now when we see the 15 Point Programme – I have got these figures from the Internet – the number of schools to be constructed is 4,404 and the achievement is 3266 and it comes to 74 per cent. In respect of the number of primary schools, the achievement is 64 per cent. About the number of additional class rooms, the achievement is 74 per cent. About the number of KGV sanctioned is 168 and the achievement is 133. I would request the hon. Minister to meet these targets.

The second issue is this. The dropout rate is very high amongst the Muslims. The hon. Minister has given only Rs.1.5 crore for infrastructure development. How is it enough? He has given Rs.1.5 crore for 19 per cent of population. It should have been increased to at least Rs.100 crore.

Now we come to NCPUL. The language has played a great and pivotal role in the Independence struggle. What has been given? It is only Rs. 5.70 crore. I understand that the Government is for MAANU. In the last Government – hon. MoS is here – the Government had sanctioned one Unani College and a Civil Service training centre with lodging facility. We do not know the fate of that. The last Government had accepted that in Kendriya Vidyalayas, a new category would be created for economically backward classes and minorities. The Kendriya Vidyalayas are not accepting this category.

Now we come to Jan Shikshan Sansthan. There are still 88 districts remaining where this has to be formed. We come to JNV. The last Government had taken a decision that a section each from Class VI to VIII would be introduced. That decision is still pending. What about diversity index? Where has the diversity index gone? What is UGC doing? This Government is in a continuing form.

About the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly freeze it at 40 per cent. The States are in no position to meet the financial constraints. The States cannot do with the financial constraints. There is an immediate need for convergence. My request to the hon. Minister is to ensure that the literacy levels of Muslims are increased. I would request you to start the conditional cash transfer scheme for the Muslim minorities. What is the fate of the Fatmi Sub-Committee? Last time, the MoS had called a meeting. It had recommended so many things. We do not know about that. There was a mention of the hundred model schools. What will be the share of the Muslim minorities? These are my views that I have put forward in a very concise way. I hope the hon. Minister will respond to it.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (Pathanamathitta) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for this opportunity. I consider this moment as a great privilege to share a few words on the Demands for Grants relating to the Human Resource Development Ministry in this House of the people.

First of all, I express my sincere gratitude to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to have provided me an opportunity to be here, in the great shrine of democracy, the Indian Parliament.

Our former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi had a dream about young India. His dream has come to reality now in the literal sense. As we know, almost half of the Indian population is below 25 years. Almost ten per cent of them or 12 crore are between the ages of 18 and 23. If we consider in terms of India's demographic nature, we have to say that ours is the youngest country in the world. The fact clearly demonstrates the emergence of a new young and vibrant India.

Sir, as you know, human resource is the most valuable resource in any nation. Human resource has the capacity and capability to convert any resource into productive assets. The task young India faces now is to make human resource a valuable resource. The only way to achieve this goal is to enhance the knowledge and skills of our people

[Shri Anto Antony]

through education and training. Transformation of illiterate masses into literate men and women is the greatest mission started by our great visionary Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. No wonder from the very outset of our Independent India has given utmost priority to the education sector.

I come from the most literate State in India. We the Keralites consider education as the most important gift in the world. It is the result of laudable efforts made by missionaries and benign kings.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The remaining speech you can lay on the Table and it will be considered as a part of the proceedings.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY : I will conclude within two minutes, Sir.

Long back they were concerned with the construction of a strong educational system in Kerala. This led to the universalisation of education in Kerala. This contributed immensely to strengthen the secular fabric of Kerala society.

My Constituency has one of the highest literacy percentages in India. It has one of the best primary and secondary educational networks. Still we do not have any institution of higher education of national standard. I take this opportunity to request the hon. Minister to start a second campus of the newly started Central University in Pathanamathitta. At present, the University is situated in the northern part of Kerala at Kasaragode which is almost thousand kilometres from the Capital of Kerala. If a second campus is established in Pathanamathitta, it will be easily accessible to all the regions of Kerala.

I take this opportunity to appreciate the UPA Government for launching scholarship schemes for college or university students. I would request the Government to allot more funds to the Educational Loan Interest Subsidy Scheme so that it could be of great relief to the students pursuing professional education.

I draw your kind attention to the unjust loan and interest systems existing in some States, for instance in Kerala. Banks impose up to 13.5 per cent interest on these loans. For getting loans students have to submit collateral to the concerned bank. This is not only against the rights of the students but also in violation of the directions given by Government of India for grant of loans without collateral security. By taking this stand, banks are denying the right to education to brilliant students who come from poor families.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The remaining speech you can lay on the Table. The time available is less and the Minister has to reply.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY : Moreover, now the banks grant only fifty per cent loan to the students. All these provisions are against the interest of the students.

I would request both the HRD Minister and the Finance Minister to urgently consider this matter and direct the banks to adopt student-friendly schemes. As per the directions of the Centre, educational loans should be granted at low interest without collateral. Being an educationally advanced State Kerala deserves higher education institutions like IIT and IIM. It is a long pending demand of the State of Kerala and I hope the Ministry of HRD will consider it favourably.

Hon. HRD Minister Kapil Sibal has announced a wonderful 100 days' action plan which, if implemented, is obviously going to change the education landscape of India. The action plan reflects the vision of a great statesman for the next generation. However, transformation of this vision into reality needs more allocation of financial resources. Given the resources constraint, it is extremely imperative to encourage public-private partnership. This equally necessitates benign and flexible banking laws.

Sir, I lay the rest of my speech on the Table.

*I consider this moment as a great privilege to share

... This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

a few words on Human recourse development in this house of people.

We have launched various schemes. Over years, we could achieve our goals regarding primary education to a substantial extent. However, in a globalised world we cannot be satisfied with this mere achievement. We have to think beyond and make deliberate efforts to think about higher education seriously.

They provided education irrespective of caste, creed and religion. This led to the universalisation of education in Kerala. This has contributed immensely to strengthen to the secular fabric of Kerala society. I am especially happy that I represent the district which has achieved 100% literacy first time in the country.

Sir, today education plays a major role in the socio-political and economic life of Keralites. One third of the 3 crore Keralites work outside the state or abroad. It is their education that helped them to attain jobs in other places. Therefore I consider it as my duty to speak about education in specific-in human resource development in this distinguished platform.

As per the survey conducted by a leading weekly, only one out of nine students joins college. India has one of the lowest higher education enrolment ratio of 11%. It is 83% in the United States. It shows the poor condition of higher education in India.

Moreover, a study by the National Accreditation Council shows that 90% of the colleges and 70% of the universities that the council graded were of poor quality. Due to the poor quality of the higher education in India, the students prefer to go abroad. Indian students spend 7 billion dollars every year for getting education from foreign universities.

According to Mahatma Gandhi, "Education is a process of bringing the best of students. That means education system has to make a student able to contribute more in the learning process."

Sir, unfortunately we follow a spoon feeding system of education. If I were to quote the words of the committee on Renovation and rejuvenation of higher education headed by Prof. Yashopal I quote, "most instrumentalities of our education harm the potentiality of human mind for constructing and creating new knowledge. We have emphasized delivery of information and rewarded capability of storing information. This does not help in creating a knowledge society.

Another observation of the eminent educationist Prof Narendra Yadav, Member of Planning Commission, who is the former Vice Chancellor of Pune University that there are universities in India that have not revised their syllabus for more than 30 years. Thus, the spoon feeding system of teaching and outdated syllabus has become the hallmark of the higher education in India.

We cannot compete with these outdated facilities in a globalised world. I was shocked at the findings of a recent survey that only one out of 10 Indian students has a degree of Humanities and only one out of 4 engineering graduates is employable. Therefore periodic review of the curriculum is very important.

Sir, Education should be society oriented and it should satisfy the needs of the society. For instance the American education system is the backbone of Technology industries in that country. The U.S. currently accounts for over a third of the entire worlds output of articles in Science and Engineering. India in contrast accounts for less than 3% of research papers published. This is the impact of Teacher oriented spoon teaching system of Education.

Our students or researchers have very less to contribute to society it should be changed. We have that responsibility to realize the dream of Mahatma Gandhi by making our researchers able to contribute the best of the society.

Sir, my Constituency has one of the highest literacy percentage in India. It also has one of the best primary

[Shri Anto Antony]

and secondary educational networks. Still don't have any institution of higher education of a national standard. I used this opportunity to request the honorable Minister to start a Second Campus of the newly started central University in Pathanamthitta. At present the University situated in the northern part of Kerala, Kasargode. Its almost 1000 K.M from the capital of Kerala a Second Campus is established in Pathanamthitta. It will be easily accessible to all the regions of Kerala.

It is pertinent to mention the major role played by IGNOU. IGNOU is playing major role to provide access to higher education to all section of population especially to the disadvantage groups. The initiatives taken by the IGNOU to provide courses that satisfy the needs of the society launching of community colleges are the best example of its commitment to the society. I request the Govt. to give necessary direction to other universities to launch society oriented courses.

The knowledge commission always stressed on the qualitative improvement of research institutes that could bring forth more patented invention. So we need a superior research infrastructure upon which private sector could have confidence.

Welcoming foreign universities to the Indian soil is a welcome step. Utmost caution is required to ensure that these universities are world class in their home countries and they are capable to impart qualitative education in India.*

[Translation]

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat) : Hon. Chairman Sir, education brings awareness, awareness leads to transformation, transformation ushers in development. India comprises of people of different races, culture, language, communities. Therefore, education needs to be value based. We have two kinds of education in vogue at present. One is the education for the wealthy

*Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Bengali

people. The schools, colleges, universities in our country have touched international standards. Only the privileged few are getting admission in these institutions, receiving education and leading a better life in the society. On the other hand, we find that in the rural India, where 'Sarva Siksha Abhiyan' has been implemented, schools even lack the basic infrastructure – there is no water or electricity connection, no proper sanitation facilities ; even enough number of teachers are not there and most of them remain absent. Children from the poor rural families do not receive quality education. Members of the SC / ST or backward communities are thus never aware of their rights. They want jobs to survive, not school education. Therefore the rate of drop out is more in the villages. My previous Speaker has also mentioned that the number of drop outs are increasing among the minority communities, particularly Muslims.

If education leads to development then both the Central and State Governments have to take concrete measures to improve the standard of education. Education is in the concurrent list. If the curricula of the schools at the primary or metric levels are merged with the central curriculum. I will definitely oppose it. We have a variety of religion culture, community, creed and language and each is unique. The learning system thus should cater to the needs of all the sections of the society, not just one. The State Government and the Central Government should take care of the learning requirements of everybody and adopt the syllabi accordingly.

Now, let me put forth a few suggestions Sir. Firstly the University of Calcutta bears a heritage status. That should be recognised as a central university. Secondly, the quality of teaching at the Madrasah level should be improved for imparting better education to the students of the minority communities. Thirdly, the district which I hail from does not have a single central school, engineering college, technical college or any polytechnic school at the head quarter. Thus I would like to request Hon. HRD Minister that please see to it that in every district headquarter, such institutions are set up

so that education gets a boost and the standard is also raised. Only then the poor, hapless, downtrodden people of the society will be attracted towards education and in turn become more and more conscious to mould their own destiny.

With these few words, I thank you for allowing me to speak and conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you very much for cooperating with the Chair.

Shri Mahato, you can speak for only three minutes. Like our friend who spoke just now, you should be very brief.

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO (Purulia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you that you have given me chance to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the HRD Ministry.

You have given me three minutes, but I will conclude in 2½ minutes.

I have some points relating to this matter. Firstly, I would speak on dropouts by mostly the tribal students and the backward students of the rural villages. They are dropping out from the schools. The SSA is trying to manage it, but due to poverty, the rate of dropout is increasing day by day. My humble request to the Government through you, Sir, is that we need to inspire the tribals, the Scheduled Castes and the backward students, especially the girls, to go to school; the Government may think of supplying bicycles to inspire them. It is because in the remote villages, the schools are too far away. The tribal and backward community girls do not go to the schools. If the Central Government supplies bicycles to these girls from class 8 to class 12, then the girl students will be inspired to go to schools.

Secondly, the infrastructure of the Navodaya Schools is not so good. There is a Navodaya School in my Constituency, Purulia (W.B.) which is an undeveloped and

backward District, Purulia. Till date, the infrastructure of this Navodaya School has not been improved.

Thirdly, in West Bengal, there is a burning problem regarding the PTTI. More than 75,000 trainee students are facing great trouble. Most of the students have been absorbed in jobs, some have passed the PTTI course and some have completed the course. My humble submission to the hon. Minister is to please look into the matter.

Finally, the Calcutta University is the oldest University and my humble request is that this University must be declared as a central university.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar) : Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

I rise to support these Demands for Grants which were raised by the hon. Union Minister of Human Resource Development but I do have some critical observations on certain matters that pertain to the very grim and deplorable state of affairs in the field of educational sector, particularly in relation to Bodoland Territory as well as in the tribal dominated areas in the State of Assam in particular and across the whole country in general.

Before coming to my main points, here I would like to highlight first the background of the Bodo medium education. I want to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to the following few very pertinent points. Bodo medium education was started with effect from 1963, that is, Bodo language was introduced as medium of instruction in the primary stage. Then, it was upgraded up to the secondary stage with effect from 1968. More than 95 per cent Bodo students used to take their education through Bodo medium. As on today, within Bodoland Territory as well as in other districts of

[Shri Sansuma Khungur Bwiswmuthiary]

Assam, around 1000 numbers of primary schools of Bodo medium, around 500 numbers of upper primary schools, that is, English medium language schools of Bodo medium and around 500 numbers of high schools of Bodo medium have been languishing like anything without having been provincialised by the State Government of Assam since 1980s and 1990s due to lack of funds. These schools have been facing untold trouble and miseries. These schools have been deprived of the benefits of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan scheme because they have not been taken over by the Government of Assam. I would like to request the Government of India to sanction a sum of at least Rs. 500 crore as a special Central package in favour of Bodoland Territorial Government as well as Government of Assam so as to facilitate provincialisation of these languishing schools without any further delay as a measure of rescuing the Bodo medium education. It is a very serious situation. Here I would like to appeal to the Government of India to bring the tribal education sector under the control of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and as a permanent feature the Government of India should make a provision for sanctioning a minimum sum of Rs. 500 crore annually for the tribal Bodo medium education in the State of Assam.

Sir, apart from all these points I would like put forth some of my long pending demands. There should be a Central University with the name Bodoland Central University at Kokrajhar. There should be a Central Agriculture University with the name Bodoland Central University. There should be at least one IIT, one IIM, one IIIT, 10 numbers of JNVs, 10 numbers of KVs, 100 numbers of model schools, 10 numbers of quality science colleges, 10 numbers of polytechnique institutes, 5 numbers of textile institutes set up within the Bodoland territory. I would also like to request that there should be one medical college set up in the Bodoland territory. I would like the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to look into these demands of the Bodoland people without any further delay.

* In view of the aforementioned deplorable state of affairs in the sphere of education prevailing in our Bodoland territory. I would like to reiterate the following long pending genuine demands and issues of urgent public importance for active consideration of the Government of India with immediate effect.

Need to sanction minimum of Rs.500. crore central fund in favour of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) and Assam Government to help facilitate the provincialisation of 1000 nos. of primary schools, 500 nos of upper primary (Middle English) and 500 nos. of High schools of Bodo medium. The Central Government should take appropriate steps to sanction minimum of Rs.500 crore central fund in favour of Bodoland Territorial Council and the State Government of Assam to help facilitate the provincialisation of all the ventures primary schools (1000 Nos) upper primary schools (500 nos. Middle English) and High schools (500 nos.) of Bodo medium that have been languishing within Bodoland territory and also in other districts in Assam since the 1980s and 1990s with immediate effect; further, the centre also should take necessary steps to provincialise all the non-provincialised schools of Assamese, Bengali and Hindi media that too have been languishing across the whole state since the 1980s and 1990s without any further more delay.

The Central Government of India should take appropriate steps to set up the following premier educational institutions in the Bodoland. A Central University with the name and style of 'Bodoland Central University' should be set up at Kokrajhar.

A Central Agriculture University with the name and style of "Bodoland Central Agriculture University" also should be set up within Bodoland with immediate effect.

One IIM, one IIT and one IIIT should be set up within Bodoland territory.-with immediate effect.

10 Nos. of JNVs, 10 Nos. of KVs., and 100 nos. of

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Model schools also should be set up within Bodoland territory;

10 Nos. of model science colleges should be set up within Bodoland territory;

10 Nos. of polytechnic institutions also should be set up within Bodoland territory;

5 Nos. of textile institutes should also be set up within Bodoland territory;

One Bodoland Institute of fashion and textile technology also should be set up within Bodoland; and

The Bodo-medium education and the tribal education across the country should be brought under the control of the HRD.*

[Translation]

*SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR (Shahjahanpur) : Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development that there is no engineering and medical college in Shahjahanpur, district of Uttar Pradesh from where I have been elected, due to which students are forced to go outside.

Therefore, I request him to open a medical or engineering college in Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Khagaria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the demands of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

The time is very limited. So, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister about Kendriya Vidyalaya of my region Saharsa in Bihar. A long period has passed after opening of that Kendriya Vidyalaya but it does not have its own building. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan says that they will construct building immediately as soon as they get land. Government of Bihar had allotted land free of cost for

Kendriya Vidyalaya, Saharsa four years ago but still building is not being constructed. Similarly, effort has been made for Kendriya Vidyalaya, Khagaria. Government should construct building there after providing land.

The arrangement has been made to impart education to the children of Central Government Employees in Kendriya Vidyalayas. The Government brings huge budget and considerable amount has been provided by the Ministry of Human Resource Development for this purpose. So I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister through you that it is necessary to construct buildings for Kendriya Vidyalayas in Bihar and outside Bihar because small school buildings made available by the Government are not sufficient to accommodate children in them and to teach them properly. Such schools exist only for name sake.

Through you, I would also like to say that area of the constituency of a member is vast and they have been given quota to recommend two students for admission in Kendriya Vidyalaya of their constituency. It is my request to the hon'ble Minister to raise that quota from two to four because all members face many problems due to this. If you raise this quota, I will be grateful to you. Through you, I would like to make one more point that there is acute shortage of teachers in Navodaya Vidyalaya, Saharsa.

Arrangements for more teachers should be made there. We will be grateful if you permit M.P. quota there to recommend the students.

*SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur) : Today, Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development are being discussed. We talk about common man and increasing growth rate but we are lagging behind in Human Resource Development. As per UNDP Human Resource Development Index, 2008, India secured 132nd position out of 179 countries in the year 2006. It means that we have to make efforts to get more achievements in this field. Almost half of the total population of our country is under the age of 25 years but the Government have

[Shri Hansraj G. Ahir]

failed to provide better opportunities for their education. The Government have increased budget allocation of Rs.2000 crore for higher education. But no attention has been paid to secondary level education keeping in view the problems being faced by the Government. As per a survey, the Government is going to be burdened with the responsibility to educate 3 crore children under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Today, around 72 thousand posts of teachers at secondary level are lying vacant and two lakh new teachers are needed and to provide education for all, schools in large number at secondary level are very much needed. The Government have decided to launch National Secondary Education campaign and allocated Rs. 350 crore in the budget which is insufficient. How can you open 6 thousand schools with this amount. I demand that budgetary allocation may be increased for it.

During the 14th Lok Sabha the Government had assured to cover all tribal areas under Indira Gandhi Scheduled Tribe University which had been established in Amarkantak but still no work has been done in this regard. Keeping it in view, the Ministry of Human Resource Development should announce in the budget to make arrangements for higher technical education alongwith Medical College in Gadchirauli tribal dominated region of Maharashtra. The Government have taken action to bring changes in the higher education as per the recommendations of Bhal Chandra Mungnekar Committee constituted on behalf of Vidyapeeth Grant Commission. But human aspect will have to be kept in view while implementing these recommendations. UGC has decided to make NET/SET mandatory for appointment of lecturers to raise the standard of education. Due to sudden implementation of this decision, lakhs of teachers who have qualified M.Phil, will be rendered jobless. UGC has ordered to relax norms for those who have got M.Phil degree by 30th June, 2009, but now it is urging for NET/SET. Many teachers focussed at M.Phil leaving the study for NET/SET. They are feeling cheated. Keeping in view the large number of M.Phil holder teachers, the Government should intervene

in the matter to give relief to those who have got M.Phil degree by 30th June, 2009 treating them equivalent to NET/SET. Jobs are not being generated in the country. The number of unemployed is increasing continuously. In such a situation, how can lakhs of teachers be rendered jobless. I request the hon'ble Minister that Government should take a decision to give immediate relief to these teachers.

The Government have make up its mind to allow foreign Universities to come in this country. If it is true then Indian Universities will have to compete with these Universities. This decision, will raise other issues related to national security. Hence, Government should try to arrive at a consensus by constituting a Committee of experts before implementing this decision. Various irregularities are being reported in Mid-Day-Meal Scheme being implemented by the Government. This is a good scheme. Percentage of school going children has increased due to the scheme. But the diet being provided under the scheme should have quality nutrition. Teachers should not be engaged in cooking meals. The Government should assign the task of cooking meals to Mahila Bachat Samuh (women self help groups) active in the area. I would like to request the Government to make a provision to award the task of cooking meals being provided under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme to 'women self help groups' throughout the country.

Literacy rate is quite low in tribal and remote areas of the country. There is an urgent need to establish residential schools on the lines of Navodaya Vidyalaya in such areas in view of poverty and illiteracy. I would like to request the Government to allocate necessary funds to establish residential schools in tribal areas. Ministry of Human Resource Development has proposed to do away with class Xth Board Exams and mixed reactions are being received in this regard. But various questions will emerge due to abolition of the class Xth Board Exam system. It would be better to take decision in this regard after getting the matter thoroughly examined by an Expert Committee. There is no need to take decision in haste.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH (Hamirpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to paucity of time, I will express myself briefly. I would like to raise the points regarding basic, primary, junior and high school education. Kapil Sibbalji is a renowned lawyer. He will understand my point. I would like to say that there is a need to improve the quality of education being imparted at level of basic, primary, junior and high school. All activities except teaching take place there.

Sir, I would like to talk about Uttar Pradesh. Teachers are being engaged there on contract basis. They are getting Rs. 12-15 thousand as salary. Teachers have, in turn hired other people by paying hence Rs. two thousand per month and actually they are teaching in the schools. This paved way for Shiksha Mitra scheme in Uttar Pradesh when this situation was countered House. Therefore, at the outset there is a need to improve the quality of education.

Secondly, I would like to say that girls' education is quite negligible. There are only 10 girls school out of 100 schools. I come from Bundelkhand and there is no Intermediate College for Girls, Degree College and High school within the distance of 50 k.m. in Mahoba region of my constituency. Girls' education is totally neglected.

Third, I would like to say that Uttar Pradesh's problem is that there are more coaching centres than schools. There are 150 coaching centres in comparison to High Schools. This is the education system set up by the Government. Copying is almost institutionalized there at High School and Intermediate level. Some centres even advertise that facility of copying is available in their centres. High School pass boys are not even able to write an application either in Hindi or in English. This is the State of education system.

At the end I would like to submit that there are no specific funds for State Universities. Even Vice Chancellors have to fawn over Deputy Secretary to get funds. In Uttar Pradesh...* there was Degree College

*Not recorded.

which received Rs. 100 crores in just 2 years whereas budget of Allahabad University was Rs. 12 crore. Every University of Uttar Pradesh is facing shortage of funds. Therefore, all Universities should be granted status of Central Universities... (Interruptions) Last point ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister is going to reply. So, I request the hon. Members to take their seats. Nothing will go on record except the reply of the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN : After the Minister's reply, we will take up Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will not allow you. Please take your seat. Now, I request the hon. Minister to start his reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Since he is not present in the House, his name will be deleted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Singh, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you may reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you can start.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, please be silent.

...(Interruptions)

*DR. KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI (Ahmedabad West) : Sir, I am extremely thankful to you for providing me an opportunity for expressing my views in this great Mandir of our democracy. I am also thankful to my party and leader of opposition Hon'ble Advaniji and Deputy Leader of House Hon'ble Smt. Sushmaji for sharing my views on Human Resource and Development.

The basic goal of democratic system is equal opportunities to all. here I would quote Mahatma Gandhi, saying 'Democracy is the art and science of mobilizing the entire physical, economical and spiritual resources of various sections of the people, in the service of the common good of all',

I would like to share my views on commercialization of education. Our leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and others had a dream to spread education to poorest of poor.

Education should be basic right in our democratic set up. But, unfortunately looking to the present scenario, the poor and Dalits are forgotten, as far as education is concerned. Today, there is totally commercialization of education policy. Since few years there is commercial approach in the field of education.

Non granted school for pre and primary education.

Here in K.G. classes and in primary education, the fee structure is exuberant. These schools are collecting nearly

*Speech was laid on the Table

Rs. 500/- for distribution of forms for admission. These schools collect plenty of rupees on name of other services e.g. Transportation, uniforms, books etc. For Secondary education this system of commercialization prevails and standard X and XII tuitions is almost compulsory. The fee structure of tuition is exuberant for economical medium segment parents.

Then where is the question of poor to get entry in this capitalistic system? For the children of poor, it is very very difficult to get admission in science and other streams. they can't afford lakhs of rupees for private tuition and coaching.

By commercializing the education, knowingly or unknowingly the poor is eliminated to avail science and other education. It is a very very serious arrangement, which needs to be changed.

For higher education like medical, technical, management and others, the capitation fees are prevailing and I am sure that the poor can't dream to get admission in this system.

There are many private medical, engineering and other higher educational institutes, where there is nearly 100% admission provision on payment seat.

I won't hesitate to say that there is nearly 1005 reservation for rich people in these institutes.

These private payment seat institutes, misguides on the name of merits among the payment class, where poor is nowhere.

I would like to warn regarding this system of 1005 Reservation among elite and rich class.

In our Constitution reservation was implemented to achieve social justice, but this cent percent reservation for economically rich is nowhere social justice! It is misguiding the country on one name of so-called merit.

I strongly condemn it and such payment private institutes should be banned.

I would like to say for disabled both physical and mentally, to be more precise children with "Cerebral Palsy" requires special attention for rehabilitation and education. Not only the children with Cerebral palsy are miserable but their parents and entire family members have to look after them in all aspects.

These segment requires special care and provision. I request Government to take concrete actions for them.

In this Budget, Aligarh Muslim University, University in Murshidabad (West Bengal) and Mallapur (Kerala), Rs. 25 crore each grant is allocated. I appreciate it but there is no provision for Banaras Hindu University, one of the oldest Ayurvedic University of Gujarat and Somanath Sanskrit University. There is substantial provision for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and others Dalit students in terms of scholarships, education aids with subsidy and student loans.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and in particular kanya kelavani should get prime importance. Government should set a goal to achieve 0% drop out rate in primary education.

In Gujarat, since last 8 years the admission in school 1st standard is celebrated as 'Shala Pravesh Mahotsava' and acceleration of female education as "Kanya Kelavani Rath" implemented very successfully.

Regarding, implementation of newer policies in education. Government should take state Government and educationist into confidence. I caution the Government regarding scrapping of standard 10th. There is many courses e.g. Diploma etc. after 10th standard which should be kept into consideration.

Regarding single central board for 12th examination, India is a vast country and each state has its own curriculum and historic background. Even it is difficult to achieve uniformity in educational course. Hence, Government should take all these points into consideration for its implementation.

Bill passed by Rajya Sabha I would like to share my strong objection regarding "Reservation in posts and services Bill, 2008 which was introduced by then MOS in the office of Prime Minister. The Bill had sought to exempt 47 premier institutes of National Importance, imparting Higher Education including IIMs, IITs, AIIMs etc from faculty reservation. This bill was passed by Rajya Sabha during the period of previous UPA Government. When we are talking loudly regarding upliftment of SC and ST, it is absolutely contradictory act. It will lead to gross injustice to this under privileged class. On the contrary many more concrete steps should be implemented for them. I appeal strongly to withdraw this bill immediately and promise should be given on the floor of the House.

Sanskrit is oldest language and our own heritage and glory. Do we sit up and take notice of Sanskrit, only when some one like, say NASA scientist Rick Briggs emphasis the importance of Sanskrit in his article on "Knowledge representation in Sanskrit and Artificial Intelligence?" Do we need outsider to remind us that Sanskrit is not merely a language but also a repository of India's rich cultural and intellectual heritage?

That also enjoys a pivotal position in study of comparative linguistics and no linguistic study of the world leading languages like, English, German, French, Spanish etc. is complete without the knowledge of Sanskrit.

Sir, William Jones, the renowned orientalist and the founder of Asiatic society of Bengal, was absolutely correct when he said "The Sanskrit language whatever may its antiquity is of a wonderful structure, more perfect than the Greek, more copious than the Latin and more refined.

Now a days Sanskrit can be boon for career options also. In coming years, there will be more demands of Sanskrit students, they can find employment in industries like—

- Government agencies
- Colleges and universities

[Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki]

- Communications industries
- Banking sector
- International non government organizations
- Research Organizations
- Indian Army etc.
- Five best institute for Sanskrit in India are—
 - 1) Delhi University 2) Banaras Hindu University
 - 3) University of Pune 4) Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan Delhi. 5) Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rastriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Delhi.

*SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner) : There is a demand to open a Central University at Bikaner (Rajasthan). The Technical Committee constituted by the State Government recommended for a Central University at Bikaner. I request the HRD Minister to accept it.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : Sir, I rise in support of the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Human Resource Development as allocated in the Budget. I am grateful to all Members of this House who have discussed the issue of education threadbare in the course of the debate on the Demands for Grants. This gives me hope because, I think, there was unanimity in the House that education system needs reform. Now, what direction that reform should take and what are the hurdles to be crossed? ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi) : Please speak in Hindi as you know Hindi well.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you can continue. Hon. Members, do not disturb the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : I am ready to reply if you permit.

I was saying that idea is the same but means are different. Target is the same but methods to realize it could be different. But I think that every Government has been failure in providing quality education to children in sixty years. This is the reality. If we don't accept the reality we will follow the same policies but if we accept the reality then we can change our approach and formulate better education policy for a better future of children. There is a need to reform education system. Three vital points require consideration while formulating education policy-

[English]

First is "expansion"; second is "inclusion" and third is "excellence."

[Translation]

Murli Manohar Joshi ji made a useful point while initiating the debate. He raised one question but didn't give the reply himself. He asked what is the meaning of 'autonomy'? Today I would take 2-3 minutes to explain it.

[English]

What is the meaning of "autonomy" in the context of education? I think when you want to find out the meaning of "autonomy", look at the child, do not look at institutions, and do not look at policies. "Autonomy" will only come about when you give the child the right to decide because he is the foundation of education. He is the recipient of knowledge. Unless you give him the choice, he can never move forward. For sixty years we have never given our children the choices.

[Translation]

The examination results of the Tenth Board decide the career of the child and on the basis of their tenth class

results, they are advised to take admission in Engineering or Shriram College of Commerce.

[English]

The examination results of the Tenth Board decide the career of the child, not the child deciding what his career should be. That is the dilemma that the education in this country faces. Do you want to give the child the right to decide or do you want examinations to decide for the child what he should do in life? You will give autonomy to the child when he decides, not when examinations decide for him.

[Translation]

I would like to raise this issue before you. The child should be given autonomy to decide his career himself after consulting his parents and teachers as the teachers and parents know about their child and the child himself knows as to what he wants to do in future. But at present the examination results of the Tenth Board decide the career of the child. Now the Government are deriving them of that autonomy. I have never stated that I will abolish the examination of the Tenth Board. I have never given such a statement. I had stated that in 10 thousand schools affiliated to the CBSE system, the Government should exempt children from 10 the class Board Examination who want to continue till Twelfth. I have only stated that if he wants to continue till 12 the then he should be exempted from Tenth Class Board examination.

In India, there are 41 boards. I cannot abolish them and I have said that I will abolish them. I do not know from where these questions have arisen. It is not under my jurisdiction to abolish these boards. I neither want to abolish them nor have I stated so. I do not know why these questions are being raised in this House? I stated about CBSE because all these schools have uniform system of examination and education. It is not going to harm anyone. We will discuss about it. First we will discuss it with the Principals of these schools and the people and after that we will take action in this regard.

We can take the example of Europe. In Europe, 40 countries have started a process called Bolonia process. There are several countries in it. Now since, European Union has been formed, any student of a school can take admission in another school easily. If he has completed International Backaloriate from France then he can go to Germany for getting education in higher education institutions. According to Bolania process, every student has to learn three languages. Under this process, one exam is conducted in all 40 countries so that after completing his schooling in France he can get admission in German University and if he has studied in Germany he can go to Spain or any other place, for job. There is no diversity in Europe. These 40 countries have adopted this process but we have not yet paid any attention to it. I would like to raise one point before you. The basis idea behind this process is population mobility. A child can get education in one country and go to another country for job. But look at the situation of State Boards in our country. In some states pass percentage is 35 percent and in some other it is 27 percent, so while enrolling them in universities they should be made equivalent to other boards. It itself is the biggest dilemma. It also creates tension in civil society. The Government should formulate such a policy which can provide quality education as well as mobility to the students. The Government should aim at providing quality education to the children. What do you mean by diversity in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Anthropology. There is diversity in Geography and History, but the students of this stream do not take admission in IIT. The students of Science stream only take admission in IIT and there is no diversity in this stream? What diversity they are talking about? We have to think about the nation and the future of India. For that we all are united and we should remain united. I assure you that the Government are not contemplating to abolish the State Boards, in fact, during the next 5 to 7 years, it will try to raise the standard of State Boards equivalent to other boards. For that we need the support of States. I have a dream to formulate such a policy for India under which the students all over India could appear only in one examination i.e. for 12th class

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

exam., and all students may be brought to an equal level so that they can get admission in universities on the basis of merit. One, who secure a place in merit list should get the institute of his choice. Nothing could be better than this, but, if there are different boards, they will neither be equivalent nor will there be any quality. This task cannot be done overnight but, it could be done in coming five to seven years. It is not the issue of tenth board, it is a matter of autonomy, process of which was started by Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi.

[English]

How to make the child autonomous? Now, you cannot make the child autonomous unless you give him choice.

[Translation]

What and how he wants to study. He must have a choice in this regard. We need to increase the number of schools. A child must have a choice to choose a school where he wants to study. There may be schools which might have specialization in particular subject while, some other schools may give more attention to other subjects. Several hon'ble members have rightly raised this issue that in the present scenario a student, after completing his tenth class must have an option of choosing the trade of his choice, be it carpentry, automobile engineering, refrigeration engineering or masonry. The CBSE must introduce the degrees in above trade also because it is the right of every child to pursue the course of his choice. Every child does not want to become a Doctor, to pursue PHD or M. Phil course. Some of them want to opt for IIT while others want to pursue other job oriented trades so that they can get some employment after completion of the course. If CBSE introduces degrees in such vocational training courses, then the students will have option of either opting for a Polytechnic or pursuing an academic course. Children must have a choice in this regard. By giving choice we can provide autonomy to them. Autonomy do not mean to appoint a particular person, rather it is a matter of having

a control. Autonomy means to pay attention towards the children and youth and the little girls who want to be self sufficient to lead the country towards progress.

[English]

Similarly, if you give that autonomy to the child in school, you will have to give that autonomy to the child in college and you cannot give autonomy without expansion. It has no meaning because you are narrowing the choice of your children if you do not have enough institutions in India.

[Translation]

The student have grievances that even after securing 97 percent marks, they are not able to get admission in the college of their choice because there are limited colleges in which they want admission. We need to expand the infrastructure. Expansion of educational infrastructure can be done by giving permission to good educational institutes without any political interference.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I come to the report of Yashpal Committee. The said committee and knowledge commission has recommended that.

[English]

"We need expansion of opportunities." Why? It is for the autonomy of the child. How will you get expansion of opportunities unless you allow investments within India in the education sector? Our total need is something like Rs. 4,00,000 crore.

[Translation]

How this requirement is going to be met, the Government do not have any magic band. This amount cannot be generated through taxes, this amount can be generated through investment, but what will be the source of investment. Government can make investment to some extent. We will pass right to education bill, I will come to that point later on, but, first of all, we need some

investment. First we have to give autonomy to our education sector. We have thought about it and I would like to make my point before you. We have thought that there should be regulatory authority for higher education. It has also been suggested by Yashpal Committee report and National Commission. So far we have not taken decision on any suggestion. We are having a discussion in this regard but, there should be an overarching regulatory authority. It should solely consist of academicians and there should be no political interference in that authority. The authority should decide as to what should be the criteria, what should be parameters for the institutes regarding their entry in this sector and what should be their financial qualifications.

[English]

Has he any experience in the education sector? What are the years of experience that he has? All those stipulations can be set out by an expert body of academics, an overarching body which controls the Education Policy and it should give the contours of that Education Policy for the future of this country in the context of the market needs of this country and in the context of the research needs of this country. Once that body is set up, then whoever crosses the entry barrier is entitled to set up a university. Why should there be a concept of a 'deemed to be a university?' What does that mean? If you cross the entry barrier, you will be entitled to set up a university and that overarching authority of academics will ultimately give a final certificate to allow the university to function once all the entry barriers are fulfilled in terms of infrastructure, in terms of faculty, in terms of equipment and in terms of other things and that will be constantly under review by that authority. You can have a separate accrediting agency which accredits institutions in terms of quality and that accreditation needs to be looked at every two years or three years.

[Translation]

Whether that institutory is maintaining the same standards of education or not.

19.00 hours.

That accredited agency is a professional agency like SEBI. As there is SEBI to regulate the market, an accredited agency can regulate our educational institutes. That agency can award quality control and quality certificates to the institutes so that the children can be aware of the status of the institutes in which they are studying. We need to think like that because we are talking about providing autonomy so that our children may have a choice.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is 7 o'clock now. If the House agrees we can extend the time of the House till the passing of the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of HRD and Special Mentions are over?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes please.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. The time of the House is extended till that time. The hon. Minister may continue.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : Thank you.

If that accrediting agency again, a professional body, is set up, you will have politics far removed from education and only quality institutions will come up, which Shrimati Supriya Sule was talking about. So, you meet the concept of expansion, as I said and quality in this process. All institutions must be inclusive and we will not compromise on that in matters of admission.

[Translation]

Backward Communities will get reservation in those institutions and there will be no compromise in this regard. This is our concept and vision. I would like to put three figures before you. If 100 children complete 12th class in our country, only 12 children take admission in universities and 88 children do not get university education. If you compare this figure with America or Europe, you will find that out of 100, 60-70 children get university education.

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

If we take the example of countries of Sub-Sahara Africa, we find that out of 100 only 6 children reach the university level there. From these figures, we can easily see as to where our country stands in the field of education. Now I would like to talk about Scandinavian countries since most of research work is done there. If one million people are there about 6700 people do research, in America this number is 4700 and in India it is only 156. Where we stand in the field of research? We talk tall that we have done this or that and that we have good institutions in the country. We never talk about where we are lacking. If we have to complete with the world. We will have to change our direction, we have no more alternative. We are talking about children who will be searching for jobs in 2020. You said that 3 crore children will be enrolling for secondary education. When those children will be 20 years old and you will not provide quality education and opportunity to them then how will you face them?

Why do children go abroad for studies one lakh sixty thousand students go abroad for studies and billions of dollars and our foreign exchange is spent. Our children do not get admission in IIT but get admission in MIT. It does happen. To take admission is difficult here but easy there. There is choice and autonomy there but it is not here. We have to provide that autonomy and choice to the children. So education sector requires extension and investment and it is not possible if we ask the Government put in all the investment needed. That allocation for higher education during the 11th Plan is Rs. 82,000 crore which is insufficient. If the Government multiplies by ten even then it will not be sufficient. We have to go for private sector. We have no other option. Well, we will have to regulate private sector. We will enact a law that actions will be taken against private institutions if they indulge malpractice. We are going to frame such a law and bring it before you. You must have read in newspapers that there is gap between demand and supply, it will be taken care of. If there is no gap between demand and supply then fee will also come down. People will get more choice in this manner and thus national goal can also be achieved.

When we talk about class 10 and national curriculum, it is said that the Government should be cautious. It was report of 1993, when for the first time we moved ahead with new approach for Nation curriculum Framework. I am not saying a new thing. Sixteen years have passed after that. Are we going to spend 15-20 years more, discussing this in the House and will we take another 15 years in the name of caution. Then in 2000 National Curriculum Framework policy was framed wherein it was said that the burden of children should be reduced and exam should be abolished. It was said there should be continuous comprehensive Assessment of child. It is not a new issue. It came up in the year 2000. In the year 2005 National curriculum was replaced. Similar things were repeated in it. If we have discussed if for 16 years how much more cautions should I be. If we do not want to take steps even after 16 years then it means that we are creating hindrances for the future of the nation, which is not acceptable to the Government.

We will not do anything in hurry, but certainly we will take steps. As far as Right to Education Bill is concerned, I would like to assure the House that we will bring it in the current session itself and get it passed in this very. Session, Joshiji asked the definition of neighbourhood school. We did not define it intentionally since state would determine where neighbourhood school should be. When we talk about education we make a mistake of blaming the Central Government entirely. However, foundation of education is family. Family resides in a particularly locality. Locality is related with Panchayat. Panchayats fall in a District. Districts fall in a state and after that comes the centre. The State should be primarily responsible for education system. Hon. members have said that proper buildings are not there, the quality of construction is poor. Who constructs these rooms. State is responsible for construction of these rooms then why is the Union Government blamed, we make efforts for monitoring. We monitor Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan through CAG's report and do the monitoring through independent auditors, chartered accountants too. We can not monitor lakhs of schools so it is state's responsibility to monitor the expenditure. Hon.

Members should blame the concerned State Government as to why their performance is not upto the mark. As per the suggestions of the hon. Members the Union Government will take action. The Government has never failed to take action. Education is being politicized and I believe that politics and education should not have any connection. Education is directly related to the future of the nation. He said that the Government has set up centres of Aligarh Muslim University in Kerala and West Bengal. Has the Government done this? No we did not. After the recommendations of Sachar Committee, 7th committee was constituted. University itself proposed so, who are we to say anything? I put it up to the hon. Members if any university desires to open its centre anywhere, can the Central Government stop it from doing so? Is Central Government preventing it? The Central Government is not preventing it. If Banaras Hindu University does not want to established its centre elsewhere the Centre Government is not at fault. I am in favour of it. Recently, in IITs meeting I said, why IIT Kharagpur cannot open its branch in Kanpur? Why it is not permitted? That is a matter of choice. If a student likes the way of teaching of a particular teacher of mechanical engineering in IIT Kanpur, why is he not allowed to pursue the course from Kanpur? Now a days all are interconnected with AICTE. He should pursue his course from Kanpur. Why not? But what does happen?

[English]

This is the sad part. Whenever we have a debate on education we are slaves to our own convictions, and we continue to be slaves to our own convictions. If you want to free education, free yourself from your own convictions because the time has come for you to change. The country needs it, and our young people need it.

[Translation]

How several hon. Members have raised questions. I am trying to reply these questions within 5 to 10 minutes. I have already talked about curriculum. I do not like to repeat the same...(Interruptions) I want to respond to the

question raised by an hon. Member that there is no change in the budget for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. It has not been reduced it is the same. Rs. 13100 crore had been allocated to us for the purpose.

Some hon. Members have said that teachers do not attend the classes. The Government is also concerned about it. But how can we monitor them. States should monitor them. Them. They should monitor the situation and inform us because schools are situated in the states. How can we monitor them? Left parties are also much concerned about this.

[English]

We conducted a study on teacher attendance in 20 States on a sample basis in three to four hundred schools. On three independent unannounced visits, we found that teacher attendance was from 75 per cent to 80 per cent.

[Translation]

Perhaps situation is not so bad as it is reflected during the discussion. Situation is not so bad.

[English]

Whenever there is good community support system, the teacher attendance and performance is better.

[Translation]

But community is in the states. If states have adequate support system, the attendance would be better. So we should ask our Panchayats, state support system and NGOs to fully monitor the situation.

[English]

The greatest worry is that though Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has served its purpose, yet when children move to Class VI, Class VII and Class VIII, the drop-out rate is anything up to 46 per cent. That is why, we have the Gross Enrollment Ratio of 12 per cent. So, the real problem lies between the upper primary and Class VIII.

[Shri Kapil Sibal]

[Translation]

Where dropout rate is much higher. We are starting drive for secondary education and it will be implemented this year. We would like to reduce the dropout rate so that our critical mass, which gets education upto 12th level, should increase and if the critical mass is increased, it will increase our gross enrollment ratio. We want to increase this gross enrollment ratio from 12 to 15 by the year 2012. But it is my vision to increase this ratio up to 25 by the year 2020. Yes, we are going to build model school and we have received proposals from 16 states in this regard. No proposal has been received from Maharashtra. We have issued guidelines, rest of the states except Maharashtra, have sent their proposals, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya is a residential school. As soon as we get the land, we will construct the building and the girl's hostel but several times we face problem in locating the land. Mr. Majumdar has raised a question for tribes under SSA.

[English]

But under SSA, for tribal areas, the norms for SSA are relaxed. In tribal areas, SSA school can be established if there are 10 children; even 10 children. The required norm is 20 children in other areas.

[Translation]

What ever education is imparted there, it is imparted in mother tongue so that they do not go out side the school. Thus, we will be able to fully implement our plan for ICT. Mr. Kishore has said that our allocation has been reduced. I want to tell you that as per budget estimate, elementary allocation was Rs. 21788 crore and it is Rs. 21700 crore in the year 2009-10.

[English]

District Primary Education Programme, which came to an end on 31-3-2009.

[Translation]

It was merged with SSA, so a token provision of

Rs. one lac has been kept for that and he wants to ask this only.

Sir, medium of instruction in Navodaya Vidyalaya is English.

[English]

But there is medium of instruction in regional languages also from class VI to class VIII; and gradually, they switch over to the English medium by the time they reach class VIII. In Jammu and Kashmir especially, Urdu is used to begin with.

[Translation]

A question has been raised regarding salaries that the recommendations of Sixth Pay Commission should be implemented in respect of teachers as there are some confusion about it. But I would like to tell you that there is no confusion. The pay scale and allowances we have given to the teachers.

[English]

They are better than even Group A in Civil Services, better than IAS. The pay fixation guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to all the States. We have committed that we will provide 80 per cent of the arrears from 1.1.2006 to the States, whichever implement the pay review of teachers.

[Translation]

It should not be delayed any more. Bijuji has said that we are following new liberal policy in education sector. Yesterday Joshiji said that if we will implement such education policy and bring foreign universities then

[English]

We will enslave ourselves.

[Translation]

This mindset has to be changed because no one can enslave India. When I visited Malaysia I asked their

education Minister whether they have foreign universities? He replied positively. Then I asked him about his experience. He admitted the good experience. I enquired about the fees charged by them? He told that half amount is charged from what they charge in their country. It is, a fact and still you are against the foreign universities. But what is the situation here today. The States allow them as it provides them market opportunities. Today two types of foreign universities are operational in India, these are Hotel or restaurant Management Courses which have market opportunities abroad and, tourist industry, which is source of revenue from abroad. They want that foreign universities may operate in India and train people, award them diploma and provide them job abroad. There is no restriction on it as we have not enacted any law in this regard. If we try to enact any law then they raise an objection that law should not be enacted.

[English]

It is better to have a law than not to have a law because at least you will regulate the fly-by-night operators, those who are exploiting the Indians, and we are not going to allow any and every foreign university to come into this country. There is going to be a regulating process. We will allow such institutions which are in our national interest in such areas which are in our national interest. But it goes back to the issue that I started with, autonomy. The child, the young person, the young girl who wants to study, should have the autonomy to study in the institution that he or she likes.

So, we should allow all kinds of experiments to take place in the field of education, public-private partnership, private enterprises, managing Government schools or municipal schools, Government schools giving quality education, the Right to Education Bill being passed, model schools being built up, things to be done especially for minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and for the OBCs. It is because we need them to rise to the top of that pyramid. They are at the bottom of the pyramid. They must rise to the top and compete with the rest and walk with their heads high that they too are there to compete.

We want them to do that and we will give them opportunities for that.

[Translation]

I have observed that the reservation has been implemented specially in several central education universities.

[English]

It has been a very successful experiment.

[Translation]

IITs and IIMs have followed the pattern very well and we have told them that education is not only for a particular section of the society and we will not allow it. But you will have to fulfill your social responsibility towards minorities SCs, STs and OBCs. It is our national commitment.

Sir, the matter of women is the biggest question today. I would like to mention about female literacy mission, that there are 10 crores illiterate women in India and 5 crore males are illiterate. We have decided to bridge this gap through a female literacy mission. But we need everybody's cooperation for that. Yes, no policy is perfect. If I say that whatever I have done or we or our Government is planning to do is perfectly alright, then it is wrong. We will learn from your criticism and we need it. We are not opposing it. But this criticism should not be politically biased. While criticizing it one should think about those children. If this will happen then this House will unite and follow the new path adopted by us...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing the Member to directly ask question to the Minister now. Let the Minister complete his reply. No, I would not allow this. Nothing is going on record. Except the speech of the Minister, nothing is going on record. I am not allowing.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : So, I am again very grateful to hon. Members who have participated in this discussion.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

I have given my statement that education in India will be inclusive in nature, then it is an answer to your question...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL : I am extremely grateful to Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshiji and all other Hon. Members of this House who have participated in the debate and supported the Demands for Grants of my Ministry. I am thankful to all of them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Human Resource 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, 2010, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 57 and 58 relating to the Ministry of Human Resource Development."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request Hon. Members to be very brief as only two minutes are allowed for each Member.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, Government of India have decided to declare Ganga river as National River to check pollution.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, there is Mughal Sarai Municipal Corporation in Chandauli in Uttar Pradesh. There a drain carrying sewage water of Railway Settlement Area is connected with Ganga River. Government of Uttar Pradesh have forwarded a Sewage Treatment Plan to Government of India. It is proposed to provide that water to farmers for irrigation after it is treated but the same is pending with the Government of India. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government of India that it is not right to drain out sewage water in Ganga river, which has been declared a National River, in view of water pollution. The Sewage Treatment Plant should be set up immediately, since it is proposed to provide fresh water to farmers for irrigation after treatment of the same. If farmers are provided fresh water after treatment, then it will definitely help to increase the production of farmers, otherwise, various diseases like malaria, dengue and kalazar are likely to spread from such sewage water. Railway Settlement Area is an institute of Government of India. A drain has been constructed to flush out the sewage water of Railway premises and waste water of Railways has also been flushed out through the same drain. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to set up a Sewage Treatment Plant to purify that water so that farmers could use that water for irrigation and pollution could be checked in Ganga river.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Akbarpur) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Railways towards an important point.

Shramshakti Express-2451 runs from Kanpur Central to Delhi at 11.35 PM and 2452 down runs from Delhi to Kanpur. There are only 15 boggies in this train whereas

thousands of commuters travel from Kanpur to Delhi and vice versa daily. Prayagraj Express 2417 runs from Delhi to Allahabad and 2418 runs from Allahabad to Delhi which has 24 boggies.

Sir, thousands of commuter travels from Kanpur to Delhi. It means number of commuters travels between Kanpur and Delhi is higher than that between Allahabad and Delhi route. The capacity of single bogie is of 72 passengers only, but around 250 passengers travels in a single bogie,

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You mention what you want from the Government. You need not explain all these things. You tell what you want.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL : Sir, through you, I urge upon the hon'ble Minister of Railways that there should be 24 boggies in the said train for the convenience of the passengers. I extend my thanks to you for allowing me to speak...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN (Fatehpur) : Sir, I would like to associate with him.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you want to associate, it is alright. You cannot speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI C. SIVASAMI (Tiruppur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Tamil Nadu the following ten Panchayat Unions namely Avanashi, Annur, Karamadai, Nambiyur, Tiruppur, Perundurai and Sennimalai are situated in Nilgiris, Tiruppur and Erode parliamentary constituencies. The total population of these Panchayat Unions are nearly 30 lakh. The people and cattle of that area are largely deprived of water.

There is a huge shortage of drinking water to cater to the needs of the people of these areas. The people are used to dig bore wells up to a depth of 1,000 feet which affects the groundwater level. If this trend continues, these areas will become a desert within a period of five years.

But in Bhavani river, there is excess water and during the rainy season the overflowing water of Bhavani river creates floods in the nearby villages affecting the life and properties of the common man. The waste water is flowing into the sea. Some places are severely affected by drought on the one hand and there are heavy floods on the other hand. To avoid this situation, the Government should come forward to divert the excess water of Bhavani river into the adjacent tanks and ponds so that the groundwater level is improved.

I submit that before connecting Ganga and Cauvery rivers, the Government should come forward to provide link in between Bhavani and the adjacent tanks and ponds so that the waste water that is flowing from Bhavani river will be utilized for filling the tanks and ponds which would thus facilitate for the implementation of the Avanashi-Athikadavu scheme.

[Translation]

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Chittorgarh) : Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention towards the inhuman, indecent, immoral and illegal act of the administration while implementing 'Kanyadaan Yojana' in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh, where by the honour and dignity of the women have been outraged during pre-nuptial medical examination.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna) : Sir, Hon. Chief Minister has given a detailed explanation in the Assembly in this regard...(Interruptions). This is not true and an effort to mislead the House...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Vyasji, you make your point.

...(Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS : Sir, the House is not being misled at all...(Interruptions) I have received the Government's reply and according to that, the Government have admitted that medical examination had been conducted. The reason has been given that a delivery case took place in the marriage organized in the past in the name of which morality norms and law, a woman, who is pregnant could be barred from getting married. They gave the reply that she cannot get married as per Indian marriage system. The treatment was out and out paradoxical, irrelevant and immoral and it should be reprimanded.

Sir, I submit to the Government to intervene and punish, the defaulters. The end of any scheme may be positive, but if the means are not proper, the end may not be good. The Government, therefore, should have ensured the proper implementation of scheme that it has formulated.

Sir, I do not wish to go further whether it was a medical examination or virginity test of women, publically. But the Government have admitted that medical examination has been conducted and doing it publically clearly indicates that the honour of womenfolk has not been kept into mind. It is an insult to their privacy, to their very existence. The Central Government, therefore, should instruct the State Governments that while formulating and implementing schemes, they should keep in mind that the dignity and honour of the womenfolk is not outraged. The Central Government should warn particularly the Government of Madhya Pradesh and ensure that the scheme should be further implemented in a proper manner.

[English]

SHRI TAPAS PAUL (Krishnanagar) : Thank you, Sir, for giving me a chance to say something in this august House.

[Translation]

I would like to thank the people of my constituency also who supported me and sent me here in this highest

institution. I would like to submit something about them. I would like to make certain observations to save mother, soil, man and history.

[English]

The Jallangi River of West Bengal in the district of Nadia was born out of the Padma River in Bangladesh. Roaming at Kusthia district of Bangladesh, it entered Nadia, flowing besides Tehatta, Palashipara, Chapra, Krishnanagar North and South assembly segments under 12-Krishnanagar parliamentary constituency, it has merged with the Ganges River besides Nabadwip. It is one of the major rivers of West Bengal. It was famous for riverine trade before partition of India. On its water, steamers moved with cargo and passengers from Kolkata to Goalanda of Assam. It is recorded in the District Gazetteer, Nadia. Now, due to silting etc., it has become moribund.

Moreover, large erosion of soil occurred on its banks. Many people became homeless in Kotwali PS, Nabadwip PS and Tehatta PS. Dredging and building of embankment protection shall save Jallangi and Nadia. The Anjana was a live river born out of Jallangi at Krishnanagar. Now it is a dead canal. Through dredging of the Anjana, Krishnanagar city and suburbs shall be permanently free from water-logging and flood.

I would urge upon the Government of India to take appropriate steps on top priority basis to solve this problem in the interest of the common people of this vast area.

[Translation]

Through you, I would like to request hon. Minister to pay an attention towards this issue at the earliest since all the people who reside there, are poor.

SHRI GANESH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, through you I would like to draw the attention of Union Government towards a sensitive issue which is related to the sentiments of crores of Hindus of our country. There is Mattancheri Mahal Museum in Kochin district of Kerala state, which is

controlled by Archeological Department of the Union Government. The Obscene pictures of Hindu god and goddess are being displayed publically there. I personally visited the spot. When I saw all pictures, I registered an objection in complaint book. I saw that obscene pictures of God Vishnu and other deities have been displayed there. I tried to query the reason. The Superintendent of the Museum did not answer. I want to know from the Union Government as to why such museums maintained by the Government are displaying god and goddess who are the symbol faith of Hindu religion in such a way. I demand to check it immediately.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) : Which is that museum?

SHRI GANESH SINGH : Mattancheri Mahal in (Kochin) Kochchi.

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI (Jalaun) : Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to convey my point to the Government. Today, the situation of price rise in the country has become very bad. As a monster, named Sursa in 'Treta Yug' multiplied her mouth by many 'Yojan'. Similarly price rise has spread its tenticle. The whole country is affected by it. Through you, I would like to mention that though the poor, farmers and weaker sections were deprived of eating fruits, it is not a big issue but now people are not able to eat even vegetables and chilies, turmeric, onion and garlic are also getting out of reach for them as poor people were using these items in making 'chutni' to have their two square meals. Green chilly is Rs. 105-110 per kg. Prices of onion, garlic and chilli are going sky high. We need to control these prices which is in the interest of both the merchant as well as farmers, however, the farmers are not getting my benefit of it. Tomato was at Rs. 4 per kg., onion was at Rs. 8 per kg., but now tomato is being sold at Rs. 40-45 per kg. Only mediators and some industrialists who can store these items are earning. Farmers are not getting

benefits. So, through you, I would like to urge upon the Union Government to constitute pricing commission at national level immediately keeping in view the interests of all sections.

Sir, I would like to raise one more small issue, I would like to draw your attention towards price rise in Uttar Pradesh. Since poor people are not able to construct a house building. The houses are provided under Indira Aawas Yojana to the poors, but they are unable to construct these houses because...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, you have only one matter listed against your name, and it is on price rise. You have to speak only on that matter. If you have got any other matter to be raised in the House, then you can give a notice for the same tomorrow and speak in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI : Sir, I am talking about price rise...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can give a notice for the same tomorrow in the Speaker's office. Therefore, you can speak only on the issue of price rise for which you have given notice today.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI : Sir, the rates of sand and soil are sky rocketing. Government of Uttar Pradesh has a control over it and they have made it a means of loot. Price rise has been multiplied by many times...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. Only the issue of price rise raised by the hon. Member will go on record, and nothing else will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, Shri P. T. Thomas.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): There was a discussion on the General Budget in the House, ...(Interruptions) and the hon. Finance Minister had replied to the debate in the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given a notice to raise the issue of price rise, and only that will go on record. Nothing else will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The next hon. Member is Shri P.T. Thomas.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government's policy is to provide education loan to the needy students, which is really a welcome step. Unfortunately, the bank officials are not giving loans to them without collateral security, and even if they are sanctioning some loans, then it is not adequate and sufficient for the applicants.

Recently, the Indian Banks Association has instructed

*Not recorded.

all the nationalized banks not to give more than Rs. 30,000 for a three-year General Nursing course, whereas the actual fees for the said course is nearly Rs. 1.25 lakh including tuition fees and accommodation charges. In the case of B. Sc. Nursing Course, the fee is up to Rs. 4 lakh, whereas the banks are only providing Rs. 1.25 lakh. How can our students afford it?

Another issue is with regard to the interest rates, which are varying from bank to bank. I would like to request, through you, to the hon. Finance Minister to introduce a uniform subsidized interest rate for education loans.

Sir, some bank officials are behaving like feudal landlords, and they are not even ready to give the application forms. The financial institutions should be made more accountable and transparent in their functioning. In Kerala, so many banks, especially, the State Bank of Travancore (SBT) is regularly denying education loans. I am requesting urgent intervention of the Government in this matter also.

It is said that delaying justice is denying justice. Tens and thousands of students and their parents — all over the country — are eagerly waiting for a right decision at the earliest.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the pollution being caused in the holy rivers of the country due to unplanned and unscientific industrial development. Presently, all leading newspapers are drawing our attention towards the pollution taking place in holy river Ganga. Holy river 'Ganga' is the soul of our country and recently the Government of India announced to preserve it as a 'national river'. We are not aware as to what effective steps have been taken to make Ganga free of pollution.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the house towards holy rivers 'Aami', which flows through

my parliamentary constituency, Gorakhpur, This river enters the territory of District Gorakhpur from Sant Kabir Nagar and it was called the life line of Distt. Gorakhpur. The people were engaged in remunerative animal husbandry and farming along this river. But, due to flow of effluents of some of the industrial units in this river between Rudholi and Khalilabad area of Sant Kabir Nagar Distt. and Geeda of Gorakhpur Distt., today, this river has become a nullah only and its existence is in danger. Keeping in view the inaction of the Government in this regard, the local population have been demanding for long time that the river may be made pollution free. The local youths set up a forum called 'Aami Bachao Manch' but their democratic movement is being suppressed forcibly. Fake cases have been registered against them.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government that all our holy rivers, be it Aami, Ganga or Yamuna should be made pollution free and the fake cases registered against the NGOs which have come forward to preserve them and make these river free of pollution, should be withdrawn.

[English]

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (Sikkim) : Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the pain that the people of Sikkim have to bear with every blockage of the National Highway 31A, which is the lifeline and only access to the State of Sikkim.

Since two days now, the Highway is closed on account of agitation by GJMM seeking redressal of their grievances. I understand that this is an indefinite *bandh* and blockage. Sikkim is landlocked; we have no other means of getting there. We have to depend on food and other materials of daily living on this lifeline, and our people have to bear the hardship, the cost and the loss of business when this Highway is disrupted for whatever reason. We also depend on tourism for our livelihood. Hence, it puts tourists into trouble as well as disrupts daily life and living.

Furthermore, at this time, parents and teachers and

children are moving back and forth for entry into colleges all across the country. Moreover, many patients seek medical help in other parts of the country. But the sad part is that this Highway is closed down on account of agitations in the State of West Bengal ever since 1987. If we calculate the loss of business and costs paid by our people and visitors on account of rise in prices, this will be colossal. I will bring this number to the notice of the House in due course. Mental anguish of the people of Sikkim, however, cannot be measured in terms of just money.

Sikkim is the most peaceful State in the country. We want to get on with the work of ensuring speedy development of our mountain State and its people. We do not want to be held ransom every time there is a rise in political temperature across the border in North Bengal. We, in Sikkim, view this as a problem that needs urgent attention and intervention of the Central Government.

I, therefore, seek the Central Government's intervention immediately to put an end to this kind of treatment meted out to our State for which we have no means to protect ourselves from.

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I have been elected from Nawada Parliamentary constituency of Bihar and today, I am present in the house to represent the entire Nawada. Today, I am presenting the pain and suffering of Nawada before this sovereign House.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, there are Sirdalla, Maiscar, Govindpur, Kowakol, Pakadi, Barama and Roh, six block in Nawada which have a combined population of 20 lakh and there is no layer of underground water in these blocks, whenever God of rains shows some mercy on their pathetic condition, they get some water. Sir, it is a matter of regret that even after 60 years of Independence I have to raise this issue in this House. Three rivers, namely, Dhadhar, Dhananjay and upper Sakari flow in that area. These rivers

[Dr. Bhola Singh]

originate every year during rainy season, overflow and ultimately dry up. There is no dam to conserve the water of these rivers.

Sir, I am not here to describe at length the sufferings of that area. I just want to give this House an idea of sufferings of the people and I hope that the present Government is sensitive towards this issue. Hence, it is the responsibility of the Government to make arrangements to ensure availability of water in that area. Through you, I would like to request the Government to send a team of experts to these blocks to conduct a survey and ask the team to prepare a report in this regard and on the basis of that report provisions for drinking water should be made by sending rig machines there. I am presenting the agony and sufferings of 20 lakh people of that area before the Chair 'Namaskar'

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, presently, the security of the country is under threat due to internal and external factors like Naxalism and terrorism from the neighbouring countries and keeping in view this scenario the increase in the defence budget is a welcome step. Through you, I would like to bring this thing in the notice of this House that the then Defence Minister George Fernandes had laid the foundation of an ultra modern Ordnance factory in Rajgrih of Nalanda Distt. in the year 2002. Its work is complete now. Construction of its building was over in the year 2005. Hence, through this House, I would like to know from the Minister of Defence as to when the production will start in this ultra modern factory since it has not started the production of defence equipment so far. I would like to inform the country through the House that Government of India have incurred Rs. 6 thousand crore to set up factory. I urge upon the House that the factory should be made functional immediately. I belong to the Nalanda Parliamentary constituency. Therefore, I have raised my point in the House in public interest. I hope that hon'ble Minister of Defence will pay attention to my request and will make the factory functional.

SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR (Shahjahanpur) : Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of Union Government towards Uttar Pradesh. Indira Aawas Yojana implemented by the Government of India is being misused. It has been prescribed in Uttar Pradesh that 10 Ambedkar villages will be identified every year in each Assembly constituency and Indira Aawas will be provided to these villages only. If such thing happens, do the remaining villages, which fall in my Parliamentary constituency, not have poor people, Through you, I urge upon the Government of India to appoint a nodal officer and this scheme of the Union Government should be implemented there. It may be enquired whether poor people belonging to general category, backward class and other castes do not live in other districts apart from Ambedkar village...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only Mr. Mithlesh Kumar's speech will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI MITHILESH KUMAR : Sir I have been MLA and Minister for seven years. If my point proves to be wrong. I will not come to the House. This matter may be enquired seriously. They should get justice. Since this is the scheme of the Government of India, Government should implement the scheme by appointing a nodal officer in each district.

Now I conclude my speech. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would not allow a discussion on this. Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Bhakta Charan Das, the matter you want to raise is a State matter. Members of Legislative

Assembly in the State can raise it there. How can you raise it here?

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Sir, mining is a Central subject.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the House towards mining loot to the tune of Rs. 4 thousand crore in Orissa with the help of the State Government. In 1996, 96.568 hectare land of Rugudi, Ruturkela and Katasahi villages of Kyonjhar district of Orissa had been given on lease for manganese mining of a company... *which has not got forest and environment clearance for mining lease and internal dispute of the company was under litigation in Orissa High Court and hon'ble High Court has given a notification to liquidate the company. Another matter of the company was sub-judice in Patna High Court. Power of attorney for mining has been awarded to a person illegally... *in spite of the above mentioned facts and on the basis of this power of attorney that person... *has started mining there. State Government have also provided security to the company and illegal mining of manganese took place to the tune of Rs. 4 thousand crore during the last few years under the protection of State Government. The matter has been raised in Orissa Assembly during the last 4 days due to which Assembly had to be adjourned.

Through you, I would like to inform the House that as per the mining policy of the state, it is prescribed that if a company makes 75 percent investment for a particular mining, then the recommendation for final mining lease is

forwarded to the Government of India. In this case, the procedure has been totally ignored and the person... *who is the head of the company has been given full relaxation by violating mining policy... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The names you are taking are of people who are not Members of this House. Their names cannot be taken in the House. The names you have mentioned will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Through you, I would like to submit to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India that a loot of manganese worth Rs. 4 thousand crore which belongs to Government of India has taken place. Government of Orissa have also demanded a vigilance enquiry in this matter. Through you, I would like to request to conduct a C.B.I. enquiry in the matter to recover this mining wealth.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again on July 16, 2009 at 11.00 a.m.

19.58 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, July 16, 2009/
Asadha 25, 1931 (Saka)*

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