

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session

(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. V contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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# Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates

(English Version)

Wednesday, November 25, 2009/Agrahayana 4, 1931(Saka)

\* \* \*

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, November 25, 2009/Agrahayana 4,  
1931 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### OBITUARY REFERENCES

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of four of our former colleagues, Shri V. Kandasamy, Shri P. Mohan, Shri Ajit Bag and Shri B. Shankaranand.

Shri V. Kandasamy was a Member of the Eleventh Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1997 representing the Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu. Shri Kandasamy was a Member of the Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution during the Eleventh Lok Sabha. A committed social and political worker Shri Kandasamy worked for the welfare of the poor, downtrodden and the deprived sections of the society. A Trade Unionist, he was associated in mobilisation of Trade Unions and worked for the welfare of the working class and the youth.

Shri V. Kandasamy passed away on 10 September, 2009 at the age of 74.

Shri P. Mohan was a Member of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabhas from 1999 to 2009, representing the Madurai Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu. Shri Mohan was a Member of the Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals during the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Committee on Urban Development and Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas during the Fourteenth Lok Sabha.

A well known social worker, Shri Mohan fought for the rights and welfare of the poor, downtrodden and the deprived sections of the society. Shri Mohan played a proactive role in the campaigns for the protection of interests and for the betterment of the health facilities for the sick and the needy. He was instrumental in improving and setting up modern medical facilities at the Madurai district hospital.

Shri P. Mohan passed away on 30 October, 2009 at Chennai at the age of 60.

Shri Ajit Bag was a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1981 to 1984 representing the Serampore Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal. Shri Bag was a Member of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

A committed social and political worker, Shri Bag served as the Vice-Chairman of the Kotrung Municipality during 1961 to 1962 and later served as Councillor of the Uttarpara-Kotrung Municipality in 1981.

An educationist, Shri Bag was associated with teachers' movement for over three decades. He was a Member of the Senate, University of Kolkata. He was the Founder President of the School Teachers' Federation of India (STFI). Shri Bag also served as the President of the All Bengal Teachers' Association.

Shri Ajit Bag passed away on 7 November, 2009 at Hooghly, West Bengal at the age of 79.

Shri B. Shankaranand was a Member of the Fourth to Tenth Lok Sabhas from 1967 to 1996 representing the Chikkodi Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Shankaranand was a Member of the Consultative Committee of Foreign Trade and the Consultative Committee of Mines and Metals during the Fourth Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; Committee on Subordinate Legislation; Business Advisory Committee and Committee of Privileges during the Fifth Lok Sabha. Shri Shankaranand served as the Chairman, Joint Parliamentary Committee on Bofors during the Eighth Lok Sabha. He was a Member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation; Consultative Committee constituted under the Punjab State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1987 and Committee of Privileges during the Ninth Lok Sabha.

An experienced administrator, Shri Shankaranand was the Deputy Minister in the Department of Parliamentary Affairs from May, 1971 to March, 1977; Minister of Education from January, 1980 to October, 1980; Minister of Health and Family Welfare from January,

1980 to December, 1984 and later from January, 1993 to December, 1994; Minister of Irrigation and Power from December, 1984 to September, 1985; Minister of Water Resources from September, 1985 to August, 1987 and again from June, 1988 to July, 1989; Minister of Law and Justice from July to December, 1989 and the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas from June, 1991 to January, 1993.

An advocate by profession, Shri Shankaranand was associated with a plethora of social development activities. He was instrumental in the establishment of a number of educational institutions, cooperative banks and cooperative societies for the weaker sections of the society. He served as the Vice-Chairman of the Municipal School Board, Belgaum. Shri Shankaranand was the Founder member of the Jagriti Co-operative Bank, Belgaum; Dr. Ambedkar Medical College, Bangalore and the Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Memorial Foundation, New Delhi. He also served as the President, Karnataka Depressed Class Welfare Society, Belgaum.

A widely traveled person, Shri Shankaranand was the leader of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Canada in June 1987.

Shri B. Shankaranand passed away on 20 November, 2009 at Belgaum, Karnataka at the age of 84.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

Hon. Members, as you are aware, the recent unprecedented rains, landslides and floods in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu created havoc and paralysed the normal life in these States. Hundreds of people died and many were rendered homeless besides large scale destruction of property and cattle. Several fishermen also lost their lives in a cyclone in Maharashtra.

In an accident at the Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (Balco) Plant at Korba in Chhattisgarh about 50 workmen died when an under construction 275 metre chimney tower collapsed on 23 September, 2009.

In another huge fire accident on 29 October, 2009 at Indian Oil Corporation terminal at Sanganer, Jaipur,

11 people were killed and over 100 were injured. The fire destroyed 11 tanks at the depot resulting in huge loss of money amounting to over Rs. 250 crores.

I am sure the House would join me in expressing profound sorrow on the death of innocent persons in these natural calamities and tragic accidents.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.09 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while.*

11.10 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. 81—Shri Sudarshan Bhagat—not present.

Shri Bhisma Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari—not present.

Q. 82—Shri Harish Choudhary—not present.

Shri Amarnath Pradhan

### Underground Coal Gasification

+

\*82. SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN:

SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) and production of syn-gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has awarded contract to any company to extract energy from the coal seams through UCG; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for the purpose, State-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) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

(c) No such contract has been awarded by Ministry of Coal for extracting energy from the coal seams through Underground Coal Gasification (UCG).

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given to part (c) above.

SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN: Has Mahanadi Coal Field Limited formulated any scheme for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) and production of syn-gas to revive the fertilizer plant at Talcher?

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Madam Speaker, hon'ble member is aware that 55 per cent energy requirement in our country is met by coal. However, various problems like environmental clearance, land acquisition or other ones are being faced in production of coal, so, today it is necessary for us to use new technology which is coming up in the world. Among those technologies, underground coal gasification is one such technique through which we can avoid lots of problems being faced in extraction of coal in the country and carryout more production of coal. Our Government has decided that it will go ahead in the field of underground coal gasification in a speedy way. However, as the hon'ble Member has asked whether Mahanadi Coal Field has submitted any proposal, no company has yet given any proposal in this regard. Nevertheless, our Government has decided that it will go ahead expeditiously in the field of underground coal gasification so that we could avoid the problems, which are being faced in the field of coal mining.

*[English]*

SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN: What technology would be used in the plant to make it cost effective or economically viable?

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Madam, the use of this technology has been started in some countries of the world. Russia had started the use of this technology in 1945. Australia and South Africa have also started the use of this technology. Our Ministry is going ahead with this technology. We are still to get this technology from various countries of the world because we are still completely at a primary state. It has been decided that our Government will go ahead for underground coal gasification at a rapid pace so that we could be able to produce more coal, carry out more coal mining because it is the technology through which we can face all the problems in regard to coal mining in our country. The most important thing is that as our country is growing and industrialization is increasing, the demand of coal is also increasing. We have technique like open cast and underground mining through which we can extract only 40% coal. Through this technique, underground mining below 300 metres is not possible due to which we have to abandon coal mining below that level. Through underground coal gasification technique we would extract coal below 300 metres.

SHRI BANSA GOPAL CHOWDHURY: Madam Speaker, Coal India has earned a profit of more than Rs. 30,000 crore. Before asking my question I would like to tell that the Coal India and the Ministry of Coal have increased the rate of coal by 15%, but I want that there should be underground coal gasification. I welcome the efforts made by the Coal India in regard to coal gasification. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that in how many sites. Coal India itself will undertake coal gasification work and how many sites have been indentified for the same.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Madam Speaker, as far as the price rise is concerned, I would like to tell that the prices of coal in our country are still very low as compared to the international market and it was

necessary to increase the prices to the extent they have been raised.

In regard to your question about the sites, where coal gasification work is proposed to be started, I would like to tell that so far only five lignite blocks and two coal blocks have been identified where we could initiate gasification work through coal gasification technique.

Coal India has also been asked to identify more blocks. We have an institute C.M.P.D.I.L. which is engaged in identification work. The institution has also been asked to expedite the work of identification so that we could go ahead in the field of coal gasification.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that some coal reserves situated in West Bengal and Jharkhand are burning since long and if so, to what extent it is likely to affect the proposed gas production.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Madam Speaker, if the coal mines are in fire, it will naturally damage the coal reserves. Irrespective of whether it is coal extraction, gasification technique or the method to convert coal in liquid, the Ministry has prepared a package to save people from being affected from fire in those areas where there is fire and the Cabinet has also accorded its approval in this regard. I hope that in future we will be able to implement it with the co-operation of all of you as well as the State Governments.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Madam Speaker, I asked to what extent damage has been done.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Madam Speaker, at present, it is not possible to accurately assess the damage due to the underground fire in coal reserves. However, the fire is burning since long. The cabinet has accorded its approval to the package prepared by the Ministry. Therefore, I expect the local MPs and the public representatives to expedite the implementation of the package so that people could be sent to the safer places. Estimate of damage could be assessed only after the people are shifted to safe places.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Madam, in the reply,

it is seen that the hon. Minister is a little parsimonious in giving the details. We all are aware that underground coal gasification, in abbreviation UCG is a modern technology. In so far as India is concerned, India is recognized as a country which has been endowed with huge coal reserve. Naturally, the country has the potential to exploit this technology so as to reduce the carbon emission and to convert the coal into *in situ* product gas including synthesis gas, liquid fuel, fertilizer feed etc. So far my knowledge goes, I came to learn that the hon. Minister has framed certain UCG guidelines in compliance with the hundred days commitment of the UPA-II Government.

May I know from the hon. Minister, as the UCG technology is meant for extracting gas from the un-mined coal area, whether any assessment has been done to ascertain the quantum of coal which is yet to be tapped, and whether Raniganj has been identified for UCG technology?

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Madam Speaker, I just clarified that we are at a primary stage in this field. The coal fields where coal gasification work will be initiated are yet to be identified but five lignite blocks and two coal blocks have been identified for the same. We have formulated a policy in this regard. If you want, the entire policy. ...*(Interruptions)* The entire information on policy is available in Lok Sabha library and it is also available on the website. If the hon. Member wants entire policy can be sent to him separately. However, I may add that it is entirely at primary stage. It has been decided by the Minister that we have to move forward and make rapid progress in this sector?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Madam, through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister that although he has stated that the information is available in library and elsewhere, however, I wanted a reply here. I distinctly remember that a road show was also organized for coal bed methane during NDA Government and a large number of tenders were invited. Whether the Government accepts that desired progress has not been made in this area and the desired work has not been done and if it is so what are the reasons for it and what is their policy on the matter?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, the countries which began coal gasification, have not been doing it only since recently, but it began 20 to 40 years back. It was undertaken in the U.S. and even in Australia. Therefore, such problems were faced in the method of coal gasification, which propelled other countries to abandon it even in their respective countries however, with the passage of time new technologies were evolved. Those countries have also resumed coal gasification. The new technology claims to have overcome the difficulties in underground coal gasification, which arose 30-40 years back. So, I feel that in the present era, it is completely safe and worthwhile for our country to move ahead in the field of coal gasification in view of our geographical conditions and other circumstances prevailing in the country.

#### Setting Up of Model Schools

+

\*83. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the decision to set up 6000 model schools at block levels in the country with the benchmark of excellence has been implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether proposals have been received from

various States in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the further action being taken by the Government in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid in the table of the house.

#### Statement

(a) to (c) The Government has decided to set up 6,000 model schools at the block level at the rate of one school per block as benchmarks of excellence. The first phase of the programme, to establish 2,500 schools in educationally backward blocks under the State Governments, was launched in November, 2008, with the sharing pattern of 75:25 between the Central Government and the State Government, except for special category States, for which the sharing pattern is 90:10. These schools are envisaged as co-educational schools having classes from VI to XII or IX to XII. The outlay for the model school scheme during the 11th Plan is Rs. 12750 crore and the budget provision during 2009-10 is Rs. 350 crore.

(d) to (f) Proposals have been received from 16 States. Details of proposals received and action taken thereon are given in the enclosed Annexure.

#### Annexure

Sl. No.	State	No. of schools proposed by State/ UT	Date of GIAC approval	No. of schools recommended by GIAC	Approved project cost (Rs. crore)	Central share as per GIAC recommendation (Rs. crore)	Present status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Punjab	21	11-7-2009	21	63.42	47.57	An amount of Rs. 23.78 crore has been released on 26-10-2009

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Mizoram	1	11-7-2009	1	3.02	2.72	An amount of Rs. 1.36 crore has been released on 30-10-2009
3.	Tamil Nadu	20	11-7-2009	18	54.36	40.77	Release of 1st Installment in the pipeline
4.	Himachal Pradesh	5	11-7-2009	5	15.10	13.59	Documents awaited from State government to enable release of fund
5.	Madhya Pradesh	33	19-8-2009	33	99.66	74.75	Clarifications and documents for release of funds awaited from the State government
6.	Karnataka	74	19-8-2009	74	223.48	167.61	Documents awaited from State government to enable release of fund
7.	Chhattisgarh	74	19-8-2009 and 12-11-2009	72	217.44	163.08	An amount of Rs. 22.65 crore has been released on 30-10-2009
8.	Bihar	106	12-11-2009	105	317.10	237.83	Approved by GIAC only recently on 12-11-2009
9.	West Bengal	24	12-11-2009	20	60.40	45.30	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	24	12-11-2009	19	57.38	51.64	
11.	Gujarat	43	12-11-2009	43	129.86	97.40	
12.	Uttar Pradesh	479	12-11-2009	8	24.16	18.12	
Total		904*		419	1265.38	960.36	

\*Note: Proposals were also received from Haryana (17 schools), Meghalaya (2 schools), Andhra Pradesh (79 schools) and Tripura (6 schools). These proposals were incomplete and without requisite details. Concerned State governments had been requested to submit modified proposals.

[Translation]

DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Madam, I have gone through the reply given by the hon. Minister. Not even a single model school has been sanctioned in it for

Rajasthan. I would like to ask that by when model schools would be established in 247 blocks of Rajasthan? Secondly. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask only one question.

DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Whether consent/concurrence of the Member of Parliament representing the area is taken and it is accorded priority in selection of a site for a model school?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: In regard to hon. Member's question I would like to state that no such school has been set up in Rajasthan because such a proposal has not been received from the Government of Rajasthan so far. This programme was launched in 2008 and as per our policy the state Governments would present their proposal expressing their intention for setting up of a school in a particular place or a block only after the scheme is launched in a state. After such a proposal is received from a state we shall decide and sanction it. Thereafter, they will send us the detailed document, since the society has to be constituted by them and would take decision about the place and infrastructure of the school. When they send us the complete documents, we release funds. However, no such proposal has been received from Rajasthan. So, we could not implement it in Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)* In regard to his second question, it is also decided by the State Government that where a school has to be set up. The Union Government has nothing to do with it.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask second supplementary.

DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Whether priority is accorded to backward area particularly tribal area while sanctioning a model school or is it set up on PPP basis only?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: This scheme envisages setting up 6,000 schools. Out of these 3,500 schools are in educationally backward areas, it is called E.D.B., these have been identified and there are two criteria for their identification. That identification criterion is followed in every state and on the basis of which model schools are set up.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri G.S. Basavraj—not present

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker,

I would like to know from the hon. Minister as he has started in his written reply that

*[English]*

these schools are envisaged as co-educational schools having classes from 6th to 12th or from 9th to 12th.

*[Translation]*

In my first question I would like to ask him as to what are the norms laid down for setting up of a school from 6th to 12th in one block or a school from 9th to 12th in another block? What is the basis for deciding this difference?

Secondly, the 75:25 share of the Union and the State Government respectively would be restricted only to the construction of building or the operational cost shall also be shared by the Union Government and State Government in 75:25 ratio.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, in regard to the question asked by the hon. Member the criteria for setting up of a school from 6th to 12th or from 9th to 12th is also fixed by the State Governments. If they wish to set up a school from 6th to 12th in a block, they may do so. Our policy is to admit only the best students in the area after selection through exam since our benchmark is excellence. If a school is to be set up from 6th to 12th or from 9th to 12th they can do it.

As far as 75 and 25 per cent is concerned a ceiling has been fixed on the maximum expenditure which will be decided on 75 and 25 per cent basis. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh.

...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Madam, through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister about 6,000 schools mentioned by him that in Jammu Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Lal Singhji is asking a question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, the hon. Minister has referred to the operational cost or not?  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Both capital expenditure and running expenditure. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Lal Singhji, you may ask your question.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Madam, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether there is any other way to declare blocks as educationally backward blocks? He said that the state government whom school will be provided will set up basis. I would like to ask him as to what is the use of giving up opportunity to raise the question here when the Member of Parliament has no participation over there. What is the fate of my desires and representations? When I say that this is a backward block and I am unable to do anything for it.

[English]

What is the fun of me being the Member of Parliament!

[Translation]

Therefore, I would like ask what is this method. I feel that gradually MP's role in being diminished.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You have to do lots of work here. But as far as criteria of terming educationally backward block is concerned, there is clear formula and it has been stated in our policy that areas having female rural literacy rate less than 47.13 will be termed as educationally backward blocks. Alongwith it, if gender gap is 21.59 per cent more than the national average, it will be called educationally backward block. It will be decided on the basis of these two policies, no

discrimination will be done with any block. This policy will be implemented in the entire country. If your block comes in the backward category, you will get this facility.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, the concern of hon'ble Members of ruling alliance and opposition Members is absolutely appropriate. He has stated in the reply that the Government has decided to set up 6,000 model schools at the block level as benchmarks of excellence. Hon'ble Members have also expressed their views. While keeping in view the concern of hon'ble Members, whether the Government will identify such backward districts and backward blocks, particularly where the people belonging to scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and minorities live, who are very poor and educationally backward, would you do something for them? Bihar, Kunda, Chail, Manjhanpur, Siratbhu are very backward blocks and a new district of Kaushambi and Pratapgarh of my Parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh are very backward, whether the Government is having any special package to cover such districts and blocks in this scheme?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I have told you the basis on which an educationally backward block is categorized. Alongwith it, we have also brought some changes in it. There are 404 such blocks particularly in rural areas where female literacy ratio, is less than 45 per cent, these blocks will also be called backward blocks. Alongwith it, there is one SC block in West Bengal where female literacy ratio was only 19 per cent. That will also be called backward block. There is an ST block in Orissa where female literacy ratio was only 9 per cent that will also be called backward block. Besides that, nothing is there.

[English]

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: I would like to ask the hon. Minister what are the main features of this model school. I find, in the list, that there is no proposal from the State of Maharashtra. May I know whether the Central Government has approached the Government of Maharashtra to submit the proposals and whether there is no response from the Government of Maharashtra?



SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: As far as the model schools are concerned, I might also mention that conceptually we have to have one model school in every block; so, we have 6,000 model schools. In terms of the 6,000 model schools, 3,500 model schools have to be run by the State Government, owned by the State Government; and 2,500 model schools would be under Public-Private Partnership. But the 3,500 model schools will be based in educationally backward blocks.

As far as the States are concerned, there are 16 States who have responded; of the 16 States who have responded, 12 States' requests have been accepted; and we are in the process of releasing money. As far as the other four States are concerned, their proposals are being looked at; as far as Maharashtra is concerned, no proposal has come so far.

#### **Attack on Indian Embassy in Kabul**

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\*84. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian embassy in Kabul was attacked recently by a suicide car bomber;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of casualties and loss of property;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the issue with the Government of Afghanistan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government of Afghanistan thereto;

(e) whether the Government of India has conducted any investigation into the said incident;

(f) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against those held responsible for the attack;

(g) the details of the terrorist attacks on Indian Embassy in Afghanistan till date during the last three years; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government of India to ensure safety and security of the Indians working in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On October 8, 2009 at 0827 hours, a suicide bomber, in a Toyota four wheel drive, detonated his Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) alongside the perimeter of the Chancery at the barrier on a side lane. This resulted in 18 deaths and approximately 83 persons were injured. The dead included three Afghan National Police personnel, while those injured included two of our security personnel on duty within the Chancery who suffered minor shrapnel injuries. There were no Indian fatalities. Wooden doors, panels and glass panes, on both floors of the Chancery building were extensively damaged due to the shock wave of the explosion which is estimated to have been caused by the detonation of about 150 kg of explosives.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken up the issue with the Government of Afghanistan. The Afghan authorities have put in place appropriate safety and security measures for the protection of the Indian Embassy and its personnel.

(e) and (f) Investigations into the attack on the Embassy of India in Kabul on October 8, 2009 are ongoing.

(g) There have been two attacks on the Indian Embassy in Kabul in the last three years. On July 7, 2008 a suicide bomber detonated his Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) at the main gate of the Embassy of India in Kabul in which 59 persons were killed including four Indian officials and a local driver. More than 150 persons, including 5 ITBP personnel were seriously injured in the incident. The details of the second attack on the Embassy on October 8, 2009 have been furnished above.

(h) All necessary precautions are being taken to

provide the best possible security to the Indian Mission and its four Consulates in Afghanistan, in cooperation with the Afghan National Security Forces. In addition, the Embassy of India sends security advisories to Indian nationals in Afghanistan on a regular basis, especially when it receives information concerning impending threats, advising them to take security precautions and to maintain extra vigil. Moreover, for projects being undertaken under Government of India's assistance programmes, effective and regular liaison is maintained with the concerned agencies of the Afghan government, which provides the requisite security and support to the project personnel in coordination with the provincial authorities.

**SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:** It is shocking and disturbing to see the number of attacks on Indian Embassy, and Indians elsewhere including Australia and other countries.

Before the July 7th, 2008 attack, I was myself in Kabul, Afghanistan, as a part of the Member of Parliament Delegation. The personnel working at Embassies work under extreme hardships; their families are not allowed to be there. In July 7th incident, we lost an outstanding IFS Officer and three other officers. He has completed his term; he was the one who said that he would be coming to India next month, in August, to see and join his family. Within 15 months or so, there was another attack in Indian Embassy in Kabul. I have seen the answer placed on the Table of the House. The Government is taking it up with the Afghan Government. In Afghanistan it is the US and other coalition forces which are monitoring the law and order situation there. It is a known fact that the terrorist groups like ISI, Al-Qaeda are operating from Afghanistan to Pakistan, Bangladesh. Is there any measure taken by the Government to take up this issue with the security forces of these coalition forces operating in Afghanistan? Hon. Minister is a former UN official. I would like to know whether he has taken any step to isolate these terror groups and sensitise other countries where they are present and take not only India but their help also to contain and dismantle these terror groups.

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR:** Madam, Speaker, we

share the great concern expressed by the hon. Member about the security of Indian personnel both in the embassy and on various projects by which we are assisting the people of Afghanistan. Security is of course fundamentally the responsibility of the host Government and the Afghan Government has given us assurances of additional measures they have taken. Indeed, we all have noticed that the tragic assault on our Embassy on the 7th of July 2008 did result in certain security measures with the result that the assault in October this year did not in fact create any Indian fatality. So, there have been some improvements. We continue to work with the Afghan authorities. Of course, we are in touch with those who are providing security in Afghanistan.

I might add that we have completed successfully the construction of a 218 Km. road in South-Western Afghanistan where the protection was provided by our own paramilitary personnel and they were able to ward off certain attacks on their projects, they have now been de-inducted and come back. So, where necessary we will provide our own security to our on-going projects.

**SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:** Madam, in Afghanistan we are undertaking a lot of developmental activities. By and large the people in Afghanistan are against the coalition forces present there and they are quite sympathetic and welcome the Indian presence there. So, there are not only the Indian officials at the Embassy but a lot of civilians working in Afghanistan under various power or road projects. I would like to know the steps taken by the Government to safeguard other Indian civilians working in Afghanistan.

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR:** Madam Speaker, first of all I would like to endorse the point made by the hon. Member about the effectiveness of our economic development programmes. We have been active in doing everything from building roads to hospitals, clinics, schools and the kind of development assistance we have given has been welcome. There is a recent Gallup Poll in Afghanistan which shows that India's role has been the highest praised by the Afghan public, with 56 per cent of the Afghans praising India's role in reconstruction. Indeed, I might add that the United Nations only got 51 per cent and NATO got 44 per cent. Similarly, in the

economic development of the country, India got the highest rating in this public opinion poll. So, we are very happy that our efforts are being appreciated and acknowledged by the Afghan people. Indeed, right now if Kabul has 24 hours a day of electricity it is because of the Indian engineers.

We are conscious that we must not send our citizens into danger. So, all sorts of security measures are being under taken to ensure that they remain safe while working. Nonetheless, sadly in the course of all these activities and including the attacks on our Embassy, we have lost 13 lives in the course of the last few years in Afghanistan. Each Indian life is precious to us. We will take as many measures as are realistic and feasible to ensure that we do not have to fear this but the development commitment, Madam Speaker, is extremely important for us to maintain in Afghanistan.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Madam Speaker, the terrorist attack is a matter of concern, whether it is in India or in any foreign country. It is becoming matter of concern for the world. If India takes initiative in this regard and tries to give some suggestions, it will be good. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government of India has taken/is taking any steps in this regard? Whether we can take this matter in UN?

*[English]*

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Madam, the broader question raised by the hon. Member about terrorism is of course a major concern to us. We speak today in this House on the eve of the anniversary of the horrible attacks in Mumbai on the 26th of November. That day is a day that will live in infamy in the history of the sub-continent. Terrorism is a principal preoccupation in most of our international contacts. We seek to ensure that all countries show us support in the actions we need to undertake and that they cooperate with us. Obviously, we have had some difficulties in ensuring that our neighbour, Pakistan, provides the necessary cooperation

in bringing the perpetrators of what happened last year to justice in arresting, prosecuting and punishing those who guided, financed, trained and equipped them and in dismantling the infrastructure of terror from which attacks have been launched against our country. We continue to raise this issue with the Government of Pakistan and more friendly Governments including Governments friendly to Pakistan.

As far as the United Nations is concerned, we are of course active there. The appropriate body in United Nations is the Committee set up under the Resolution 1267 of the Security Council and under that Committee, various actions have been taken including to proscribe Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jamaat-ul-Dawah as two organizations involved in terrorism. India continues to work within the UN and as we have additional information to share with that Committee of the United Nations, we will do so.

I might add that most United Nations Members have shown us a great deal of support in this matter. We are also pursuing the adoption of a comprehensive convention on terrorism. This has not yet come to fruition but we have made considerable progress and the current draft being circulated in the United Nations shows some promise of adoption. This is not to imply that terrorists are respecters of legal conventions. Very clearly, they are not, but it will strengthen the international mechanisms that we have at our disposal to resist terror.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: I want to ask the hon. Minister as to what stand have we taken on the American intervention in Afghanistan and the US President's decision to increase the troops. Our stand on this issue determines whether we will be the victims of further terrorism. That is why, it is important for you to tell us your stand on it.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Madam Speaker, India has essentially stayed out of the debate on the security measures to be taken at the request of the elected Government of Afghanistan by friendly powers, essentially in NATO in which the largest component, as the hon. Member has mentioned, is the United

States Military Forces. We ourselves, as you know, have had no military role in Afghanistan other than, as I mentioned, to protect our personnel of the Border Roads Organisation and small projects of that nature. Nonetheless, our interest is certainly in ensuring that the pressure on Afghanistan's Taliban and Al-Qaida elements should not be eased because our concern would be that if an attempt were made to back away or to come to an accommodation with these elements, then neither the interest of India nor those of the broader international community would be served in such circumstances. So, to that degree, we are supportive of the efforts that are being made by the United States and NATO but I do want to make it very clear that we ourselves do not participate in those efforts or in the military discussions.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, the situation in Afghanistan, it appears, is no doubt serious. The first attack was on 7th July, 2008 causing death of 59 people and injuring 150 people. In the next year, on 8th October, 2009, the death figure was 18 and injured were 83 persons. We do not know what is going to happen in 2010. It is a foregone conclusion and you appear to be a nice responder to the questions to which you first responded on the floor of the House. I also appreciate it.

We are much interested to know about the vehicle borne improvised explosive devices which are normally carried for these operations. Some more scientific measures are to be taken to tackle all these issues. It is not only in the case of Afghanistan but also for India which is possibly one of the worst sufferers due to the movement of terrorists. I want to know whether Government has made any assessment on the issue of terrorism in embassies of other countries where terrorists exist or where any threat perception exists.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Madam Speaker, vehicle-borne IEDs have sadly been used in very many contexts. We know of their use in Iraq and we have seen their use in Afghanistan. I am not sure there are technical measures that can be used for stalling the explosions, but there are measures that can be used to reduce the damage done by these vehicle-borne

explosions. We have seen, as I said, that whereas in July, 2008, sadly we have lost four Indian lives and that of a local driver working for the Indian Embassy, this time in October 2009, at least there were no Indian fatalities. So, there are security measures possible to prevent the extreme damage that is caused each time. But this is the best, unfortunately, that can be done.

Having said that, the broader concern that the hon. Member has expressed is absolutely correct. He said, "We do not know what will happen in 2010." I am sorry to say we can be sure that attempts will be made in 2010 again, as they have been made in 2008 and 2009, and we will have to remain vigilant.

The security situation in Afghanistan has been deteriorating since 2006. Last month, October, 2009, was possibly the worst month, including for US troops, which suffered a large number of casualties. So, we are not going to be complacent. We will take every measure necessary. But we must not be deterred, we must not be intimidated by these killers from the path we have chosen, which is that of support for the Afghan people and for upholding our legitimate interests and concerns in this region through our work in Afghanistan.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, Indian Embassy in Afghanistan has been attacked twice. American Intelligence inputs have revealed ISI's hand in those attacks. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether the Government has shared this information with the Pakistan Government and whether the Pakistan Government has taken any action in this regard. Recently, ISI Chief had visited India and met the officers here. Whether any talk in this regard was held with him and whether Pakistan is taking any stringent action against the ISI or not?

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: As far as the attack of the last year is concerned, it is indeed accurate, as the hon. Member has stated, that a large number of indications pointed to the involvement of elements

associated with the Pakistani ISI. This information has certainly been shared by the Government of India with the Pakistani Government. As far as this year's attack is concerned, the Afghan Government has stated that they believe this finds its origins on the other side of the border. It is very clear what they mean. But, as far as I am aware, we are still awaiting the conclusive investigation which is on-going on the part of the Afghanistan authorities. None-the-less, I think, no one in India and no one in this august House has any doubt who is interested in attacking Indian interests in Afghanistan and who is interested particularly in attacking our Embassy.

So, putting the evidence forward is only one step. We have to be vigilant. A combination of both security measures and diplomatic measures are necessary in order to ensure that India and Indian interests in Afghanistan remain safe. Your Government is undertaking those measures.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Q. 85—Shri Danve Raosaheb Patil—not present.

Dr. Bholu Singh.

[Translation]

#### Change in Exam Pattern of Class X

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\*85. DR. BHOLA SINGH:

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

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

(a) whether the existing pattern of examination for class X being conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is proposed to be changed;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has consulted State Governments/renowned educationists or experts in this field before considering the new pattern of examination;

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

(e) whether appropriate training is proposed to be imparted to the teachers in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) In accordance with National Policy on Education, 1986, as revised in 1992 and National Curriculum Framework, 2005, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to introduce the following changes in the pattern of class X Examination:

(i) There will be no class X Board examination, w.e.f. 2011 for students studying in higher secondary schools affiliated to CBSE and who do not wish to move out of the CBSE system after Class X. The students studying in the schools which do not have higher secondary classes, will, however, be required to appear in a Board examination.

(ii) The Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) has been strengthened in all affiliated schools of CBSE for class IX students from the session 2009-10.

(iii) Grading System has been introduced for CBSE class X Board Examination, 2010, and for class IX students for continuous and comprehensive evaluation from the session 2009-10.

(c) and (d) The National Focus Group on Examination Reforms consisting of reputed educationists which deliberated on examination reforms at the time of formulation of National Curriculum Framework, 2005, recommended introduction of these initiatives. Before introducing the new pattern, CBSE has consulted various stakeholders in the matter.

(e) and (f) CBSE has started a programme to train Principals and selected teachers from its affiliated schools on the continuous and comprehensive evaluation methods. These trained Principals and teachers are responsible to train the remaining teachers in the respective schools.

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Madam Speaker, in the light of reply given in response of my written question, I would like to say that the hon'ble Minister has taken steps in regard to changing the educational system of the Indian society on lines of developed European society. In view of potentials, conceptions and possibilities of development in various states of the India, the grading system in the education system does not seem appropriate. The reason behind it is that the states of our country have different social, economic and cultural conditions and many states are victim of backwardness. They are victim of backwardness. The students of educationally, socially and culturally backward state will not be able to pass the examination as per qualifying marks fixed under grading system introduced by the Government. How the Government will coordinate and on what basis the coordination done and in which manner, it would be done.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam Speaker, I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that this scheme has been introduced in the CBSE system only. This proposal of making Board examination optional in class X alongwith continuous comprehensive evaluation has been introduced only in those schools of the country, which are affiliated with the CBSE. Rest of the schools do not come in our jurisdiction, we cannot implement it in those schools but I would like to tell you that we had called the meeting of Cape committee and there a resolution was unanimously passed that the steps taken in this regard are right and we will also try to do so in the states also. The Council of Boards of Secondary Education is called COBSE, there also resolutions had been passed that our decision is right. As far as continuous Comprehensive Evolution is concerned, it will take us two-three years to implement it in states and as far as Tenth Class Board is concerned, we will see how it works in CBSE system and after that we will think that how it has to be implemented there.

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the details of funds required for complete implementation of alternate arrangement being made by the Government for reducing the burden of students in CBSE system and what kind of arrangement has he made for this purpose?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: No funds are required for this.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Madam Speaker, the basic question is that the Government has scrapped class X examination and introduced grading system in the CBSE affiliated schools. But at this time, the Government in various states are running curriculum and taking examination in their own way. Whether it does not appear that in the next two-three years, two different classes will emerge. One who have studied CBSE curriculum and will come forward without giving class X examination and second; those who have come out after giving the class X examination of the State Governments. What kind of arrangement is being made at the earliest to remove this disparity? Whether in the coming days, the Education Minister of States would be requested to establish alternative arrangement by scrapping the class X examination.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, first of all when we talk of class-X Board Examination, it has been made optional in those schools where students study in the same school upto class-XII. If the school is upto class-XII, the students need not to appear in class-X Board Examination to get promoted to class-XI in the same school. In case any student wants to go somewhere else after giving the class-X examination, the Board Examination is available for him, that Board examination will be taken by CBSE only, but it will not be of that kind of board examination, it will be taken on-demand. In case student wants to change the school and the school is a non-CBSE school, we have made arrangement that he can face either on-line examination or examination by writing with paper, and pen. That will be the Board examination and alongwith it he can go to other school also, nobody will be in loss.

As far as states are concerned, we had called the State Education Ministers, Education Ministers are the part of 'CAPE' committee, the discussion was held there they said as far as comprehensive education is

concerned, we agree with it, but as far as class-X Board Examination are concerned, we will introduce it after seeing this trial's results in CBSE system.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam Speaker, through you I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that while sitting here he makes many imaginations and all examinations are taken on the basis of roll number. Similarly, examinations are taken after allotting roll number to the candidates. I have studied in an engineering college; I know what kind of discrimination is made in viva-voice, which is in the hand of examiner. India is full of vices. His imagination may be right, but I would like to tell him as to why the roll number system was introduced in the country. It was introduced because many kind of discriminations are practised in our country, this is not an occasion to count them. People like me are victim of this kind of discrimination. The Minister has introduced the grading system, but he is not aware that a special class of people exists in the entire education system of the country. He cannot imagine what kind of discrimination those people will make with the students. Therefore, I would like to tell him that he continuously makes many statements and say many things, but the system adopted by him will encourage the discrimination against the people who are facing it for the centuries.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, there is no issue of discrimination. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be silent. Let the hon'ble Ministry reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing except hon'ble Minister's reply will go in record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The changes that we are trying to bring in the system have not been introduced by me, but for last 50 years, efforts are being made in this regard. This issue is not of today. Mudaliar Commission had said in 1952-53 that examination should be scrapped and a comprehensive evaluation should be made. After that in 1993, it was said in the report of National Advisory Committee, I am reading it out:

*[English]*

"Board examinations, taken at the end of Class X and XII, have remained rigid, bureaucratic, and essentially uneducative and...mainly a source of awe because of the amount of information they demand in a manner ready for instant recall."

*[Translation]*

After that we formulated the National Policy of Education in 1986 and in 1992 changes were made in it. I would like to quote in that regard:

*[English]*

"Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation that incorporates both scholastic and non-scholastic aspects of evaluation, spread over a total span of instructional time..." *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the hon'ble Minister speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Whether it is of 1952, or the education policy of 1986, the educational policy 1992, National Advisory Committee 1993, National Curriculum Framework 2000, National Curriculum Framework 2005, everybody has said this in last 50 years, but we had not been able to implement it. Now, we want to implement it, then they are saying that why we are implementing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the hon'ble Member ask the question.

*[English]*

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGOVAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. This subject was under discussion for the past one year or more. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the State Governments were consulted in this matter. Why is the system adopted only in the CBSE system? I want to know whether the State Governments have negated the proposal from the Government of India. What were the reasons stated for having negated such a proposal by the States?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: First of all, the hon. Member should know that we have no jurisdiction over State Boards. So, the Central Government cannot force the State Boards to adopt the system that the Central Government can adopt under the CBSE system. This is number one. Number two, in fact, the State Education Ministers, when they came, through a unanimous resolution, welcomed the proposal. I can read the unanimous resolution if you want. They said that this is something that should be done even in the State Boards. Number three, in the Council for the Board of Secondary Education (COBSE), which was also represented by various State Secretaries and other representatives of State Governments, they said that they would bring out a continuous and comprehensive evaluation within a period of two or three years. There is no opposition that you are talking about. But we do not want to impose anything on the State Boards.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: This is a matter of great concern for a great number of parents whose children are studying in Class X. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be brief. We do not have time.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: I appreciate the intention behind this reform. But the whole teaching in our schools is examination oriented. If the examination is dispensed with, then surely the standards will fall down. Here, the alternative suggested by the hon. Minister is continuous and comprehensive evaluation. It is still not in place. The training will take at least one year. So, will the hon. Minister assure this House that this will be postponed at least till the comprehensive evaluation is completed?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, I want to assure the hon. Member that there is an examination system in place. Hon. Members are not quite appreciating that. There is an examination system in place. In fact, it is the Board that gets the kind of examination papers on which children should be tested. Those examinations will be held, but they are not Board examinations. They are examinations where the papers are suggested by the Board and children sit for those examinations and they will result in evaluation through the examination system.

So, let the hon. Members not think that we have set aside the examination system.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[Translation]*

### Decline in the Population of Tiger

\*81. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:

SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR ALIAS KUSHAL  
TIWARI:

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

(a) whether there has been a rapid decline in the population of tigers including Royal Bengal Tiger over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the existing population of tigers in the country, State-wise and year-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of tigers died or killed reportedly due to poaching during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether the incidents of poaching by naxalites have been reported in the recent past;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the number of poachers booked, arrested and sentenced during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(g) whether the Government has taken fresh initiatives to increase the population of tigers in their habitat; and

(h) 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 findings of the recent All India tiger estimation in 2008 using the refined methodology, the total country-level population of tiger is 1411 (mid value); the lower and upper limits being 1165 and 1657 respectively. The State-wise tiger population and area of tiger occupied landscapes are



indicated in the enclosed Statement-I. The new findings are based on spatial occupancy of tigers and sampling such forests using camera traps in a statistical framework, which are not comparable to the earlier total count using pugmarks. The said findings indicate a poor status of tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas, due to, *inter alia*, reasons cited in the enclosed Statement-II. The tiger population, by and large, in tiger reserves and protected areas of the 17 tiger States are viable, while requiring ongoing conservation efforts.

(c) The details of tiger mortality due to poaching during the last three years and the current year, as reported by States, are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) and (e) No incident of poaching by naxalites

has been reported by States. However, due to naxal/ left wing extremism, disturbances have been reported by States in some tiger reserves like Similipal (Orissa), Palamau (Jharkhand), Indravati (Chhattisgarh), Valmiki (Bihar), Nagarjunasagar Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh) and Udanti-Sitanadi (Chhattisgarh).

(f) The enforcement of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is done by the States, hence information on poachers booked/arrested/sentenced is not collated at the Government of India level.

(g) and (h) The milestone initiatives (including the recent) taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

#### **Statement-I**

*Forest occupancy and population estimates of tiger as per the refined methodology*

State	Tiger km <sup>2</sup>	Tiger Numbers		
		No.	Lower limit	Upper limit
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Shivalik-Gangetic Plain Landscape Complex</b>				
Uttarakhand	1901	178	161	195
Uttar Pradesh	2766	109	91	127
Bihar	510	10	7	13
Shivalik-Gangetic	5177	297	259	335
<b>Central Indian Landscape Complex and Eastern Ghats Landscape Complex</b>				
Andhra Pradesh	14126	95	84	107
Chhattisgarh	3609	26	23	28
Madhya Pradesh	15614	300	236	364
Maharashtra	4273	103	76	131
Orissa	9144	45	37	53
Rajasthan	356	32	30	35

1	2	3	4	5
Jharkhand**	1488		Not Assessed	
Central Indian	48610	601	486	718
<b>Western Ghats Landscape Complex</b>				
Karnataka	18715	290	241	339
Kerala	6168	46	39	53
Tamil Nadu	9211	76	56	95
Western Ghats	34094	412	336	487
<b>North East Hills and Brahmaputra Flood Plains</b>				
Assam*	1164	70	60	80
Arunachal Pradesh*	1685	14	12	18
Mizoram*	785	6	4	8
Northern West Bengal*	596	10	8	12
North East Hills, and Brahmaputra	4230	100	84	118
Sunderbans	1586		Not Assessed	
<b>Total Tiger Population</b>		<b>1411</b>	<b>1165</b>	<b>1657</b>

\* Population estimates are based on possible density of tiger occupied landscape in the area, not assessed by double sampling.

\*\* Data was not amenable to population estimation of tiger. However, available information about the landscape indicates low densities of tiger in the area ranging from 0.5 to 1.5 per 100 km<sup>2</sup>.

### **Statement-II**

Main reasons or poor status of tigers in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas

(i) Degradation of forest status outside Protected Areas/Tiger Reserves owing to:

(a) human pressure

(b) livestock pressure

(c) ecologically unsustainable land uses

(ii) Loss of forest quality in terms of prey biomass

(iii) Tiger deaths due to poaching

(iv) Tiger deaths due to man-animal conflict

(v) Fragmentation leading to loss of gene flow from source populations

(vi) Loss of reproduction owing to disturbance on account of heavily used infrastructure like highways, etc.

(vii) Lack of adequate protection in outside areas

(viii) Insurgency/law and order problems

**Statement-III**

*Details of tiger mortality due to poaching (including seizures) during the last three years and current year (State-wise)*

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2006	2007	2008	2009
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1		2
2.	Assam		2		1
3.	Kerala		6	1	
4.	Karnataka				1
5.	Madhya Pradesh	1		2	3
6.	Maharashtra	1			2
7.	Orissa				1
8.	Rajasthan			1	
9.	Tamil Nadu				1
10.	Uttarakhand	2		1	1
11.	Uttar Pradesh		1	1	
12.	West Bengal				1
13.	Delhi			1	1
14.	Goa				1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15*</b>

\*As on 13-11-2009.

**Statement-IV**

*Milestone initiatives (including the recent) taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals*

offence relating to a tiger reserve or its core area.

**Administrative steps****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

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 Madhya Pradesh 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 29284.76 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).

#### **Financial steps**

10. 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**

11. 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.
12. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
13. 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.

14. Based on India's strong intervention during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES at Geneva from 6th to 10th July, 2009, the CITES Secretariat has issued a notification to Parties to submit reports relating to compliance of Decisions 14.69 and 14.65 within 90 days with effect from 20-10-2009 (Progress made on restricting captive breeding operations of tigers etc.).

#### 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.
16. Special advisories issued for in-situ build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

#### Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

17. 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. Since then, the guidelines of the STPF have been revised for deploying forest personnel in place of Police, with scope for involving local people like the Van Gujjars.
18. In collaboration with TRAFFIC INDIA, action has been taken for an online wildlife crime

data base, and Generic Guidelines for preparation of reserve specific Security Plan has been evolved.

#### Recent Initiatives

19. Implemented a tripartite MOU with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.
20. Revised the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) guidelines to involve local people like Van Gujjars and others in field protection.
21. Rapid assessment of tiger reserves done (12 good, 9 satisfactory and 16 poor).
22. Special crack teams sent to tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey.
23. All India meeting of Field Directors convened on 25 and 26 July, 2009 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests for reviewing the status of field protection and related issues in tiger reserves.
24. Chief Ministers of tiger States addressed at the level of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests on urgent issues' viz. implementation of the tripartite MOU, creation of the Tiger Conservation Foundation, stepping up protection etc.
25. Chief Ministers of States having tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey addressed for taking special initiatives.
26. Field visits to Bhadra, Corbett, Sariska and Ranthambhore made by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests to review the initiatives and problems relating to tiger conservation.
27. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection.
28. Advisory issued for involvement of Non-

Governmental Experts in the forthcoming all India tiger estimation.

29. Core Committee involving outside experts constituted for overseeing the forthcoming all India tiger estimation.
30. Report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted for looking into the local extinction of tiger in the Panna Tiger Reserve sent to the State (Madhya Pradesh) for the needful action.
31. Issue of tiger farming and trafficking of tiger body parts discussed at the level of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests with the Chinese Authorities.
32. Action taken for amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act to ensure effective conservation.
33. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.
34. Decision taken to host the World Tiger Summit in October-November, 2010.

#### **Review of Jan Shikshan Sansthan**

\*86. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently conducted a review of the functioning of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) which are intended to provide skill development and link literacy with vocational schemes for the benefit of the poor, illiterates, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the review;

(c) whether any deficiencies have been noticed during the review; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken to re-orient the scheme for the benefit of the under-privileged and other target groups?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE

DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Review of functioning of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) is a standard administrative exercise that is undertaken periodically on regular basis internally by the National Literacy Mission Authority as well as through third party evaluation. The last such review was undertaken in April-May 2009. During the review it was noticed that the monitoring of JSSs requires further strengthening; the course curricula needs to be standardised; the skills for which training is imparted should be demand led; the financial norms should be adhered to; adequate infrastructure needs to be available with JSSs to administer the training, and the vocational courses should have relevance to the core clientele of the Scheme.

(d) Important remedial measures aimed at further improving the implementation of the Scheme include (i) Development of a web-based Monitoring and Information System; (ii) Technical audit to assess their capacities and build them suitably; (iii) Standardization of curriculum of vocational courses and certification; (iv) Conduct of market surveys to identify the vocations relevant to their clientele; (v) To introduce an institutionalized mechanism of standardized accounting system and regular performance audit; and (vi) Inclusion of vocations which are relevant to the Scheme's clientele, that is, adults having no or rudimentary levels of education specially belonging to focus groups, namely, women, SCs, STs and Minorities.

[English]

#### **Flash Report on Central Sector Projects**

\*87. SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether some central sector projects each estimated to cost over Rs. 100 crores continue to remain in the slippage bracket, according to the latest flash report of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of projects which were on the monitor

of the Ministry and the number of projects that were dropped after their reported completion;

(d) the list of projects which were reportedly delayed in the range of 1-51 months and cost over-run as a result thereof, sector-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government, in general to complete these projects without further delay?

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, Madam.

(b) As on 31st July, 2009 out of 602 Central Sector projects costing Rs. 100 crores and above on the Flash Report System of this Ministry, 327 projects are reporting delays in the range of 1-192 months. Sector-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) In the beginning of June, 2009, 586 projects were on the monitor, 13 projects were dropped on completion; 8 in June 2009 and 5 in July 2009.

(d) During July, 2009, 51 projects reported additional delays in the range of 1 to 51 months. Two of these projects have since been completed. The details of these projects and reasons for cost and time overruns sector-wise are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) The corrective measures taken by the Government to complete these projects without further delays are:

- (i) adequate provision of funds for implementation;
- (ii) in-depth review of projects on monthly and quarterly basis by the Government;
- (iii) 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.;
- (iv) setting up of an Empowered Committee in the

administrative Ministries for review and resolving problems of departmentally executed projects;

- (v) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving unresolved problems;
- (vi) setting up of Standing Committees in the Ministries/Departments to fix responsibility for time and cost overruns; and
- (vii) appointment of nodal officers for each project with continuity of tenure.

**Statement-I**

*Sector-wise summary of the projects delayed w.r.t. their original date of commissioning (as on 1-8-2009)*

Sl. No.	Sector	No. of Projects
1.	Atomic Energy	3
2.	Civil Aviation	4
3.	Coal	18
4.	Mines	1
5.	Steel	22
6.	Petroleum	31
7.	Power	36
8.	Railways	38
9.	Road Transport and Highways	143
10.	Shipping and Ports	5
11.	Telecommunication	24
12.	Urban Development	1
13.	Water Resources	1
Total		327

**Statement-II**

*List of Projects Costing Rs. 100 Crore and above reporting additional delays during July, 2009*

Sl. No.	Project Name	Cost (Rs. crore)			Date of Commissioning			Additional Delay (in months)	Reasons for Delay
		Original	Anticipated	Cost Overrun	Original	Reported During June, 2009	Reported During July, 2009		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>COAL</b>									
1.	Ashok OC Expansion	471.66	471.66	—	03/2011	03/2011	03/2012	12	Delay in acquisition of forest land.
2.	Jhanjra Longwal UG Phase-II	287.18	287.18	—	11/2009	03/2010	03/2011	12	Due to cancellation of tender process.
3.	Tuticorin Thermal Power Project	4904.54	4904.54	—	08/2012	08/2012	09/2012	1	Delay in opening and evaluation of bids and inadequate mobilization of resources by the contractor.
<b>PETROLEUM</b>									
4.	Panipat-Naphta Cracker Project	12138.00	14439.00	2301.00	09/2009	11/2009	02/2010	3	Delay in supply of STG-3 by Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd. (BHEL).
5.	Expansion of Panipat Refinery 15 MMTPA	806.00	1007.83	201.83	03/2008	04/2010	08/2010	4	Due to shutdown of various units like Crude Distillation Unit (CDU), Vacuum Distillation Unit (VDU) and Delayed Cracker Unit (DCU).
6.	Additional Gas Processing Facility at Hazira	370.11	370.11	—	04/2011	04/2011	12/2011	8	Late issue of Notice inviting tenders (NIT).



7. Development of Bassein (Vasai) East, Western Off-shore	985.17	1688.38	703.21	03/2006	07/2009	09/2009	2	Revision of works.
<b>POWER</b>								
8. Sewa-II Hydro Electric Project 3x40 MW	665.46	897.00	231.54	09/2007	10/2009	12/2009	2	Frequent agitation by the labor unions and lack of resources available with contractor.
9. Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project	4375.35	4375.35	—	07/2011	07/2011	11/2011	4	Slow progress of civil works.
10. Eastern Region Strengthening Scheme-I (1142 CKM)	975.96	975.96	—	10/2009	10/2009	03/2010	5	Revision of works and delay in supply and equipment.
11. Transmission Sy. Associated with Barh Gener Project (P.G.R.)	3779.46	3779.46	—	09/2009	09/2009	12/2009	3	To match the requirement of linked Generation project.
12. SY. Str. in South-Western Part of Northern Grid (Part-B)	150.26	153.54	3.28	10/2009	10/2009	12/2009	2	No project specific problem has been reported by the project authorities.
13. Koteswar Transmission System (PGCIL)	260.34	266.61	6.27	06/2008	09/2009	10/2009	1	To match the requirement of linked Generation project.
14. System Strengthening-VII of Southern Region (248 CKM)	279.30	340.14	60.84	07/2009	07/2009	08/2009	1	Revision of works.
15. Northern Region System Strengthening Scheme-VI (54 CKM)	186.95	186.95	—	07/2009	08/2009	12/2009	4	Delay in state component modifications.
16. Northern Region System Strengthening Scheme-V (1222 CKM)	721.25	721.25	—	06/2009	09/2009	12/2009	3	Delay in state component modifications.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>RAILWAYS</b>									
17.	Brahmaputra Bridge at Bogibil with Link Lines, NEFR	1000.00	3087.44	2087.44	04/2008	03/2012	03/2014	24	Delay in land acquisition, delay in finalization of contract for superstructure of main bridges and frequent bandhs called by underground elements.
18.	Bhopal-Bina 3rd Line doubling	687.20	687.20	—	03/2010	08/2011	12/2012	16	Huge increase in cost of the work.
19.	Panskura-Kharagpur 3rd Line doubling	252.50	252.50	—	02/2010	06/2011	11/2011	5	Labour unrest.
20.	Salka Road-Anupnagar Line doubling	324.90	324.90	—	03/2010	03/2011	03/2012	12	Slow progress of work due to labour unrest.
21.	Aligarh-Ghaziabad 3rd Line	230.73	399.50	168.77	03/2009	12/2009	12/2010	12	Labour problem.
22.	Rangia-Murkongselek	912.70	1556.23	643.53	—NA—	03/2012	03/2013	12	Law and order problems, incidence of firing on construction camps, kidnapping and frequent bandhs.
23.	Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari	352.00	718.30	366.30	03/2008	12/2009	12/2010	12	Labour problem.
24.	Maynaguri to Jogighopa via Changra (NL), NEFR	733.00	1502.29	769.29	12/2008	12/2009	03/2014	51	Limited fund allotment.
25.	Jiribam to Imphal	727.56	2492.53	1764.97	03/2011	03/2014	03/2016	24	Law and order problems.
<b>ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS</b>									
26.	Gorhar-Barwa ADDA, km 320-km 398.75, NH-2 (Jharkhand)	399.75	399.75	—	03/2005	08/2009	09/2009	1	Slow progress by contractor and delay in land acquisition and utility shifting.
27.	Allahabad bypass Contract-II km 158-km 198, NH-2 (Uttar Pradesh)	440.93	440.93	—	12/2006	07/2009	08/2009	1	Delay in land acquisition and utility shifting.

28.	Chitradurga bypass, km 207- km 189 (NH-4)	104.00	104.00	—	08/2004	09/2009	05/2010	8	Slow progress by contractor.
29.	Hyderabad-Bangalore Section, km 376-km 418, NH-7 (Andhra Pradesh)	205.92	205.92	—	08/2009	08/2009	04/2010	8	Delay in availability of land and shifting of utilities.
30.	Maharashtra-Andhra Pradesh border-Islam Nagar km 175- km 230, NH-7	360.42	360.42	—	11/2009	11/2009	03/2010	4	Delay in land clearances.
31.	Hyderabad-Bangalore, km. 135.47-km 211, NH-7 (Andhra Pradesh)	611.44	592.00	-19.44	03/2009	08/2009	10/2009	2	Site clearance problems.
32.	Hyderabad-Bangalore Section, km 211-km 251, NH-7 (Andhra Pradesh)	194.80	194.80	—	08/2009	08/2009	04/2010	8	Delayed on account of railway clearances in respect of railway over bridges (ROB).
33.	Hyderabad-Bangalore Section, km 418-km 463.16, NH-7 (Andhra Pradesh)	243.64	243.64	—	08/2009	08/2009	04/2010	8	Delayed on account of railway clearances in respect of railway over bridges.
34.	Hyderabad-Bangalore Section, km 336-km 376, NH-7 (Andhra Pradesh)	243.38	243.38	—	09/2008	09/2009	06/2010	9	Delay in Road Over Bridge (ROB) clearances.
35.	Hyderabad-Bangalore Section, km 293.4-km 336, NH-7 (Andhra Pradesh)	239.19	239.19	—	09/2009	09/2009	06/2010	9	Delay in Road Over Bridge (ROB) clearances.
36.	Hyderabad-Bangalore Section, km 251-km 293.4, NH-7 (Andhra Pradesh)	208.46	208.46	—	08/2009	08/2009	04/2010	8	Delay in Road Over Bridge (ROB) clearances.
37.	AP/Karnataka Border Nandi Hill crossing km 464.6- km 527	402.80	402.80	—	03/2009	08/2009	09/2009	1	Difficult stretches.
38.	Dakoba-Nagaon, km 36-km 5.5, NH-36 (Assam)	225.00	225.00	—	06/2008	03/2010	06/2010	3	Delay in land acquisition and slow progress by contractor.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
39.	Lanka-Daboka, km 22-km 24 NH-54 (Assam)	225.00	225.00	—	06/2008	03/2010	06/2010	3	Delay in land acquisition and slow progress by contractor.
40.	Uiundurpet-Padalur, km 192.25-km 285, NH-45 (Tamil Nadu)	460.00	460.00	—	06/2009	07/2009	08/2009	1	Marginal delay in site clearance.
41.	Bangalore-Neelamangala (Karnataka)	445.00	445.00	—	07/2010	11/2009	03/2010	4	Delay in land acquisition.
42.	Elevated Highway from Silk Board junction to electronic city	450.00	450.00	—	07/2008	09/2009	10/2009	1	Delay in land acquisition.
43.	Vadodara-Bharuch Package BOT-I, km 108.7-km 192, NH-8 (Gujarat)	660.00	660.00	—	07/2009	07/2009	09/2009	2	Delay in mobilisation initially.
44.	Bharuch-Surat Package BOT-II, km 65, (Six-laning) NH-8 (Gujarat)	492.00	492.00	—	07/2009	07/2009	09/2009	2	Delay in mobilisation initially.
45.	Islam Nagar to Kadtal	546.83	546.83	—	03/2010	03/2010	07/2010	4	Delay in land acquisition.
TELECOMMUNICATION									
46.	GSM equipment of 1006280 Lines, Phase-IV.5	409.21	409.21	—	12/2008	07/2009	08/2009	1	Slow progress of works.
47.	GSM Equipment of 1162K Lines, Phase-IV.5	325.00	325.00	—	12/2008	07/2009	09/2009	2	Slow progress of works.
48.	GSM equipment of 1625K Lines (2G) and 325K lines in Madhya Pradesh Ph-VI	908.30	916.70	8.40	08/2009	08/2009	09/2009	1	Delay in supply of equipment.
49.	Comm. of GSM Equipment of 650 K Lines, PH-IV (Maharashtra)	364.52	364.52	—	12/2006	07/2009	10/2009	3	Delay in supply of equipment.

Number of projects reporting additional delay=49

**Indo-China Bilateral Relations**

\*88. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:

SHRI RAMKISHUN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether bilateral relations between India and China has shown a growth in the recent times;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by the Government to build confidence between India and China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) India and China have established a Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity. There are regular political high-level contacts between the two countries. Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister met their Chinese counterparts in October, 2009. The bilateral trade between the two countries has crossed \$50 million in 2008. The two sides have established a dialogue architecture at all levels to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The two sides have begun an Annual Defence Dialogue and held joint military exercises. The functional cooperation between India and China is expanding. Both sides have also promoted people to people exchanges, including exchanges between parliamentarians, political parties, academics and youth. The two sides are committed to resolving outstanding differences, including on the

boundary question, through peaceful negotiations, while ensuring that such differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations.

[Translation]

**Nuclear Power Plants**

\*89. SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the nuclear power plants presently functioning in the country alongwith their capacity and the actual quantity of power generated by each of these plants;

(b) the details of resources of uranium in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up new plants or expand the capacity of the existing nuclear power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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 details of the nuclear power plants presently functioning in the country are as follows:

	Reactor Type	Present Capacity (MW)	Generation in 2009-10 (upto October, 2009) MUs
1	2	3	4
TAPS-1 Tarapur, Maharashtra	BWR	160	810

1	2	3	4
TAPS-2 Tarapur, Maharashtra	BWR	160	660
TAPS-3 Tarapur, Maharashtra	PHWR	540	1572
TAPS-4 Tarapur, Maharashtra	PHWR	540	1575
RAPS-1 Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	100	0 <sup>1</sup>
RAPS-2 Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	200	262 <sup>2</sup>
RAPS-3 Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	220	728
RAPS-4 Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	PHWR	220	591
MAPS-1 Kalpakkam	PHWR	220	621
MAPS-2 Kalpakkam	PHWR	220	670
NAPS-1 Narora, Uttar Pradesh	PHWR	220	546
NAPS-2 Narora, Uttar Pradesh	PHWR	220	0 <sup>3</sup>
KAPS-1 Kakrapar, Gujarat	PHWR	220	0 <sup>4</sup>
KAPS-2 Kakrapar, Gujarat	PHWR	220	647
KAIGA-1 Kaiga, Karnataka	PHWR	220	687
KAIGA-2 Kaiga, Karnataka	PHWR	220	669
KAIGA-3 Kaiga, Karnataka	PHWR	220	629
<b>Total</b>		<b>4120</b>	<b>10667</b>

- Notes: 1. RAPS-1 shutdown for techno-economic Assessment from 09-10-2004  
2. RAPS-2 Restarted operations from 01-09-2009 after undergoing Enmasse Feeder Replacement (EMFR)  
3. NAPS-2 shutdown for Enmasse Coolant Channel Replacement (EMCCR)—18-12-2007  
4. KAPS-1 shutdown for EMCCR from 01-07-2008

(b) The total estimated uranium reserve in the country as on date is 1,37,365 tonnes of U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) and (e) The Government has accorded sanction for the construction of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP)—Unit-3 and 4 (2x700 MWe) at Kakrapar, Gujarat and Rajasthan Atomic Power project (RAPP)—

Unit-7 and 8 (2x700 MWe) at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan in October, 2009. The work has commenced. These projects will be completed in 2015-16 and 2016-17 respectively. In addition, 'in-principle' approval has been accorded in October, 2009 for sites for more nuclear power plants. The details of the location/State/Reactor type and capacity are as given below:—

Location	Reactor Type	Capacity (MW)
Kumharia, Haryana	Indigenous PHWRs	4x700
Bargi, Madhya Pradesh		2x700
Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu*	LWRs based on international Cooperation	4x1000
Jaitapur, Maharashtra		6x1650
Chhayamithi Virdi, Gujarat		6x1000
Kovvada, Andhra Pradesh		6x1000
Haripur, West Bengal		6x1000

\*Additional potential, 2x1000 MWe already under construction.

The projects at these locations are planned to be taken up progressively on a twin unit basis. The reactors based on foreign co-operation will be set up by Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking of the Government of India. NPCIL have commenced discussions for finalizing the model of project execution/division of scope and other commercial details with Russian Federation and France for setting up Light Water Reactors at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu and Jaitapur, Maharashtra. The completion period of two units is about 6 years from the first pour of concrete. Initial discussions have also taken place with US Vendors.

[English]

#### National Environment Protection Authority

\*90. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA:

SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:

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

(a) whether a Conference of the State Ministers of Environment and Forests was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the issues discussed therein and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) for

grant of environmental clearances and enforce environmental laws and standards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some of the State Governments have objected to the setting up of such a body;

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

(g) whether the Government also proposes to modernize and revamp the environmental clearances and regulatory compliance; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Madam. The Conference of State Ministers of Environment and Forests was held in New Delhi on 18-8-2009.

(b) The issues discussed during the Conference were centered around 6 agenda items. The agenda items related to: (i) Monitoring compliance with environmental and forestry related laws and regulations and the road map for institution-building; (ii) Improving our approach to river cleaning using innovative models and enhanced coordination between Centre, State and Local Bodies; (iii) Strategies for increasing forest cover and enhancing synergies between 'Green India Mission', National Afforestation Programme and CAMPA funds; (iv) Strengthening of State Forest Departments by Moderni-

sation, Infrastructure Development and Capacity building of forest officials; (v) Protection of Forests in the context of the implementation of the "The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers" (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006; (vi) Wildlife management including tiger conservation and issues related to man-animal conflict.

(c) and (d) The Government is considering setting up of a National Environment Protection Authority (NEPA) and the proposal is in a conceptual stage. The configuration and scope of the proposed NEPA is yet to be finalised. A discussion paper has been circulated and has also been uploaded in the Ministry's website for comments.

(e) and (f) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has responded that the establishment of a new body has to be viewed carefully in the context of the existence of State Pollution Control Boards and the Central Pollution Control Board as the constitution of NEPA may cause intervention in the rights of the States and may create dispute for smooth environmental governance.

(g) and (h) This Ministry had issued a draft notification dated 19-1-2009 to amend the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 inviting comments. The comments received have been examined by a Committee whose recommendations have been accepted by the Ministry. The recommendations *inter alia* include exemption of bio-mass based power plants up to 15 MW, and retaining the threshold limit of 20,000 sq.m. for construction projects.

[Translation]

#### Expansion of Forest Cover

\*91. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

SHRI S. SEMMALAI:

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

(a) whether deforestation has taken place in the country over the years;

(b) if so, the States where denudation of forests

has taken place during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether deforestation caused by the location of majority of power plants in forest areas is responsible for 25 per cent of India's greenhouse gas emission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details outlining the targets set and the results achieved with regard to afforestation during the last three years and the current year, year-wise; and

(f) the funds provided by the Union Government to States under afforestation programme during the said period, year-wise, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Madam. There are no such reports of any large scale of deforestation in the country over the years. The monitoring of deforestation is done by using the State of Forests Report published by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun. The State of Forests Report, 2005 (SFR, 2005) is the latest report available with the Ministry regarding forest cover. As per the SFR 2001, 2003 and 2005, the forest cover has more or less stabilized in the country. The forest cover as per these SFR's is given below:—

Assessment Year	2001	2003	2005
Forest Cover in Km <sup>2</sup>	653,898	677,816	677,088

Hence, the forest cover has increased by 23,919 km<sup>2</sup> between 2001 and 2003 SFR and marginally decreased by 728 km<sup>2</sup> between 2003 and 2005 SFR. The States where reduction in the forests cover has been reported between SFR 2003 and 2005 alongwith the reasons are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) During the last five years between January, 2005 to 18-11-2009, the Ministry has approved 81 proposals for diversion of 2822 hectare of forest land for establishment of power plants which is very meager in comparison to total forest area of 769,626 km<sup>2</sup> in the country. Hence, the diversion of only 0.004 per cent



of the forest area in the last five years for power plants is not expected to have any significant impact on India's green house gas emissions.

(e) and (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP)

for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country. The State-wise details of fund released and area covered during last three years and current Financial Year (2006-07 to 2008-09 and 2009-10 upto 30-10-2009) are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

States/UT	Reduction in forest cover between SFR 2003 and 2005 (in km <sup>2</sup> )	Important Reasons identified in the SFR-2005
Andhra Pradesh	-40	Felling of matured plantations by Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Cooperation.
Assam	-90	Encroachment, shifting cultivation in hill districts.
Chhattisgarh	-129	Submergence due to construction of Champi dam, Bilaspur, shifting cultivation in Bastar.
Gujarat	-99	Large scale uprooting of Prosopis Juliflora in Kutch district for better grass growth.
Madhya Pradesh	-132	Submergence due to construction of Indira Sagar, Omkareshwara, Madikheda Dams.
Maharashtra	-38	Felling of matured plantations by the Forest Development Cooperation.
Manipur	-173	Shifting cultivation, flowering of bamboo.
Nagaland	-296	Shifting cultivation, flowering of bamboo.
Uttarakhand	-18	Rehabilitation of the displaced people in forest areas in Haridwar and rotational felling of Eucalyptus in Udham Singh Nagar.
Andaman and Nicobar	-178	Destruction due to Tsunami.

**Statement-II**

*Year-wise details of funds released and Area covered during 2006-07 to 2009-10*

Sl. No.	State	Area in hectares				Amount Released (Rs. in crore)			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto 30-10-09)	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto 30-10-09)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh		13859	8182	2582	11.06	9.97	11.54	6.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2.	Chhattisgarh		40990	14706	3000	13.05	42.71	25.66	9.75
3.	Gujarat		32545	14620	4065	17.52	30.93	25.75	14.67
4.	Haryana		8298	8260	4726	9.20	12.93	20.14	16.59
5.	Himachal Pradesh		10028	1222	1143	11.56	7.43	6.72	2.31
6.	Jammu and Kashmir		7735	6370	220	5.83	8.13	8.47	1.39
7.	Karnataka		32905	3765	1950	23.54	31.02	15.46	7.27
8.	Madhya Pradesh		28707	13367	3538	15.83	13.84	22.55	11.18
9.	Maharashtra		41538	5182	5125	15.93	29.92	21.87	13.01
10.	Orissa		59140	7400	645	14.07	19.01	21.63	4.72
11.	Punjab		7687	1640	100	3.36	5.88	3.30	0.30
12.	Rajasthan		1000	9500	5000	5.62	2.50	7.32	6.93
13.	Tamil Nadu		6230	5670	1250	17.22	9.46	8.86	4.64
14.	Uttar Pradesh		39104	18355	8657	11.88	36.77	30.80	25.88
15.	Uttarakhand		18867	3510	1900	11.52	12.39	9.24	3.47
16.	Goa		0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Jharkhand		31990	14680	7080	19.03	24.56	26.32	12.44
18.	Bihar		9016	3675	1525	4.94	6.92	6.48	3.37
19.	Kerala		10518	4118	665	12.75	8.81	9.45	1.62
20.	West Bengal		9984	4793	615	7.00	7.23	9.06	2.64
	<b>Total (Other States) 0</b>		<b>410141</b>	<b>149015</b>	<b>53786</b>	<b>230.92</b>	<b>320.62</b>	<b>290.62</b>	<b>148.01</b>
21.	Arunachal Pradesh		5705	1450	200	2.93	4.85	3.25	0.53
22.	Assam		15660	6365	2350	13.60	8.58	9.78	4.85
23.	Manipur		12295	2950	1150	7.78	12.37	9.51	4.07
24.	Nagaland		10640	3500	2800	7.22	7.75	6.64	4.70
25.	Sikkim		6045	3350	1700	7.41	11.28	6.63	6.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
26.	Tripura		8350	335	1045	4.37	5.02	0.89	2.53
27.	Mizoram		16150	4500	1800	13.09	16.75	13.61	8.72
28.	Meghalaya		8075	1970	250	5.44	5.94	4.69	0.70
	<b>Total (NE States)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82920</b>	<b>24420</b>	<b>11295</b>	<b>61.83</b>	<b>72.55</b>	<b>55.00</b>	<b>32.10</b>
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>493061</b>	<b>173435</b>	<b>65081</b>	<b>292.75</b>	<b>392.95</b>	<b>345.62</b>	<b>180.11</b>

\*The area of advance work carried out during the year 2006-07 is included in the figures of 2007-08 as it is part of the XIth Plan target.

### Pollution in Rivers

\*92. SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether the level of pollution has increased in various rivers of the country over the years;

(b) if so, the details of these polluted rivers, State-wise and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the schemes launched earlier for cleaning these rivers have not achieved the desired results;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor including the agencies which were assigned the responsibility for cleaning these rivers, State-wise;

(e) whether the Prime Minister has also directed States to implement schemes for protection of rivers and water bodies in the recently held State Forest Ministers Conference;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make all these rivers pollution free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (g) Based on water quality monitoring, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has identified

150 polluted river stretches in the country. The details are indicated in the enclosed Statement-I. The pollution load on rivers has increased over the years due to rapid urbanization and industrialization. Abstraction of water for irrigation, drinking, industrial use, power and other purposes compounds the challenge.

The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in river conservation through the centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP). This Plan presently covers 38 rivers in 167 towns spread over 20 states. Pollution abatement schemes under NRCP include interception, diversion and treatment of sewage; low cost sanitation works on river banks; electric and/or improved wood crematoria etc. Sewage treatment capacity of nearly 4000 million litres per day (mld) has been created so far under NRCP. The schemes are implemented on a cost sharing basis between the Centre and State Governments through implementing agencies of the States. The state-wise details of rivers covered under NRCP and the implementing agencies are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Based on independent monitoring undertaken by reputed institutions on some of the major rivers under NRCP, the water quality in terms of BOD (Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand) values has improved at most locations as compared to water quality before taking up of pollution abatement schemes.

The Prime Minister, in his address at the National Conference of Ministers of Environment and Forests on 18-8-2009, called upon the States to; (i) set up

institutional structures for synergizing the river conservation efforts at the national and state levels; (ii) effectively enforce legal provisions through State Pollution Control Boards to curtail the discharge of untreated industrial effluents reaching the rivers and; (iii) explore mobilizing additional resources for river cleaning through innovative models like Special Purpose Vehicles.

Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. River conservation activities such as creation of civic infrastructure for sewage management and disposal 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.

The Government has initiated an exercise for revamping the river conservation strategy to promote a holistic and integrated river basin approach. The Central Government has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) on 20-2-2009 as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority 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.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise details of polluted river stretches*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of River	No. of polluted stretches
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Godavari, Krishna, Manjira, Musi, Maner, Nakkavagu, Pennar and Tungabhadra	9
2.	Assam	Bharalu, Burhidihing, Deepar bill and Kalong	4
3.	Chandigarh	Attawa choe, Patiala ki Rao and Sukhna choe	3
4.	Delhi	Yamna	1
5.	Gujarat	Ambika, Anas, Amlakhadi, Bhogavo, Baleshwar Khadi, Dhadar, Daman Ganga, Khari, Kaveri, Kim, Kolak, Mindhola, Mahi, Panam, Shedi, Sabarmati and Tapi	19
6.	Haryana	Ghaggar, Gurgaon canal, Markanda, Western Yamuna canal and Yamuna	5
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Beas, Markanda and Sukhna	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Betwa, Chambal, Kshipra, Khan, Kalisot, Mandakini, Tons and Narmada	9
9.	Maharashtra	Bima, Godavari, Mula and Mutha, Pawana, Panchganga, Patalganga, Indrayani, Koyna, Kundalika, Kalu, Kanhan, Kolar, Mithi, Tapi, Girna, Nira, Weinganga, Wardha, Krishna, Purna, Nira, Chandrabhaga, Venna river, Ulhas, Rangavali and Bhatsa	28

1	2	3	4
10.	Punjab	Satluj and Ghaggar	2
11.	Tamil Nadu	Adyar, Coovum, Cauvery, Noyyal, Vaigai, Tambiraparani, Bhavani and Palar	9
12.	Uttar Pradesh	Yamuna, Hindon, Western kali (Partly Covered), Kali nadi eastern, Bagad, Ganga, Gomti, Ramganga, Saryu and Rihand	12
13.	Karnataka	Bhadra, Tunga, Tungabhadra, Laxmantirtha, Kali, Krishna, Hundri, Kundu, Arkavati and Malprabha	11
14.	Manipur	Nambul	1
15.	Rajasthan	Bandi, Berech, Jojari, Chambal and Khetri	5
16.	Uttarakhand	Kosi, Dhela and Kichha and Bahalla	3
17.	Jharkhand	Subarnrekha and Sankh	2
18.	Kerala	Karamana, Puzhackal and Kadambayar	3
19.	Tripura	Agartala canal and Haora	2
20.	Bihar	Sikrana	1
21.	Chhattisgarh	Arpa, Seonath and Mahanadi	3
22.	Meghalaya	Kharkhala and Umtrew	2
23.	Orissa	Kathjodi, Brahmani, Mahanadi and Kuakhai	4
24.	Pondicherry	Arasalar	1
25.	West Bengal	Damodar, Ganga and Barakar	3
26.	Nagaland	Dhansiri	1
27.	Sikkim	Dikchu, Teesta, Maney khola and Ranichu	4
Total			150

**Statement-II**

*State-wise details of rivers covered and Implementing Agencies under the National River Conservation Plan*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Implementing Agencies/Nodal Department	River
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Public Health Engineering Department	Godavari and Musi

1	2	3	4
2. Bihar	Bihar Rajya Jal Parishad		Ganga
3. Delhi	Delhi Jal Board and Municipal Corporation of Delhi		Yamuna
4. Goa	Deptt. of Science, Technology and Environment		Mandovi
5. Gujarat	Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation		Sabarmati
6. Haryana	Public Health Engineering Department		Yamuna
7. Jharkhand	Mineral Area Development Authority		Damodar, Ganga and Subarnarekha
8. Karnataka	Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board		Bhadra, Tungabhadra, Cauvery, Tunga and Pennar
9. Kerala	Kerala Water Authority		Pamba
10. Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Public Health Engineering Department and Environment Planning and Coordination Organisation		Betwa, Tapti, Wainganga, Khan, Narmada, Kshipra, Beehar, Chambal and Mandakini
11. Maharashtra	Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran and Nasik Municipal Corporation		Krishna, Godavari, Tapi and Panchganga
12. Nagaland	Public Health Engineering Department		Diphu and Dhansiri
13. Orissa	Orissa Water Supply and Sewerage Board		Brahmini and Mahanadi
14. Punjab	Punjab Water Supply and Sewerage Board		Satluj
15. Rajasthan	Public Health Engineering Department and Rajasthan Urban Infrastructure Development Project		Chambal
16. Sikkim	Water Security and Public Health Engineering Department		Rani Chu
17. Tamil Nadu	Environment Management Agency of Tamil Nadu, Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board		Cauvery, Adyar, Cooum, Vennar, Vaigai and Tambarani
18. Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam		Yamuna, Ganga and Gomti
19. Uttaranchal	Uttaranchal Peyjal Nigam		Ganga
20. West Bengal	Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority		Ganga, Damodar and Mahananda

[English]

### India's Position on Climate Change

\*93. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend some of its position on climate change;

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

(c) the existing position of India on the issue;

(d) the efforts made by the Government to seek national consensus on India's position on climate change at Copenhagen meet;

(e) whether the developed countries have agreed to pay for accepting limit to emission growth; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) India's position on the climate change negotiations is clear and consistent as it is fully anchored in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Bali Action Plan. The UNFCCC and the Bali Action Plan continue to be the basis of India's approach to negotiations.

(c) India has argued in the international negotiating fora that the parties must take actions in accordance with the UNFCCC principles of equity and 'common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities' in order to achieve the objectives of the convention. While the actions of the developed countries should include deep and ambitious targets for emission reduction in the second commitment period (post 2012) of the Kyoto Protocol, the actions of the developing countries will depend on the support in terms of finance and technology provided by the developed countries.

While India has already taken a number of steps, on its own, to adapt to and mitigate climate change

impacts in the interest of sustainable development, India will take further voluntary and nationally appropriate actions for addressing climate change impacts strictly in accordance with the priorities and objectives laid down under its National Action Plan for Climate Change.

(d) Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change meets from time to time to oversee and guide the approach to climate change policy including formulation and approval of specific initiatives relating to implementation of 'India's National Action plan on Climate Change'. An institutional mechanism helps formulate the negotiating strategy on climate change with the necessary approvals from the appropriate levels.

(e) and (f) In the recent UNFCCC negotiations under the Bali Action Plan, discussions have taken place on the commitment of the developed countries to provide financial resources to developing countries to enable them to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts. Negotiations in this forum seek to reach an agreed outcome at the forthcoming meeting of Conference of Parties at Copenhagen in December 2009.

### Establishment of New Central Universities

\*94. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has set up new central universities in various parts of the country;

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

(c) whether some of these universities do not have required infrastructure;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has identified their permanent locations in the respective States;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which these universities are likely to be functional?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) New Central Universities established in each of the following States are indicated below:—

State	Number of Universities
(i) Bihar	1
(ii) Gujarat	1
(iii) Haryana	1
(iv) Himachal Pradesh	1
(v) Jammu and Kashmir	2
(vi) Jharkhand	1
(vii) Karnataka	1
(viii) Kerala	1
(ix) Orissa	1
(x) Punjab	1
(xi) Rajasthan	1
(xii) Tamil Nadu	1

In addition, the following Central Universities have been established by conversion of erstwhile State Universities:—

- (i) Dr. Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (Madhya Pradesh)
- (ii) Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)
- (iii) Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar (Uttarakhand)

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Central University of Himachal Pradesh and Central University of Jammu do not have any infrastructure as these universities have not started functioning.

(e) and (f) Permanent locations have been identified in respect of the new Central Universities of Haryana, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab and Tamil Nadu. The locations are as under:—

- (i) Haryana—Villages Jant-Pali, Mahendragarh district
- (ii) Karnataka—Villages Kadaganchi-Suntnoor, Gulbarga district
- (iii) Orissa—Village Sunabeda, Koraput district
- (iv) Punjab—Village Ghudha, Bhatinda district
- (v) Tamil Nadu—Villages Neelakudi and Nagakudi, Thiruvavur district

(g) All Universities, other than the Central Universities of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu, have become functional.

[Translation]

#### Rise in Coal Price

\*95. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:  
DR. MONAZIR HASSAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the price of coal has been increased by the coal companies recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the hike in coal prices effected during the last three years;
- (d) the norms/criteria adopted by the coal companies to regulate hike in coal prices;
- (e) whether the recently effected increase was based on input costs, inflation index, market trends, etc; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor, 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) and (b) Yes Madam. Coal prices have been



increased with effect from 16th October, 2009. Run of Mine (ROM) coal prices in all coal companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) other than Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) have been increased by 10% for all grades of coal over the then existing prices and such increase in respect of coal produced by ECL and BCCL is 15%, except for the portion of Raniganj coal of Grades A and B from such mines of ECL, which are supplied under Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to specific consumers at special price.

(c) The position with regard to the last three years is given below:

- (i) Coal prices were revised on 13th December 2007, ROM coal prices for all coal companies or CIL other than North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) were increased by 10% for all grades of coking and non-coking coal, over the then existing prices and in case of NEC the increase was 15%.
- (ii) Coal prices of NEC were further revised on 09th March, 2008. ROM coal prices of all grades of coal of NEC were increased by 50% over the then existing prices.
- (iii) Coal prices were last revised in the current year on 16th October 2009, the details of which are given in the reply to part (a) and (b) above.

(d) The hike in the coal prices has been so regulated to ensure that

- (i) it remains competitive vis-à-vis price of imported coal.
- (ii) the market is able to absorb such hike in coal price.
- (iii) it generates additional resources in meeting the additional recurring expenditures.
- (iv) it generates additional resources for fresh investment in new projects.

(e) Yes Madam.

(f) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (e) above.

#### **Inter-Linking of Rivers**

\*96. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for inter-linking of five peninsular rivers has been prepared;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the said projects;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the action taken by the Government to start the work on the projects; and

(e) the time by which the work on the projects is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government approved in 2004 mentioned that it would make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country starting with the south-bound rivers and this assessment would be done in a fully consultative manner. After a comprehensive assessment, it was decided that river linking programme be continued with a focus on peninsular rivers. Five links under Peninsular Component namely (i) Ken-Betwa, (ii) Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal, (iii) Damanganga-Pinjal, (iv) Par-Tapi-Narmada and (v) Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijayawada) were identified as priority links for taking up their Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) on the basis of consensus among the concerned State Government.

DPR of Ken-Betwa link has been completed on 31-12-2008. Ken-Betwa project has been included in the list of National projects and is eligible for 90% Central Assistance.

Further, NWDA has taken up the preparation of

DPRs of another two priority links namely Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal which is planned to be completed by December, 2011.

Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijawada) link is part of the Polavaram project of the Andhra Pradesh. Planning Commission has given investment clearance to the Polavaram Project and the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up the construction of the project including link component as per their proposal. Further, the concerned states have not given concurrence to take up DPR of Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link project.

(d) and (e) Preparation of DPR of river inter-linking project is taken up only after a consensus among the concerned State Governments. A consensus group under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission has been constituted for evolving consensus among the concerned State Governments for preparation of DPR of river inter-linking projects. Water being a State subject under the constitution of India, concerned State Governments take up the works of the river inter-linking projects after obtaining the techno-economic clearance from the Technical Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources and investment clearance from the Planning Commission.

[English]

### **National Literacy Mission**

\*97. SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently reviewed the functioning of the National Literacy Mission (NLM);

(b) if so, the outcome of the review;

(c) the actual literacy rate among men and women in the urban and rural areas in each State/U.T.;

(d) whether the Government proposes to revitalise the organisational set up for effective implementation of the Mission; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The programme was subjected to extensive in-house and external review. This in-depth appraisal revealed certain inadequacies in the design, architecture and mode of implementation of the programme. These include limited involvement of the State Governments in the programme, lack of convergence of programmes under Continuing Education Programme (CEP), weak management and supervisory structures, lack of community participation and inadequate funding.

The modified Scheme has been drawn up after removing the shortcomings noted in its preceding edition, and also has added several new features to it. Basic Literacy, Post Literacy and Continuing Education, under the modified scheme will form a continuum, rather than as sequential segments. Besides, the volunteer based approach, provision has been made for alternative approaches to adult education. Lok Shiksha Kendras (Adult Education Centres) (AECs), will be set up to provide the entire range of Adult Education, including, Literacy, Post Literacy, Basic Education, Vocational Education and Life Long Learning within their territorial jurisdiction. State Governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions, along with communities, will be valued stakeholders in the new programme. Vigorous management systems, including monitoring and evaluation systems, will be installed. Budgetary support has also been enhanced substantially.

(c) The literacy rate among men and women in urban and rural areas in each State/U.T. is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. Panchayats have been designated as the implementing agency at the operational level. At State level, the State Literacy Mission Authority, headed by Chief Minister or the Education Minister of the State, will be responsible for management, implementation and monitoring of the Mission. In the States, where Panchayati Raj Institutions are functioning, management and monitoring will be the responsibility of Shiksha Samities at the District, Block and Village level headed by District/Block/Gram Panchayat Presidents respectively.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Literacy Rate (As per Census 2001)			
		Male		Female	
		Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	83.19	65.35	68.74	43.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	85.19	57.65	69.49	36.94
3.	Assam	89.74	68.22	80.24	50.70
4.	Bihar	79.94	57.09	62.59	29.61
5.	Chhattisgarh	89.39	74.09	71.11	46.99
6.	Goa	89.46	87.37	78.98	71.92
7.	Gujarat	88.34	74.11	74.50	47.84
8.	Haryana	85.83	75.37	71.34	49.27
9.	Himachal Pradesh	92.04	84.51	85.03	65.68
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	80.00	61.65	61.98	36.74
11.	Jharkhand	87.03	60.94	69.96	29.89
12.	Karnataka	86.66	70.45	74.12	48.01
13.	Kerala	95.94	93.63	90.62	86.69
14.	Madhya Pradesh	87.39	71.70	70.47	42.76
15.	Maharashtra	91.03	81.93	79.09	58.40
16.	Manipur	88.71	77.31	70.01	56.95
17.	Meghalaya	89.05	59.24	83.50	53.24
18.	Mizoram	96.43	84.93	95.80	77.26
19.	Nagaland	87.44	67.58	81.42	57.52
20.	Orissa	87.93	72.93	72.87	46.66
21.	Punjab	83.05	71.05	74.49	57.72
22.	Rajasthan	86.45	72.16	64.67	37.33

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Sikkim	87.81	74.45	79.16	58.01
24.	Tamil Nadu	88.97	77.15	75.99	55.28
25.	Tripura	93.21	78.40	85.03	60.50
26.	Uttar Pradesh	76.76	66.59	61.73	36.90
27.	Uttarakhand	87.05	81.78	74.77	54.70
28.	West Bengal	86.13	73.13	75.74	53.16
29.	Chandigarh	86.78	80.98	77.40	66.37
30.	Delhi	87.39	86.60	75.22	67.39
31.	Pondicherry	91.18	83.50	78.57	64.38
32.	Daman and Diu	91.12	84.83	73.41	59.33
33.	Andaman and Nicobar	90.65	84.14	81.47	72.26
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	90.84	64.50	74.54	30.83
35.	Lakshdweep	93.77	91.49	83.13	78.27

### Desertification in the Country

\*98. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI NARAYAN SINGH AMLABE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Governments including Madhya Pradesh to check the desertification in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the union government has prepared any action plan to check desertification in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the land degraded permanently by heavy sand deposits due to flood will also be included in the anti-desertification programme;

(f) if so, the details of the area that is likely to be

included in the anti-desertification programme, State-wise; and

(g) the details of the funds sanctioned/released by the Union Government to State Governments for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Madam. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any proposals from the State Governments including Madhya Pradesh to check desertification in the states. As per the information received from the ministries of Rural Development and Agriculture also, no such proposals have been received in their ministries.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. However, India is a party to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Government of India in fulfillment of one of the obligations of the parties to the convention, submitted a National Action Programme to

Combat Desertification to the Secretariat of the UNCCD in 2001. It provided an overview of on-going endeavours of various sectors that directly or indirectly contribute to fighting land degradation in arid, semi arid and dry sub humid regions as 'desertification' is understood in the UNCCD parlance.

(e) to (g) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government of India.

### **Safety of Dams in the Country**

\*99. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any study on the safety and security of dams in the country;

(b) if so, the findings of the study including the names of dams which are unsafe; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government for the safety and security of all such dams?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The responsibility of the safety of dams lies with the owners of the dams i.e. State Governments, PSUs etc. However, the Union Government, in 1982, constituted a Standing Committee to review the existing practices and to evolve unified procedures of dam safety for all dams in India. This Standing Committee in its report (Report of Dam Safety Procedures—July 1986) gave suggestions on administrative setup for Dam Safety Cells in the States and its functions and also on the role of Dam Safety Organization at the Centre. The report also gave guidelines for hydrological and structural reviews and for inspection, operation and maintenance of dams.

The Union Government reconstituted the above Standing Committee as National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) in October, 1987 by broad basing the then existing Standing Committee on Dam Safety to include all the states having significant numbers of large dams. The main function of NCDS is to oversee the

dam safety activities in various states and suggest improvements in this regard.

The review of security of important Dams in the country is carried out periodically by the Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with Central Security Agencies. The joint security reviews are conducted for the dams by the Central Security Agencies with the concerned State Governments. However, the security recommendations of these joint security reviews are implemented by the concerned State Governments.

### **Chandrayaan-I Mission**

\*100. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the objectives of India's maiden moon mission Chandrayaan-I has been achieved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the mission has discovered water on the moon;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Chandrayaan-I has been finally called off before its expected life span; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor including the total cost of the mission and its adverse impact on future missions?

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) The mission objectives achieved are in terms of launching Chandrayaan-I spacecraft using India's own Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and making the spacecraft precisely reach and orbit around the Moon, establishment of an indigenous state-of-the-art Deep

Space Network and Science Data Centre, dropping the Moon Impact Probe along with the Indian tri colour on the Moon and obtaining image around 95% of Moon's surface at high resolution. In addition, Chandrayaan-I is also an example of cooperation with different countries and achieving the complex technological and scientific task in a coordinated manner.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The data obtained from the instrument onboard Chandrayaan-I mission clearly indicated the presence of Hydroxyl (OH), a molecule consisting of oxygen and hydrogen atoms and water molecules (H<sub>2</sub>O) on the lunar surface.

(e) Yes, Madam.

(f) The Chandrayaan-I mission has been called off on 29th August, 2009, after 312 days in orbit, due to the failure of certain critical components. The total cost of the Chandrayaan-I project is Rs. 386.00 crores, including the cost of establishment of ground infrastructure. There is no adverse impact on future missions.

#### **Amendment in Copyright Act, 1957**

902. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Copyright Act, 1957;

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

(c) the time by which the said Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Government proposes to amend the Copyright Act, 1957 to provide protection to the copyrighted works in the digital environment, to protect the concerns of music and film industry, to protect the concerns of physically disabled persons and authors of any work, to remove operational difficulties, to strengthen enforcement of rights and to introduce some incidental changes. The

draft Bill relating to amendment to the Copyright Act 1957 is under consideration of the Government.

*[Translation]*

#### **Quota for IAS and IPS**

903. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any quota for IAS and IPS cadres has been prescribed for various States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the norms/criteria for the purpose;

(c) the current status of number of sanctioned posts and actual number of cadre posts in each State;

(d) the number of officers joining the Union Government on deputation basis from various States, service-wise; and

(e) the norms/criteria 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 (c) Total Authorized Strength of each cadre of IAS and IPS is fixed in consultation with the State Government and notified by the Union Government as per the functional requirements of the State concerned and this is reviewed by the Central Government at regular intervals. Total number of cadre posts and the total authorized strength of IAS and IPS presently in operation are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) A total 710 IAS officers and 586 IPS officers are presently working under the Central Government.

(e) IAS and IPS officers serve in the Union Government on deputation basis and this deputation is governed by rule 6(1) of the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954 and rule 6(1) of the IPS (Cadre) Rules, 1954.

**Statement***Number of Cadre Posts and Total Authorised Strength of the IAS and IPS in the States/Joint Cadres*

Sl. No.	Name of the State/Joint Cadre	IAS		IPS	
		Number of Cadre Posts	Total Authorised Strength	Number of Cadre Posts	Total Authorised Strength
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	188	347	123	226
2.	AGMUT*	132	245	106	196
3.	Assam-Meghalaya	135	248	94	172
4.	Bihar	177	326	104	193
5.	Chhattisgarh	74	138	44	81
6.	Gujarat	142	260	87	161
7.	Haryana	112	205	64	117
8.	Himachal Pradesh	71	129	42	75
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	75	137	73	135
10.	Jharkhand	77	143	59	110
11.	Karnataka	163	299	94	172
12.	Kerala	116	214	78	142
13.	Madhya Pradesh	199	369	158	291
14.	Maharashtra	190	350	128	236
15.	Manipur-Tripura	107	198	66	121
16.	Nagaland	39	70	33	60
17.	Orissa	123	226	87	159
18.	Punjab	105	193	79	144
19.	Rajasthan	141	260	105	193
20.	Sikkim	27	50	18	32
21.	Tamil Nadu	193	355	128	236
22.	Uttarakhand	51	94	33	60

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Uttar Pradesh	290	537	218	404
24.	West Bengal	161	296	150	278
Total		3088	5689	2171	3994

\*AGMUT is a Joint Cadre for All India Services for the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, Delhi and all the Union Territories.

[English]

### Declining Population of River Dolphin

904. SHHI P. VISWANATHAN:

SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the declining population of River Dolphin in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to declare River Dolphin as National Aquatic Animal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect and increase the population of River Dolphin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) River dolphin is critically endangered species in India and therefore, has been included in the Schedule I for the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The main reasons for decline in population of the species are poaching and habitat degradation due to declining flow, heavy siltation, construction of barrages causing physical barrier for this migratory species.

(c) and (d) During the first meeting of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) held on 5th October 2009, under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister, it was decided to declare River Dolphin as National Aquatic Animal.

(e) The important steps taken to protect River Dolphins are as given below:

(i) River Dolphins have been included in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby affording them the highest degree of protection.

(ii) The important habitats of river dolphins have been declared as Protected Areas for their conservation.

(iii) Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State Governments under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for conservation and protection of wildlife including dolphins and their habitat.

(iv) Financial assistance is provided for conducting scientific research on the habitat, behavior, population status of river dolphins.

### Renovation of Churches

905. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any financial assistance for the renovation of Churches in Goa;

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

(c) the progress made in renovation of the Churches alongwith the time schedule for the completion, Church-wise;

(d) whether other historical structures have also been taken up for renovation in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time schedule for completion thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF



PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Madam. The Government has provided necessary funds for conservation of centrally protected Churches in Goa.

(b) The details of expenditure incurred during the last three years and provision for the current financial year are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Conservation work of the monuments is a continuous process. Every year essential work is taken up depending upon the need and availability of resources

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. The details of other protected monument in the State taken up for conservation alongwith the allocation of funds for the current financial year are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

**Statement-I**

*List of Churches under the jurisdiction of Goa Circle and details of expenditure/allocation for conservation*

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of the Churches	Location	Expenditure incurred during the last three years			Provision for the year 2009-10
			2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
1.	Church of St. Augustine	Old Goa	12,20,886	8,97,053	17,50,122	15,00,000
2.	Basilica of Born Jesus	Old Goa	13,38,437	12,51,941	16,32,996	16,50,000
3.	Se' Cathedral	Old Goa	20,82,495	14,65,910	24,65,966	19,00,000
4.	Church of St. Cajetan	Old Goa	2,15,858	12,09,797	16,23,170	14,00,000
5.	Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi	Old Goa	11,78,549	10,81,181	18,98,367	15,00,000
6.	Chapel of St. Catherine	Old Goa	4,51,003	1,77,403	1,02,933	7,00,000
7.	Church of Our Lady of Rosary	Old Goa	7,29,331	1,87,803	8,60,345	3,00,000

**Statement-II**

*Other Protected Monuments in Goa taken for conservation*

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Names of the other protected monuments	Estimated cost
1.	2	3
1.	Upper Fort, Aguada	11,67,000

1	2	3
2.	Safa Masjid, Ponda	11,70,000
3.	Mahadev Temple, Kurdi	2,21,800
4.	Rock cut Caves, Arvalim	76,800
5.	Mahadev Temple, Tambdisurla	2,18,000
6.	Excavated Site, Chandore	70,728
7.	St. Paul Gate	95,713

1	2	3
8.	Viceroy's Arch and Adilshah Gate	65,540
9.	Lower Fort, Aguda	10,18,900

**Nomination of Chitradurga Fort as  
World Heritage Site**

906. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chitradurga Fort in Karnataka is being considered for nomination of World Heritage Site for 2010;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) 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 (c) The Government has not received any proposal for nominating Chitradurga Fort in Karnataka for inscription in the World Heritage List of UNESCO. Moreover, as per the Operational Guidelines laid down by the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, nomination of any property to the World Heritage List can only be considered if it has already been included in the Tentative List of the country concerned.

The Chitradurga Fort does not figure in the Tentative List of India approved by the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO as at present.

*[Translation]*

**Modernisation of Autonomous  
Engineering Colleges**

907. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides financial assistance for the modernization of autonomous Engineering Colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Governments for modernisation of autonomous Engineering Colleges in the States for approval;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which such proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) There is a Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme-I (TEQIP-I) in the Ministry which was conceived and designed as a long term project to be implemented 10-12 years in three phases to support excellence and transformation in technical education in the country. 127 institutions participated in TEQIP-I out of which 18 were Centrally Funded Institutions and the remaining 109 were State Institutions. The State Institutions were from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The total allocation for these Institutions was Rs. 1339 crore.

All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) also has a scheme aimed at Modernization and Removal of Obsolescence (MODROBS) in the Laboratories/Workshops/Computing facilities in technical institutions. There is a scheme for upgradation of 200 State engineering institutions in the XIth Plan. Some proposals have been received from the State Governments under this scheme. The proposals shall be approved after the criteria for selection is decided upon.

*[English]*

**Opening of New Universities**

908. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has recommended to open 735 universities during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimate of expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard; and

(c) the time by which these Universities are likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No recommendation of the University Grants Commission to open 735 universities during the Eleventh Five Year Plan has been received by the Central Government. However, the Eleventh Five Year Plan has a scheme to incentivise States to establish new institutions including Universities for which an allocation of Rs. 6200 crore has been provided in the Plan.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### Disposal of Cases by CVC

909. SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases referred to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of cases on which reports have been given;

(c) the number of cases which have been sent back for lack of necessary evidence;

(d) the number of cases in which persons have been found guilty and the number of cases on which recommendations have been made to punish the guilty persons;

(e) the number of cases in which action has not been taken so far and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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 number of cases received in the Central Vigilance Commission and disposed of during the last three years and the current year were as under:—

Year	No. of cases received	Disposed of
2006	4798	4683
2007	4941	4672
2008	4721	4238
Up to October, 2009	4690	4410

(c) The cases/references received in the CVC which are incomplete or deficient in any manner are sent back to the concerned organization. However, specific data of such cases is not maintained in the commission;

(d) No. of cases where the Commission has advised imposition of Major Penalty/Minor Penalty are as under:—

Year	No. of cases	
	Major Penalty	Minor Penalty
2006	686	296
2007	756	246
2008	719	200

(e) The number of cases where the concerned organizations have not implemented the Commission's 2nd stage advice are as under:—

Year	No. of cases
2006	863
2007	892
2008	733

(f) The disciplinary cases are dealt with as per rules/law laid down in this regard. However, wherever there has been delay in completion of disciplinary cases/issue of final order of penalty by the organizations concerned, the Central Vigilance Commission on its part has been advising the authorities concerned to finalize such cases promptly.

**Report of National Sample  
Survey Organisation**

910. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether 19 per cent population of the country is subsisting at mere Rs. 12 per day, as per the report of the National Sample Survey Organisation;

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

(c) whether the Government is taking any concrete step in this regard; 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) and (b) As per NSS Report No. 523 entitled "Household Consumer Expenditure in India, 2005-06" based on NSS 62nd round conducted during July 2005-June 2006, the percentage of rural population with daily per capita expenditure of about Rs. 12 is 18.7% at all India level.

This percentage is further reduced to 12.7% as per NSS 63rd round survey conducted during July 2006-June 2007.

The State-wise details of such population for some selected states during 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Some of the centrally sponsored schemes which are implemented by the government for rural and urban poverty alleviation are mentioned below:

Name of the scheme	Sponsoring Ministry
National Rural Employment Guarantees Act (NREGA)	Ministry of Rural Development
Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY)	
Indira Awaas Yojna (IAY)	
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)	
District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) Administration	
Integrated Wastelands Management Programme (IWMP)	
National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP)	
Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)	Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
Swarn Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY)	

State	Statement	
	Percentage of rural population with MPCE below Rs. 365 (≈ Rs.12 per day)	
	(in 2005-06)	(in 2006-07)
1	2	3
Orissa	44.4	43.0
Chhattisgarh	44.1	25.6
Madhya Pradesh	33.6	23.7
Jharkhand	31.8	20.7
Bihar	29.6	16.5
Uttar Pradesh	19.8	13.0
Karnataka	18.8	12.5
West Bengal	18.3	12.0
Tamil Nadu	16.2	8.2
Andhra Pradesh	13.2	11.0
Gujarat	10.5	4.3
Maharashtra	10.2	7.5

	1	2	3
Assam		9.1	8.0
Rajasthan		8.7	4.7
Haryana		7.0	1.3
Kerala		3.5	1.8
Punjab		2.1	0.2
All-India		18.7	12.7

#### Coking and Non-coking Coal Reserve

911. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the present estimated quantity of coking and non-coking coal available in the country, State-wise and location-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): As per the latest inventory of the Geological Survey of India, the total coal resources as on 01-04-2009 in the country stand at 267.21 billion tonnes. The State-wise and location-wise break-up of coking/non-coking coal resources is given below:

(in Million Tonnes)

State	Location/Coalified	Coking Coal	Non-Coking Coal
1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh	Sohagpur	—	104.38
	Sonhat	170.02	2495.22
	Jhilimili	—	267.10
	Chirimiri	—	362.16
	Bisrampur	—	1498.99
	East of Bisrampur	—	41.75
	Lakhanpur	—	451.40

1	2	3	4
	Panchbahini	—	11.00
	Sendurgarh	—	279.21
	Hasdo Arand	—	5020.78
	Korba	—	10310.86
	Mand-Raigarh	—	21853.64
	Tatapani-Ramakola	—	1616.79
	<b>Total</b>	<b>170.02</b>	<b>44313.08</b>
<b>Jharkhand</b>	Raiganj	377.80	1658.50
	Jharia	11477.06	7953.00
	East Bokaro	7916.72	166.57
	West Bokaro	4724.08	288.41
	Ramgarh	1011.54	37.93
	North Karanpura	3721.24	13322.36
	South Karanpura	809.63	5340.48
	Auranga	—	2997.11
	Hutur	—	249.82
	Daltonganj	—	143.96
	Deogarh	—	399.84
	Rajmahal	—	14115.91
	<b>Total</b>	<b>30038.07</b>	<b>46673.89</b>
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	Pench-Kanhan	666.42	1763.05
	Umaria	—	181.29
	Johilla	—	322.00
	Pathakhera	—	446.93
	Gurgunda	—	47.39
	Mohpani	—	7.83
	Sohagpur	1521.01	3608.58

1	2	3	4
	Singrauli	—	12416.51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2187.43</b>	<b>18793.58</b>
<b>West Bengal</b>	Raniganj	1017.27	22497.23
	Barjora	—	114.27
	Birbhum	—	4683.02
	Darjeeling	—	15.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1017.27</b>	<b>27309.52</b>
<b>Maharashtra</b>	Wardha	—	6003.49
	Kamptee	—	2860.81
	Umrer-Makardhokra	—	308.41
	Nand-Bander	—	952.03
	Bokhara	—	30.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10154.74</b>
<b>Bihar</b>	Rajmahal	—	160.00
<b>Orissa</b>	IB-River	—	22421.79
	Talchir	—	42805.07
	<b>Total</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>65226.86</b>
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	Singrauli	—	1061.80
<b>Sikkim</b>	Rangit Valley	—	101.23
<b>Assam</b>	Singrimari	—	2.79
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	Godavari Valley	—	18926.92

Besides the above mentioned coking/non-coking coal resources amounting to 266.14 billion tonnes, 1.07 billion tonnes of coal having high sulfur content are located in the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland.

[English]

**Sardar Sarovar Project**

912. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from State Government of Gujarat to grant a status of Infrastructure Project to Sardar Sarovar Project and declare it as National Project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) The proposal of Sardar Sarovar Project for declaring it as a National Project in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the guidelines for implementation of the scheme of National Projects issued by the Ministry of Water Resources on 26th February 2009 has not been received.

[Translation]

#### **Anti-Sea Erosion Work**

913. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Government of Gujarat for anti-sea erosion work during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated by the Union Government during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the details of work undertaken by the Gujarat Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) The Government of Gujarat had initially submitted one consolidated proposal indicating the requirement of funds for Anti-Sea Erosion works amounting to Rs. 530.20 crore to Central Water Commission (CWC) in

July 2008 for external assistance. The proposal was examined in CWC and comments were sent to State Government of Gujarat further, for compliance. In the meantime, anti-sea erosion schemes amounting to Rs. 50.45 crore were submitted by the State Government of Gujarat to Central Water Commission for techno-economic examination and for consideration under Flood Management Programme—a state sector scheme approved during XI Plan by the Cabinet. Out of the 10 schemes, one scheme has been cleared by CWC and sent to the Planning Commission for investment clearance and observations of CWC for other 8 schemes have been sent to the State Government of Gujarat for compliance; which is still awaited. One scheme (costing less than Rs. 1.0 crore) has been returned as it can be funded by the State Government from own resources. After obtaining all mandatory clearances including investment clearance from Planning Commission, the schemes would be considered for central assistance by an Empowered Committee on FMP headed by Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance. The list of 10 schemes is enclosed as Statement-I.

As no eligible proposal having all mandatory clearances has been received from the State Government of Gujarat, no funds were allocated in the last three years.

(d) As per the information furnished by the State Government of Gujarat, the details of work undertaken by the Gujarat Government during the years 2005-06 to 2008-09 from its own resources/raising loan from NABARD are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

#### **Statement-I**

Name of Scheme	Cost Estimate (Rs. in lakh)	Remarks
1	2	3
1. Proposal on providing coastal protection/sea wall from Sangam Narayan Temple to Gayatri Mandir at Dwarka Tal. Dwarka Dist. Jamnagar	794.31	This scheme has been cleared by CWC and sent to the Planning Commission for investment clearance.



1	2	3
2. Constructing Anti-Sea Coastal Erosion Earthen Bund at Village Dandi Taluka Olpad District Surat	559.00	Observations of CWC have been sent to the State Government of Gujarat for compliance; which is still awaited.
3. Constructing Anti-Sea Coastal Erosion Earthen Bund at Village Dabhari Taluka Olpad District Surat from 0 to 4275 m	306.00	—do—
4. Constructing Anti-Sea Coastal Erosion Earthen Bund at Village Nesh-Karanj Taluka Olpad District Surat	340.61	—do—
5. Protection against erosion of Sea Coast at Village Dumas, Taluka Choryasi District Surat	700.66	—do—
6. Anti Sea Erosion work at Village Danti, Taluka Jalalpore, District Jalalpore, district Navasari Protection length 1260 m	484.95	—do—
7. Anti Sea erosion work at Village Samapore (Dandi), Taluka Jalalpore, District Navasari	484.33	—do—
8. Anti-Sea erosion work at Village Fansa, Taluka Umargam, District Valsad	608.11	—do—
9. Anti-Sea erosion work at Village Maroli, Taluka Umargam, District Valsad	691.87	—do—
10. Protecting right side bank of Kanani Khadi at Village Sultanpore, Taluka Jalalp District Navasari	75.49	The scheme has been returned as it can be funded by the State Government from own resources
<b>Total</b>	<b>5045.33</b>	

**Statement-II**

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Total cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3

**Year: 2005-06**

1.	Anti sea erosion works at Nani Danti Moti Danti Tal. Valsad Ch. 1600 m to 2100 m.	206.00
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1	2	3
2.	Anti sea erosion works at Village Udwada, Tal. Pardi Dist. Valsad Ch. 0 to 985 m. and ch. 1472 m. to 1702 m.	133.14
	<b>Sub-total (2005-06)</b>	<b>339.14</b>
<b>Year 2006-07</b>		
1.	Anti-Sea erosion work at Nani Danti Moti Danti Tal. Valsad Ch. 2100 m. to 2610 m.	214.89
	<b>Sub-total (2006-07)</b>	<b>214.89</b>
<b>Year 2007-08</b>		
1.	Anti-Sea erosion works at Danti Tal. Olpad Dist. Surat Ch. 690 m. to 900 m. and 900 m. to 1600 m.	140.59
2.	Anti-Sea erosion works at Village Onjal Machiwadt Tal: Jalalpor Dist. Navsari Ch. 168 m. to 840 m. and 840 m. to 1560 m.	1023.73
3.	Anti-Sea erosion scheme at Village Bhat Tal. Gandevi Dist. Navsari Ch. 0 m. to 1350 m. and 1350 m. to 2730 m.	1281.58
4.	Anti-Sea erosion scheme at Mor Bhagwa Tal Olpad Dist. Surat Ch. 0 m. to 1350 m.	640.62
5.	Anti-Sea erosion works at Nani Danti Moti Danti Tal. Valsad Ch. 2610 m. to 3240 m.	316.83
6.	Anti-Sea erosion works at Village Udwada, Tal. Pardi Dist. Valsad Ch. 320 m. to 535 m.	70.75
	<b>Sub-total (2007-08)</b>	<b>3474.10</b>
<b>Year: 2008-09</b>		
1.	Anti-Sea erosion works at Village Budia, Tal. Choryasi, Dist. Surat Ch. 0 m. to 500 m.	54.25
	<b>Sub-total (2008-09)</b>	<b>54.25</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>4082.38</b>

[English]

**Persons Killed by Wild Animals**

914. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:  
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

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

(a) the number of persons killed, houses and crops damaged in the mayhem caused by wild elephants, lions and tigers during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons who have been paid compensation by the Government so far; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check mayhem caused by wild animals and the details of the amount spent in this regard, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The number of persons killed by wild elephants, lions and tigers during last three years are as follows:

**No. of persons killed**

Elephants	1090
Tigers	11
Lions	03

Incidences of house and crop damages by lions and tigers are rare and are not reported to the Central Government. The States have reported damages of 15312 houses and 87269 cases of crop damage by wild elephants in the last three years.

(b) The rates and actual payment of compensation are decided and paid by the respective State/UT

Governments and, therefore, all the details of payments are not collated at the Ministry's level. However, as per information submitted by States in respect of damages by elephants, a total amount of approximately Rs. 30.29 crores have been paid as compensation in the last three years.

(c) The Government of India provides financial assistance to the States to check mayhem caused by wild animals mainly wild elephants. The year-wise and State-wise total amounts released to the State Governments under Project Elephant Scheme and the amounts released for payment of compensation out of the total amount is given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*Government of India State-wise funds released under Project Elephant from year 2006-07 to 2008-09*

Name of States	Total amount released (Rs. in lakh)			Amount released for Compensation (Rs. in lakh)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	64.774	60	45	6	1.5	2
Arunachal Pradesh	61	54.5	65	15	20	38
Assam	75	144	175.19	40	40	50
Chhattisgarh	80	83.77	60.43	31	25	25
Haryana	50	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	74.446	132.17	80	—	—	—
Karnataka	167.82	212.65	249	30	15	25
Kerala	169.4	147.7	356.8	5	10	15
Maharashtra	25	56.86	77.76	—	10	10
Meghalaya	61.55	68.39	50	27	25	30
Mizoram	—	1.33	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	52.45	26.6	17.45	1	2	1.5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orissa	153.94	148.5	180.6	65	40	40
Tamil Nadu	153.41	124.978	269.163	30	10	40
Tripura	—	12	28.96	—	1	1.5
Uttar Pradesh	6.2	55.33	58.24	2.7	2.7	3.5
Uttarakhand	153.12	126.46	209.45	—	—	—
West Bengal	160.89	185.725	176.096	40	40	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>1509</b>	<b>1640.963</b>	<b>2099.139</b>	<b>292.70</b>	<b>242.20</b>	<b>326.50</b>

**Dilapidated Conditions of  
Government Schools**

915. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify Government schools which are being run in dilapidated buildings in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per Seventh All India School Education Survey conducted by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), (with reference date 30-9-2002), the status of school building in government and local bodies schools is as under:—

Type of School	Total No. of Schools	No. of Schools with pucca building	No. of Schools with partly pucca building	No. of Schools with kuccha building	No. of Schools in tents	No. of Schools in open space
Government School	520560	415252	68054	21494	825	14935
Local bodies schools	292783	245865	29425	8734	932	7827
<b>Total</b>	<b>813343</b>	<b>661117</b>	<b>97479</b>	<b>30228</b>	<b>1757</b>	<b>22762</b>

The State-wise figures are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, grant for major repair was given to 6483 elementary schools during

2008-09. The recently launched Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan meant for improvement of secondary education, *inter-alia*, allows for major repair of government secondary school buildings.

**Statement**

*State-wise Number of Government and Local body schools according to type of school buildings (as on 30-9-2002)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Pucca		Partly Pucca		Kuccha		Tents	
		Govt. School	Local Body	Govt. School	Local Body	Govt. School	Local Body	Govt. School	Local Body
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5492	56880	820	2468	778	1684	157	210
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	912	18	367	4	410	3	0	0
3.	Assam	12105	2143	15191	3951	4843	2212	220	59
4.	Bihar	38905	69	8553	18	2038	9	42	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	19104	31	8905	7	1912	1	0	0
6.	Goa	1043	3	10	0	6	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	827	24043	101	5814	19	417	3	94
8.	Haryana	12238	132	140	2	3	0	1	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9706	152	2457	20	1270	14	2	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	8628	388	2233	79	1527	46	34	1
11.	Jharkhand	18786	66	1308	5	407	6	25	0
12.	Karnataka	41705	203	2760	11	607	4	88	0
13.	Kerala	4133	165	376	14	48	0	6	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	55229	1044	8549	165	1902	64	32	1
15.	Maharashtra	1691	55653	91	1235	44	642	4	93
16.	Manipur	589	0	903	0	1053	0	14	0
17.	Meghalaya	2180	3	820	2	572	0	3	0
18.	Mizoram	503	24	970	32	362	43	0	0
19.	Nagaland	279	25	780	31	506	39	1	0
20.	Orissa	38326	789	7947	176	1745	35	41	1
21.	Punjab	17562	112	562	1	33	1	1	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
22.	Rajasthan	18948	25951	444	322	45	59	0	0
23.	Sikkim	435	5	171	2	133	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	4454	25613	862	2308	137	470	73	297
25.	Tripura	1753	16	525	2	735	7	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	83270	16037	1448	364	165	31	31	4
27.	Uttarakhand	13986	144	411	9	118	0	10	0
28.	West Bengal	329	34924	31	12168	3	2943	0	118
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	258	1	28	0	33	0	4	0
30.	Chandigarh	106	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	194	5	5	0	10	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	88	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	1071	1224	228	215	3	4	33	54
34.	Lakshadweep	35	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Puducherry	382	1	25	0	26	0	0	0
Total		415252	245865	68054	29425	21494	8734	825	932

Sl. No.	State/UT	Open Space		Total		
		Govt. School	Local Body	Total Govt. Schools	Total Local Body schools	Total Govt. and Local body schools
1	2	11	12	13	14	15
1.	Andhra Pradesh	828	5596	8075	66838	74913
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	42	0	1731	25	1756
3.	Assam	291	38	32650	8403	41053
4.	Bihar	3414	10	52952	106	53058
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	29921	39	29960
6.	Goa	2	0	1061	3	1064

1	2	11	12	13	14	15
7.	Gujarat	8	357	958	30725	31683
8.	Haryana	160	0	12542	134	12676
9.	Himachal Pradesh	311	1	13746	187	13933
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	641	40	13063	554	13617
11.	Jharkhand	703	8	21229	85	21314
12.	Karnataka	466	1	45626	219	45845
13.	Kerala	0	0	4563	179	4742
14.	Madhya Pradesh	4385	43	70097	1317	71414
15.	Maharashtra	9	203	1839	57826	59665
16.	Manipur	23	0	2582	0	2582
17.	Meghalaya	1	0	3576	5	3581
18.	Mizoram	0	0	1835	99	1934
19.	Nagaland	0	0	1566	95	1661
20.	Orissa	656	13	48715	1014	49729
21.	Punjab	246	2	18434	116	18550
22.	Rajasthan	468	523	19905	26855	46760
23.	Sikkim	1	0	740	7	747
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	5526	28688	34214
25.	Tripura	0	0	3013	25	3038
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1885	323	86799	16759	103558
27.	Uttarakhand	384	2	14909	155	15064
28.	West Bengal	0	658	363	50811	51174
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	0	325	1	326
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	108	1	109
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0	210	5	215
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	89	0	89
33.	Delhi	8	9	1343	1506	2849

1	2	11	12	13	14	15
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	36	0	36
35.	Puducherry	0	0	433	1	434
Total		14935	7827	520560	292783	813343

### Basic Facilities in Government Schools

916. SHRI VARUN GANDHI:

SHRI P. KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has set any deadline for providing clean drinking water and toilets in all the Government and Government-aided schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of schools lacking the basic infrastructural facilities including safe drinking water and toilet, State-wise, including Uttar Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Ministry of Rural

Development, Department of Drinking Water Supply, Government of India has set a target to provide by 2010, drinking water facilities in all rural Government schools not covered under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and toilets to every Government school established prior to 2006, under the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). New elementary schools are being sanctioned under SSA, with drinking water and sanitation facilities.

(c) and (d) As per District Information System for Education (DISE) 2007-08, the details of Government and Government aided elementary schools without drinking water and toilet facilities, State-wise, including Uttar Pradesh, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, drinking water and toilet facilities have been approved for 1.98 lakh and 3.34 lakh elementary schools respectively. 9.30 lakh school toilet units have been constructed under TSC and 8.52 lakh schools have been provided drinking water supply from NRDWP and State schemes.

### Statement

*State-wise number of Government and Government aided elementary schools without drinking water and toilet facilities*

Sl. No.	States	Schools without drinking water facility	Schools without common toilet
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	39
2.	Andhra Pradesh	9222	32983
3.	Arunachal pradesh	1543	3503
4.	Assam	20988	42903



1	2	3	4
5.	Bihar	13185	34858
6.	Chandigarh	0	68
7.	Chhattisgarh	6177	29106
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	14	189
9.	Daman and Diu	6	9
10.	Delhi	16	326
11.	Goa	51	667
12.	Gujarat	4959	10143
13.	Haryana	451	993
14.	Himachal Pradesh	1165	8403
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	4821	11981
16.	Jharkhand	12036	26516
17.	Karnataka	10766	14409
18.	Kerala	269	1861
19.	Lakshadweep	0	9
20.	Madhya Pradesh	9984	31554
21.	Maharashtra	10723	20292
22.	Manipur	829	1762
23.	Meghalaya	4714	6727
24.	Mizoram	449	485
25.	Nagaland	560	401
26.	Orissa	7662	26923
27.	Puducherry	5	157
28.	Punjab	456	2197
29.	Rajasthan	11131	52434

1	2	3	4
30.	Sikkim	204	115
31.	Tamil Nadu	0	15449
32.	Tripura	889	1187
33.	Uttar Pradesh	3903	13642
34.	Uttarakhand	2500	2763
35.	West Bengal	3823	10701

[Translation]

**Coal Supply to Power Companies  
of Maharashtra**

917. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Generation Company owned by the State Government of Maharashtra has requested for the supply of additional coal for expansion of their thermal plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested for allocation of coal mines from the Western Coalfields Limited to Maharashtra; and

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

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) Mahagenco had applied for allocation of coal on "Tapering basis" for meeting the requirements of expansion projects of their thermal power plants in the range of 0.3 Million Tonnes per annum to 4.8 Million Tonnes per annum during 2010-11 and upto 2014-15, till the captive coal blocks allocated to them start meeting their coal requirements. The request of Mahagenco was considered by the Standing Linkage Committee in its meeting held on 2-8-2007 and the Committee approved

grant of Letter of Assurance (LOA) to Mahagenco on "tapering basis" to the tune of maximum quantity of 2 Million Tonnes per annum keeping in view actual requirement/shortfall from captive mines.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (c) above.

[English]

**Funds for Economic Development of  
North Eastern Region**

918. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State the amount of funds allocated for economic development of North Eastern Region 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): The amount of funds allocated under Annual Plan 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 to North Eastern States including Sikkim for economic development is Rs. 9,641.00 crore, Rs. 11,485.91 crore, Rs. 14,738.51 crore and Rs. 17,675.00 crore respectively. Central Ministries also allocate 10% of their funds for economic development of North Eastern Region. Details of funds allocation by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and other Central Ministries for the economic development of North Eastern Region are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Plan Allocation of M/o DoNER	Allocations under 10% Mandatory allocations of Ministries/Departments
2006-07	1350.00	10731.52
2007-08	1380.00	12942.34
2008-09	1455.00	14752.90
2009-10	1455.00	16326.16*
<b>Total</b>	<b>5640.00</b>	<b>54752.92</b>

\*Excluding allocations made by Railway Board.

**Protection of Temples and Monuments**

1919. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken steps to protect temples and monuments in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amounts 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 Madam. There are 413 Nos. of centrally protected monuments in Tamil Nadu. The requisite conservation works at these monuments are done regularly depending upon the availability of resources. The monuments are in good state of preservation.

(c) The details of amount spent for conservation during the last three years and provision of current financial year are as under:

(Amount in Rupees)

Sl. No.	Year	Expenditure incurred
1	2	3
1.	2006-07	4,95,25,841

1	2	3
2.	2007-08	5,92,62,319
3.	2008-09	5,76,91,745
4.	2009-10	6,14,00,500 (Provision for current year)

**Supply of Coal to Power Plants**

920. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal demanded by the State Government of Karnataka for its power plants during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the quantity of coal supplied against the demand during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of State Government of Karnataka?

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) Only Raichur Thermal Power Plant of Karnataka is having long term coal linkage from Government coal companies namely Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited. Central

Electricity Authority (CEA) assesses the demand/coal requirement of various thermal power stations in the country, including Raichur Thermal Power Station.

The coal demand/requirement assessed by Central

Electricity Authority and actual supply of coal to Raichur Power Station of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) during the last three years and the current year (till October, 2009) was as under:

Year	Coal demand/requirement assessed by CEA	Quantity supplied by CIL and SCCL (in Million Tonnes)
2006-07	7.000	8.065
2007-08	6.800	8.167
2008-09	8.000	7.779
2009-10 (till October, 2009) (Provisional)	3.974 (proportionate Annual Contracted Quantity of 7.120 MT assessed for the year)	3.333

(c) Ministry of Coal has allocated six captive coal blocks to Karnataka for Power sector. For Raichur Thermal power plant, coal dispatches are to be governed by Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA), effective from April, 2009. There is adequate provision for incentives and penalties for deviations from committed level of supplies. Thus, the system in vogue at present, is adequately equipped to ensure supply of coal to power stations, including Raichur Thermal Power Station. Further, a Sub group in the Ministry of Coal monitors the coal stock position in the regulated utilities including Raichur Thermal Power plant.

#### Funds for Telugu Language

921. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has released any funds for promotion of Telugu language after declaring it as Classical language; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) So far no fund has been released

by the Ministry of Human Resource Development for promotion of Telugu language after declaring it as a classical language.

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

[Translation]

#### Per Capita Income

922. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Per Capita Income of some tribal (dominated) districts with Industrial Establishment is high, whereas the other Human Development Indices indicates miserable conditions of the tribals;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to measure economic progress of the tribal with some better indicator instead of Per Capita Income; and

(c) 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) The measures of Human Development Indices (HDI) and Income Indices at the district level are not available for all the States in India. As per the available data on tribal dominated districts from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on HDI and Income Indices given in the enclosed Statement, there is a general pattern of close association between the two

indices, although there are instances of divergence between these two indices in some cases.

(b) and (c) The Government does not have any proposal for having different indicators measuring the economic progress for different segments of population. Most of the States are using HDI as a measure of progress.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	Available data on Districts with more than 50% tribal population		HDI		Income Index	
			Index	Rank	Index	Rank
	District	State				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Lahul and Spiti	Himachal Pradesh (SHDR 2002)	0.469	4/12	0.471	1/12
2.	Kinnaur		0.51	3/12	0.349	2/12
3.	Dungarpur	Rajasthan (SHDR 2002)	0.456	32/32	0.530	32/32
4.	Banswara		0.472	30/32	0.638	26/32
5.	North	Sikkim (SHDR 2001)	0.467	4/4	0.282	2/4
6.	Tawang	Arunachal Pradesh (SHDR 2005)	0.555	6/13	0.780	2/13
7.	East Kameng		0.362	13/13	0.291	12/13
8.	Papum Pare		0.573	3/13	0.376	9/13
9.	Lower Subansiri		0.425	11/13	0.191	13/13
10.	Upper Subansiri		0.438	10/13	0.408	8/13
11.	West Siang		0.558	5/13	0.467	7/13
12.	East Siang		0.66	1/13	0.729	3/13
13.	Upper Siang		0.524	7/13	0.557	5/13
14.	Tirap		0.397	12/13	0.301	11/13
15.	Mon	Nagaland (SHDR 2004)	0.450	8/8		
16.	Tuensang		0.512	7/8		
17.	Mokokchung		0.705	2/8		
18.	Zunheboto		0.611	6/8		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.	Wokha		0.699	3/8		
20.	Dimapur		0.733	1/8		
21.	Kohima		0.674	4/8		
22.	Phek		0.652	5/8		
23.	Dhalai	Tripura (SHDR 2003)	0.510	4/4	0.190	4/4
24.	Karbi Anglong	Assam (SHDR 2003)	0.494	4/23	0.491	4/23
25.	North Cachar Hills		0.363	11/23	0.211	10/23
26.	Sundergarh	Orissa (SHDR 2004)	0.683	4/30		5/30
27.	Mayurbhanj		0.639	9/30		23/30
28.	Gajapati		0.431	28/30		12/30
29.	Kandhamal		0.389	29/30		4/30
30.	Rayagada		0.443	25/30		11/30
31.	Nabarangapur		0.436	26/30		29/30
32.	Malkangiri		0.370	30/30		21/30
33.	Surguja	Chhattisgarh (SHDR 2005)	0.418	11/16		10/16
34.	Jashpur		0.455	7/16		11/16
35.	Kanker		0.397	12/16		15/16
36.	Bastar		0.264	16/16		12/16
37.	Dantewada		0.441	9/16		4/16
38.	Jhabua	Madhya Pradesh (SHDR 2002)	0.372	45/45		45/45
39.	Dhar		0.559	23/45		27/45
40.	Barwani		0.422	44/45		43/45
41.	Dindori		0.557	24/45		44/45
42.	Mandla		0.578	16/45		41/45
43.	Dahod	Gujarat (SHDR 2004)	0.274	25/25	0.018	22/25
44.	Narmada		0.418	14/25	0.072	15/25
45.	The Dangs		0.262	23/25	0.015	24/25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
46.	Valsad		0.478	4/25	0.166	5/25
47.	Nandurbar	Maharashtra (SHDR 2002)	0.280	32/35		35/35

Source: UNDP

SHDR: State Human Development Report

Note: Denominator in the rank column of the indices denotes the number of districts in the state of which indices were compiled

[English]

### Commercialisation of CSIR Technology

923. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a company called CSIR TECH to enable commercialisation of CSIR Technologies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objectives of the proposed company; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

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) CSIR is deliberating upon an entity which may be named CSIR Tech. The objective being contemplated for such an entity is to exploit that knowledge base which could be effectively translated into products and services to bring economic benefits.

[Translation]

### Allotment of Coal Blocks to Shahpura Thermal Power Project

924. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal linkage/coal blocks have been allotted for the Shahpura Thermal Power Project in Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make the said allotment on an urgent basis keeping in view the gap between demand and supply of power in Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) 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) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No application is pending for allocation of coal block to Shahpura Thermal Power Project. The application received from Shahpura Thermal Power Company Limited, a Government of Madhya Pradesh undertaking, for "long term coal linkage", is yet to be considered by the Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term), an inter-ministerial Committee.

(d) and (e) The application of Shahpura Thermal Power Company Limited seeking Letter of Assurance for long term coal assurance will be considered by the Standing Linkage Committee (Long term), as per extant procedure, based upon recommendations of Ministry of Power and other relevant factors.

[English]

### G-20 Summit

925. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:  
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:  
DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had participated in the recent G-20 Summit at Pittsburg and in the United States; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) The G-20 Summit in Pittsburgh, USA agreed on a framework of strong, sustainable and balanced growth. It was decided to continue the stimulus measures till recovery is assured. It also endorsed a package of regulatory measures. The Summit addressed the reform of the international financial institutions and agreed to at least 5 per cent shift in IMF quotas to dynamic emerging market and developing countries and a similar shift of at least 3 per cent in World Bank voting power for developing and transition countries. There was agreement that G-20 countries will fight protectionism and aim for a successful conclusion of the Doha Round in 2010. On Climate Change, the G-20 reaffirmed the primacy of the UNFCCC and decided to cooperate for an agreed outcome at Copenhagen. The Pittsburgh Summit designated the G-20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation.

[Translation]

#### Damage to Historical Monuments

926. SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the historical places and monuments particularly in Karnataka have suffered considerable damage due to recent flood;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to protect such historical places;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount proposed to be spent 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) Yes, Madam. Some of the centrally protected monuments in Karnataka have been affected by recent flood caused by torrential rains.

(b) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. An action plan has been prepared to take up requisite to conservation works at the flood affected monuments at a cost of Rs. 133 lakhs.

#### Statement

##### List of flood affected Centrally Protected Monuments in Karnataka

1. Domed Gate at Kamalapur, Hampi
2. Group of Monuments on Hemakutta Hill, Hampi
3. Achyutaraya Temple at Venkatapura, Hampi
4. Vithala Temple at Venkatapura, Hampi
5. Fort wall near Mulik-e-maidan Gun, Distt. Bijapur
6. Acharya Katte near Gol Gumbaz, Distt. Bijapur
7. Modern compound wall around Galaganatha Temple, Distt. Aihole
8. Modern compound wall around papanatha Temple, Distt. Pattadakal
9. Fort wall near Pallava Inscription, Kappe Arabhatta Inscription and Koshtraya Caves, Distt. Badami
10. Flooring of Agasthyateertha Tank outlet, Distt. Badami
11. Modern compound wall around Malegitti Shivalaya, Distt. Badami

#### Allocation to Agriculture

927. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:



(a) the percentage-wise amount allocated to the agriculture sector from the total budget during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government proposes to increase the budget allocation for promoting the agriculture sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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) The percentage-wise amount allocated to Agriculture and Allied Activities in Central Plan Outlay from 2006-07 is given in the following table:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Agriculture and Allied Activities	Total	Per cent allocation to Agriculture and Allied Activities
2006-07 (RE)	7,391.65	2,44,229.26	3.0%
2007-08 (RE)	8,544.33	2,92,337.01	2.9%
2008-09 (RE)	9,969.33	3,88,077.90	2.6%
2009-10 (RE)	10,628.81	4,47,921.31	2.4%

Source: Statement 13 of Union Expenditure Budget, Volume 1 for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10

(b) to (d) To provide a thrust to the Agriculture and Allied Sectors, budgetary support in the Eleventh Five Year Plan has been increased to Rs. 50,924 crore in sectoral allocation of the Centre's Public Sector Resources from the Tenth Plan realization level of Rs. 26,108 crore which indicates 95% step-up in Plan allocation. A major programme, namely, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana has been launched in 11th Plan with an allocation of Rs. 25,000 crore, which is in the nature of 100% grant-in-aid to the States/UTs.

Further, agriculture sector is the main beneficiary of the food and fertilizer subsidies which are budgeted under the non-plan expenditure in the Union Budget. Figures in respect of food and fertilizer subsidy are presented in the following table:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Food Subsidy	Fertilizer Subsidy
1	2	3
2006-09 (Actual)	24,014	26,222

1	2	3
2007-08 (Actual)	31,328	32,490
2008-09 (Actual)	43,627	75,849
2009-10 (BE)	52,490	49,980

Source: Union Expenditure Budget 2009-10, Volume 1, Annexure-3.1

#### Education Cess

928. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Education Cess collected by the Government during the last three years;

(b) the amount disbursed to each State and Union Territory out of the amount collected during the said period; and

(c) the target set for collecting Cess during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The details of Education

Cess collected by the Government during last three years are given below:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crores)		
	Primary Education Cess	Secondary and Higher Education Cess	Total Education Cess
2006-07	5568	Nil	5568
2007-08*	6210	2895	9105
2008-09	6171	2659	8830
2009-10 (Budget Estimates)	5560	2780	8340

\*Secondary and Higher Education Cess was introduced w.e.f. 1-4-2007.

Education Cess is not a part of the net proceeds of the divisible pool of sharable taxes based on constitutional provisions and as per the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission. The proceeds of 2% Education Cess for primary education credited into a non-lapsable fund called Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) are utilized exclusively for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme. Expenditure on SSA and MDM Scheme is incurred from PSK after the funds provided by way of Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) are fully utilized. No specified allocation is made separately to States/UTs against the amount collected through Education Cess. Assistance under PSK is released to States/UTs as per the schematic pattern and budgetary allocation for SSA and MDM Scheme. Regarding 1% additional cess for Secondary and Higher Education, only Gross Budgetary Support is provided to Department of Higher Education (HE) to meet its budgetary requirement and no separate allocation is made from the funds generated from this 1% additional cess.

#### **Outsourcing Conservation/Protection to Private Sector**

929. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI:

SHRI LALCHAND KATARIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of protected monuments/historical places/religious places handed over to private sector for maintenance/conservation by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has received proposals from some State Governments for maintenance/conservation/protection of historical places/ancient buildings/monuments in this regard;

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

(d) the action taken by the Union 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) No protected monument of Archaeological Survey India (ASI) has been handed over to private sector for maintenance/conservation.

(b) to (d) Yes, Madam. Some requests have been received from different State Governments to take up the conservation works of monuments on deposit works basis. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Appropriate conservation works at these monuments have been taken up by the ASI.

**Statement**

*List of Civil Deposit Works undertaken by Archaeological Survey of India on request from State Governments*

Sl. No.	Name of Monument/Work
---------	-----------------------

**1. Haryana**

1. Chor Gumbad, Narnaul
2. European Cemetery, Ambala Cantt.
3. Buddhist Stupa, Chaneti, Yamuna Nagar
4. Shish Mahal, Farukh Nagar, Gurgaon
5. Jahaj Kothi, Hisar
6. Western facade/wall of Vise Regal Lodge, Shimla

**2. Punjab**

1. Main Entrance Gate, Qila Mubarak Patiala
2. Machhighar Company Bagh, Amritsar
3. Sarai Amanat Khan, Amritsar
4. Aam Khas Bagh, Sirhand, Distt. Fatehabad Sahib
5. Providing barbed wire fencing of mount Chatt Bari Distt. Mohali, Punjab
6. Motimahal, Patiala
7. Watch Towers Ram Bagh Gate complex, Amritsar
8. Wall painting of Masnad Hall and Rang Mahal in Quila Mubarak, Patiala

**3. Bihar**

1. SR to Mahabodhi Temple at Sodhgaya, Bihar
2. Kameshwar Singh, Darbhanga Sanskrit University, Darbhanga
3. Conservation of Golghar at Patna

Sl. No.	Name of Monument/Work
---------	-----------------------

**4. Jharkhand**

1. Group of Temples, Haradih
2. Dumbari Hill Murhu, Ranchi
3. Group of Temples Tanginath, Dumri, Gumla
4. Maluti Temples Group, Dumka
5. Palamu Quila (Old and New) Barwadih, Latehar (Betla)
6. Shahpur Quila, Chainpur, Medni Nagar

**5. Jammu and Kashmir**

1. High Court Building, Mubarak Mandi Complex, Jammu

**6. Kerala**

1. Conservation of Srikoodalmanikkam Temple, Iranjaalkuda, Thrissur

**7. Gujarat**

1. MR CT and P to Paintings in Mac Murido Building, Anjar, Kacch
2. Repair of Saifee Villa at Dandi, Dist. Navsari

**8. West Bengal**

1. Conservation and preservation work of Vishwa Bharli University Santiniketan Complex at Bolepur
2. Conservation and preservation work of Victoria Memorial Hall at Kolkatta

[English]

**NRI Marriages**

930. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a NRI Cell has been opened to look into the problems relating to NRI marriages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases registered and disposed off so far;

(d) whether there is any difficulty to deal with NRIs since they are not Indian citizens; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. An NRI Cell at National Commission for Women (NCW) under Ministry of Women and Child Development was inaugurated on 25th September, 2009.

(c) NRI Cell has received 105 complaints till 19th November, 2009.

(d) and (e) The difficulties in dealing with the problems relating to NRI marriages are as under:—

- (i) Such marriages are not governed by only the Indian legal system but by laws involving the legal system of the other countries which are not the same in all countries.
- (ii) The problems related to NRI marriages can not be tackled effectively in the absence of treaties with various countries.
- (iii) Different countries have different laws for divorce and the principles governing matters of divorce are often conflicting in different countries.

*[Translation]*

#### **Tribal Art and Culture**

931. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy/schemes being implemented for protection and preservation of Tribal Art and Culture, Folk Dance and Language in the country;

(b) the steps taken to promote and encourage people in Tribal Art related trade and the funds allocated for the year 2009-2010; and

(c) the details of financial assistance provided to various NGOs, 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) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

#### **Funds to Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

932. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds under central schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal are utilized in Karnataka for Government supported institutions only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether more than 50 per cent of non-commercial public schools, run by public with Government concurrence are yet to be supported by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) In the State of Karnataka, funds under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid-Day Meal (MDM) schemes are being utilized for 46030 Government and 2449 Government aided schools, as per the existing norms of these centrally sponsored schemes. Unaided schools are not covered under these schemes.

#### **Indian Languishing in Jails of Foreign Countries**

933. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sign bilateral agreement with some of the countries for the release of Indian nationals languishing in jails of those countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) Under the Repatriation of Prisoners Act, 2003 India has signed and ratified Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons with Bulgaria, Cambodia, Egypt, France, Mauritius and United Kingdom. Also, India and Pakistan have signed an Agreement on Consular Access on May 21, 2008 which provides that both the Governments agree to release and repatriate persons within one month of confirmation of their national status and completion of sentences.

(c) Such agreements are negotiated only with the interested countries and are finalized through mutual negotiations.

#### **Mining by PSUs in Jharkhand**

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

(a) whether reckless mining is being carried out by certain Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Jharkhand causing extensive environment degradation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of such PSUs;

(c) whether any State Government has taken up the matter with the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union 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) No, Madam.

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

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

#### **Partnership Deal between CIL and US**

935. SHRI SANJAY BHOI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) has recently entered into a partnership deal with major Energy companies in US;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present status of the partnership deal;

(d) the impact of the deal on the Indian market; and

(e) the funds available with CIL for the 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) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Coal India Limited (CIL) is pursuing its foreign venture initiatives with various countries, including United States, to acquire coal mines/blocks abroad, develop and produce coal from such mines in order to import coal, with a view to securing the energy needs of the country. As part of this initiative, Coal India Limited has floated a Global Expression of Interest (EOI) for selecting strategic partners with the objective of, *inter alia*, taking stakes in operating mines or Greenfield projects of the strategic partner(s) and jointly exploring opportunities for acquiring coal resources in various countries, including the United States of America.

(e) As on 30th September, 2009, Coal India Limited had total cash reserves of about Rs. 8538 crores. However, no specific allocation has been made for aforesaid purpose.

#### **Domestic Product in North East**

936. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the national average of net State domestic product data for the country during the last three years, and the current year, year-wise;

(b) the net State domestic product data for the seven sister States of north-east during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the disparity between the national figures and that of north-east has widened during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government is taking necessary steps to bring the north-eastern States at par with the national average; and

(f) 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) As per Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) for the country at 1999-00 prices for the last three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 is Rs. 25,54,712

crores, Rs. 27,79,648 crores and Rs. 29,57,698 crores respectively.

(b) to (d) The data on Net State Domestic Product (NSDP) at 1999-00 prices and details of percentage growth over previous year for seven sister States of north-east during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement. The disparity between the national figures and that of north-east is largely due to historical difference in initial conditions, natural resource endowments, level of industrialization and differences in human capital indicators viz. education, health etc.

(e) and (f) The Government has been taking several measures to improve the growth rate across the country 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. There is a 10% mandatory earmarking of funds for the development of north-eastern States. 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**

##### *Net State Domestic Product of North-East States at 1999-2000 Prices*

Sl. No.	States	(Rupee in crores)			(% Growth over previous year)		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	2366	2452	NA	12.51	3.63	NA
2.	Assam	43782	46433	49226	6.52	6.05	6.02
3.	Manipur	3839	4104	4408	3.93	6.90	7.41
4.	Meghalaya	4800	5060	NA	5.54	5.42	NA
5.	Mizoram	1967	2073	2205	5.87	5.39	6.37
6.	Nagaland	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Tripura	7889	NA	NA	8.11	NA	NA
	All-India NDP (99-00 base)	2554712	2779648	2957698	9.71	8.80	6.41

Source: Central Statistical Organisation (CSO).

### Misbehaviour with Indian Priests in Nepal

937. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI:

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian priests were attacked at Pashupatinath Temple, Kathmandu, Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Government of Nepal;

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

(e) the effective steps taken by the Government to ensure safety of Indians in foreign countries including Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) The two newly appointed Indian priests at Pashupati Nath temple were attacked on 04-09-2009 when they were doing *shuddikaran anushthan* behind closed doors for joining puja duties from 05-09-2009, as required by temple customs.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter was immediately taken up at the highest levels in the Government of Nepal and our Government's deep anguish and serious concern was conveyed over the attack. A team from the Embassy of India, Kathmandu, visited the Pashupatinath Temple

to reassure the Indian priests. The Cultural Affairs Minister of Nepal along with our Ambassador in Kathmandu visited the temple and met the priests. The Minister apologised on behalf of the Government of Nepal and condemned the criminal act. Following this criminal assault, local authorities have deployed a new security contingent around the temple. The Nepalese authorities also apprehended persons involved in this incident. The Nepalese authorities at the highest levels have assured additional steps to ensure the safety and security of Indian priests in Nepal. Since then there has been no untoward incident.

(e) The safety, security and welfare of Indian citizens abroad are an abiding and central concern of the Government of India.

### Asean Summit

938. SHRI PURNMASI RAM:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit was held in Thailand recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held during the summit;

(c) whether the Prime Minister of India met the Prime Minister of China on the sidelines of the Summit; and

(d) if so, the details of the issues discussed between the two leaders and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) At the India-ASEAN Summit held on 24th October, 2009 in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand, PM exchanged views with ASEAN leaders to further strengthen India's ties with the ASEAN. The conclusion of the India-ASEAN Trade-in-Goods Agreement was a concrete step forward in this process. The leaders favoured an early conclusion of negotiations on the Trade-in-Services and Investment Agreement. Apart from noting the progress on initiatives taken by India before the Hua Hin Summit, Prime Minister made several offers to further strengthen the India-ASEAN links. These included a Round Table for policy inputs, negotiations for open skies policy, further simplification of the visa regime for business and tourism, exchange programme for the youth, commencement of exchange between parliamentarians between India and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and preparations for commemoration in 2012 of the 10th anniversary of India's Summit-level dialogue with ASEAN and 20 years as a sectoral dialogue partner. Other areas of cooperation proposed include agriculture, space and enhanced partnership of the ASEAN Integration Programme. He also offered US \$ 50 million to participate in ASEAN's work plans in areas such as education, energy, agriculture and forestry, SMEs and ICT. The ASEAN leaders expressed a strong desire to substantially strengthen their links in all areas.

(c) Yes.

(d) The two leaders had a frank and constructive exchange of views on all issues of interest, including on the Boundary Question and matters relating to trans-border rivers. Both leaders agreed to continue and strengthen efforts to build political trust and understanding. They agreed that existing mechanisms of bilateral cooperation should be used to resolve all issues amicably in the spirit of the Strategic and Cooperative Partnership. They reaffirmed the need to maintain peace and tranquility on the border pending a resolution of the boundary question.

### **India, China and Russia Foreign Ministers Meeting**

939. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:  
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, China and Russia were held recently at Bengaluru;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Foreign Ministers of India, China and Russia met in Bengaluru on 27 October 2009.

(b) The Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China discussed strengthening trilateral cooperation and global and regional issues during their 9th Trilateral Meeting. There was an exchange of views among the three Ministers on global issues such as UN reform, climate change and global economic governance architecture. There was also an exchange of views on developments in the region, including on Afghanistan, Iran and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

(c) It was agreed to strengthen trilateral cooperation including trilateral business interaction. The Ministers condemned terrorism and discussed measures to counter terrorism. A Joint Communique was issued. No agreements were signed.

### **Bidding for Allocation of Coal Blocks**

940. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:  
SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:  
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:  
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:  
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:  
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:



- (a) whether the Government proposes to allot coal blocks for captive mining through bidding system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether certain companies are being kept out of the bidding process;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (e) the impact of the proposed system on coal prices;
- (f) whether there is strong opposition to the proposal of the Government to auction coal blocks;
- (g) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (h) whether the Government also proposes to bring amendment to the existing Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act to give effect to the proposal;
- (i) if so, the details thereof;
- (j) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (k) the benefit likely to accrue to the State-owned companies as a result 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) Yes, Madam. To this end the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 17-10-2008.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The proposed competitive bidding process would not be applicable in the following cases:—

- (i) where coal/lignite bearing area is considered for allocation to a Government company or corporation for mining or such other specified end use;
- (ii) where such area is considered for allocation to a company or corporation that has been awarded a power projects on the basis of

competitive bids for tariff (including Ultra Mega Power Projects).

The mandate of producing coal through commercial mining to meet the overall demand of the economy rests on the government companies. Therefore, they should have easier access to the mining concessions for coal and lignite. Also, because of the higher overhead costs and social responsibilities, government companies may have a handicap in competing with the private sector players. In the case of power projects awarded through tariff based bidding, coal/lignite block forms a part of bidding package, and hence a separate competitive bidding for the coal/lignite block alone is not called for.

(e) There will be no impact on coal prices since the proposal aims at auctioning of coal blocks for captive purpose only and no commercial sale of coal is permitted from the coal blocks allocated for captive use.

(f) and (g) Comprehensive consultations were held with the stakeholders before the proposal was finalized. Majority of the coal/lignite bearing State Governments and also other stakeholders have supported the proposal.

(h) to (j) Yes, Madam. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 17-10-2008.

(k) No significant benefit would accrue to the State-owned companies, except that they may continue to get coal/lignite blocks without having to participate in the competitive bidding process.

#### **Imbalances in Higher Education**

941. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether imbalances exist in Higher Education in the country;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether about 12 per cent of the students who have completed secondary education enroll for higher education in the country as against about 70 per cent in some developed countries; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to address this huge gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The National Sample Survey (NSS) data for 2004-05, indicates rural-urban disparities, gender disparities, inter caste disparities, imbalances in access opportunities for tribal population of the country, disparities amongst religious groups and differences in enrolment rates between the poor and non-poor. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education for the nation as a whole as a percentage of the population cohort in the age group of 18-24 years is 12.4% based on 2007 enrolment data whereas the GER is secondary education (class XI-XII) as a percentage of the population in the age group of 16-18 years is 28.96% based on data reported in Selected Educational Statistics of 2006-07.

(d) During the Eleventh Plan establishment of Central Universities in hitherto uncovered States has been envisaged. 15 New Central Universities have been notified on 15-1-2009 and another Central University has been established in Jammu Division of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) has been established for facilitating and promoting studies in areas concerned with the way of life of the tribal population in the country. A new Regional Centre of the IGNTU has been inaugurated in Manipur. University Grants Commission (UGC) has invited detailed project proposals from State Governments for establishment of 374 model degree colleges in the districts having GER lower than national level with the Centre-State funding in the ratio of 1:1 for Special Category States and 1:2 for other States. The Eleventh Plan has schemes for incentivizing State Governments for setting up of new institutions or expansion of existing institutions with Central assistance with focus on underserved areas, strengthening colleges and State universities with focus on underserved areas which not presently eligible for receiving assistance from UGC to enable these institutions to fulfil the criteria for UGC assistance, additional assistance to State universities and colleges which are already declared fit to receive grants under Section 12B of the UGC Act. The All India Council

for Technical Education (AICTE) has permitted second shift in certain engineering colleges and polytechnics. Expansion of intake in Central Educational Institutions by 54% has been undertaken consequent to the implementation of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006. A scheme of interest subsidy during moratorium period for students accessing educational loans for technical and professional education, has been notified on 8-9-2009.

[Translation]

#### Fluoride in Water

942. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI RAMESH BAIS:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any standard for the quantity of fluoride in water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding the problem of fluoride contents in water in various cities in the country;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published a Standard named "BIS 10500:1991 Drinking Water—Specification", which prescribes the essential and desirable characteristics required to be tested for ascertaining the suitability of water for drinking purposes. The Standard in respect of Fluoride prescribes the desirable limit as 1.0 milligram per litre (mg/l), and permissible limit in the absence of alternate source as 1.5 mg/l.

(c) to (e) Central Ground Water Board monitors the ground water quality, once in a year on regional

basis, through a network of 15640 observation wells located throughout the country. The fluoride content in the ground water samples collected from observation wells is found to be below 1.0 mg/l in most part of the country. At some locations, the fluoride content in ground water is found to be in excess of 1.5 mg/l.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has conducted ground water quality survey in 35 Metro cities of the country in the year 2007. The survey reveals that there has been wide variation between minimum and maximum value of Fluoride concentration in cities.

Maximum values of Fluoride are exceeding the BIS Standards in cities like Agra, Chennai, Vijaywada, Coimbatore, Madurai, Varanasi, Delhi, Faridabad, Jaipur, Patna, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Indore. The details have been given in the enclosed Statement.

(f) The Ministry of Urban Development is supplementing the efforts of Urban Local Bodies ((ULBs)/State Governments in providing safe/quality water supply through the schemes of JNNURM/UIDSSMT, under which Additional Central Funding (ACA) is made available to metropolitan cities and important towns.

**Statement**

*Flouride Levels in Metropolitan Cities (Year-2007)*

Sl. No.	Name of the Metropolitan City	No. of observations	No. of observations violating the standard limit	Concentration of Fluoride in Pre-monsoon (in mg/l)	Concentration of Fluoride in Post-monsoon (in mg/l)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Meerut	50 (25 Pre-monsoon, 25 post-monsoon)	0	0.20-1.20	0.20-1.30
2.	Agra	50	18	0.46-7.80	0.32-3.70
3.	Chennai	50	7	0.17-4.50	0.11-3.50
4.	Vijayawada	50	4	0.01-5.9	0.01-4.35
5.	Coimbatore	50	2	0.21-1.80	0.21-1.75
6.	Madurai	50	4	0.29-3.70	0.31-3.12
7.	Lucknow	50	0	0.70-0.94	0.10-0.92
8.	Ludhiana	50	0	0.71-0.92	0.70-0.86
9.	Amritsar	50	0	0.2-0.9	0.2-0.8
10.	Varanasi	50	1	0.1-2.1	0.01-1.0
11.	Jamshedpur	50	0	0.1-1.1	0.2-0.8
12.	Surat	50	0	0.3-1.4	0.2-1.3
13.	Asansol	50	0	0.2-1.0	0.2-1.5

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Kolkata	50	0	0.2-1.4	0.2-0.7
15.	Dhanbad	50	0	0.01-1.1	0.01-1.2
16.	Vadodara	50	0	0.1-1.4	0.2-1.3
17.	Ahmadabad	50	1	0.01-1.19	0.1-1.6
18.	Bhopal	50	0	0.01-0.8	0.01-1.2
19.	Jabalpur	50	2	0.01-1.6	0.01-1.5
20.	Nagpur	50	0	0.01-0.4	0.01-1.2
21.	Delhi	50	10	0.3-8.5	0.01-5.0
22.	Faridabad	50	7	0.1-5.0	0.01-1.5
23.	Jaipur	50	12	0.5-3.2	0.1-2.8
24.	Bangalore	50	0	0.01-0.1	0.01-0.8
25.	Patna	50	4	0.01-2.0	0.01-1.8
26.	Hyderabad	50	23	0.6-1.8	0.4-2.4
27.	Kochi	50	0	0.01-1.4	0.1-0.7
28.	Pune	50	0	0.01-0.4	0.01-1.2
29.	Vishakhapatnam	50	4	0.01-1.6	0.01-0.3
30.	Nasik	50	0	0.01-1.5	0.01-1.3
31.	Rajkot	50	0	0.01-0.4	0.1-0.7
32.	Indore	50	1	0.01-1.4	0.01-2.0
33.	Kanpur	50	2	0.01-2.0	0.01-1.5
34.	Allahabad	50	0	0.2-1.3	0.1-0.9
35.	Mumbai	64	0	0-1.2	0-1.5

[English]

**Centrally Sponsored Schemes  
in Maharashtra**

943. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Centrally sponsored schemes in operation in Maharashtra;

(b) the schemes which are in operation through various government agencies;

(c) whether there is lack of coordination between the various government agencies due to which schemes are not being implemented properly; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take for better coordination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) 185 Centrally Sponsored Schemes in operation in Maharashtra.

enclosed as Statement.

(c) There is no lack of coordination between the various government agencies.

(b) A list of implementing government agencies is

(d) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Maharashtra*

Sl. No.	Sl. No.	Scheme
<b>Department-ADF</b>		
1.	1.	Information, Education, Communication campaign and Bird Flue under ASCAD
2.	2.	Subsidy for control of foot and mouth disease (ASCAD 25%)
3.	3.	Distribution of Fodder Seeds (25% State Share)
4.	4.	Assistant to fodder block making units (75% State)
5.	5.	Modernisation and Strengthening of regional disease investigation laboratory under ASCAD
6.	6.	Animal Disease Surveillance Monitoring and Forecasting (ASCAD 25%)
7.	7.	Strengthening of central Hatcheries and Duck rearing farm
8.	8.	National Project on Rinderpest Eradication
9.	9.	Creation of Disease free zones FMD control programme
10.	10.	Investigation into diseases of livestock
11.	11.	Organsation of Training Programme/workshop/seminar for field Staff
12.	12.	Development of grassland including grass reserves
13.	13.	Livestock Census
14.	14.	Share capital contribution to Maharashtra sheep and wool development corporation (Threatened Breeds)
15.	15.	Expansion and modernisation of Quality Control lab Mumbai Apepa Assistance
16.	16.	100% Assistance From ICAR to Animal Disease Monitoring and Surveillance
17.	17.	Strengthening of Integrated sample survey scheme
18.	18.	Immunisation against economically important Disease PPR, HS, RD
19.	19.	Rehabilitation of Milk Sangh

Sl. No.	Sl. No.	Scheme
20.	20.	Central Assistance to Dairy Co-operatives under Integrated Dairy Development Programme
21.	21.	Fisheries Extention and Training
22.	22.	Houses for Fishermen under the National welfare fund Scheme
23.	23.	Development of inland fisheries statistics
24.	24.	Development of fishing harbours
25.	25.	Inlan Fiseries Statistics
26.	26.	Reimbursement of Central Excise duty on high speed diesel oil
27.	27.	Fish Farmer Development Agency
28.	28.	Brackish water fish Farmers Developement agency
29.	29.	Assistance to purchase of OBM/IBM engine for non mechanised boat
<b>Department—Agriculture</b>		
30.	1.	Promotion of Organic Farming
31.	2.	Effective Participation of Women in Agriculture
32.	3.	Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms
33.	4.	Information Support for Agriculture Extention
34.	5.	Scheme for Production and Use of Vermicompost
35.	6.	Seed Treatment Campaign
36.	7.	Seed Production Programme in Selected Villages
37.	8.	Technology Mission for Cotton Development Programme
38.	9.	Integrated Oilseed Production Programme (State Dist./C.S.P.)
39.	10.	Sugarcane Development Programme (State/C.S.P.)
40.	11.	Integrated Pulses Production Programme (State: Dist./C.S.P.)
41.	12.	Integrated Maize Production Programme (State/C.S.P.)
42.	13.	Integrated Cereal Development Programme (State/C.S.P.)
43.	14.	Promotion for Agriculture Machanisation
44.	15.	Extension Through Agri-Exhibition
45.	16.	Timely Reporting of Agriculture Intelligence Statistics

Sl. No.	Sl. No.	Scheme
46.	17.	Improvement of Crop Statistics
47.	18.	Crop Estimation Survey on Fruits, Vegetables, and Commercial Minor Crops
48.	19.	World Agriculture Census
49.	20.	Strengthening of Fertilizers Testing Laboratories
50.	21.	Strengthening of Insecticide Testing Laboratories
51.	22.	Strengthening of Seed Testing Laboratories
52.	23.	Strengthening of Training Institutes
53.	24.	Study Tours/Farmer Exchange Programme
54.	25.	Strengthening of Agri-Polyclinics
55.	26.	Use of IT in Agriculture
56.	27.	Subsidy on Seed Production, Distribution and Storage
57.	28.	Participation of Private Sector in Agriculture Extension/Information and Soil/Micro Nutrient Testing
58.	29.	Bio-Fertilizer Production and Marketing Assistance
59.	30.	Mobility of Extension Machinery
60.	31.	Strengthening of Soil Survey and Soil Testing and Bio-control/IPM Laboratories
61.	32.	Strengthening of Taluka Seed Farms
62.	33.	National Oilseed and Vegetable Oil Development Board Sponsored Programme
63.	34.	Demonstration of Newly Developed Agriculture and Horticulture Equipment on Farmers Fields
64.	35.	National Horticulture Mission
65.	36.	Establishment/Strengthening of Residue Testing Laboratory
66.	37.	Coconut Development Board (CDB) Sponserd Programme
67.	38.	Scheme for Micro Irrigation
<b>Department—Textile</b>		
68.	1.	Integrated Handloom Development Scheme (I.H.D.S.)
69.	2.	Sericulture Development (Central Sponserd)
<b>Department—Environment</b>		
70.	1.	Environmental Information System Node

Sl. No.	Sl. No.	Scheme
<b>Department—Higher Education</b>		
71.	1.	National Service Scheme
72.	2.	Matching grants for U.G.C. scheme in Government Colleges
73.	3.	Grants to Research and Cultural Institutions
74.	4.	Post Matric Scholarship to the Minority Students
<b>Department—Technical Education</b>		
75.	1.	Strengthening of Vocational Training, World Bank Project
76.	2.	Establishment of Technological University (central sponsored scheme)
77.	3.	Establishment of R and D Centers in the Emerging Areas (CSS)
78.	4.	Establishment of Aviation Technology and Aeronautical Engineering Institute
79.	5.	Establishment of Indian Institute of Information Technology
80.	6.	Quality Improvement of Existing Polytechnics
81.	7.	One Time Aid to Engineering and Pharmacy Colleges (CSS)
82.	8.	Introduction of double shift in polytechnics
83.	9.	Development of Computerised MIS for Technical Education Institutions
84.	10.	Incentive to Existing Govt. Engineering Colleges
85.	11.	Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship
<b>Department—Home-Transport</b>		
86.	1.	Inland Transport Grant in Aid to Maharashtra Maritime Board
<b>Department—Energy</b>		
87.	1	Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana
<b>Department—Industry</b>		
88.	1.	Census-cum-Sample Survey of Small Scale Industries
89.	2.	Micro and Small Interprises Cluster Development Programme
90.	3.	Prime Ministers Rojgar Yojana
<b>Department—Law and Judiciary</b>		
91.	1.	Construction of court buildings



Sl. No.	Sl. No.	Scheme
92.	2.	Construction of Residential Quarters for Judicial Officers and Staff
<b>Department—Women and Child Development</b>		
93.	1.	Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (Urban) Diet Distribution
94.	2.	Integrated Child Development Scheme (Rural) (Diet Distribution)
95.	3.	Juvenile Justice Programme
96.	4.	Strengthening and Establishment of ICDS—(Rural) (GIA to ZPs)
97.	5.	Strengthening and Establishment of ICDS Urban
98.	6.	Strengthening and Establishment of ICDS Commissionerate
<b>Department—Medical Education</b>		
99.	1.	Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana
<b>Department—Planning</b>		
100.	1.	Implementation of State Strategic Statistical Plan (CSS)
101.	2.	Development of Western Ghats
<b>Department—EGS</b>		
102.	1.	National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
<b>Department—Public Health</b>		
103.	1.	National Filaria Control Programme
104.	2.	T.B. and B.C.G. Vaccination Programme
105.	3.	Guineaworm Eradication Programme
106.	4.	National Malaria Eradication Programme
107.	5.	National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme
108.	6.	Training of Medical and Paramedical Personnel
109.	7.	Family Welfare Cell in Secretariat
110.	8.	Non Teaching Government Hospitals and Dispensaries in Mofussil Areas (Blindness Control)
111.	9.	State Family Welfare Bureau
112.	10.	National Leprosy Control Programme
113.	11.	Establishment of Central Public Health Laboratories

Sl. No.	Sl. No.	Scheme
114.	12.	City Family Welfare Bureau
115.	13.	Reproductive and Child Health Programme
116.	14.	Regional Family Welfare Training Centre
117.	15.	District Family Welfare Bureau
118.	16.	Teaching of Family Welfare in Medical Colleges
119.	17.	Experimental Projects—Multi Purpose Workers Scheme
120.	18.	Rural Family Welfare Centres and Health Sub-Centers
121.	19.	Urban Family Welfare Centre
122.	20.	Grant for Urban Family Welfare Centres run by Local Bodies and Other Agencies
123.	21.	Immunisation of Infant and Pre-School Children against Diphtheria and Titanus and Expectant Mothers against Titanus
124.	22.	Expansion of Medical Termination of Pregnancy Services
125.	23.	Grant-in-aid to Local Bodies and Voluntary Organisations
126.	24.	Conventional Contraceptives
127.	25.	Post-Partum Centre
128.	26.	Loans to ANM/Health Workers for purchase of Two Wheeler Automobile Vehicles
<b>Department—Forest</b>		
129.	1.	Integrated forest protection scheme
130.	2.	Eco development in Tiger project
131.	3.	Project elephant
132.	4.	Conservation and management of wild life
133.	5.	Conservation and management of wild life sancturies
<b>Department—Relief and Rehabilitation</b>		
134.	1.	National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project
135.	2.	Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers
<b>Department—Revenue</b>		
136.	1.	Computerisation of Land Records
137.	2.	Strengthening of Revenue Administration—Updating of Land Records

Sl. No.	Sl. No.	Scheme
138.	3.	National Land Records Modernization Programme (100% Centrally Sponsored)
139.	4.	National Land Records Modernization Programme (50% Centrally Sponsored)
140.	5.	National Land Records Modernization Programme (25% Centrally Sponsored)
<b>Department—Rural Development</b>		
141.	1.	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
142.	2.	National Biogas and Manure Management Programme
143.	3.	Backward Region Grant Fund Training
144.	4.	Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)
145.	5.	Strengthening of Rural Training Centres
146.	6.	Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana
147.	7.	Indira Awaas Yojana
148.	8.	District Rural Development Agency—Establishment
<b>Department—Water Conservation</b>		
149.	1.	Inter State River Valley Project
150.	2.	National Watershed development for ainfed area
151.	3.	State land use board programme
152.	4.	Integrated Wasteland Development programme
153.	5.	Drought Prone Area Development Programme
154.	6.	Hariyali
<b>Department—School Education</b>		
155.	1.	Prematric Scholarship for the Children of Minority Community
156.	2.	Sarva Shikshan Mohim
157.	3.	Modernisation of Madarasa
158.	4.	Integrated Education for Physically Handicapped Children
159.	5.	Computer Education Programme (State Share 25%)
160.	6.	Grant in aid to Z.S.S. for Implementation of P.L.C.
161.	7.	Establishment of DIET

Sl. No.	Sl. No.	Scheme
<b>Department—Sports</b>		
162.	1.	Purchase of Artificial Surface
163.	2.	F.A. to other sports bodies
164.	3.	Estt. of Youth Hostel
<b>Department—Social Justice</b>		
165.	1.	Scheme for monetary relief to the members of families scheduled casts and scheduled tribes becoming victims of atrocities
166.	2.	Machinery for implementation of Civil Right Act
167.	3.	Administration Expenditure for Old Age Pension Scheme
168.	4.	National Family Benefit Scheme for Assistance to BPL Families
169.	5.	Government of India Post Matric Scholarship/Stipends
170.	6.	Construction and repairs for BC Government Hosteles
<b>Department—Tribal Development</b>		
171.	1.	Central Assistance Scheme for Purchase/Sale of Minor Forest Produce
172.	2.	Tribal Research and Training Institute
173.	3.	Construction of Model School Buildings
174.	4.	Eklavya Residential School
175.	5.	Construction of Hostels for Tribal Boys and Girls
176.	6.	Construction of Model School Buildings
177.	7.	Eklavya Residential School
178.	8.	Bharat Sarkar Scholarship
179.	9.	Construction of Ashram School Complex
<b>Department—VJNT, OBC and WD</b>		
180.	1.	Postmatric Scholarship to OBC students
181.	2.	Opening of Hostels for VJNT, SBC and OBC Boys and Girls
<b>Department—Water Supply and Sanitation</b>		
182.	1.	Low Cost Sanitation Programme
183.	2.	Total Sanitation Programme

Sl. No.	Sl. No.	Scheme
<b>Department-Minorities Development</b>		
184.	1.	Grant-in-aid to Maulana Azad Alpasankhyank Arthik Vikas Mahamandal
<b>Department—Food and Civil Supply</b>		
185.	1.	Village Grain Bank
186.	2.	Annapurna Yojana

#### Review of Inter-Linking of Rivers

944. SHRI P. LINGAM:  
 SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
 YOGI ADITYA NATH:  
 SHRI DATTA MEGHE:  
 SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:  
 SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:  
 SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to review the interlinking of rivers project;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the funds spent so far on the projects related to the interlinking of rivers in the country;
- (d) whether Government has constituted any Expert Committee to make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of the project;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the progress made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) and (f) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water

from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component and 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14 links under Peninsular Component and of 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed. Detailed Project Report (DPR) of one priority link namely Ken—Betwa has also been completed. Further, NWDA has taken up the DPRs of another two links after concurrence of the concerned states, namely Par-Tapi-Narmada and Damanganga-Pinjal which are planned to be completed by December, 2011. Godavari (Polavaram)-Krishna (Vijawada) link is part of the Polavaram project of the Andhra Pradesh. Planning Commission has given investment clearance to the Polavaram Project and the Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up the above project including link component as per their proposals. Further, NWDA has received 31 proposals of intra-state links from 7 States out of which Pre Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 7 intrastate links have been completed.

The activities of NWDA are reviewed on Plan to Plan basis. The Government has reviewed the activities of NWDA while finalizing its outlay for XI Plan. A provision of Rs. 182.80 crore has been kept in Eleventh Five Year Plan for the preparation of (PFRs)/FRs/DPRs of river link proposals under NPP, preparation of PFRs/

FRs of Intra-state links proposed by states and other studies in this regard by NWDA. NWDA has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 271.44 crore from 1982-83 upto October, 09 for carrying out above works.

(d) and (e) The Government of India has constituted a Committee of Environmentalists, Social Scientists and other Experts on 28th December, 2004, under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources to advise the Government on the environmental and socio-economic issues involved in inter linking of rivers programme. Seven meetings of this Committee have been held so far.

#### **Operationalisation of Abandoned Coal Mines**

945. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) has sought for a special dispensation under the New Distribution Policy for allowing the sale of coal from abandoned mines;

(b) if so, the details of abandoned coal mines identified for operationalisation;

(c) whether the CIL proposes to have joint ventures with overseas companies to operationalise the abandoned coal mines; 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) and (b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has proposed to re-open, salvage and operate 18 identified abandoned underground mines. The details of the identified mines are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the company	Number of mines identified
1	2	3
1.	Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	6

1	2	3
2.	Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	8
3.	Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	4
Total		18

In order to make the proposal encouraging for the prospective bidders, Coal India Limited (CIL) has sought certain permission/clarifications from Ministry of Coal, Government of India concerning sale of coal to such joint venture partners.

(c) and (d) CIL proposes to have joint venture with overseas or domestic companies or a consortium of companies to reopen, salvage and operate identified abandoned mines. For selection of joint venture partner(s) having technical expertise and financial capabilities, global Expression of Interest was invited. Twelve responses were received out of which Ten have been short listed who are eligible to bid for the tender. A detailed model Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) has been developed and finalized after pre-NIT meeting held with the short-listed parties.

#### **Applications for PIO and OCI Card**

946. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the receipt of applications for Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Card;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of applications for OCI and PIO Card cleared and the number which are pending?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. A total number of OCI documents issued till October 2009 are given below:

2005	:	291
2006	:	86,340
2007	:	1,12,500

2008	:	1,58,855
2009	:	1,40,916

All matters relating to PIO cards are under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, Indian Missions/Posts in USA, UK, Canada, Germany, France, Denmark etc. have reported increase in receipt of PIO card applications.

(c) Since the introduction of the OCI Scheme in December 2005 a total number of 4,98,902 OCI documents have been issued till 31st October, 2009. As per information available from Indian Missions/Posts abroad and MHA, about 10763 OCI applications are at various stages of processing including applications incomplete and returned for various reasons. The exact number of PIO cards issued world wide is not available. However, as per information from Indian Missions/Posts abroad about 948 PIO card applications are pending at various stages of processing.

[Translation]

#### **Reduction in Personal Expenses of Pilgrims Haj**

947. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI MAHESH JOSHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the personal expenses of Haj Pilgrims granted by the Government have been reduced;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the situation arising out of huge number of applications being received for Haj pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Expenditure on Haj depends on extraneous factors like rental of accommodation, exchange rate of foreign currency, excess baggage carried by the pilgrims and other miscellaneous expenses. This year, the

Government has taken a decision to increase the pilgrims' share of airfare from Rs. 12000 to Rs. 16000.

(c) The pilgrims are selected through a transparent computerized qurrah (lots) since the number of applications is significantly higher than the Haj quota allotted to India. The Haj quota is allotted by the Saudi Government on the basis of the size of the Muslim population of each country. Requests to increase the number of places available to Indian pilgrims have been made to Saudi authorities each year, and some additional seats have been provided.

[English]

#### **Mining Licence to Private Coal Companies**

948. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue licence to Private Coal Companies for mining of coal in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of such companies;

(c) the total land acquired by Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries during the last three years and the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof, company-wise and subsidiary-wise;

(e) the details of compensation and appointments given to the displaced persons/farmers by the CIL, company-wise and state-wise during the above period;

(f) whether some private companies have not provided any compensation/employment to farmers whose land has been acquired for mining of coal; and

(g) if so, 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) As per the extant statutes, private companies

are eligible to get prospecting license and mining lease of coal and lignite blocks for captive use in the specified end uses such as iron and steel, power, cement, syn-gas and coal liquefaction.

(c) and (d) As informed by Coal India Limited (CIL), total land acquired by subsidiary companies during the last three years and the current year are furnished in the following table:

Company	Total land acquired during the last three years and current year (area in hectare)
Eastern Coal fields Limited (ECL)	220.00
Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)	53.33
Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	0.00
Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL)	97.33
Western Coalfields Limited (WCL)	1970.675
South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL)	723.688
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL)	1916.305
<b>Total</b>	<b>4981.31</b>

(e) As informed by CIL, the details of compensation and appointments given to the displaced persons/farmers

by the CIL, company-wise and state-wise during the above period are given below:—

Company/State	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (Sept./Oct.)	
	Employment	Compensation (Rs. lakh)	Employment	Compensation (Rs. lakh)	Employment	Compensation (Rs. lakh)	Employment	Compensation (Rs. lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ECL (West Bengal/Jharkhand)	90	268.32	129	67.98	129	41.64	59	08.00
BCCL (West Bengal/Jharkhand)	23	373.55	20	2.42	57	151.11	6	NIL
CCL (Jharkhand)	05	220.00	19	445.39	223	141.38	134	67.84
WCL (Maharashtra)	24	397.81	61	334.35	89	108.25	58	731.69
SECL (Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh)	133	2956.68	160	4227.75	223	1064.56	225	—
MCL (Orissa)	545	11335.75	497	5234.07	846	9239.57	—	—



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NCL (Madhya Pradesh/ Uttar Pradesh)	NIL	346.29	01	99.38	23	22.79	27	163.37
NEC (Assam)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

(f) and (g) The responsibility of providing compensation/employment to farmers whose land has been acquired for mining of coal lies with the concerned allottee private company in consultation with the State Government as per their land acquisition and Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R and R) policy.

#### **Female Literacy Rate**

949. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:

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

(a) whether female literacy rate is far below the rate of national literacy in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the rate of female literacy and that of national literacy, as on January 01, 2006 and January 01, 2009 separately; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the female literacy rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Madam. As per the Census 2001, the National Literacy rate was 64.84% while female literacy rate was 53.67%.

(b) The main reasons for low literacy of females in the country are social, cultural, and religious.

(c) Last census was held in the year 2001. Next one is due in 2011. There is no data available regarding literacy rate as on 1st January, 2006/2009.

(d) The National Literacy Mission has been recast

and its new variant, Saakshar Bharat, has prime focus on literacy of women specially in rural areas of districts having adult female literacy of 50% or below (as per 2001 census).

#### **GHG Mitigation Projects**

950. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN:

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:

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

(a) the percentage of Green House Gases emitted in the country as compared to global green house gas emission;

(b) whether the Government have approved Green House Gas (GHG) mitigation projects in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these projects are likely to attract substantial amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country;

(e) the target set by the Government to mitigate the emission of GHGs on yearly basis;

(f) the level of emission likely to be reduced by 2012 as a result thereof; and

(g) the effective steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per National Communication submitted to UNFCCC, the percentage of Green House Gas (GHG) emitted by India accounts for only 3-4% of the global GHG emissions.

(b) and (c) As on date, the National CDM Authority has accorded Host Country Approval to 1467 projects. Out of these, 469 projects have been registered by the CDM Executive Board.

(d) If all the 1467 projects as mentioned above get registered by the CDM Executive Board, it could attract approximately US\$ 6.15 billion dollars into the country by the year 2012 through scale of Certified Emission Reduction (CER) Certificates.

(e) As per Kyoto Protocol, only Annex-I Parties of the UNFCCC have quantified emission limitation reduction targets. Developing countries including India have no such obligation to mitigate emissions and accordingly no target is set.

(f) and (g) As stated in (e) above, India does not have emission reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol. However, CDM projects as mentioned in (b) above, if registered by the CDM Executive Board, have the potential to reduced 615 million metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent by year 2012.

#### **Indian Workers Facing Hardships in Dubai**

951. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many workers particularly of Andhra Pradesh working in Dubai are facing hardships;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the complaints received and action taken so far by the Government to redress their grievances; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to deal with such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi has informed that no complaint of hardship being faced by Indian Workers, particularly from Andhra Pradesh, in the UAE has been reported.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Dialogue on Indo-China Border Issue**

952. SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH:

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

SHRI RAMESH RATHOD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have held any dialogue recently on the border issue; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the decision taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The 13th Round of India-China Special Representatives Talks on the Boundary Question was held in New Delhi on 7-8 August, 2009. The two sides continued the discussions on exploring the framework for a final package settlement under the "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question" signed in April 2005. Both sides also expressed satisfaction at the progress being made through this mechanism and reiterated that pending the settlement of the boundary issue, peace and tranquility should be maintained in our border areas.

*[English]*

#### **Re-Charge of Ground Water**

953. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE

SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Artificial Recharge of Groundwater through Dugwell Scheme has been successful in improving the ground water table in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the scheme has helped to solve the water problem in the country; and

(d) the funds allocated and subsidy given under the above scheme in the Eleventh Plan, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) The scheme on 'Artificial Recharge of Groundwater through Dugwells' has been launched in the year 2008

and the same is under implementation. The impact assessment of this scheme has not been taken up. However, Expression of Interest (Eoi) has been invited through advertisement in news dailies as well as website of Central Ground Water Board in respect of Impact Assessment of the Scheme of "Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells".

(d) The State-wise details of fund allocation and subsidy released are as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Fund allocation including subsidy to beneficiaries and for IEC to State agencies	Subsidy released
1.	Andhra Pradesh	327.34	0.000
2.	Gujarat	208.49	40.123
3.	Karnataka	58.69	24.674
4.	Madhya Pradesh	136.92	0.000
5.	Maharashtra	110.14	11.839
6.	Rajasthan	317.15	16.913
7.	Tamil Nadu	490.23	98.042
Total		1648.96	191.591

[Translation]

#### Equal Fees Structure

954. SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY:  
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:  
SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:  
SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA':  
SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:

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

(a) whether the fees fare arbitrarily charged from the students by self-financed private educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaint in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government is contemplating to implement the recommendations of the Committee constituted for effecting equal fees structure in Universities and colleges across the country including the private educational institutions;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the time by which the aforesaid recommendations are likely to be implemented;

(h) whether the Government proposes to enact a law in this regard; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The fees charged for professional courses by the unaided and self financing institutions are known to be relatively higher than those in the publicly funded institutions.

(c) and (d) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) had informed that it had received some complaints regarding charging of capitation fees. According to AICTE, as and when complaints regarding charging of capitation fee are received, an Enquiry Committee conducts enquiry into the complaints and appropriate action is taken based on the report of the Enquiry Committee.

(e) to (g) There is no proposal for prescribing uniform fee structure in universities and colleges across the country. The University Grants Commission (UGC) regulation for admission and fee structure in institutions deemed to be universities is presently under consideration of the Government. A Committee has been constituted by the AICTE under the Chairmanship of Justice Ranganath Mishra, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India to suggest fee structure in AICTE approved technical institutions. The Committee is in the process of finalizing its report.

(h) and (i) A legislative proposal, to prevent, prohibit and punish unfair practices, including charging of capitation fee in any form in technical and medical educational institutions and universities, is under consideration of the Government.

#### **Acknowledgement of MPs Letters**

955. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI HARSH VARDHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any norms/guidelines have been prescribed to acknowledge the receipt of the letters of

Members of Parliament and also to send reply to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that reply to the letters of MPs are delayed inordinately by Ministry/Department concerned;

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

(e) the action taken against the officer who failed to comply the norms/guidelines issued by the Government in the matter; and

(f) the effective measures taken by the Government to ensure timely replies of letters received from MPs?

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 Manual of Office Procedure contains necessary provisions which are supplemented by instructions issued from time to time.

(c) to (e) The provisions and instructions are followed by Government servants. Delays occur when the matter involved consultations with other departments/ State Governments etc. and reports have to be obtained from the authorities responsible for taking necessary action.

(f) The instructions are reiterated from time to time for necessary action by the Ministry/Department/State Governments to ensure compliance.

*[English]*

#### **Migration of Indian Labourers**

956. SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN:

SHRI P.L. PUNIA:

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

(a) whether the Indian workers are being sent abroad by Government approved overseas Manpower Agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of labourers in foreign jails alongwith the details of those died in harness; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for general amnesty to the illegally detained prisoners abroad?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) During the current calendar year 5.18 lakh emigrants have been cleared for overseas employment to ECR countries till 31-10-2009.

(c) and (d) Indian Missions in Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Jordan, Thailand, USA, London, Australia, Cambodia, Ireland, Senegal, Colombia, Yemen, Suva and Germany have informed that no Indian workers are in jails there.

The Indian Embassy in Kuwait has informed that as on 29-10-2009, there are 175 Indian prisoners in the Central jail of Kuwait. In addition, there are 61 Indian prisoners in the Public Jail of Kuwait convicted for petty offences and serving short jail terms. The Embassy has also informed three cases of deaths of Indian nationals in Kuwaiti jails. Whereas, Embassy of India in Lebanon has reported one such case, Indian Embassy in Oman has informed that exact statistics on the number of Indian workers in Omani jails is not available. However, one Indian worker died in harness in jail in Oman in the year 2007 and 2008 each. In the year 2009 no such case has been reported till date. Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia has reported 13 cases of death of Indian Nationals during the year 2009.

Indian missions abroad make all possible efforts to get Indian nationals released quickly by providing necessary assistance including consular access to the detainees. They try to ensure fair and humane treatment in jails.

**Grant of Balance MPLADS Fund of  
14th Lok Sabha**

957. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister

of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after de-limitation of Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituencies, the MPLADS grants has been found undisbursed during the tenure of 14th Lok Sabha;

(b) if so, the constituency-wise number of grants found un-disbursed;

(c) whether any special provisions have been made for utilization of balance un-disbursed grants in 15th Lok Sabha after de-limitation of constituencies; and

(d) if so, whether the said grants could be allocated to the Members of Parliament of 15th Lok Sabha?

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) There is no effect in respect of release of MPLADS funds to 14th Lok Sabha constituencies due to de-limitation of constituencies. The pending instalments up to 14th Lok Sabha are released on submission of required documents from the district authorities.

(c) and (d) The existing MPLADS Guidelines are sufficient for disbursement of unspent balances of MPLADS funds of preceding periods.

**Establishment of NHEFC**

958. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI RAMESH RATHOD:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Higher Education Finance Corporation (NHEFC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funding pattern of the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) A concept note on the setting up of a National Higher Education Finance Corporation (NHEFC) has been prepared and the matter is under consideration of Government.

#### **Protection of Great Indian Bustard**

959. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA:  
SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:  
SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

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

(a) whether the Great Indian Bustard has been sighted at the Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the number of such birds which have been sighted;

(c) whether conservationists have asked for launch of "Project Bustard" on the lines of "Project Tiger";

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to allocate funds to revive this endangered species; 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, Madam. As informed by the State Government of Rajasthan, 2 Great Indian Bustards were sighted at Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary in Rajasthan in the first week of August, 2009.

(c) to (f) Conservationists have been requesting for launching 'Project Bustard'. Considering the need of the hour, Ministry has shortlisted 15 species including Great Indian Bustard and other Bustards for initiating their recovery programme. Financial provision of Rs. 10 crore for such recovery programmes have been made in the existing Centrally Sponsored Scheme—'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats'. In addition, financial assistances to the extent of Rs. 39.58 lakhs has been provided during the current year for conservation of Great Indian Bustard in Rajasthan.

#### **Visit of Australian Foreign Minister to India**

960. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australian Foreign Minister has visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the issues discussed during his visit and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Government of Australia has assured the safety of Indian students in Australia; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Stephen Smith, Foreign Minister of Australia visited India from 12 to 15 October, 2009 for the sixth meeting of the India-Australia Foreign Ministers Framework Dialogue. A Joint Statement was issued at the conclusion of the visit.

(c) During his visit, he met External Affairs Minister, Home Minister, Governor of Maharashtra, MOS(IC) Environment and Forests and National Security Advisor to discuss bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

(d) and (e) Government of India conveyed deep concerns on the issue of the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. Australian Foreign Minister reiterated that Australia Federal Government and Governments of the Australian states are determined to address the concerns about the safety and the well-being of the Indian students in Australia. Noting that Australia was a culturally diverse country, Australian Foreign Minister stressed that Australia had a zero tolerance approach towards violence and racial prejudice. People who had committed offences against Indian nationals would face the full force of the law. The Australian Government had introduced legislation to require all international education providers to re-register by the end of 2010 against strengthened criteria.

*[Translation]*

**People's Participation under  
National River Conservation**

961. SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU:  
SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from State Governments including State Government of Madhya Pradesh for people's participation programme under National River Conservation Plan;

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

(c) whether the Government has accorded its approval to all the proposals;

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

(e) the time by which the said proposal are likely to be accorded approval; and

(f) the amount proposed to be allocated for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) Public Participation and Awareness (PP and A) is one of the components of National River Conservation Plan. Proposals for PP and A were received from the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan. The State Governments were requested to reformulate their proposals in the light of existing guidelines and to submit revised Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). The Madhya Pradesh Government had submitted proposals for public participation for eleven towns namely Indore, Bhopal, Vidisha, Mandideep, Jabalpur, Ujjain, Nagda, Burhanpur, Seoni, Chhapara and Keolari. Revised DPRs for Seoni, Chhapara, Keolari and Jabalpur towns were received and have been sanctioned in March 2008 at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.60 lakhs. Against this, Rs. 5.40 lakhs has been released to the State Government so far.

*[English]*

**Centre Share for Mid-Day Meal**

962. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the Centre's share for Mid-day Meal in view of the cost escalation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reduce the involvement of teacher in order to ensure the ration supply and supervision of the cooking process:

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is thinking to separate the management of the Mid-day Meal Scheme from the educational management of the school to improve the quality of education; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. The Government has revised the food norm for upper primary children by increasing the quantity of pulses from 25 to 30 grams, vegetables from 65 to 75 grams and by decreasing the quantity of oil and fats from 10 to 7.5 grams. It has also revised the cooking cost (excluding the labour and administrative charges) to Rs. 2.50 for primary and Rs. 3.75 for upper primary children. A separate component for payment of honorarium of Rs. 1000 per month to cook-cum-helper and a norm for engaging cook-cum-helper have been introduced. The cost of construction of kitchen-cum-store will be determined on the basis of State Schedule of Rates and the plinth area norm laid down by the Department of School Education and Literacy. The expenditure towards the cooking cost, the cost of construction of kitchen-cum-store and the honorarium of cook-cum-helper will be shared between the Centre and the North Eastern (NE) States on 90:10 basis and with other States/UTs on 75:25 basis. Transportation assistance in

the 11 Special Category States (viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Tripura) has been made at par with the Public Distribution System (PDS) rates prevalent in these States. As a result of this, the share of Central Government will increase by Rs. 10140.33 crore for balance period of the 11th Plan.

(c) and (d) The Mid Day Meal Scheme Guidelines stipulate that under no circumstances the teachers will be assigned responsibilities, which impede or interfere with teaching learning process in schools. Their involvement in the programme is limited to ensure that good quality, wholesome food is served to children and actual serving and eating is undertaken in a spirit of togetherness, under hygienic conditions and in an orderly manner in about 30-40 minutes.

(e) and (f) In view of (c) and (d) above, question does not arise.

#### **Financial Help to Indians Injured Abroad**

963. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:  
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:  
SHRI P. BALRAM:

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

(a) whether a large number of Indians are murdered or are committing suicide in foreign countries;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study on the causes of increasing number of such incidents;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the details of assistance including financial provided by the Government to the Indian workers/students and their families in the event of their accident/death abroad;

(f) whether there has been inordinate delay in bringing dead bodies of workers to India from abroad;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS  
(SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam. There is no report that the number of such incidents is increasing.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In the case of death/accident of Indian workers/students, Indian Missions/Posts abroad render all possible assistance, as per the procedures and guidelines of the Consular Manual, including informing about the death to the next of kin, registration of death, providing consular services and related facilities in coordination with the concerned employer/sponsor and the local authorities/agencies for transportation of the dead body to India or for local cremation/burial—as per the wishes of the family of the deceased.

Indian Missions/Posts also take up matter with local foreign office for thorough investigation of cases of unnatural deaths. Local authorities are approached for early autopsy/police reports/clearance. Requests for expeditious settlement of legal dues/compensation are also taken up with the local concerned authorities.

The Ministry has recently set up Indian Community Welfare Fund (ICWF) in the Indian Missions in 17 Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) Countries and Maldives to provide on-site welfare activities for Overseas Indian Citizens who are in distress. ICWF is aimed at providing on a means tested basis in the most deserving cases, among other things, for expenditure on incidentals and for airlifting the mortal remains to India or local cremation/burial of the deceased overseas Indian in such cases where a sponsor is unable or unwilling to do so as per the contract and the family is unable to meet the cost.

(f) to (h) There is some delay due to the procedural requirements as per the law of the country, especially in cases of unnatural death. However, there have been no complaints about any inordinate delay in bringing dead bodies to India.



**Setting Up of Local Coal Area  
Development Authority**

964. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Local Coal Area Development Authority in the coal producing States to monitor and fulfil the corporate social responsibilities; 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) No Madam, there is no such proposal under consideration to set up Local Area Development Authority. However, the activities under Corporate Social Responsibilities are monitored through Welfare Committees at Area Level, which consists of the Managements of the Coal Companies and Trade Union Representatives.

(b) Does not arise in view of Ans. to (a) above.

**Introduction of Vulnerability Line**

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce a new standard called Vulnerability Line to replace the Coastal Regulation Zone;

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

(c) the manner in which Vulnerability Line will be defined; and

(d) the norms/criteria formulated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, to examine the issues relating to CRZ Notification, 1991, the Ministry had constituted a Committee under Prof. M.S. Swaminathan in June, 2004. The Committee submitted its Report in February, 2005. Further, the

Ministry constituted another Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan to examine the suggestions and objections received in the draft Coastal Management Zone Notification, 2008 in June, 2009. The Report of this Committee was received in 16th July, 2009. Both the above Committees emphasized the need for demarcating a vulnerability line along the coast in order to safeguard the life and property along the coastal areas from natural hazards arising from the sea. Accordingly, the Ministry had initiated pilot studies with the help of reputed national institutions namely, Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad, Centre for Earth Science Studies, Trivendrum, Department of Ocean Development, Chennai and Survey of India, Dehradun. Since, the above activity is in an experimental stage no decision has been taken with regard to introducing the vulnerability line in the CRZ Notification, 1991.

(c) and (d) Under the above pilot study the vulnerability line is demarcated taking into account waves, tides, sea level rise and shoreline change with the help of satellite images, tidal data and manual survey.

**Criteria for Setting Up of Kasturba  
Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas**

966. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently revised the criteria of eligible blocks for setting up of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) The number of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas sanctioned and set up after such revision in various States and during 2008-09 and 2009-10; and

(d) The funds allocated for the purpose during 2008-09 and 2009-10 to various States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government has revised the criteria of eligible blocks with effect from

1st April, 2008 for setting up of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) to include educationally backward blocks with female rural literacy below 30% and towns/cities having minority concentration with female literacy rate below the national average (53.67%: Census 2001).

(c) and (d) 393 KGBVs have been sanctioned after such revision in various States upto 2009-10, out of which 383 have been operationalised. Funds amounting to Rs. 1226.79 crore in 2008-09 and Rs. 959.95 crore in 2009-10 have been allocated for running all KGBVs in various States.

### **Objection to Education Bill**

967. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

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

(a) whether some Christian and Muslim organizations have expressed unhappiness with some provisions of the Right to Education Bill, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Section 21 of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 provides for the constitution of a School Management Committee by a school, other than an unaided school, consisting of the elected representatives of the local authority, parents or guardians of children admitted in such schools, and teachers. Representations have been received from some minority institutions requesting for exemption from the requirement of constituting the School Management Committees. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

*[Translation]*

### **Accidents in Dudhichua Project in NCL**

968. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of accidents have taken place in the Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) particularly in its Dudhichua Project during the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) whether the production in the project has suffered during the said period as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the losses suffered;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the accidents; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against the guilty officers?

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) One fatal accident has occurred in each of the last three years and current year i.e. 2006 to 2009 (till date) at Dudhichua project of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL).

1. Fatal accident involving Late Raja Ram, Cableman (General Mazdoor) occurred on 17-2-2006 while the deceased came close to the loading point of blasted over burden material (near to shovel). A few pieces of stone from the blasted muck rolled down and hit him on his legs inflicting serious bodily injuries to him, which turned fatal after 12 days in hospital.

2. Fatal accident involving Late Anil Kumar Dubey, Contractor tipper driver occurred on 22-7-2007 while the deceased was trying to open the dala of loaded tipper at CHP crusher hopper another tipper hit him and he got head injury and subsequently succumbed to the injury.

3. Fatal accident involving Late Sudhir Kumar Pandey, Contractor's worker occurred on 8-9-2008 while the deceased was unauthorisedly riding on a contractor's tipper suddenly thrown from the tipper on the ground resulting into serious bodily injury, which turned fatal later.

4. Fatal accident involving Late Krishna Singh, Tipper Operator, occurred on 26-7-2009 while loaded tipper was coming to CHP and suddenly the tie rod broke and right side front wheel got thrown away and the deceased possibly jumped out and might have come under the rear right tyre of toppled tripper and succumbed to the injury while being taken to hospital.

(c) and (d) Production was not affected due to these accidents.

(e) and (f) Inquiry in respect of accidents occurred on 17-2-2006, 22-7-2007 and 8-9-2008 has been completed and in respect of accident occurred on 26-7-2009 inquiry is in progress. The details of persons held responsible for these accidents and action taken against the officials found guilty are as under:—

- (i) **For accident on 17-2-2006:** Shri Vishwakarmaji Sharma, Shovel Operator and Shri Dibi Muru, Jr. Overman were held responsible and disciplinary action has been taken against them.
- (ii) **For accident on 22-7-2007:** Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, Driver of Tipper No. Mp-53-GA-0506 of M/s Rungta Projects Ltd. and Shri A.K. Dubey, deceased himself and Shri V.N. Pandey, Loading Inspector of NCL, Dudhichua Project were held responsible and disciplinary action taken against them.
- (iii) **For accident on 8-9-2008:** Shri Surya Prakash Pandey, Private Security Guard of Mis RBSS, Shri Vishwanath Mishra, Supervisor of M/s RBSS, Shri Raghubir Bansal, Tipper Operator of M/s RPL and Shri Binod Singh, Asst. Loading Inspector of NCL, Dudhichua Project were held responsible for this accident and disciplinary action taken against them.

*[English]*

**Declaration of Amritsar as  
Heritage City**

969. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received

suggestion to declare the holy city of Amritsar as Heritage City;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

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, Madam. A request has been received from Government of Punjab to declare Amritsar as a heritage city. No action on it could be taken as there is no provision for declaration of a city as a heritage city under the provisions of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act, 1958.

*[Translation]*

**Bhojpuri Language Course in IGNOU**

970. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhojpuri Language Course has been introduced in Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to introduce the said course in other universities of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said course is likely to be started in other universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Indira Gandhi National Open University has started Foundation Course in Bhojpuri language w.e.f. July 2009 admission cycle.

(c) to (e) The universities are autonomous bodies and enjoy complete freedom in respect of introduction of any course as per the provision under their respective Act, Statute and Ordinance.

**Fraudulent Agencies**

971. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:  
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding fraudulent activities of agencies providing jobs overseas or getting them admissions in foreign universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of complaints received during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(c) the number of Indians opting to go abroad for jobs or higher education during the said period, year-wise;

(d) whether any new guidelines have been issued to check the activities of such fraudulent agencies in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the remedial measures taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Complaints against unauthorized agencies involved in overseas recruitment business and registered recruiting agents are received from time to time. However, students are not covered by the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983.

Position relating to complaints received against registered recruiting agencies as well as unauthorized agencies and action taken against them is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) Emigration clearance granted for employment during the last three years:

Year	No. of workers (in lakhs)
1	2
2006	6.77

1	2
2007	8.09
2008	8.49
2009 (Upto 31st October 2009)	5.18

No data is available in respect of persons going abroad for jobs without emigration clearance, or for higher education.

(d) and (e) The Emigration Rules, 1983 have been amended vide notification dated 9th July, 2009. The highlights of the amendments are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) Following remedial measures have been/are being taken in regard to workers:

- (i) All demands for 500 or more workers are verified for the genuineness of the demand as well as the foreign employer.
- (ii) Labour Agreements/MoUs have been signed with Jordan, Qatar, UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and Malaysia for bilateral cooperation for protection and welfare of emigrants.
- (iii) Special measures being taken for better protection and welfare of vulnerable sections of emigrants including women emigrants are:
  - (a) Age restriction of 30 years for all women emigrating on ECR of overseas passports.
  - (b) A 24x7 helpline viz. Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) has been set up to enable emigrants/prospective emigrants to seek information and file complaints against recruiting agents/foreign employers. A Migrant Resource Centre has been opened at Kochi for similar assistance.
- (iv) A vigorous campaign in the print and electronic media is regularly undertaken to create awareness about hazards of illegal migration.

**Statement-I***Position Relating to Complaints Received against Registered Recruiting Agencies and Unauthorised Agencies***Unauthorised Agencies:**

Year	No. of complaints received	Cases referred to State Government(s)	Prosecution sanctions issued	Prosecution sanctions pending	Still pending with police
2006	78	78	21	00	57
2007	40	40	07	00	33
2008	93	93	56	00	37
2009 (upto 31-10-09)	91	91	09	00	82

**Registered Recruiting Agencies:**

Year	No. of complaints	Show Cause Notices issued	No. of Registration Certificates suspended/cancelled	No. of Complaints dropped/resolved	Cases pending which are being followed up
2006	167	167	65	102	0
2007	98	98	11	87	0
2008	118	118	27	85	06
2009 (upto 31-10-09)	137	137	41	23	73

**Statement-II***Salient Features of the Emigration (Amendment)**Rules, 2009 dated 09-07-2009*

- (i) The validity period of a new registration certificate issued to the recruiting agent will be 10 years and the existing certificates will be renewable for a period of ten years.
- (ii) The amount of security to be furnished by the recruiting agent in the form of bank guarantee has been increased to twenty lakh rupees for all in place of the existing three categories

on the basis of the number of workers to be recruited by the recruiting agent.

- (iii) The application fee for registration certificate has been increased from five thousand rupees to twenty five thousand rupees.
- (iv) The application for registration now will have to be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's bachelor's degree or two years diploma or equivalent, balance sheet of the previous financial year or a statement of accounts showing the assets and liabilities of the applicant, income tax returns for the last

three consecutive years and an affidavit in Form-II, executed by the applicant before a Magistrate or Notary Public.

- (v) A recruiting agent can now collect service charges from the worker equivalent to his wages for forty five days as under the employment contract, subject to a maximum of twenty thousand rupees. He must issue a receipt to the worker for the amount collected.
- (vi) In order to obtain a Permit for direct recruitment of workers from India, the foreign employer will have to furnish a bank guarantee of ten thousand rupees per worker subject to a minimum of one lakh rupees and a maximum of twenty lakh rupees, valid for a period of one year over and above the duration of the employment contract.
- (vii) The power of attorney to be issued by the foreign employer to the recruiting agent shall be valid for the period of the employment contract of the recruited worker even if the certificate of registration of such recruiting agent ceases to be valid before that period.
- (viii) The fee for appeal to the central Government has been increased from existing two hundred rupees to two thousand rupees.
- (ix) The recruiting agents have been entrusted with specific duties and responsibilities with a view to safeguard the interest of the emigrant worker. They will also have to maintain certain basic facilities.
- (x) Specific duties of the foreign employers have been laid down under the Rules with a view to safeguard the interests of the emigrants.

[English]

#### **Satellites for Monitoring Environment**

972. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is proposed to build satellites to monitor environment to assess agricultural conditions and

weather to help people on the ground in coordination with other government agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it will be helpful to forecast the 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) Yes, Madam.

(b) Government have proposed to build satellites for monitoring the different aspects of atmosphere and environment, agricultural conditions and different weather related aspects, in coordination with concerned ministries, such as, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation.

(c) These satellites will facilitate understanding the different aspects pertaining to climate and its impact on agriculture.

[Translation]

#### **Poverty Alleviation Programmes**

973. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the outlay earmarked for poverty alleviation programmes in the current Five Year Plan;

(b) the percentage of rural population which have been brought above the poverty line during the last Five Year Plan; and

(c) the targets earmarked for poverty alleviation programmes during the current Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) The outlay earmarked for two

major rural poverty alleviation programmes viz. National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and Swaran Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for the Eleventh Five Year Plan is Rs 1,00,000 crore and Rs. 17,803 crore respectively.

(b) Estimates of poverty are made by the Planning Commission from large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The percentage of rural poor in 2004-05, estimated from Mixed Recall Period consumption expenditure data, which is roughly (but not strictly) comparable with the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 are as under:—

Year	Percentage of Rural poor
1999-2000	27.1%
2004-2005	21.8%

(c) The Eleventh Five Year Plan has set a monitorable target to reduce poverty ratio by 10 percentage basis points.

[English]

#### **Manned Mission to Moon**

974. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to send manned Space Craft to the Moon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal in this regard has been approved by the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the schedule chalked out in this regard alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred; and

(e) the benefits 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) No, Madam.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Indian Students Cheated by Australian Institutes**

975. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

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

(a) whether Indian students pursuing study in Australia are being cheated by the bogus institutions in that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Australian authorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Australian authorities thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) No such incidents have been brought to the notice of the Government. However, the Government of Australia has deregistered and shut down some educational institutions causing some dislocation of Indian students studying in such institutions. The Australian Government has assured that the students affected by the closure of colleges will be provided replacement in another institution so as to minimize the effect of dislocation.

The Indian High Commission and the Consulates in Australia are in touch with the Australian Government. The issue of Indian students have been taken up with

the Australian Government at the highest level by the Government.

To address the problems faced by Indian students in Australia and recommend measures for enhancing their safety and wellbeing, the Government has set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) with the Australian side on student mobility. The JWG held its first meeting on 6th October, 2009. Detailed advisory for Indian students who plan to study in Australia has been placed on the websites of MOIA, MEA and Indian Mission and Consulates in Australia.

The Mission in Canberra has also informed that the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Ms. Julia Gillard introduced in the Parliament, an Amendment Bill to the ESOS Act, 2000, under which all educational institutions will be required to re-register under new and tighter criteria by 31 December, 2010. Similarly rapid audit of service providers is being undertaken by the Australian authorities, as a result of which some colleges have already been de-registered and shut down.

[English]

#### **Status of Deemed Universities**

976. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:  
SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

(a) whether any committee or panel constituted by the Government has recommended that the status of many deemed universities should be withdrawn;

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

(c) the criteria for according the status of deemed university;

(d) the number of deemed universities in the country and those which have come into existence during the last three years and the current year, year-wise, State-wise;

(e) the manner in which the academic and financial activities of such university are monitored by Universities Grants Commission (UGC);

(f) whether any funds are allocated by the Government to deemed universities; and

(g) if so, the funds granted to each of the universities during the last three years and the current year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted a Committee, comprising the following members, to review the functioning of the existing institutions 'deemed to be universities' to ensure that standards of higher education and research are maintained by such institutions so as to justify their continuance as institutions 'deemed to be universities':

(i)	Professor P.N. Tandem, Professor Emiretus Department of Neurosurgery, AIIMS, New Delhi	—	Member
(ii)	Professor Govardhan Mehta, Chairman NAAC and former Director, IISc Bangalore	—	Member
(iii)	Professor Anandkrishnan, Chairman IIT Kanpur	—	Member
(iv)	Professor Mrinal Miri, Former Vice Chancellor NEHU	—	Member
(v)	Additional Secretary (Higher Education) OR Joint Secretary (Higher Education)	—	Convener

The Review Committee has submitted its report, which is under active consideration of the Government.

(c) The criteria for granting status of 'deemed to be

university' to eligible institutions are laid down in the "Guidelines for Considering Proposals for Declaring An Institution As Deemed To Be University Under Section 3 of the UGC Act" available on the website of the University



Grants Commission (UGC) at [www.ugc.ac.in/financialsupport/guidelines.html](http://www.ugc.ac.in/financialsupport/guidelines.html).

(d) As of today, there are one hundred and thirty institutions that have been declared by the Central

Government as Institutions 'Deemed to be Universities' under Section 3 of the University Grants Commission Act 1956, and of these forty-nine institutions have been declared so during the period from 01-01-2006 to 31-10-2009. A State-wise list is given below:—

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of Institutions Declared as 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'				
		2006	2007	2008	2009 (till 31-10-2009)	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	1	2	1	4
2.	Bihar	1	—	—	—	1
3.	Gujarat	—	1	—	—	1
4.	Haryana	—	1	1	1	3
5.	Karnataka	1	1	7	—	9
6.	Kerala	1	—	1	—	2
7.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	1	1
8.	Maharashtra	1	—	1	—	2
9.	Orissa	—	1	—	—	1
10.	Puducherry	—	—	1	—	1
11.	Punjab	—	1	—	—	1
12.	Rajasthan	1	—	—	1	2
13.	Tamil Nadu	2	2	10	—	14
14.	Uttarakhand	—	1	1	—	2
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1	1	1	—	3
16.	New Delhi	1	—	—	1	2
Total		09	10	25	5	49

(e) The UGC reviews the functioning of the Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' periodically every five years or earlier, if necessary, by constituting committees of experts. Such reviews include academic and financial aspects of Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'. Moreover, the accounts of the Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' are open to inspection by the UGC and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

(f) and (g) Government allocates an annual grant to the UGC which in turn provides grants to eligible universities including institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'. A list giving year-wise details of grants released by UGC to institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities' during the last three years and the current year is given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement***Grants released by UGC to Institutions 'Deemed-to-be-Universities'*

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Deemed University	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Sri Satya Sai Institute of Higher Learning, Andhra Pradesh	—	—	96.34	—	73.40	—	200.00	—
2.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh	47.43	512.99	60.73	707.11	61.55	963.15	150.00	569.32
3.	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi**	89.46	400.00	311.17	400.00	50.00	400.00	500.00	100.00
4.	Sri LBS Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, New Delhi	111.15	723.67	54.09	829.76	50.00	1258.02	50.00	785.00
5.	Indian Law Institute, New Delhi	—	—	—	—	300.00	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)	14.39	1017.53	124.99	1086.40	50.00	1693.90	50.00	1153.77
7.	Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi (Jharkhand)	47.99	—	97.99	—	82.00	—	—	—

8.	Deccan College PG and Research Institute, Pune (Maharashtra)	—	—	45.61	—	300.00	—	200.00	—
9.	Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai (Maharashtra)	76.30	1017.53	208.75	1377.58	100.00	2254.39	400.00	1371.16
10.	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune (Maharashtra)	100.59	—	81.96	—	100.00	—	20.00	—
11.	Thapar Institute of Engg. and Technology, Patiala (Punjab)	10.90	—	140.13	—	134.00	—	—	—
12.	Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Banasthali (Rajasthan)	—	—	120.58	—	50.00	—	—	—
13.	Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani (Rajasthan)	—	—	142.79	—	50.00	—	—	—
14.	Jain Vishwa Bharati Institute, Ladnun (Rajasthan)	70.70	—	63.19	—	72.30	—	152.00	—
15.	Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)	36.47	1152.93	121.32	1113.48	99.42	2025.10	300.00	1496.55
16.	Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram (Tamil Nadu)	9.82	1163.06	124.17	1301.90	90.87	1957.83	—	1629.73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
17.	Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi Vishwa Mahavidyalaya, Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu)**	—	7.00	45.11	7.00	75.50	7.00	—	—
18.	Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh)	40.00	—	23.57	—	60.50	—	150.00	—
19.	Dayalbagh Educational Institute, Agra (Uttar Pradesh)	57.90	584.26	115.06	640.21	89.65	1134.54	150.00	827.95
20.	Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar (Uttarakhand)	—	803.59	62.78	901.39	50.00	1596.72	—	958.00
21.	RKM Vivekananda Educational Research Institute, Belur Math (West Bengal)	280.00	—	379.00	—	293.26	—	—	—
22.	Chennai Mathematical Institute, Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	—	—	—	—	450.00	—	—	—
23.	Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai (Maharashtra)*	—	—	—	—	100.00	—	—	—

\*Receiving one-time special grant.

\*\*Receiving fixed maintenance grant.

**Training to Forest Personnel**

977. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

SHRI M.B. RAJESH:

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

(a) whether the Government has a comprehensive policy for training to the forest personnel in latest scientific and technological developments in the field of Forestry;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received proposals from States for setting up of forest academies for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the names of the States from where such proposals have been received;

(d) whether funds have been allocated in this regard to the States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (e) Government of India has recently started implementation of a project with financial assistance from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA). The project is titled "Capacity Development for Forest Management and Training of Personnel" and envisages infrastructure improvements as well as improvements of course curriculum and training methodologies in the training institutions for the frontline forestry personnel in the various states.

Ten states have been selected for the implementation of the project which are Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal. There are three buffer states namely Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur, in the eventuality of non

implementation of the project in the original ten states. The participating states have been requested to furnish their consent for implementation of the project. The fund distribution among the participating states will depend upon the Training Improvement Plans to be prepared during the project period. The total project is of Rs. 225.00 crore with a time span of five years and three months.

**Data Bank of NRIs**

978. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to build a data bank of NRIs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The Ministry maintains a data base of over 5 lakhs registered Overseas Citizens of India. The Ministry also has a data base of delegates who attend the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Conventions annually, apart from data base of around 400 overseas Indian associations. However, no census has been carried out.

**National Council for Teacher Education**

979. SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has decided not to further recognize/ permit institutions for conduct of B.Ed. course for the academic session 2010-2011 in the several States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of these States;

(d) Rest of the States that are allowed to conduct B.Ed. Course; and

(e) the States which have not applied to

NCTE before 31st October, 2009 for regularizing the course?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Keeping in view the study on demand and supply of teachers undertaken by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and specific recommendations received by it from the State Governments/Union Territories, the NCTE has decided not to further recognise institutions for conducting B.Ed. course for the academic session 2010-11 for Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

In respect of the remaining State/UTs, application can be made to the NCTE for grant of recognition for starting a new course or for additional intake of a recognized course in accordance with the extant law. There is no provision under the NCTE Act for regularizing a non-recognised teacher education course.

[Translation]

**Unhygienic Food under  
Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

980. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that poisonous insects, cockroaches, lizards etc. were found in Mid-day meal being served to school children;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of complaints received in this regard during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) action taken by the Government against those responsible for serving unhygienic food to the school children; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of food being served under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Unhygienic mid-day meal being served to the children have come to the notice of the Government through various sources such as newspapers, individual complaints etc. As and when, any complaint comes to the notice of the Government, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct a suitable enquiry into the complaint and to take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) and also to initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future. The details of such cases which came to the notice of the Government during the last three years and in the current year along with details of action taken thereon are given in the enclosed Statement. Though the overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for regular serving of wholesome, cooked mid day meal in every eligible school, EGS/ALE centres lies with the State Government/UT administration, the Central Government, through National, Regional and State level review meetings had been continuously urging the State/UT Governments to:

- Ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment
- food items are stored in dry and safe places
- adequate drinking water is made available
- cooks are properly trained in adopting hygienic habits.

Besides the above, the 42 monitoring institutions have been assigned the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the MDMS in States/UTs. The State Government/UT Administration is also required to send Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) to the Central Government. The Central Government analyzes the reports of monitoring institution as well as QPRs and asks States/UTs to take remedial measures, if required, to avoid recurrence of such deficiency in future. States have also been urged to involve the parents and community members to supervise the cooking and serving of mid-day meal.

**Statement****I.**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of complaints received				Total	Number of cases in which action has been taken by Government of India
		2006	2007	2008	2009		
1.	Bihar	—	—	01	—	01	01
2.	Jharkhand	—	—	01	01	02	02
3.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	02	02	02
4.	Orissa	01	—	—	—	01	01
5.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	01	01	01
6.	Uttar Pradesh	02	03	02	—	07	07
7.	Delhi	—	01	01	02	04	04
Total		03	04	05	06	18	18

**II.**

Sl. No.	State/UT	Number of complaints received	Number of complaints inquired	Number of cases found non-actionable	Number of cases found actionable
1.	Bihar	01	01	—	01
2.	Jharkhand	02	01	01	—
3.	Madhya Pradesh	02	02	—	02
4.	Orissa	01	—	—	—
5.	Rajasthan	01	01	—	01
6.	Uttar Pradesh	07	05	02	03
7.	Delhi	04	03	—	03
Total		18	13	03	10

*[English]***Guidelines for Allotment of Coal Blocks**

981. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated new guidelines for allotment of coal blocks to core sector; 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) Government formulates guidelines for allotment of coal blocks for captive use to eligible public/private sector companies from time to time. The guidelines were last revised in 2006. Further, separate guidelines for allocation of coal blocks for the specified end use of coal liquefaction were formulated in 2008. Recently in 2009, Government have formulated the guidelines for allocation of coal blocks for the specified end use of underground coal gasification. These guidelines are available on the website of Ministry of Coal at [www.coal.nic.in](http://www.coal.nic.in).

#### **Augmentation of DIET**

982. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has submitted proposal for augmentation of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET) to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Kerala Government has requested to release an additional amount in this regard;

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

(e) the time by which the amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) No proposal for augmenting District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Teacher Education has been received from State of Kerala during this year. However, State of Kerala had submitted a proposal during 2008-09 for financial assistance of Rs. 280.00 lakh for augmenting all the 14 DIETs under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Teacher Education. Accordingly, maximum Central assistance of Rs. 280.00 lakh @ Rs. 20.00 lakh

per DIET was released to the State Government in February, 2009. Since the Central assistance could not be utilized by the State Government during 2008-09, based on the proposal of the State Government, permission to utilize the Central assistance during this financial year was accorded in July, 2009.

#### **International Schools**

983. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:

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

(a) the number of international schools presently functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the norms laid down for declaring a school as international school;

(c) whether the huge fees are being charged by international schools;

(d) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to regulate and streamline the functioning and course content of these schools;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Central Government does not maintain statistics on the numbers of these schools. However, as per the information available on the web sites, over 200 schools in India are Cambridge International Centres and 65 schools in India conduct Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme of International Baccalaureate.

(b) At present, no norms have been laid down by the Central Government for a school to be declared as international school.

(c) to (f) Central Government does not regulate fee structure of these schools. However, formulation of a policy on schools affiliated to foreign boards and on appointment of foreign teachers in Indian schools, is under consideration.



**Chandrayaan-II Mission**

984. SHRI P. VISHVANATHAN:

DR VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to launch Chandrayaan-II;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its life span and the funds likely to be incurred thereon;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be launched;

(d) whether the amount incurred on India's expeditions is much below than the amount incurred by the developed nations in this regard; 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, Madam.

(b) The mission life of Chandrayaan-II is yet to be decided. The approved budget for the Chandrayaan-II mission is Rs. 425.00 crores. (FE-Rs. 293.50 crores)

(c) Chandrayaan-II mission is scheduled to be launched during 2012-2013 timeframe.

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) The expenditure incurred for Chandrayaan-I is Rs. 386.00 crores which is equal to US \$ 83 million. For Chandrayaan-II, it is Rs. 425.00 crores which is equivalent to US \$ 88 million at current exchange rate. The expenditure incurred for lunar missions by developed nations vis-a-vis India is provided below:

Sl. No.	Name of Mission and Agency	Amount in US \$
1.	LRO and LCROSS, NASA, USA	460 million
2.	KAGUYA (Selene), JAXA, Japan	478 million
3.	CHANG'E-I, CNSA, China	169 million
4.	SMART-1, ESA, Europe	90 million
5.	Chandrayaan-I, ISRO, India	83 million
6.	Chandrayaan-2, ISRO, India	88 million

**Maintenance of Heritage Sites by  
Private Sector**

985. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

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

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to give archaeological buildings under this scheme; and

(d) 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) ASI is in-charge of protecting, preserving and maintaining various centrally protected monuments across the country. It encourages Public Private Partnership (PPP) for conservation, restoration

and environmental development of the monuments under the aegis of National Culture Fund (NCF). Private Sector is at liberty to select specific monuments for conservation, restoration and environmental development.

Neither ASI nor the Department of Archaeology, Government of Karnataka have a scheme called "Adopt a Monument". However, like ASI, the state Government of Karnataka has also got a scheme for promotion of PPP for conservation of its protected monuments.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Prosecution of Public Servant**

986. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has pronounced any decision on the question of prosecuting a public servant without obtaining the sanction by the Central or State Government;

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

(c) the number of cases pending with the Government seeking permission to prosecute public servants for punishment under various sections of corruption Act;

(d) whether the Government has examined the implication of the said judgement on cases relating to prosecution of public servant; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the extent to which the said decision will be applicable to such pending cases?

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) Some of the relevant decisions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court on this subject are:

- (i) R.S. Nayak V/s. A.R. Antulay (ii) Prakash Singh Badal V/s. State of Punjab (iii) K. Karunakaran V/s. State of Punjab and (iv) Lalu Prasad V/s. State of Bihar.

In these Judgements, it has been held that if at the time the offence was alleged to have been committed, the accused was a public servant, but at the time when the Court was called upon to take cognizance of the offence committed by him as public servant, he had ceased to be a public servant, then no sanction would be necessary for taking cognizance of the offence against him. It was further held that Section 19(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act is "time and offence" related.

(c) As per information received from the CBI, a total of 162 cases are pending for prosecution sanction as on 31-10-2009; 142 with Central Government and 23 with State Governments. In 3 cases prosecution sanction is required from both the Central and State Governments.

(d) and (e) While the Government is bound to follow the Judgements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, it is understood that as far as civil servants are concerned, the requirement of seeking sanction of the competent authority under Section 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act continues to be applicable so long as the officer continues to be a member of the civil service. The protection under Section 19(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act cannot be said to have been taken away only on the consideration that the officer holds charge of another post on transfer or promotion, then the one alleged to have been abused.

*[Translation]*

#### **Fellowship for Senior and Junior Artists**

987. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the senior and junior fellowships are awarded by the Government every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the field in which it is being awarded;

(c) the criteria for selection of the candidate for award of fellowships;

(d) the procedure and the time by which the applications are invited for the purpose;

(e) whether any Selection Committee is constituted in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the tenure of the Committee; and

(g) the details of the Members of the Committee at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Senior and Junior Fellowships are awarded to outstanding artistes under the "Scheme for the Award of Fellowships to Outstanding Persons in the Field of Culture". 125 Senior Fellowships and 125 Junior Fellowships are awarded every year under the Scheme.

(c) The Fellowships are awarded for undertaking research oriented projects. The applicant should provide evidence of his/her capabilities to the satisfaction of Expert Committee in undertaking the project. Graduation is the minimum educational qualification for eligibility.

(d) Applications for award of Fellowships are invited every year through a public advertisement. Advertisement inviting applications for the current year 2009-10 has been issued and is available on the website of the Ministry: [www.indiaculture.gov.in](http://www.indiaculture.gov.in). 31st December, 2009 is the last date for receipt of applications.

(e) to (g) Yes, Madam. An Expert Committee comprising experts in different fields of art and culture is constituted by the Ministry of Culture from time to time. The tenure of the Expert Committee is normally for a period of one year. Expert Committee for the current year is yet to be constituted.

[English]

**Opening of New Consulates/  
Visa Centers Abroad**

988. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening of new Consulates/Visa Centers in foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) In 2008, Cabinet has approved the opening of two new Consulates General of India in United States of America in the cities of Atlanta and Seattle (USA) respectively.

**ITER Projects**

989. SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is a party to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Project; and

(b) 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, Madam.

(b) International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) is a multinational project involving the European Union, China, India, Japan, South Korea, Russia and the United States. ITER is being built at Cadarache in the South of France, near the port of Marseille. India joined ITER negotiations in December 2005 and the ITER Organization came into existence in November 2006 after all parties signed an Agreement. India is responsible for delivery of about 9.09% of the ITER contribution which is mostly in-kind. The components to be delivered by India are to be primarily manufactured by Indian Industries or in collaboration with Indian industries.

### Conferring Maharatna Status to CIL

990. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the status of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) from Navaratna to Maharatna company;

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

(c) whether the Government has fixed any norms for providing such status;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the Government proposes to confer Maharatna status to CIL?

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) The proposal for introduction of Maharatna scheme for Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) is yet to be finalized by the Government.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) to (d) above.

### Retirement Scheme of Government Employees

991. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government employees and the university teachers whose birth date falls on the first day of a month retire on the afternoon of the last day of the preceding month whereas those whose birth date falls on any other day of the month retire on the last working day of that month and hence are paid full salary and allowances;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to look into the matter and rectify the anomaly, if any;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) Accepting the recommendation of the 3rd Central Pay Commission for simplification of accounting procedure and speedy settlement of pension cases, Central Government issued Orders on 24th November, 1973 for retirement of employees on the last day of the month in which they attain the age of retirement. An employee whose date of birth falls on the first day of a month attains the age of retirement on the last day of the previous month and, therefore, retires on that day.

(c) to (e) The decision does not constitute an anomaly.

[Translation]

### Autonomy to Universities

992. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide autonomy to the Universities in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal/scheme prepared in this regard;

(c) whether the various Universities have demanded grant of autonomy;

(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 HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Universities have autonomy in academic matters subject to minimum standards

specified by the University Grants Commission (UGC). The limits of autonomy in financial, administrative and governance matters are contained in the legislation by which the Universities have been established. Publicly funded State Universities are established by States in exercise of their powers available to them under Entry 32 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and the Central Government cannot impinge on these powers. However, where the issue of autonomy involved relates to determination and maintenance of standards in higher education, Statutory Regulatory Bodies, established by law made by Parliament, can specify through regulations.

[English]

#### **Desert National Park**

993. SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has declared some of the area in the country as a Desert National Park; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including the purpose for declaring it as the Desert National Park?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) State Government of Rajasthan has notified Desert Wildlife Sanctuary in Jaisalmer District as Desert National Park on 4th August 1980 vide Notification No. F3(1)(73) Rev/dated 4-8-1980. It comprises of 3162 sq. kms. It has been declared National Park due to its ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, natural or zoological significance for the purpose of protecting, propagating, developing wildlife and its environment.

[Translation]

#### **Integrated Energy Policy**

994. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any Integrated Energy Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its main features and the process made in this regard;

(c) the time by which the said Policy is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the benefits likely to be accrued to the common people as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) An Integrated Energy Policy was approved by the Government in December 2008;

(b) The Integrated Energy Policy highlighted the issues of energy demand, its availability, pricing, research and development activities, efficiencies and security of supply. The Integrated Energy Policy was prepared on the basis of the recommendations made by Expert Committee constituted by the Government in August 2004. The Expert Committee submitted its Report in 2006.

(c) Action have been initiated on many recommendations made in the Integrated Energy Policy like capacity addition, ensuring the energy security, rationalization of cost of power, availability of gas for power, reduction of Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT and C) losses, energy efficiency and demand side management issues, promotion of renewables including wind and solar energy and enhancement of access.

(d) The approach of Integrated Energy Policy and the road map prepared for managing the energy requirements would help in maintaining the higher economic growth and increase per capita energy availability.

[English]

#### **Per Capita Income of Poor**

995. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 836 million Indian survive on less than Rs. 20 per day;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures adopted or proposed to be taken by the Government to raise per capita income of the poor?

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 National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector in its report suggested that 836 million Indians (77% of the total population in 2004-05) had per capita consumption expenditure of less than Rs. 20 per day. However, according to Economic Survey 2008-09, it was observed that based on the calculations using data for 2004-05 (NSS, 61st Round), the per capita consumption expenditure of 68.1% of the population was less than Rs. 20 per day. Thus, actually 663 million Indians had per capita consumption expenditure of less than Rs. 20 per day during 2004-05.

(c) A number of schemes and programmes are being implemented by the Government including National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) of the Ministry of Rural Development, which guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) provides self employment to the rural poor who are organized into Self Help Groups (SGHs) and are provided income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and subsidy. Under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) the shelter less rural BPL households are provided financial assistance for construction of houses which provides them security. National Social Assurance programme (NSAP) provides social security in the form of IGNOAPS (Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme), pension scheme for widows and disabled etc, Aam Admi Bhima Yojana, a Health Insurance Scheme for the unorganized sector works are the other measures taken by the government to alleviate poverty by raising their per capita income.

Similarly the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) which aims to encourage urban self-employment through subsidy and loan with a component of skill development.

#### **Relocation of Human Settlements from Wildlife Sanctuaries**

996. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for relocation of human settlements from wildlife sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has allocated any funds for the relocation of families from wildlife sanctuaries during the last three years and the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' and 'Project Tiger' have provision of providing financial assistance to States for voluntary relocation/rehabilitation of villages and human settlement from the Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks. An amount of Rs. 10 lakh per family is provided under these schemes for relocation. It includes provision of agriculture land procurement and development, settlement of rights, homestead land and house construction, community facilities like access roads, irrigation, drinking water etc.

(c) and (d) The State-wise funds released for village relocation from core/critical tiger habitats under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes—'Project Tiger' and 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' for the last three years and current year, are as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)

State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (till date)
1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	230.00	2039.5768	5819.12	—

1	2	3	4	5
Karnataka	58.80	980.00	—	—
Rajasthan	—	50.00	2343.50	10400.00
Uttarakhand	—	10.00	—	—
Orissa	—	—	350.00	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	100.00	—
Assam	—	—	646.09	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	1000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>288.80</b>	<b>3079.5768</b>	<b>9258.71</b>	<b>11400.00</b>

[Translation]

**Expenditure Incurred on  
Gramsat Scheme**

997. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the expenditure incurred under GRAMSAT scheme, particularly in the rural and backward areas during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of programmes transmitted under this scheme;

(c) whether the Government proposes to involve the tribal people in these programmes with a view to promoting tribal culture;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) Department of Space does not incur any

expenditure under the GRAMSAT programme, except for providing free bandwidth for various GRAMSAT users. The Governments of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Karnataka, which are implementing the GRAMSAT project met the expenditures of their own network. The approximate cost of the bandwidth provided to these States together will be of the order of Rs. 3.00 crores.

(b) The details of the programme transmitted by each of these are under the purview of the various State Governments and generally are in the areas of mass education, fisheries, forest and environment and Anganwadi workers.

(c) to (e) The State Governments formulate the programmes to be transmitted on GRAMSAT network and include programmes to promote tribal culture.

**Survey on Earthquake Prone Areas**

998. SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR ALIAS KUSHAL  
TIWARI:

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify earthquake prone areas in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to minimise the loss of life and property due to earthquakes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds given to these States 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) and (b) Yes Madam, The earthquake prone areas of the country have been identified on the basis of scientific analysis based on seismicity, past earthquake events studies and tectonic setup of the region. Accordingly, Seismic Zoning Map of India was produced by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) that has categorized the whole country running across the states into four seismic zones—Zone-II, III, IV and V. Of these, Zone V is the most seismically active region, while zone II is the least.

(c) and (d) Various earthquake disaster management and mitigation measures are in place through the efforts coordinated by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the country. Significant of them is the issuance of guidelines for earthquake resistant design and construction of structures that have been laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Housing Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) and Building Material Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) etc for their adoption by appropriate planning and development authorities.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued National Disaster Management Guidelines for management of earthquakes and is widely circulated among Ministries of Government of India and states/UTs administrations. National and state level disaster management plans are envisaged to be prepared in accordance with the NDMA guidelines by appropriate

authorities to minimize the loss of life and property due to earthquakes. National Executive Committee (NEC) constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MHA will recommend such various disaster management plans to NDMA for approval and funding support for effective implementation.

[English]

#### **Tubewells in Drought Affected Areas**

999. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to launch a scheme to dig tubewells in rain deficient regions/areas with untapped groundwater potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the areas/States identified for the purposes;

(c) the allocation made/likely to be made in this regard; and

(d) the manner in which the funds for this purpose are likely to be mobilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (d) The scheme for "promoting installation of tube wells/bore wells and construction of dug wells in order to augment availability of water for agriculture and drinking water supply" has not been finalized.

#### **Agreement for Extraction of Uranium**

1000. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Meghalaya has agreed in principle for extraction of Uranium from mines in West Khasi hills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;



(c) whether the people of the state have been persuaded not to oppose this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the measures have been taken to ensure that the Uranium so extracted is not smuggled out of the country; and

(f) the steps 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) and (b) The Government of Meghalaya in its Cabinet meeting held on 24-08-2009 has approved pre-project development activities in West Khasi Hills by Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy.

(c) and (d) The Department of Atomic Energy and Uranium Corporation of India Limited have for the last five years been regularly conducting awareness programs to clear the misconceptions regarding uranium mining in West Khasi Hills of Meghalaya. This has resulted in a large majority to support the project although there is still some opposition towards it.

(e) Mining has not started in the West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya.

(f) Not applicable.

#### **Higher Capital Investment in Public-Private Partnership**

1001. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to ensure that the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach in infrastructure development are involving higher capital investment;

(b) the proposed monitoring system for maintaining a non-prejudicial user interest;

(c) the measures the Government has taken to tackle the complexity of maintaining conditions of competitive markets in a rapidly changing economic scenario;

(d) whether the Government is seeking greater role of South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulators (SAFIR), in terms of building sub-regional framework to address the infrastructure gaps in the country; and

(e) 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) The Government has taken a number of initiatives to promote the development of infrastructure in general and private participation in particular. Some of these initiatives are as given below:

(i) Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure has been constituted on July 6, 2009. The objective of the Committee is to consider and take decisions in respect of all infrastructure related proposals costing more than Rs. 150 crores; to consider and decide measures namely, fiscal, financial, institutional and legal required to enhance investment in the infrastructure sector, including grant of requisite approvals to facilitate private sector investment in specific projects, to lay down annual parameters and targets for performance for all infrastructure sectors; and to review the progress of all infrastructure projects.

(ii) PPP Appraisal Committee has been constituted for streamlining and simplifying the appraisal and approval process for PPP projects.

(iii) Viability Gap Funding scheme has been notified to enhance the financial viability of infrastructure projects.

(iv) India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd. has been set up for providing long term loans for financing infrastructure projects.

(b) A guidelines for monitoring of Public Private Partnership Projects to be followed by all Ministries/ Departments, Statutory Authorities and Public Sector Undertakings has been issued by the Planning Commission in May, 2009. The Guidelines are aimed at ensuring compliance of the contractual requirements contained in the concession agreement. This would protect user interests.

(c) A transparent system of bidding of PPP projects has been set up through standard bidding documents. Model pre-qualification document, Model Request for Proposal documents and Model Concession Agreements have been prepared for ensuring a transparent bidding process.

(d) and (e) The South Asia Forum for Infrastructure Regulation (SAFIR) was established with the support of the World Bank. India is a Member of the Executive Committee of SAFIR. The SAFIR is designed to assist in building of regulatory capacity in electricity, natural gas, telecom, water, transport and other sectors.

[Translation]

#### **Polluting Industries**

1002. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:

SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

DR. BALIRAM:

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

(a) the number of industrial units inspected by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(b) the number of industrial units that were found to be violating pollution control norms alongwith the details of their offences;

(c) whether the CPCB has given any direction to close down such units;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some of these units are still operating

in spite of the notices served upon them to close their operations;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the remedial steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) A total of 748 industrial units have been inspected by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) during the last three years and the current year. The year-wise details are as under:

Year	No. of Units inspected by CPCB
2006-07	226
2007-08	159
2008-09	260
2009-10 (till August, 2009)	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>748</b>

(b) A total of 304 industrial units were found to be violating the pollution control norms. The offences committed by the violating industries include; non-compliance with the prescribed effluent and emission standards, improper housekeeping, by-passing of effluents, non-operation of the pollution control devices, operation without valid consents etc.

(c) and (d) The CPCB during last three years and the current year has issued 35 directions for closure under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 to the violating industries. In addition, 15 directions for ensuring closure of such defaulting industries have been issued to State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981. The year-wise details of directions of closure issued are as under:

Year	No. of directions of closure issued to the units under Section 5 of E(P)A	No. of directions issued to the SPCBs/PCCs for closure of units under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water/Air Acts
2006-07	10	1
2007-08	14	5
2008-09	11	9
2009-2010 (till Aug. 2009)	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>15</b>

In addition, 103 directions under Section 5 of E (P) Act, 1986 and 151 directions under Water and Air Acts were issued of a nature other than closure of units.

(e) and (f) The units served with confirmed closure orders are not found to be operating.

(g) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Kashmir in Chinese Handouts**

1003. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL  
KHATGAONKAR:  
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether visitors to Tibet especially journalists invited by the Chinese Government are given handouts where Kashmir is indicated as a country separate from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken the issue including depiction of our borders wrongly on the Internet with Chinese Government; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Government has seen media reports to such effect. Government has taken up this matter with the Chinese side and conveyed Government's clear and consistent position that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

[Translation]

#### **Climate Change**

1004. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:  
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a Committee to conduct research and evolve measures to combat ill-effects of climate change;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms of reference, tenure and composition of the Committee; and

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its recommendations to the Government?

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) No Madam. A Council on Climate Change has already been set up in 2007 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister, with the focus to evolve a coordinated response to issues related to climate change; provide oversight for formulation of action plans in the area of assessment, adaptation, technology support and mitigation of climate change; and periodically monitor key policy decisions.

The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released by the Prime Minister on 30th June 2008. The NAPCC 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 developmental and economical goals in a sustainable manner in the context of climate change.

The Government has set up an "Expert Committee on Impacts of Climate Change". The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as under:

- (i) To study the impacts of anthropogenic climate change on India.
- (ii) To identify the measures that we may have to take in the future in relation to addressing vulnerability to anthropogenic climate change impacts.
- (iii) Any other matter relevant to (i) and (ii) above.

The Composition of the Expert Committee is as follows:

1. Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India—Chairman
2. Dr. R.K. Pachauri, DG, TERI—Member
3. Prof. N.H. Ravindranath, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore—Member

4. Prof. A.K. Gosain, IIT, New Delhi—Member
5. Dr. Kanchan Chopra, IEG, Delhi—Member
6. Dr Ligia Noronha, TERI—Member
7. Dr. Anand Patwardhan, TIFAC—Member
8. Dr. R. Sukumar, IISc, Bangalore—Member
9. Dr. S. K. Sikka, Scientific Secretary, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India—Member
10. Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, C-1/53, Bapa Nagar, New Delhi

The following have been nominated as ex-officio members:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests.
2. Secretary, Department of Science and Technology.
3. Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences
4. Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education.
5. Secretary, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.
6. Principal Adviser, Planning Commission dealing with environment.
7. Director, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune.
8. Head Environment Division, Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), Pusa, New Delhi.
9. Director, Malaria Research Centre, Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi.
10. Director, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.
11. Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi.
12. Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun.

## 13. Joint Secretary (Climate Change)—Secretary

(Rupees in Lakh)

The tenure of the Expert Committee is of three years, which could be extended further with the approval of the Competent Authority. The Committee shall be submitting its reports to the Government from time to time.

2006-07	10816.89
2007-08	12886.19
2008-09	13498.60

*[English]***Monuments under ASI Protection**

1005. SHRI S. ALAGIRI:

RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as on date, State-wise;

(b) the amount spent by the Government for the protection/maintenance of these monuments during the last three years;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to develop these monuments as tourist spots;

(d) whether some of these monuments are in dilapidated condition and on the verge of collapse;

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

(f) the steps taken by the Government for the protection of such monuments; and

(g) the achievements made as a result thereof?

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) There are 3675 monuments/sites declared as of national importance. State-wise list is given in the enclosed Statement. The details are also available on the Archaeological Survey of India's web-site. ([www.asi.nic.in](http://www.asi.nic.in)).

The expenditure incurred on conservation/preservation and environmental development of centrally protected monuments in the country during the last three years are as under:

The conservation, preservation, maintenance, development of environs and creating tourist related amenities (e.g. drinking water, toilet blocks, facilities for physically challenged, pathways, cultural notice boards/signage, vehicle parking, cloak rooms, etc.) at the centrally protected monuments/sites are the regular activities which the ASI undertakes as per needs and availability of resources. However, fresh initiatives have been taken to develop important monuments from tourism point of view.

(d) No, Madam. The centrally protected monuments are in good state of preservation as conservation and maintenance are undertaken by ASI on regular basis to keep their fabric intact.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

**Statement***List of Centrally Protected Monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India*

Sl. No.	Name of State	Nos. of Monuments
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	137
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	03
3.	Assam	55
4.	Bihar	70
5.	Chhattisgarh	47
6.	Daman and Diu (U.T.)	12
7.	Goa	21
8.	Gujarat	202
9.	Haryana	90

1	2	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	40
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	69
12.	Jharkhand	12
13.	Karnataka	507
14.	Kerala	26
15.	Madhya Pradesh	292
16.	Maharashtra	285
17.	Manipur	01
18.	Meghalaya	08
19.	Nagaland	04
20.	N.C.T. Delhi	174
21.	Orissa	78
22.	Pondicherry (U.T.)	07
23.	Punjab	31
24.	Rajasthan	162
25.	Sikkim	03
26.	Tamil Nadu	413
27.	Tripura	08
28.	Uttar Pradesh	743
29.	Uttaranchal	042
30.	West Bengal	133
Total		3675

### World Bank Loan to Education Sector

1006. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has provided any loan for development of education sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount received and utilised therefrom during the last three years and the current year; State-wise and Year-wise; and

(d) the achievements made as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The World Bank along with two other external funding agencies namely the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom and the European Commission have partially funded the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in the first phase of programme covering the period 2204-07. These agencies are again funding SSA programme for the second phase for the period 2007-10.

(b) and (c) Initially, Central Government provides funds to States/UTs towards their Annual Works Plan and Budget. Funds are received from these external agencies as reimbursement by the Central Government on the basis of eligible expenditure incurred. No reimbursement is made to State Governments directly. The total amount provided by the World Bank as reimbursement of SSA expenditure for Phase I and Phase II during the last three years and current year are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the funding agency		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
World Bank	SSA-I	477.76	—	—	—
	SSA-II	—	—	1033.17	1709.99

(d) Under SSA programme till 30-6-2009, 1.23 lakh primary school buildings, 0.75 lakh upper primary school buildings and 8.30 lakh additional classrooms have been constructed throughout the country.

**Academic Standard of  
Deemed Universities**

1007. SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA:

SHRIMATI JAYA PRADA:

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

(a) whether two independent committees were constituted to enquire into the academic standard of the Deemed-to-be-Universities and to review their functioning.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these committees have since submitted their reports to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations of both committees, separately; and

(e) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The Government has constituted a Committee to review the functioning of the existing institutions 'deemed to be universities' to ensure that standards of higher education and research are maintained by such institutions so as to justify their continuance as institutions 'deemed to be universities'. The Review Committee included the following persons:

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(i) Professor P.N. Tandem, Professor Emiretus Department of Neurosurgery, AIIMS, New Delhi	—	Member
(ii) Professor Govardhan Mehta, Chairman NAAC and former Director, IISc Bangalore	—	Member
(iii) Professor Anandakrishnan, Chairman III Kanpur	—	Member
(iv) Professor Mrinal Miri, Former Vice Chancellor NEHU	—	Member
(v) Additional Secretary (Higher Education) OR Joint Secretary (Higher Education)	—	Member

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The Review Committee has submitted its report, which is under active consideration of the Government. The University Grants Commission has also been asked to take up review of the functioning of all the 'deemed to be universities' with regard to the availability of the qualified faculty and the infrastructure in the 'deemed to be universities'. The process of review by the University Grants Commission is yet to be completed.

[Translation]

**Construction of Dam on River  
Brahmaputra by China**

1008. SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH:

SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA:

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

SHRI PURNMASI RAM:

SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY:

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the China is reportedly constructing a dam across the river Brahmaputra on its side;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the findings of National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to examine and assess the impact of the proposed dam on the availability of water in North-Eastern States, agriculture and biodiversity of the country;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether India has taken up this issue with the Chinese Government;

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

(g) the measures taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (g) Government has seen media reports to such effect. These reports have been taken up with the Chinese side, who have said that such reports are inconsistent with the facts. Government is not aware of any existing dam on the Brahmaputra River. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments having a bearing on India's interests and takes all necessary measures to protect them. Government takes up all relevant issues relating to trans-border rivers with the Chinese side through the Expert Level Mechanism established in 2006.

#### **World Bank Report on Secondary Education**

1009. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

SHRI GANESH SINGH:

DR. MONAZIR HASSAN:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether in its recent report, the World Bank has stated that India's Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) in secondary school is 40% as compared to 70% in East Asia and 82% in Latin America and that 48% secondary school students in India never go beyond that level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the concrete measures taken by the Government to encourage secondary and higher education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The World Bank report "Secondary Education in India: Universalizing Opportunity" (January, 2009) has mentioned that the Gross Enrolment Rate (GER) at the secondary and senior secondary level in India at 40 per cent is far inferior to the GERs of countries in East Asia (average 70 per cent) and Latin America (average 82 per cent). It also states that the incompleteness rate of secondary education in 2004-05 in India was 48% (11% drop out in classes IX and X, and 37% failure in 10th grade examination).

(c) and (d) As per the Selected Educational Statistics 2006-2007 of the Ministry of Human Resource Development the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for secondary stage (classes IX and X) was 53.27% and GER for classes IX to XII was 41.13%.

(e) With the objective to universalise access to secondary education and to improve its quality, a centrally sponsored scheme called Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been launched in March 2009 by the Central Government. The scheme envisages enhancing the enrollment ratio to 75% for classes IX and X within 5 years by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms and removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers.

#### **Study on Ground Water Level**

1010. SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:

SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:



(a) whether Indian scientists alongwith foreign scientists have successfully conducted an aerial survey through satellite to assess the ground water level in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the findings of the survey:

(c) the actual position of the ground water level in each State/Union Territory according to the survey; and

(d) the action taken by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) to maintain the ground water level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) The findings of the Scientists from National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and University of California, United States of America, published in the issue of scientific journal 'Nature' have indicated that groundwater is being depleted at a mean rate of  $4.02 \pm 1.0 \text{ cm yr}^{-1}$  equivalent height of water ( $17.7 \pm 4.5 \text{ km}^3 \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ) over the Indian states of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana (including Delhi).

(d) The steps being taken by the Government to maintain ground water levels in the country include:—

- Implementation of demonstrative artificial recharge projects by CGWB in the country.
- Implementation of scheme on "Artificial Recharge to ground water through Dug wells" for augmenting the ground water resources in 7 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.
- Implementation of scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies. The objectives of the scheme cover augmentation of ground water recharge.
- Implementation of Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme aimed at creating awareness about water conservation practices.
- Circulation of 'Model Bill' to enable States/ Union Territories to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

- Setting up of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for the purpose of regulation of ground water management and development in the country.
- Organization of mass awareness programmes on Water Management, Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water.
- States have been advised for making rain-water harvesting mandatory. In pursuance thereof, 18 States and 4 UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory under building bye-laws.
- Circulation of a Master Plan for artificial recharge of ground water to the States/UTs.
- Institution of Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskars and National Water Award to encourage adoption of innovative practices of ground water augmentation and artificial recharge through people's participation.

[English]

#### Introduction of Bt. Brinjal

1011. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN:

SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

(a) whether Introduction of Bt Brinjal will destroy the country's biodiversity;

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

(c) whether the release of Bt Brinjal was approved/ cleared after careful consideration of safer sustainable and affordable brinjal grown in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether several leaders from farming community

have requested the Government to reject the recommendation of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee to release Bt Brinjal;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Expert Committee on Bt brinjal based on the environmental risk assessment data has concluded that Bt brinjal event EE-1 is highly specific in its action on target organisms and has no adverse impact on non-target organisms including beneficial organisms and soil micro-flora. No accumulation and persistence of Bt protein in the soil takes place and no differences with respect to susceptibility to pests and diseases have been noticed. The introgression of *cry1Ac* gene has in no way affected the outcrossing potential and the weediness characteristics of Bt brinjal. No instances of natural inter-specific hybridization with wild species have been reported for cultivated brinjal. Therefore, introduction of Bt brinjal is not likely to destroy the country's biodiversity.

(c) and (d) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in its meeting held on 14-10-2009 concluded that Bt brinjal is safe for environmental release taking into consideration the findings of the review by three high level technical Committees namely; the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulations and two Expert Committees constituted by the GEAC in 2006 and 2009. The decision of the GEAC on the safety of Bt brinjal for environmental release is based on scientific facts/data generated during 2002-2009 and international experience with GM crops.

(e) to (g) As the Ministry has received strong views both in favour and against commercialization of Bt brinjal in India from the various stakeholders including the State Governments, farmers, civil societies, NGOs and scientists, the Ministry has decided to hold national consultations with the various stakeholders before a final view on the commercialization of Bt brinjal is taken.

### **Setting Up of Indian Institute of Science Education**

1012. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any norms/criteria to establish Indian Institute of Science Education (IISE) in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State of Gujarat falls under the said criteria;

(d) if so, the time by which an IISE is likely to be set up in Gujarat;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government proposes to establish a number of IISE in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the places where these are likely to be established, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.N.R. Rao, five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been established at Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram.

(c) No Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) At present, there is no proposal to establish any more IISERs in the country.

*[Translation]*

### **Institutions to Monitor Green House Gas Emissions**

1013. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether there is any indigenous research institute in the country for evaluating the quantum of green house gases emitted into the atmosphere;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such an evaluation is being undertaken by foreign institutions;

(d) if so, the details of such institutions;

(e) whether the data provided by these institutes are far from reality;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to set up such institutes in the country so as to have a realistic data of greenhouse gases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) GHG inventory estimation takes place as a part of National Communication (NATCOM) to UNFCCC with the help of a network of scientific and research institutions in the country. This inventory is limited to sectors such as Energy, Industry, Agriculture, Forestry and Wastes.

(c) to (f) No such evaluation is undertaken by any foreign institution with regard to emissions from India as reported in NATCOM. Also, as per United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), NATCOM submitted by Developing Countries including India is not subject to any review.

(g) A network of research institutions, functions under NATCOM project to collect available scientific information for estimation of greenhouse gases.

[English]

#### **Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

1014. SHRI S. SEMMALAI:

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that parts of funds allocated to States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes have either been diverted or misused;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the extent of diversion/misuse of funds allocated and the action taken by the Union Government in the matter;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to check the diversion/misuse of funds; and

(d) 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) to (d) State-wise release of funds under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), as well as monitoring of their utilization by each State, is undertaken by the respective Central Government Ministry/Departments implementing the CSS. The modalities for implementation of such schemes are clearly outlined by the Ministries/Departments of the Central Government in the guidelines of each Scheme. The Administrative Ministry/Department concerned of Union Government and the State Governments ensure proper use of funds given to States. The States also provide Utilization Certificates from time to time based on which further release of funds is made. The Comptroller and Auditor General has the constitutional responsibility to audit the utilization of funds and report any misuse/diversion to the Parliament/State Legislatures.

#### **Adult Literacy Campaign**

1015. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

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

(a) the percentage of adult literacy in the country, State-wise;

(b) the pattern of staff engaged in the programme for adult education;

(c) the total funds allocated by the Government for adult literacy campaign during the last three years and the current year, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to improve adult literacy in the country and for that purpose encourage adults to join the literacy campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Statement-I indicating the State-wise adult literacy rates (15 and above age group) in the country, as per Census 2001, is enclosed.

(b) The pattern of staff is different in different States. The Department of Education, through its staff, manages the programme in all State Governments. At District, Block and Gram Panchayat level, the Panchayati

Raj Institutions will manage the programme through their own staff supported by volunteers.

(c) Statement-II indicating the details of funds released to various States/UTs during the last 3 years and current financial year is enclosed.

(d) The Government has recently launched a new variant of National Literacy Mission, as Saakshar Bharat, with specific objective of improving adult literacy. The programme encompasses functional literacy, skill development, equivalency programme and life long learning opportunities through continuing education. To encourage adults to join the literacy campaign, the entire cost of the teaching learning material and literacy teaching will be met by the Government. The programme also provides for environment building and mass mobilization to motivate the non-literates to join the literacy campaign.

**Statement-I**

*State-wise Literacy Rates for Population age 15 and above*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Literacy Rate		
		All Persons	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54.15	65.70	42.48
2.	Arunachal pradesh	51.92	63.45	38.35
3.	Assam	61.15	71.09	50.35
4.	Bihar	44.16	59.03	28.15
5.	Chhattisgarh	59.06	74.55	43.57
6.	Delhi	79.56	85.56	70.78
7.	Goa	79.88	87.28	72.21
8.	Gujarat	65.29	77.55	52.20
9.	Haryana	62.42	75.47	47.45
10.	Himachal Pradesh	71.70	82.57	60.73

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	51.31	64.21	36.43
12.	Jharkhand	49.75	65.94	32.49
13.	Karnataka	61.62	72.92	49.97
14.	Kerala	89.85	93.84	86.20
15.	Madhya Pradesh	58.76	73.69	42.53
16.	Maharashtra	72.90	84.10	60.78
17.	Manipur	69.72	81.69	57.59
18.	Meghalaya	63.18	67.59	58.62
19.	Mizoram	89.42	91.72	86.87
20.	Nagaland	65.08	70.80	58.57
21.	Orissa	59.68	74.01	45.06
22.	Punjab	65.27	71.76	57.82
23.	Rajasthan	54.43	72.06	35.59
24.	Sikkim	65.99	75.29	54.76
25.	Tamil Nadu	69.81	80.38	59.27
26.	Tripura	70.38	79.93	60.24
27.	Uttanchal	66.68	81.25	51.93
28.	Uttar Pradesh	51.07	66.19	34.28
29.	West Bengal	65.77	75.96	54.74
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	78.97	85.10	71.34
31.	Chandigarh	80.30	85.23	73.73
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	53.62	68.82	33.11
33.	Daman and Diu	75.52	85.75	59.59
34.	Lakshdweep	85.35	92.84	77.49
35.	Pondicherry	79.05	87.86	70.38

**Statement-II**

Sl. No.	State/UTs	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 upto 30-10-2009
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2200.59	2417.30	1270.53	210.94
2.	Arunachal pradesh	38.05	34.54	25.00	0.00
3.	Assam	249.01	193.21	155.11	0.00
4.	Bihar	473.73	638.26	393.83	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	716.59	384.20	711.87	5.79
6.	Delhi	105.37	111.86	116.04	8.00
7.	Goa	23.19	24.48	24.98	0.00
8.	Gujarat	333.39	432.17	350.42	0.00
9.	Haryana	193.88	312.06	271.47	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	37.67	35.62	50.96	0.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	218.29	121.40	75.26	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	371.57	937.66	420.66	2.10
13.	Karnataka	1819.42	2529.14	428.17	0.00
14.	Kerala	677.97	615.55	639.55	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3202.16	755.82	853.94	0.00
16.	Maharashtra	1020.62	867.29	976.12	0.00
17.	Manipur	107.71	134.43	67.48	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	157.26	47.30	47.72	0.00
19.	Mizoram	107.79	22.65	23.71	0.00
20.	Nagaland	23.93	24.13	32.71	0.00
21.	Orissa	303.63	582.98	422.26	0.00
22.	Punjab	209.80	112.44	286.66	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	1517.23	3598.39	1390.85	173.93
24.	Sikkim	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	Tamil Nadu	1377.85	1105.14	538.36	0.00
26.	Tripura	82.25	39.41	31.43	0.00
27.	Uttanchal	760.01	440.48	212.62	0.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1792.79	3096.84	2281.33	0.00
29.	West Bengal	2196.71	1492.80	1354.07	0.00
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	148.10	29.07	30.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00
33.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshdweep	0.00	0.00	3.48	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	38.70	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>20478.56</b>	<b>21176.22</b>	<b>13501.59</b>	<b>400.76</b>

### Transgenic Seeds

1016. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether introduction of transgenic seeds poses a threat to the indigenous variety of seeds;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study before permitting the use of transgenic seeds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether farmers in the country are opposed to the introduction of transgenic food crops and have been protesting introduction of the same; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to address the concerns of the farmers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Government of India is following

a policy of case by case approval of genetically modified (GM) crops. In view of various concerns related to the safety, efficacy and agronomic performance of transgenic seeds, extensive evaluation and regulatory approval process takes place before any GM plant is approved for commercial cultivation. This includes generation of relevant biosafety information and its elaborate analysis to ensure food, feed and environmental safety. The environmental safety assessment includes studies on pollen escape out-crossing, aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of protein in soil and its effect on soil micro-flora, confirmation of the absence of terminator gene and baseline susceptibility studies. The food and feed safety studies include assessment on composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes. In case, the transgenic crop is not found suitable for release in the environment or human consumption, the product is rejected during the trial stage itself. A final view on the commercialization of GM plants is taken only when there is a clear economic and technical justification for release of the product.

(e) and (f) The data generated on the safety, efficacy and performance of Bt brinjal concludes that Bt brinjal is expected to provide enhanced economic benefits to farmers. These findings are in conformity with the Bt cotton experience in India and international experience with GM crops. However, as the Ministry has received strong views both in favour and against commercialization of Bt brinjal in India from the various stakeholders including the State Governments, farmers, civil societies, NGOs and scientists, the Ministry has decided to hold national consultations with the various stakeholders before a final view on the commercialization of Bt brinjal is taken.

#### Upgradation of IT and ISM into IIT

1017. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to upgrade Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi and Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad into Indian Institute of Technology (IIT);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the timely by which these institutes are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Human Resource Development made an announcement in March, 2008 to up-grade the Institute of Technology, Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU), Varanasi to an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). The Ministry is in the process of taking necessary approvals, i.e., of the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) and the Cabinet. There is, however, no plan at present to up-grade the Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad to an IIT.

[Translation]

#### Modernisation of CBI

1018. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government for

modernization and upgradation of infrastructure, capacity building of officers and staff of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and making it more accountable and autonomous in its functioning;

(b) whether the judiciary has made any observation on the functioning of the CBI during the recent past; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) It is the continuous endeavour of the Government to upgrade the infrastructure, office automation systems and buildings of the CBI Offices, Academy and Training Centres and to provide facilities for capacity building for CBI Officers and staff. To achieve this objective, *inter alia*, the following measures have been taken:

1. Plan Scheme "Modernization of CBI Training Centres" is in operation for providing state of the art training facilities at the CBI Academy at Ghaziabad and Regional Training Centres at Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai.
2. Plan Scheme of "e-Governance" is being implemented.
3. The CBI Head Office Building is under construction at New Delhi.
4. A plot of land has been purchased in Bandra-Kurla Complex to house all the Offices of CBI in Mumbai.
5. The officers and staff have been provided latest Laptop Computers, Mobile phones and Desktop Computers.
6. New vehicles have been provided in replacement of old vehicles.



7. Imparting specialized training at the CBI Training Academy and the Regional Training Centres at Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai for capacity building of staff and officers.

CBI has full functional autonomy under the Delhi Special Police Act, 1946, as amended by the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 and has the requisite authority under the law for investigation and prosecution purposes. With the enactment of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003, the superintendence over the functioning of the CBI in so far as it relates to the investigation of offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 now vests with the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

(b) The Hon'ble Chief Justice of India has written to the Union Law Minister about the pendency of a large number of CBI cases for trial, and has suggested that additional Special Courts may be set up to deal with these cases.

(c) The Government has decided to set up 71 additional Special Courts for CBI cases throughout the country.

[English]

**Prosecution of Mumbai Attack  
Perpetrators**

1019. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has claimed that adequate evidence has not been provided by India to prosecute perpetrators of Mumbai attack;

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

(c) whether Pakistan has admitted that Mumbai attacks were planned and executed by its nationals and from its soil;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the present status of the case against the culprits of Mumbai attack;

(e) whether India has conveyed to Pakistan that no meaningful dialogues could be held until it fulfil its commitment of completely dismantling the terrorist infrastructure from its soil;

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

(g) whether all proofs and information sought by Pakistan in this regard have been provided to them;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the effective steps taken by Pakistan to create atmosphere for meaningful talks and the reaction of Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (i) Pakistan acknowledged and admitted on February 12, 2009 that the terrorist attack on Mumbai on November 26, 2008 was planned and launched from Pakistan. In its dossier of July 11, 2009, Pakistan also acknowledged that substantial incriminating evidence had been unearthed which directly connects the five accused LeT operatives under Pakistani custody (two more suspects were arrested later). Further information was given to Pakistan on August 1, 2009. Another compilation of evidence was handed over to Pakistan on August 21, 2009 on the role of Hafiz Saeed in the terrorist attack on Mumbai. Pakistan provided an update on September 19, 2009 and sought further clarifications. Another dossier was handed over to Pakistan on November 17, 2009. A total of seven dossiers have been handed over to Pakistan. A charge sheet was filed by the Government of Pakistan against suspects in the terrorist attack on Mumbai, who are being tried in the Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) in Pakistan.

In the meetings of the Prime Minister with the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan at Yekaterinburg in June and at Sharm-el-Sheikh in July respectively, and in the meeting between the External Affairs Minister (EAM) and the Pakistan Foreign Minister (FM) Shah Mahmood Qureshi on the margins of UNGA in New York on September 27, 2009, we conveyed that for a sustained and meaningful dialogue process to succeed, it is essential to ensure an environment free of violence,

terrorism and the threat to use violence. EAM and Pakistan FM agreed that future direction in our bilateral relations has to be one of deeper, sustained and meaningful relations. We expect Pakistan to act with purpose against the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack as also to unearth the wider conspiracy which motivated, planned and launched the attack. Pakistan has assured us that it will do everything in its power to bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai attack to justice. Any meaningful dialogue with Pakistan can only be based on fulfilment of its commitment, in letter and spirit, not to allow its territory to be used in any manner for terrorist activities against India.

### **Flood Control and Management**

1020. SHRI P. KUMAR:

SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI:

SHRI P.L. PUNIA:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments for flood control and management;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on those proposals, project-wise;

(d) whether there is any mechanism in place to monitor the flood and assess the extent of damage caused to life and crops as a result thereof;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the norms/criteria adopted by the Government to grant financial assistance to the flood affected States; and

(g) the funds allocated and released so far in this regard, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) During XI plan, in order to provide financial assistance to the State Governments for undertaking river management, flood control, anti-erosion works, anti-sea-erosion works, drainage development, flood proofing, flood prone area development programme, restoration of damaged flood management works, etc. in critical reaches, a state sector scheme namely, "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" was approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 8000 crore 'in principle' by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 02-11-2007. Further, as directed by Cabinet, an Empowered Committee on FMP under the chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance was constituted for examining and approving of the proposals submitted by the State Governments to ensure cost effective solutions. State-wise details of proposals received, approved by the Empowered Committee and fund released to the State Governments during XI plan (2007-10) under Flood Management Programme are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The monitoring of floods is entrusted with the Central Water Commission who observes the gauge and discharges during the monsoon season on major rivers in the country and issues flood forecasts for 175 stations (including inflow forecasts for 28 reservoirs) to concerned states, project authorities and District Administrators.

The extent of damage caused to life and crops is assessed by Inter Ministerial Teams constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs as per existing norms of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) laid by the Ministry of Home Affairs based on the reports submitted by the concerned State Government and after making on the spot assessment of the situation.

(f) Under Flood Management Programme, proposals submitted by the state governments seeking central assistance are considered by the Empowered Committee on FMP under the chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance to ensure cost effective solutions and the Central Assistance is provided to the states on the following funding pattern:

Category	Central Share	State Share
(a) Special Category States*	90%	10%
(b) Other States	75%	25%
(c) Restoration of damaged flood management works	90%	10%

\*(The Special Category States covers the North Eastern States, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand.)

(g) As mentioned in reply to the para (c) above, details of fund released to the State Governments during XI plan (2007-10) under 'Flood Management Programme' are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Schemes Included under FMP			Funds Released during XI Plan (upto 31-10-2009)	
		Nos.	Total cost	Central share	Nos.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	67.80	61.02	9	16.39
2.	Assam	82	708.59	637.73	82	219.87
3.	Bihar	35	848.01	636.01	30	202.90
4.	Goa	1	8.84	6.63	1	1.82
5.	Haryana	1	173.75	130.31		—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2	218.94	197.04	2	32.40
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	19	211.33	190.20	14	36.77
8.	Jharkhand	1	20.12	15.09	1	6.00
9.	Manipur	12	39.64	35.68	12	17.16
10.	Mizoram	2	9.13	8.22		—
11.	Nagaland	5	13.90	12.51	5	6.95
12.	Orissa	69	163.63	122.72	69	45.90
13.	Punjab	4	142.38	106.78	2	27.35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Sikkim	24	86.21	77.59	24	15.76
15.	Tamil Nadu	1	12.41	9.31		—
16.	Tripura	11	26.57	23.92	11	5.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	11	148.06	111.05	11	72.32
18.	Uttarakhand	4	28.68	24.02	4	11.69
19.	West Bengal	13	105.59	79.20	13	31.84
<b>Total</b>		<b>308</b>	<b>3033.58</b>	<b>2485.03</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>750.11</b>

**Prime Minister's Visit to  
Arunachal Pradesh**

1021. SHRI PURNMASI RAM:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has raised any objection to the recent visit of the Prime Minister to Arunachal Pradesh;

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

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) China disputes the international boundary between India and China and illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India and that it is well established practice in our democratic system that our leaders visit States where elections to Parliament and to the State Assemblies are taking place has been clearly conveyed to the Chinese side.

**India's Position in Human  
Development Index**

1022. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has slipped several places from the previous year's ranking in the UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons for such drastic fall in HDI; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve its ranking position?

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. There is no change in India's rank in the UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI), 2609. The Human Development Report (HDR) 2009 includes the data for 192 UN member states whereas the HDR report 2007-08 was based on data for 175 countries. It has been clarified in the report that International Data Agencies continuously improve their data series and update the historical data, therefore, year to year changes in the HDI values and rankings across editions of the Human Development Report often

reflect changes. In fact, Human Development Report of UNDP-2009 (based on data up to 2007) with HDI value of 0.612 in respect of India reflects an improvement over the previous report which indicated the HDI value of 0.604.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The development strategy with emphasis on generating more employment and development of social sectors such as public health and education with enhanced allocation of resources has yielded positive results over the years. The Human Development Report of UNDP 2009 itself reveals that there has been a consistent improvement in the HDI value i.e. 0.427 in 1980 to 0.612 in 2007.

#### **Making RTI More Effective**

1023. SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 27 per cent of the applicants gets response under RTI Act;

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

(c) the measures taken up by the Government to make the Act more effective;

(d) the details of the RTI performance report during the last two years and the current year, State-wise;

(e) whether posts of information officers either have not been created or lying vacant in the zonal offices of various departments and Public Sector Undertakings as required under the RTI Act;

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

(g) the action 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) and (b) As per Annual Report of the Central Information Commission for the year 2006-07, on an average, authorities under different Ministries disposed off 66% of the requests received under the RTI Act in Year 2006-07.

(c) The Government has given training to public information officers/first appellate authorities, issued various instructions to Ministries/Departments/establishments, published Guides for the Information Seekers, the Central Public Information Officers, the First Appellate Authorities, the Public Authorities etc. so as to ensure effective implementation of the Right to Information Act. The Government also launched publicity campaigns to create awareness about the Act.

(d) The information is not centrally maintained.

(e) and (f) The Act does not require creation of the post(s) of the public information officers. The public authorities, as per provisions of the Act, have designated the officers as public information officers.

(g) Does not arise.

#### **Research Work in Cultural Institution**

1024. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to allow Indian and Foreign Scholars to take up projects or research work in cultural Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also invited visiting scholars to join various cultural organisations in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of response on such invitations till date?

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. A new scheme namely the "Scheme for Visiting Fellows in Art, Culture and Heritage" has been introduced from the current year, under which Fellowships are to be awarded to Indian as well as foreign scholars for undertaking research projects in the field of art, culture and heritage. The Scheme has been introduced with the objective of invigorating and revitalizing the various institutions supported by or under the Ministry of Culture. The scheme presently covers 17 institutions listed at enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Each 'Fellow' selected under the Scheme will be attached to the institution concerned, as the objective of the Scheme is to provide such institutions with academic expertise, to induce academic orientation in their activities and to provide interaction with visiting academics from other institutions.

(e) The Scheme has been announced on 11th November, 2009 and the first cut off date for receiving application/nominations is 31st January, 2010.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Institutions covered under the Scheme*

- (i) National Archives of India
- (ii) Anthropological Survey of India
- (iii) Archaeological Survey of India
- (iv) National Gallery of Modern Art
- (v) Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti
- (vi) Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
- (vii) Indian Museum
- (viii) National Museum
- (ix) Salarjung Museum
- (x) Allahabad Museum
- (xi) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vaastu Sangrahalaya

- (xii) National Library
- (xiii) Victoria Memorial Hall
- (xiv) Rampur Raja Library
- (xv) Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library
- (xvi) Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation
- (xvii) Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya

(The above list may be amended/modified by the Ministry of Culture from time to time).

*[Translation]*

#### **Ban on Use of Mobile Phone**

1025. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has advised not to allow children below 16 years of age to use cell phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some State Governments have also banned the use of cell phones in the schools;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to ban the use of cell phones in all the educational institutions run by the Government/private educational institutions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Education, being a subject in the concurrent list of the Constitution, and the majority of schools being under the jurisdiction of the State Governments, it is for the respective State Governments to take appropriate decision in the matter. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has directed the Principals to ensure that the teachers do not use cell phones in the classroom. Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti has issued

instructions banning cell phones with camera in hostels, academic block and administrative buildings. Central Board of Secondary Education has recommended to its affiliated schools that students should be convinced not to carry cell phones to the school and that the principal, teachers and other staff should not be seen using cell phones in class rooms.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

**Educational Institute on  
Climate Change**

1026. SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a national network of 127 educational institutions to conduct research on climate change and to provide solutions to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment is currently engaged in the preparation of India's Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A network of 127 institutions has been engaged country-wide belonging to Universities, Research and Development Institutions, autonomous institutions of the government, Non governmental organization and private institutions for studies on various aspects of climate change. These include greenhouse gas emissions of anthropogenic origin from sectors such as Energy, Industry, Agriculture, Forestry and Waste, Assessment and impact of projected climate change on key sectors such as Agriculture, Water, Natural ecosystems, Health, Extreme

climate events, etc. The findings of the study on climate change scenarios would be relevant for agriculture sector and farmers.

(c) The network has not submitted any report.

**Conversion of Reserved Seats**

1027. SHRI P. LINGAM:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

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

(a) whether some reserved seats meant for ORCs were converted into General Category seats in the Colleges of Delhi University:

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure that reserved seats meant for OBCs are not converted into General Category in the next academic year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 10th April, 2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 265 of 2006 [Ashok Kumar Thakur vs Union of India and Others] and a bunch of Writ Petitions directed that the cut off marks for non-creamy layer among Other Backward Classes (OBCs) shall not be more than 10 marks below that of the general category and that whenever the non-creamy layer OBCs fail to fill the 27% reservation, the remaining seats would revert to general category students. The Supreme Court had further clarified in its order dated 14-10-2008 in the matter of I.A. No. 3 of 2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 35 of 2007 (P.V. Indiresan and Ors. Vs UOI) that the maximum cut off marks for the non-creamy layer among OBCs would be 10% below the cut-off marks for the general category of candidates, and maintained that whenever the non-creamy layer among OBCs fail to fill the 27% reservation, the remaining seats would revert to the general category of candidates. Based on the above mentioned judgments of the Apex Court, the

Government issued an order dated 17-10-2008 to all Central Educational Institutions for implementation of the criteria referred to in respect of cut off marks and consequential filling of seats.

Based on the information furnished by University of Delhi, the colleges under the University of Delhi were allowed to fill up the vacant seats under the OBC category from all eligible candidates including OBC candidates after duly notifying such vacant seats. A Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1147/2009—"Delhi University Reservation Execution Committee and Others vs Union of India and Others" has been filed in the High Court of Delhi in which an interim order was passed on 26-8-2009 directing the University of Delhi that "while filling up vacant seat in the OBC category in the context of diverting them to the General Category, the same should be done in a graded manner in the sense that if on the admission of a General Category candidate, the cut off for the General Category comes down by one per cent point, then it should be ascertained if any candidates in the OBC category would also come within the 10% cut off with reference to the percentage of the said General Category candidates and if any OBC candidates are available, they should be granted admission. This method should be adopted and following for every percentage point till all the vacant seats are filled up." No final order has been pronounced in the said case and the matter is subjudice.

(c) Universities, including the University of Delhi issue guidelines for each academic year only prior to the commencement of respective academic session. Guidelines for the next academic year have not been issued.

[Translation]

#### **Guidelines for Setting Up of Primary/High School**

1028. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for setting up of Primary and Junior High Schools in the country;

(b) the number of schools which do not have their own buildings and are running in rented buildings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Establishment of primary and junior high schools are guided by the policy being followed by different States and Union Territories. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme primary schools are required to be provided within one kilometer of habitation, and an upper primary school is required to be provided for every two primary schools.

(b) As per DISE data for 2007-08, 80725 schools upto elementary level were functioning in rented building.

(c) Under SSA programme till 30-6-2009, 1.23 lakh primary school buildings, 0.75 lakh upper primary school buildings and 8.30 lakh additional classrooms have been constructed throughout the country.

[English]

#### **Presence of Arsenic in Ground Water**

1029. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States including Uttar Pradesh are badly affected by the presence of arsenic and other hazardous substances in ground water;

(b) if so, the details of such areas/States affected and the reasons therefor;

(c) the level of substances found in the ground water as compared to permissible WHO standards;

(d) the funds allocated, released and utilised by the State Governments for improving the quality of water during the last three years and the current year; and

(e) the corrective steps taken/are being taken by the Government to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a)



and (b) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has reported occurrence of arsenic in ground water from certain parts of the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Assam. Other contaminants of ground water are fluoride, lead, cadmium, chromium and manganese. As per information received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam has conducted survey of arsenic contamination of ground water in 51 districts of the State with assistance of United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The survey has revealed the arsenic problem in 1018 habitations and other quality problems in 6377 habitations in the State.

(c) Average level of arsenic reported in Uttar Pradesh is 0.50 mg/l as against the maximum permissible limit of 0.01 mg/l prescribed by World Health Organisation (WHO). However, as per BIS norms, arsenic concentration in drinking water sources beyond permissible limit of 0.05 mg/l is considered hazardous to health.

(d) and (e) The Department of Drinking Water Supply, under the Ministry of Rural Development, provides financial and technical assistance to States through a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), for supply funds released by the Department of Drinking Water Supply under ARWSP is given in the enclosed Statement.

As per information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the funds allocated by them for improving the quality of water during the last three years and the current year are indicated below:—

Year	Amount allocated (Rs. in crore)
1	2
2006-07	64.91
2007-08	118.42

1	2
2008-09	175.00
2009-10	274.30

The steps taken by the Government to check ground water contamination include:—

- (i) Exploration conducted by CGWB to find out ground water sources free from Arsenic contaminants. CGWB has drilled 21 exploratory wells in arsenic affected areas of the State.
- (ii) Technical guidance provided by CGWB to the State agencies in tackling the problems of water quality and capacity building of personnel of State Drinking Water Supply agencies.
- (iii) Mass Awareness Programme and Water Management Training Programme in arsenic affected areas to educate the people for the purpose.
- (iv) Financial and technical assistance provided to States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for provision of safe drinking water to the rural population as per the stipulated norms.

In addition, State Government of Uttar Pradesh have undertaken various mitigation measures in arsenic affected areas, which include provision of piped water supply, installation of arsenic treatment plants, etc. Similarly, in the State of West Bengal, the PHED has taken up different Short Term, Medium Term and Long Term measures/schemes utilizing both groundwater and surface water. Measures taken by Government of Bihar for quality problems include, testing of water samples, marking the affected structures as unsafe for drinking use, construction of deep bore wells (upto 125 m depth) fitted with hand pumps to tap the Arsenic free deeper aquifer, multi village water supply scheme in Bhojpur district, etc.

**Statement****State-wise Release of Funds by Ministry of Rural Development for Providing Safe Drinking Water**

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	State	Funds released under submission on Water Quality		Funds released during 2008-09 for Normal Water Quality and Swajaldhara	Funds allocation during 2009-10 for Normal Water Quality and Swajaldhara
		2006-07	2007-08		
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3363.00	4623.00	37767.00	38953.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	51.90	178.00	15486.35	16425.00
3.	Assam	3590.39	11517.00	18756.80	27521.00
4.	Bihar	2246.06	15995.00	42538.00	43874.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	733.44	1790.00	12525.50	13452.00
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	410.00
7.	Gujarat	4056.72	9545.00	33893.00	28365.00
8.	Haryana	57.13	78.00	7575.00	10567.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	14082.00	11913.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	39512.00	33783.00
11.	Jharkhand	1951.82	2617.00	8033.00	16572.00
12.	Karnataka	12536.64	14815.00	43627.00	45547.00
13.	Kerala	311.00	2404.00	10697.00	10657.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2250.35	7970.00	37047.00	38210.00
15.	Maharashtra	2633.73	10045.00	64824.49	59055.00
16.	Manipur	4.00	0.00	4522.91	5621.00
17.	Meghalaya	15.00	0.00	6338.00	6424.00
18.	Mizoram	3.00	0.00	5019.26	4599.00
19.	Nagaland	16.00	43.00	4253.00	4745.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Orissa	1747.22	12303.00	29868.00	30806.00
21.	Punjab	724.67	3185.00	8656.00	8928.00
22.	Rajasthan	20600.00	29243.00	73839.00	83979.00
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	3045.00	1971.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	370.67	1170.00	28782.00	24941.00
25.	Tripura	364.48	1262.00	4100.82	5694.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	4768.80	5309.00	60778.55	55669.00
27.	Uttarakhand	0.00	0.00	8586.83	11096.00
28.	West Bengal	11170.83	18518.00	38939.00	40162.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>73566.85</b>	<b>152610.00</b>	<b>663092.51</b>	<b>679939.00</b>

### Financial Assistance to NGOs

1030. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:

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

(a) the details of the financial assistance provided by the Government to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the country including Uttar Pradesh during each of the last three years and the current year, NGO-wise and State-wise;

(b) the details of the schemes under which assistance has been provided;

(c) the details of the NGOs found involved in various irregularities alongwith the nature of irregularities committed, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has blacklisted some NGOs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the other steps taken by the Government to check such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The details of the schemes and the funds released to NGOs during the 2006-07 and 2007-08 are available in the Annual Report of this Ministry for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 respectively. Consolidated information in respect of funds released during 2008-09 will be available only by the end of this year.

(c) to (e) Some complaints of irregularities by NGOs as mentioned below have been reported:

(i) Dispur Rashtrabhasha Vidyalaya Parichalana Samiti, Assam

(ii) Shabda Bharati, Assam

(iii) Bhaskar Hindi Type Institute, Assam

Process of blacklisting the above organizations is in progress.

(f) Instructions have been issued to all the Regional Offices to keep close watch on the activities of the NGOs and surprise inspections of the NGOs be conducted from time to time.

**Resolution on NPV**

1031. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:  
 PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:  
 SHRI RAMESH RATHOD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Nations has adopted a resolution on Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any pressure on India to sign Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty;

(d) if so, the details thereof including the stand taken by India on the issue;

(e) whether this issue came up for discussion on the sideline of the International Conference on Climate Change held recently;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the reaction of the various countries including USA on India's stand on NPT;

(h) the countries which have given up all their nuclear weapons to usher in a nuclear weapons free world;

(i) whether the Government is also participating in negotiations in the Fissile material cut-off treaty; and

(j) if so, the details thereof including the present status of the negotiations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) The UN Security Council Summit held on 24 September 2009 in New York adopted resolution 1887 which addressed several non-proliferation and disarmament issues including the NPT, CTBT, FMCT, IAEA safeguards, implementation of UNSC resolutions including 1540, nuclear security, nuclear-weapons free world, etc.

(c) and (d) UN Security Council Resolution 1887 "calls upon all States that are not parties to the NPT to accede to the treaty as non-nuclear weapon states".

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York stated that there is no question of India joining the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

(e) and (f) Several meetings and discussions take place on the side-lines of international multilateral events, all of which do not form part of official proceedings.

(g) India's position on the NPT is well known, including to the USA.

(h) There are at present 189 States Parties to the NPT. With the exception of the NPT's five nuclear weapons states, all other NPT States Parties have undertaken not to develop or acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

(i) and (j) In its Programme of Work for the 2009 session, the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva established, *inter alia*, a Working Group to negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. India supported the consensus in the CD on adoption of its Programme of Work. However, no Working Group was established during the year to undertake these negotiations.

**MPLADS Fund for Installation of  
 Hand Pumps**

1032. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Member of Parliament can sanction funds from the MPLADS for hand pump sets in the areas facing drought in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of hand pumps sanctioned under the scheme during the last two years and current year in drought and drought prone districts/areas in the country?

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) Under the MPLAD Scheme, installation of hand pumps is permissible in various parts of the country including drought affected and drought prone districts/areas.

(c) The Ministry do not maintain data pertaining to details of works under the MPLAD Scheme, as such detailed information is maintained at the district level.

### **Shortage of Scientists**

1033. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI RAKESH SINGH:

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

(a) whether there is a acute shortage of qualified scientists for Research and Development in various research institutes/laboratories under the Ministry;

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

(c) whether there is migration of these scientists to private sector;

(d) if so, the number of scientists who have resigned and joined private sector from these institutes during last 3 years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to retain these qualified scientists in these institutions and stop exodus of talent from the country?

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) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The extent of migration of scientists from the research institutes/laboratories in the Ministry of Science and Technology is insignificant. Only

18 scientists have migrated to private sector during the last 3 years.

(e) The Government, from time to time, have taken several measures to retain scientists in these institutions and stop the exodus of talent from the country. These include:

- Introduction of new and attractive fellowships;
- Creation of core groups of professionals with necessary modern facilities required for pursuing research in new and frontier areas of science;
- Creation of new scientific Departments/Organisations;
- Increase in the outlay for science and technology sector in successive Five Year Plan;
- Setting up of centres of excellence/advanced studies/incubation centres in the universities, academic institutions and laboratories;
- Manpower development training/re-training programmes through associateships/ fellowships;
- Fast Track Scheme for Young Scientists;
- Better Opportunities for Young Scientists in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology (BOYSCAST) fellowship to visit international laboratories and institutions;
- Contact programmes to attract and motivate brilliant young scientists to take up R and D as a career;
- Scientists are given financial assistance to participate in international conferences and training programmes abroad;
- Invitation to distinguished men and women of Indian origin settled abroad for short term technical assignments to assist in frontier and emerging areas of S and T;
- Early Faculty Induction Programme, which aims at attracting bright and young under-

graduate students in Engineering and Technology/Pharmacy/Architecture, etc. as a good career avenue.

[Translation]

#### **Library with Net Facilities**

1034. SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY:

SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up libraries with internet facility in the rural areas, as has been reported in the media;

(b) if so, number of libraries proposed to be set up indicating the numbers out of them to be set up in the urban and rural areas respectively;

(c) whether such schemes are proposed to be completed during the current five year plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the funds likely to be incurred in the schemes?

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) Government is in the process of working out an Implementation Plan for the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission, which envisage, *inter-alia*, the development of modern Libraries across the Country.

#### **Recommendations on Reservation**

1035. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice in its Eighth Report on Reservation has recommended to provide reservation to SCs/STs in scientific and technical posts as well as to give representation to SCs and STs in proportion to their population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the recommendation is likely to be implemented?

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) While examining the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill, 2004, the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice recommended that the Government should consider bringing scientific and technical posts within the ambit of reservation. The Committee, however, expressed its desire that in the process of reservation to the scientific and technical posts, elements of efficiency and competence should not be compromised. With regard to reservation to SCs/STs in proportion to their population, the Committee did not make any recommendation but expressed a view that Government should carry out a survey to assess the size of different communities i.e. SCs, STs and OBCs in the total population of the Country, make an appraisal of their representation according to their population, and if need be, explore the feasibility of enhancing the limit of fifty per cent by way of amending the Constitution.

(c) and (d) The Parliamentary Standing Committee observed that the Government should consider bringing in separate Bills on reservation for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes. It was examined by a Group of Ministers. On the basis of recommendation of the Committee and the Group of Ministers, the 2004 Bill was withdrawn and a new Bill, viz., the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in December 2008. The Rajya Sabha passed the Bill but it could not be considered by the Lok Sabha and lapsed with the dissolution of the 14th Lok Sabha.

*[English]***MoU on Climate Change**

1036. SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN:  
SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:  
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:

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

(a) whether India has Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on climate change with any country of the world including United States of America, Sweden and European Union (EU);

(b) if so, the salient features of the MoU, country-wise; and

(c) the manner in which India is likely to be benefited by the signing of such MoUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on climate change with Governments of Italy, Canada, Denmark, Norway and China regarding cooperation on climate change including clean development mechanism projects. No MoUs on climate change have been signed so far with United States of America, Sweden and European Union.

(b) While the MoUs signed with Italy, Canada, Denmark and Norway are intended to stimulate development and bilateral cooperation in the field of clean development mechanism (CDM), the Agreement signed with China focuses on promotion of mutual understanding and coordination of each other's position on climate change related issues including international negotiations and bilateral cooperation in areas relating to energy efficiency, renewable, power, clean coal and other sectors of mutual interest.

(c) The MoUs will help build confidence between India and partner countries and promote development and implementation of CDM projects as well as co-ordination, mutual understanding and joint strategies on climate change related issues.

*[Translation]***Proper Utilisation of School Land**

1037. SHRI RAMKISHUN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether on account of unplanned construction of school buildings under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the large area of school lands are still lying vacant;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take necessary steps to ensure optimum and systematic use of land by way of conducting a survey of the constructed or under construction school buildings; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said survey is likely to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) All States/UTs are being supported under the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for creation and augmentation of physical infrastructure in schools including, *inter alia*, construction of school buildings and additional classrooms. The design, layout and cost of construction of school buildings are decided by the respective States/UTs. Government of India is not, at present, considering a proposal to undertake a survey of vacant land in government schools.

*[English]***Literacy Rate**

1038. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the current literacy rate in each State/UT;

(b) the reasons behind higher rate of drop-outs in schools; and

(c) the present teacher-student ratio in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Current literacy rate in each State/UT is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The reasons for drop-outs in school are the need to participate in economic activities, lack of interest in studies and inability to cope with studies.

(c) State-wise teacher-student ratio in the country is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

**Statement-I**

*The Literacy Rates in each State/UT*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Literacy Rate		
		All Persons	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50.7	61.9	40.4
2.	Arunachal pradesh	58.7	66.4	50.5
3.	Assam	74.7	82.6	65.8
4.	Bihar	48.3	63.09	32.3
5.	Chhattisgarh	58.2	73.3	43.3
6.	Delhi	85.4	91.8	77.5
7.	Goa	81.6	89.1	74.8
8.	Gujarat	68.2	80.6	55.0
9.	Haryana	64.9	76.8	51.5
10.	Himachal Pradesh	74.2	84.0	64.7
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	59.9	72.0	46.3
12.	Jharkhand	51.5	67.4	34.8
13.	Karnataka	61.9	71.9	51.6
14.	Kerala	90.6	93.8	87.9
15.	Madhya Pradesh	54.5	68.8	38.8
16.	Maharashtra	72.8	83.3	62.1
17.	Manipur	77.2	86.1	68.5
18.	Meghalaya	84.6	86.5	82.9
19.	Mizoram	97.5	98.4	96.4
20.	Nagaland	82.8	87.2	78.4



1	2	3	4	5
21.	Orissa	58.7	70.1	47.5
22.	Punjab	68.5	74.5	62.1
23.	Rajasthan	47.5	65.5	29.3
24.	Sikkim	76.3	83.5	67.9
25.	Tamil Nadu	70.7	80.9	61.1
26.	Tripura	77.6	84.5	70.4
27.	Uttanchal	66.6	80.1	53.6
28.	Uttar Pradesh	52.1	67.2	36.3
29.	West Bengal	67.5	76.3	58.1
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	82.7	89.1	75.5
31.	Chandigarh	86.5	91.7	80.6
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	60.3	75.6	40.6
33.	Daman and Diu	81.5	90.1	73.1
34.	Lakshdweep	87.0	94.9	78.0
35.	Pondicherry	76.6	88.3	65.6

**Statement-II***Pupil-Teacher ratio (SES data 2006-07) in Schools*

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2006-07			
		Primary Level	Upper Primary Level	Secondary Level	Higher Secondary Level
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	17	17	17	23
2.	Andhra Pradesh	33	29	32	33
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	27	26	28
4.	Assam	39	21	18	8
5.	Bihar	92	64	63	28
6.	Chandigarh	47	85	28	30

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1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Chhattisgarh	43	38	42	12
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	59	43	18	38
9.	Daman and Diu	41	34	16	63
10.	Delhi	44	29	26	33
11.	Goa	26	28	18	19
12.	Gujarat	32	38	31	38
13.	Haryana	57	41	27	29
14.	Himachal Pradesh	24	34	19	8
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	32	15	11	14
16.	Jharkhand	68	60	53	26
17.	Karnataka	25	35	23	80
18.	Kerala	27	27	25	27
19.	Lakshadweep	20	20	19	23
20.	Madhya Pradesh	62	56	32	23
21.	Maharashtra	37	35	35	42
22.	Manipur	33	21	26	23
23.	Meghalaya	46	15	34	38
24.	Mizoram	16	8	12	13
25.	Nagaland	20	16	23	32
26.	Orissa	36	42	22	22
27.	Pondicherry	25	22	25	28
28.	Punjab	43	19	28	31
29.	Rajasthan	46	31	22	27
30.	Sikkim	14	17	9	12
31.	Tamil Nadu	32	36	25	32
32.	Tripura	27	19	26	26
33.	Uttar Pradesh	55	35	60	44

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1	2	3	4	5	6
34.	Uttarakhand	25	16	23	25
35.	West Bengal	46	50	55	55
	All States	45	35	31	34

**India's Stand on Permanent  
Seat in UNSC**

1039. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA:  
SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN:  
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has recently received the support of USA for its candidature for Permanent Seat in United Nations Security Council (UNSC);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of countries which have so far supported its candidature;

(c) the name of the Permanent Members of UNSC (veto wielding members) which do not support the claim of India for permanent membership and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No.

(b) Several countries have extended support to India's claim for permanent membership of an expanded Security Council. This has been expressed in various forms and fora including in bilateral discussions with Government of India.

(c) All permanent members of the UNSC have expressed the belief that reform of the Security Council is necessary in order to reflect contemporary realities. No permanent member of the UNSC has specifically opposed India's candidature.

(d) Government continues to vigorously mobilize

support for India's permanent membership of an expanded United Nations Security Council. For this purpose India remains fully engaged, bilaterally as well as in collaboration with the G-4 (India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan), with other member states. In the inter-governmental negotiations at the United Nations General Assembly, India along with like-minded countries has pressed for an expansion of the Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

**Funds for Poverty Alleviation  
and Rehabilitation**

1040. PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has recently sought additional grants for poverty alleviation programmes and rehabilitation of Kosi flood affected people in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) The Government of Bihar in their revised requirements had sought financial assistance of Rs. 11683.11 crore, in three parts, viz. (i) as per Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) norms (Rs. 3394.43 crore), (ii) as per CRF norms on higher scale (Rs. 4717.73 crore), and (iii) assistance required for items not covered under CRF norms (Rs. 3570.95 crore) in the wake of Kosi flood of 2008.

(c) After following the laid procedure, an amount of Rs. 497.35 crore was approved from National Calamity

Contingency Fund subject to the adjustment of 75% balance available in the CRF account of the State for the instant calamity and the cost of charges of deployment of IAF for airdropping of essential supplies, based on actuals. Further, an amount of Rs. 117.21 crore was also approved by the Government of India, over and above the extant norms for providing assistance to the families in dire need of immediate sustenance as well as operation of relief camps for the period over and above the CRF norms. In addition, approximately an amount of Rs. 2273.15 crore for rehabilitation/reconstruction were allocated by various Central Ministries/Departments, in their respective sectors, to supplement the efforts of the State Government to meet the entire situation effectively.

#### Unprotected Heritage Sites

1041. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of unprotected heritage sites are subjected to large scale destruction;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to preserve these heritage?

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) Unprotected heritage sites are vulnerable to destruction due to various factors including urbanization and commercialization around them.

(c) No central legislation currently exists for conservation and protection of unprotected heritage. There is a central scheme of providing part financial assistance for preservation of unprotected monuments. Local bodies can take up preservation of such monuments and avail assistance from the scheme.

#### Funds for Higher Education

1042. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:  
SHRI MAHESH JOSHI  
SHRI RAMESH RATHOD:

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

(a) the details of the funds allocated and utilized for higher education during the last three years and the current year, year-wise, State-wise;

(b) the criteria followed for allocation of the said funds;

(c) whether the Government proposes to rationalize the criteria for allocation of funds for higher education;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds granted/released for the development of infrastructure for under privileged to each State during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, State-wise; and

(f) the other measures being adopted to promote education system particularly for under privileged society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) Funds are allocated to Institutions of Higher Education on the basis of their requirements. The details of the funds allocated and utilized (plan+non plan) by the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development during the last three year and current year are as follows:

(Rs. in crore)		
Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2006-07	5019.70	4999.96
2007-08	9212.00	6251.85
2008-09	10859.37	11213.80
2009-10	15433.00	NA

(State-wise allocation are not made by the Department of Higher Education)

During the XI Five Year Plan, there has been nearly nine times increase in the public outlays as compared to X five Year Plan. This increased outlay is meant for creating new institutions, strengthening existing

institutions and improving quality. All these initiatives will contribute towards higher education for common masses including under privileged sections of the society. In addition, the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, provides reservation for students belonging to SC, ST and OBC categories. A scheme to provide interest subsidy for the period of moratorium to students, belonging to economically weaker sections, on the educational loan taken by them under the Education Loan Scheme of Indian Banks' Association for pursuing professional studies in India has been approved by the Government University Grants Commission is also implementing various schemes for the benefit of under privileged sections of the society.

[Translation]

#### Opening of International Level Universities

1043. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up international level universities across the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of States selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government is considering a proposal to set up 14 Universities aiming at world class standards at the following locations:

Sl. No.	Location
1.	Amritsar (Punjab)
2.	Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh)
3.	Jaipur (Rajasthan)
4.	Patna (Bihar)
5.	Guwahati (Assam)
6.	Kolkata (West Bengal)
7.	Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)

Sl. No.	Location
8.	Kochi (Kerala)
9.	Gandhi Nagar (Gujarat)
10.	Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
11.	Mysore (Karnataka)
12.	Pune (Maharashtra)
13.	Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)
14.	Bhubaneswar (Orissa)

[English]

#### Decommissioning of Dams

1044. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India presently has 74 dams and 32 are under-construction while 318 dams are in the planning stage, whereas worldwide there is a trend away from dams with over 500 dams being decommissioned;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government is taking to explore and develop more environment friendly measures to solve the water crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) As per the "National Register of Large Dams—2009" compiled by Central Water Commission, there are 4710 completed dams and 390 dams are under construction. As per the report titled "Dams and Development—A New Framework for Decision Making" of the World Commission on Dams, nearly 500 dams, mainly relatively old, small dams have been decommissioned in many countries, especially in the United States. The report further states that "dam removals without proper studies and mitigation actions cause public concerns and environmental problems. These include negative impacts on downstream aquatic life due to a sudden flush of the sediments accumulated in the reservoir.

(c) The National Water Policy has laid due emphasis on preservation of quality of environment and ecological balance. The policy states that in the planning, implementation and operation of a project, the preservation of the quality of environment and the ecological balance should be a primary consideration. The Policy further states that the adverse impact on the environment, if any, should be minimized and should be offset by adequate compensatory measures and that the project should, nevertheless, be sustainable. Emphasis is laid on sustainable development of major, medium and minor (both surface and ground water) projects along with restoration of traditional water harvesting measures. Further the National Water Policy has laid due importance to the management of the resources with active participation and involvement of the stakeholders at all levels—planning, development as well as management.

#### **Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas**

1045. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in special focussed districts which have substantial concentration of SCs and STs;

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

(c) whether 50 per cent of seats will be reserved for SCs and STs;

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

(e) the initiative taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which such Kendriya Vidyalayas are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) There is no such specific proposal at present to open Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in districts having substantial concentration of SC/ST. Opening of a Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) depends on receipt of a viable proposal from the sponsor i.e. State Government, Central Ministry, Public Sector Undertaking with commitment for free land and temporary accommo-

modation, availability of adequate number of students of specified categories, approval of competent authority and availability of funds, etc.

[Translation]

#### **Educationally Backward Areas**

1046. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified educationally backward districts in the country;

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

(c) whether any scheme is being formulated by the Government for the said educationally backward districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount earmarked/allocated for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has identified 374 higher educationally backward districts (HEBDs), where the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is less than the national GER. A Statement indicating the State-wise list of HEBDs is enclosed.

(c) to (e) A proposal is under consideration of the Government, to launch a new Scheme to assist States for establishment of a model degree college in each of the above-mentioned educationally backward districts. An amount of Rs. 782 crore has been earmarked as the Central Government share in the XI Plan. 200 colleges are proposed to be set up during the remaining period of the XI Plan. State-wise allocation is not made under the Scheme.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of 374 identified Higher Educationally Backward Districts*

#### **I. Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

Andamans

Nicobars

**2. Andhra Pradesh**

Adilabad

Anantapur

East Godavari

Kurnool

Mahbubnagar

Medak

Nizamabad

Prakasam

Srikakulam

Vizianagaram

West Godavari

**3. Arunachal Pradesh**

Changlang

Dibang Valley

East Kameng

Lohit

Lower Subansiri

Tawang

Tirap

Upper Siang

Upper Subansiri

West Kameng

West Siang

**4. Assam**

Bongaigaon

Cachar

Darrang

Dhubri

Goalpara

Hailakandi

Karbi Anglong

Karimganj

Marigaon

Nagaon

Sonitpur

Tinsukia

**5. Bihar**

Araria

Aurangabad

Banka

Begusarai

Darbhanga

Gopalganj

Jamui

Kaimur

Katihar

Khagaria

Kishanganj

Lakhisarai

Madhepura

Madhubani

Nawada

W. Champaran

E. Champaran

Purnia

Saharsa

Samastipur

Sheohar

Sitamarhi

Siwan

Supaul

Vaishali

**6. Chhattisgarh**

Bastar

Bilaspur

Dantewada

Dhamtari

Durg

Janjgir-champa

Jashpur

Kanker

Kawardha

Koriya

Mahasamund

Raigarh

Raipur

Rajnandgaon

Surguja

**7. Dadra and Nagar Haveli**

D and N Haveli

**8. Daman and Diu**

Daman

Diu

**9. Gujarat**

Amreli

Banas Kantha

Bharuch

Bhavnagar

Dohad

Jamnagar

Junagad

Kachchh

Kheda

Mahesana

Narmada

Panch Mahals

Patan

Porbandar

Rajkot

Sabar Kantha

Surat

Surendranagar

The Dangs

Valsad

**10. Haryana**

Fatehabad

Gurgaon

Jind

Kaithal

Karnal

Panipat

Sirsa

**11. Himachal Pradesh**

Chamba

Kinnaur

Lahul and Spiti

Sirmaur

**12. Jammu and Kashmir**

Anantnag



Badgam  
Baramula  
Doda  
Kargil  
Kathua  
Kupwara  
Leh  
Punch  
Rajauri  
Udhampur

**13. Jharkhand**

Chatra  
Deoghar  
Dumka  
Garhwa  
Giridih  
Godda  
Gumla  
Kodarma  
Pakaur  
Palamu  
P. Singhbhum  
Sahibganj

**14. Karnataka**

Bagalkot  
Bangalore Rural  
Belgaum  
Bellary  
Bijapur  
Chamarajanagar  
Chikmagalur

Chitradurga  
Dakshina Kannada  
Gadag  
Hassan  
Haveri  
Kodagu  
Kolar  
Koppal  
Mandya  
Raichur  
Tumkur  
Udupi  
Uttara Kannada

**15. Kerala**

Kasaragod  
Malappuram  
Palakkad  
Wayanad

**16. Lakshdweep**

Lakshadweep

**17. Madhya Pradesh**

Balaghat  
Barwani  
Betul  
Bhind  
Chhatapur  
Chhindwara  
Damoh  
Datia  
Dewas

Dhar  
Dindori  
East Nimar  
Guna  
Harda  
Jhabua  
Katni  
Mandla  
Mandsaur  
Morena  
Narsimhapur  
Neemuch  
Panna  
Raisen  
Rajgarh  
Ratlam  
Sagar  
Satna  
Sehore  
Seoni  
Shahdol  
Shajapur  
Sheopur  
Shivpuri  
Sidhi  
Tikamgarh  
Ujjain  
Umaria  
Vidisha  
West Nimar

**18. Maharashtra**

Buldana  
Gadchiroli  
Hingoli  
Jalna  
Raigarh  
Ratnagiri  
Sindhudurg

**19. Meghalaya**

East Garo Hills  
Jaintia Hills  
Ri Bhoi  
South Garo Hills  
West Khasi Hills

**20. Mizoram**

Champhai  
Kolasib  
Lawngtlai  
Lunglei  
Mamit  
Saiha  
Serchhip

**21. Nagaland**

Mon

**22. Orissa**

Anugul  
Balangir  
Bargarh  
Baudh  
Debagarh

Dhenkanal

Gajapati

Ganjam

Kalahandi

Kandhamal

Kendujhar

Koraput

Malkangiri

Nabarangapur

Nayagarh

Nuapada

Rayagada

Sonapur

**23. Pondicherry**

Yanam

**24. Punjab**

Amritsar

Bathinda

Faridkot

Fatehgarh Sahib

Firozpur

Gurdaspur

Kapurthala

Mansa

Moga

Muktsar

Nawanshahr

Patiala

Sangrur

**25. Rajasthan**

Ajmer

Alwar

Banswara

Baran

Barmer

Bharatpur

Bhilwara

Bikaner

Bundi

Chittaurgarh

Churu

Dausa

Dhaulpur

Dungarpur

Ganganagar

Hanumangarh

Jaisalmer

Jalor

Jhalawar

Jhunjhunun

Jodhpur

Karauli

Nagaur

Pali

Rajsamand

Sawai Madhopur

Sikar

Sirohi

Tonk

Udaipur

**26. Sikkim**

East

North

South

West

**27. Tamil Nadu**

Ariyalur

Coimbatore

Cuddalore

Dharmapuri

Dindigul

Erode

Kancheepuram

Kanniyakumari

Karur

Madurai

Nagapattinam

Perambalur

Pudukkottai

Ramanathapuram

Salem

Sivaganga

Thanjavur

The Nilgiris

Theni

Thiruvallur

Thiruvarur

Thoothukkudi

Tirunelveli

Tiruvannamalai

Vellore

Viluppuram

Virudhunagar

**28. Tripura**

North Tripura

South Tripura

West Tripura

Dhalai

**29. Uttar Pradesh**

Bahraich

Balrampur

Banda

Barabanki

Bareilly

Basti

Bijnor

Badaun

Bulandshahr

Chitrakoot

Etah

Farrukhabad

Fatehpur

Gonda

Hamirpur

Hardoi

Hathras

Jyotiba P. Nagar

Kannauj

Kanpur Dehat

Kaushambi

Kheri

Kushinagar

Lalitpur	Maldah
Maharajanj	Medinipur
Mahoba	Murshidabad
Mathura	Nadia
Moradabad	North 24 Parganas
Muzaffarnagar	Puruliya
Pilibhit	South 24 Paranas
Rae Bareli	Uttar Dinajpur
Rampur	
Saharanpur	
Sant Kabir Nagar	
Shahjahanpur	
Shrawasti	
Siddharthnagar	
Sitapur	
Sonbhadra	
Sultanpur	
Unnao	

**Total Districts = 374**

**Medium of Examination**

1047. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to introduce all the Indian languages included in the VIII schedule of the constitution as a medium of examination for all the posts conducted by Staff Selection Commission;

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

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

**30. Uttaranchal**

Bageshwar  
Champawat

**31. West Bengal**

Bankura  
Bardhaman  
Birbhum  
Dakshin Dinajpur  
Darjiling  
Haora  
Hugli  
Jalpaiguri  
Koch Bihar

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) At present there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

**Conditional Deal on Climate Change**

1048. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:  
SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

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

(a) whether European Union (EU) has announced a conditional deal on funding efforts by developing countries to tackle global warming;

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

(c) the details of the fund contribution by developing countries, including India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) In a recent communication to the European Union Council on International Climate Finance, the European Commission has proposed assigning of about Euros 100 billion annually by 2020 to be shared between domestic finance, carbon market based financing and international public support. This estimate presupposes mitigation actions by developing countries, especially that are economically more advanced. The Commission has also proposed a fast start fund of about Euros 5-7 billion per year for meeting the urgent climate financing needs in developing countries, in particular least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). No agreement on the scale of finance and institutional arrangements needed to raise and provide finance for addressing climate change in developing countries has yet been reached in UNFCCC because of continuing difference in the approach of developed and developing countries on the matter.

(c) Developing countries including India have no obligation under the UNFCCC to provide contribution to a fund for meeting climate change needs.

[Translation]

#### Promotion of Education

1049. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals received from various State Governments during the last three years to promote education, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number of proposals cleared during the last three years;

(c) the number of proposals pending as on date; and

(d) the time by which rest of the proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) Programme, all States and UTs submit their Annual Works Plan and Budget Proposal for a year which are cleared at the beginning of the financial year by this Ministry on the recommendations of Project Approval Board. No proposal is presently pending with this Ministry.

Under Information and Communication Technology @ Schools (ICT) Scheme, 13 proposals have been received from various State Governments for implementing the scheme in 2006-07. In 2007-08, the number of proposals was 22 and in 2008-09, it was 19. All the proposals have been cleared.

The details of National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship and National Scheme of Incentive to Girls for Secondary Education for 2008-09 are available in the Annual Report 2008-09 of this Ministry at Annexure-5 and 6 respectively.

Under Integrated Education for Disabled Child Scheme (IEDC), 25 proposals were received in 2007-08 out of which 22 proposals were cleared. For 2008-09, out of 27 proposals, 19 were cleared. The remaining proposals have not yet been cleared due to non receipt of Utilization Certificates of earlier released/budgetary provision and also due to non fulfillment of criteria.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Teacher Education, the State-wise details of releases for the year 2008-09 is available at Annexure 3 of the Annual Report of this Ministry for the year 2008-09.

Under the Scheme for construction of women hostel implemented from 2008-09, out of 491 proposals received from State Governments, 120 were cleared. Under Upgradation of Polytechnic implemented since 2008-09, out of 514 proposals received from State Governments, 55 proposals have been approved. The

pending proposals will be considered in the XIth Plan subject to fulfillment of norms and availability of funds.

During the last three years, a proposal for setting up of new Indian Institute of Management has been received from States of Bihar, Haryana, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh. During XI Plan, one IIM has been established at Shillong, Meghalaya which has commenced its first academic year from 2008-09. The Cabinet has approved the setting up of seven new IIMs in the States of Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan.

Eight new IITs at Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have been set up during 2008-09 and 2009-10. A proposal to upgrade IT-BHU to IIT is under consideration.

[English]

#### **India's Stand on CTBT**

1050. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the stand of Indian Government on Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT);
- (b) whether in the recent past, the US insisted India to ratify CTBT;
- (c) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to relook the CTBT in a new perspective;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) India has declared a voluntary, unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing. The United States has not insisted on India signing the CTBT in recent bilateral discussions.

- (d) to (f) Government remains committed to its

voluntary, unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosive testing.

#### **Nepalese Prime Minister's Visit to India**

1051. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister of Nepal has visited India recently, and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the discussions held and the agreements signed during the said visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal, paid an official visit to India from 18-22 August, 2009. The Prime Minister of Nepal called on the President of India and the Vice-President of India. He had meetings with Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Finance, and Minister of Home Affairs. Discussion were held on issues of mutual interest and concern and both sides expressed their satisfaction at the state of bilateral relations between the two countries and resolved to work together to further strengthen and enhance cooperation consistent with the wishes and aspirations of the people of both the countries. They also reaffirmed their determination to consolidate and expand the areas of cooperation with a view to taking the relationship to a new height on the basis of mutual respect, understanding and mutual benefit. During the visit, the Foreign Secretaries of India and Nepal signed an MoU regarding continuation of Indian grant assistance for the Goitre control programme in Nepal. A Joint Press Statement was also issued during the visit.

#### **Strike in NLC**

1052. SHRI P. VISWANATHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the labourers/employees of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) recently went on strike;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the functioning of NLC has been affected;

(c) whether any steps were taken to avert the frequent strikes and to improve NLC's functioning;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) 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) Yes, Madam. Recognized Unions went on one day strike on 08-11-2009. Also certain non-unionized unions went on one day strike on 06-11-2009.

(b) The main demand of the recognized unions was the revision of Quarterly Plant Performance Reward and Productivity Linked Incentive scheme with effect from 01-01-2007 and non-recognized unions were demanding the scraping of the settlement made with the recognized unions regarding the revision of Quarterly Plant Performance Reward and Productivity Linked Incentive Scheme.

There was no production loss and normal functioning of NLC was not affected on both the days of strike.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The management has taken adequate steps to avert strike situation as under:

- (i) All employees were advised not to participate in the proposed strike, through circulars and the Recognized Unions were advised to desist from strike and participate in the bilateral discussions.
- (ii) Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) Chennai has intervened and convened conciliation meetings wherein both management and the unions were advised to sort out the issues amicably. Subsequently on 08-10-2009 a meeting was held with the Recognized Unions in the presence of the Health Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, District Collector, Cuddalore, and the issue was resolved amicably.
- (iii) A settlement under Sec. 12(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act was signed before the Regional

Labour Commissioner (Central) Chennai on 27-10-2009 with regard to settlement on revision of Quarterly Plant Performance Reward and Productivity Linked Incentive Schemes with effect from 01-01-2007. The arrears payable on account of revision of the scheme was paid on Nov. 2nd, 2009.

- (iv) Periodical discussions are conducted with the Recognized Unions, which are the sole bargaining agents, to settle common issues pertaining to workmen of NLC and to improve the functioning of the organization.
  - (v) The facts relating to settlement reached on common interest/issues of employees are intimated to all the employees through issue of circulars, pamphlets in vernacular language and press and media.
- (e) Does not arise in view of the answer to parts (c) and (d) above.

#### **Meeting of Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission**

1053. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 15th session of Indo-Russian Inter Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural cooperation was held in Moscow in October, 2009; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the decision taken at the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes. The 15th Session of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) was held in Moscow on 21 October 2009.

(b) External Affairs Minister and the Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Sergei Sobyenin co-chaired the meeting. Both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral cooperation in the spheres of trade and investment. Both sides agreed on an upward revision



of the bilateral trade target to US\$ 20 billion by 2015 from US\$ 10 billion in 2010. A Protocol was signed at the end of the meeting reflecting the decisions arrived at during the meeting.

[English]

**New Pay Scale for the Faculty of  
IIT and IIM**

1055. SHRI S.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

[Translation]

**Retrenchment of Employees in CIL**

1054. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiary companies are being retrenched on large scale; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for their retrenchment, company-wise during the last three years and the current year?

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, Madam.

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

(a) whether the Mehra Committee has recommended new pay scales for the faculty of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs):

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The main recommendations made by the Mehta Committee regarding pay structure in IITs and IIMs, the action taken by the Government and the reasons for not accepting some of the recommendations are given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*New Pay Scale for the Faculty of IIT and IIM*

Sl. No.	Mehta Committee Recommendations	Action taken by Government	Reasons for not accepting
1	2	3	4
1.	Entry level as Asst. Prof. will be PB-3 with AGP of Rs. 8000 and with a minimum basic pay of Rs. 30000 (Ph.D with 2 years post Ph.D. experience).  Asst. Prof. will be eligible for PB-4 with AGP of Rs. 9000 after 3 years (Ph.D. with 5 years post Ph.D. experience).	Pay structure accepted. Post Ph.D criteria for selection as Assistant Prof. not accepted.	It would make all those who had pre-Ph.D experience in industry, teaching, etc. ineligible

1	2	3	4
	<p>2. Associate Prof. to be placed in PB-4 with AGP of Rs. 10000. Minimum to be fixed at Rs. 43000.</p>	<p>Associate Profs have been placed in PB-4 with AGP of Rs. 9500 with a minimum to be fixed at Rs. 42800.</p>	<p>It was not found feasible to grant financial benefits accruing from an AGP of Rs. 10000 to teachers with only three years of service.</p>
	<p>Requisite qualification to be Ph.D with <b>8 years</b> teaching experience with at least <b>3 years</b> as Assistant Professor</p>	<p>Ph.D with a minimum of <b>6 years</b> Teaching/Industry/ Research experience, of which at least <b>3 years</b> should be at the level of Assistant Professors has been notified.</p>	
	<p>3. Professors to be placed in PB-4 with AGP of Rs. 11000. The minimum to be fixed at Rs. 48000.</p>	<p>Profs. have been placed in PB-4 with AGP of Rs. 10500. The minimum has been fixed at Rs. 48000.</p>	<p>The pay structure of IIT faculty has been fixed keeping in view the pay structure of other sectors of the Government including scientists and civil servants.</p>
	<p>10 years of experience with at least 5 years as Associate Professor to be the requisite qualification for becoming a Prof.</p>	<p>10 years' experience with a minimum of 4 years as Associate Professor or at an equivalent level in any such other Indian or foreign institution of comparable standard has been notified as the requisite qualification.</p>	

### Illegal Mining

1056. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining has caused immense damage to the environment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several mining companies are involved in illegal mining in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken against such companies;

(e) the number of mining companies who have applied for environmental clearance during each of the last three years and the current year including the details of clearances given during this period; and

(f) the long term action plan drawn by the Government to check illegal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Mining activities without requisite environmental safeguards are known to have adverse impacts on different components of environment *inter-alia*, air quality, water quality, groundwater availability, drainage, flora, fauna and their habitat.

(c), (d) and (f) Press reports have appeared from time to time reporting illegal mining in different parts of the country. The State Governments are the owners of minerals and since the minerals rights and collection of revenue and matters related to police, law and order machinery vest with State Governments, the State Governments have been empowered under Section 23C of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation)

(MMDR) Act, 1957 to frame Rules for prevention of illegal mining and to take action. As informed by Ministry of Mines, the Central Government is not empowered under MMDR Act to book any illegal miner for offence. However, whenever the Central Government has received complaint of illegal mining, these are enquired

into by Indian Bureau of Mines and the concerned State Governments are requested to take stringent action.

(e) The year-wise detail of mining projects received and granted environmental clearance by Ministry of Environment and Forests is given here under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Projects Received			Projects Granted Environmental Clearance		
		Non Coal	Coal	Total	Non Coal	Coal	Total
1.	2006-07	434	103	537	264	69	333
2.	2007-08	263	50	313	334	63	397
3.	2008-09	188	64	252	224	66	290
4.	2009-10 (upto October, 2009)	114	47	161	58	40	98

#### **Administrative Reforms Commission**

1057. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to implement the recommendations of the Administrative Reforms Commission to make the deputation to training institutions more attractive in terms of facilities and allowances;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to take steps to foster attitudinal changes in police so as to make them more responsive and sensitive to citizens' needs; and

(d) 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) and (b) In the 10th Report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission, the Commission has *inter-alia* indicated that suitable incentives need to be provided so that the best possible persons are identified and made available to serve as heads and faculty members of training institutions. Government of India, vide Order dated 5-9-2008, has raised (i) the 'training allowance' from 15% to 30% of basic pay for trainers drawn from Government, universities and academic institutions working as faculty members other than permanent faculty, in the National/Central Training Academies and Institutes, (ii) the sumptuary allowance to Rs. 3500 per month for the Director or Head of National/Central Training Establishments and (iii) introduced the 'sumptuary allowance' for Course Directors and Counsellors at the rate of Rs. 2500 and Rs. 2000 per month respectively. Besides, vide Order dated 5-12-2008, it has been decided to provide 'rent free' accommodation to Faculty and Staff of National/Central Training Academies.

(c) and (d) The Government is concerned about improving the image of the police force and its accountability. Ministry of Home Affairs set up a Review Committee on Police reforms which has made several recommendations for making the police efficient, responsive and courteous. The 49 recommendations

made by the Review Committee cover the broad area of Police reforms which *inter-alia* includes the following recommendations:—

- (1) Accountability of Police to Public
- (2) Police Complaints Board

These recommendations have been sent to State Governments for implementation.

The Government is also laying emphasis on proper training, orientation and skill upgradation of police force. The subjects of Gender sensitization, Human Rights, Victimology, concerns of the weaker sections including women and members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are included in the Training Modules. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad organizes training of IPS probationers laying emphasis on the importance of inculcating proper attitude and sensitivity towards people.

#### Unique Identification Number (UIN)

1058. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised the States in which the UIN project is likely to start as a pilot project;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith funds earmarked for the purpose;

(c) whether the NRIs are also proposed to be enlisted in the UIN list;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the proposed time period for implementation of UIN;

(f) whether any State Government or Groups have opposed the implementation of UIN; and

(g) 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) No Madam.

(b) Does not arise

(c) As of now, the mandate of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is to issue Unique Identification Number (UID) to all residents in India.

(d) Does not arise

(e) The first UID Number will be issued in 12-18 months starting from August 2009. UIDAI expects to issue about 600 million UIDs by the end of five years of its operations.

(f) Not in the knowledge of UIDAI.

(g) Does not arise.

#### Disclosure of Assets under RTI

1059. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL  
KHATGAONKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to make it mandatory for the Government servants to disclose their assets under the Right to Information Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be effected?

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) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

**Conservation of Bhagmati River**

1060. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepalese Government has sought assistance from India for conservation of Bhagmati river;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any discussions were held between both the Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (c) Yes. At a meeting with our Prime Minister at Sharm-el-Sheikh on the sidelines of the NAM Summit, the Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Madhav K Nepal requested for assistance to clean and revive the Bagmati river. The matter was again raised during the visit of PM Madhav K Nepal to India in August 2009.

(d) India agreed to send a technical team to Nepal to study the Bagmati Civilisation Project. The technical team has been constituted and the convenience of the Nepalese side for its visit is awaited.

[English]

**Allotment of Land to Forest Dwellers**

1961. SHR S. ALAGIRI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to hand over vast tracks of sanctuary land to traditional forest dwellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the criteria adopted for the purpose;

(c) the details of the plans of the Government to hand over sanctuary land to forest dwellers; and

(d) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) As per the provisions of the Schedule Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, the transfer of land to the traditional forest dwellers is to be made by the concerned State Governments. The Rules for carrying out the provisions of the Act have been framed and notified on 1-1-2008. As per these Rules, the process for determining the nature and extent of the forest rights to be vested in forest dwelling Scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers is to be initiated by the Gram Sabhas, which are to be scrutinized at the level of the Sub Divisional level Committee and the claims and record of forest rights are to be approved finally by the District level Committee. The same provisions are applicable to the Sanctuary land also. The State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have progressed in varying degrees in implementation of the Act.

**Recovery of Dues by SECL**

1062. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Eastern Coalfield Limited (SECL) has been unable to recover dues pending against various Ex-Service Men (ESM) companies and other contractors for many years on account of providing lease rent, electricity, maintenance and water supply even after audit objections;

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

(c) the total amount yet to be recovered from ESM companies and other contractors; and

(d) the steps taken by the SECL 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) to (d) An audit para was raised by the commercial audit indicating therein the non-recovery of electricity charges of Rs. 28,80,000 and Rs. 31,20,000 towards rent and water charges from the Ex-Servicemen

companies deployed at Gevra and Dipka Opencast Projects of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), during October, 2000 to September, 2004. Accordingly, a committee was constituted to examine the issue of recovery of electricity charges, ground rent for workshop/office, house and water etc. provided to Ex-Servicemen transport companies. The committee has recommended the recovery of Rs. 35,80,340 towards electricity charges during the period October, 2000 to September, 2004. So far, Rs. 24,56,370 have been recovered and the balance amount of Rs. 11,23,970 which was to be recovered from the ESM transport companies could not be recovered as some of them have completed their tenure and wound up their operations in SECL. Concerned ESM companies have been asked to deposit the outstanding amount and the Director General Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence, who sponsored the ESM companies, has been requested to take necessary action to help recover the amount from the concerned ESM companies. As far as recovery of other dues such as ground rent for workshop/office, house, water charges are concerned, the committee did not recommend any amount for recovery since the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between DGR and Coal India Limited was not specific in this regard. However, it was decided to incorporate necessary changes in MoU in future dealings.

**Decrease in Drop-Out Rate of  
School Children**

1063. SHRI R. DHUVANARAYANA:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:  
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the number of school drop-out children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise;
- (c) whether the survey has revealed that there has been reduction in the drop-out rate of school children in the age group of 6 to 13;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the survey also reveals that the percentage of drop-out children among the Muslims and SCs/STs continues to be much higher than the national average;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (g) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard and the achievements made so far as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (g) Ministry of Human Resource Development collects the information on various educational indicators from the States/UTs annually through Selected Educational Statistics (SES). SES 2006-07 reveals decline in drop-out rate since 2001-02, including that of SCs/STs at primary and elementary level. At Primary level the drop-out has fallen by 13.6 percentage points from 2001 to 2006, compared to a decline of only 2.3 percentage points between the year 1990 to 2000. At elementary level the drop-out rate has declined from 54.60 in 2001-02 to 45.90 in 2006-07. Drop-out rate in respect of Minority Communities is not available separately. The drop-out rate of SC and ST children at elementary level is as follows:

Year	Primary (I-V)			Elementary (I-VIII)		
	Overall	SC	ST	Overall	SC	ST
2001-02	39.00	45.20	52.30	54.60	60.70	69.50
2006-07	25.60	35.91	33.09	45.90	53.05	62.54

The State-wise drop-out rates as per SES 2006-07 are given in the Statement enclosed.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is implemented in partnership with the States/UTs in which, *inter alia*, one of the goals specifies retention of all children upto the elementary level. A multipronged approach has been adopted under the SSA for reducing drop-out rates. These include, *inter alia*, strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement

in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, provision of annual school grants, regular training of teachers. In addition, interventions under SSA aim at building community support, flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, residential hostel buildings in remote tribal areas, special provisions for SC and ST children including free text-books and remedial teaching. The Mid-Day Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce drop-outs.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	State/UTs	All Categories of Students Classes I-VIII		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	55.68	57.85	56.74
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	53.94	54.16	54.04
3.	Assam	72.69	74.68	73.56
4.	Bihar	76.03	76.23	76.11
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—
6.	Goa	-6.17	2.42	-1.98
7.	Gujarat	45.17	54.59	49.29
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3.22	5.88	4.50
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	44.12	36.98	41.18
11.	Jharkhand	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	38.75	38.83	38.79
13.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	48.71	48.06	48.42
15.	Maharashtra	22.92	20.84	21.93
16.	Manipur	40.60	41.87	41.22
17.	Meghalaya	62.54	58.26	60.41

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Mizoram	63.71	61.26	62.56
19.	Nagaland	38.03	39.18	38.60
20.	Orissa	65.04	59.09	62.59
21.	Punjab	29.30	30.54	29.87
22.	Rajasthan	57.19	67.20	61.07
23.	Sikkim	68.12	63.54	65.85
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tripura	52.19	48.67	50.52
26.	Uttar Pradesh	45.35	42.35	44.18
27.	Uttarakhand	—	—	—
28.	West Bengal	63.01	59.54	61.37
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	8.18	9.84	8.98
30.	Chandigarh	-2.91	1.92	-0.64
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	34.26	55.35	43.98
32.	Daman and Diu	11.80	13.90	12.77
33.	Delhi	20.67	26.39	23.49
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.00
	India	46.44	45.22	45.90

[Translation]

**Share of Centre and State under  
Mid-day Meal Scheme**

1064. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- whether the quality of Mid-day Meal is monitored by the Union Government;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the percentage of Central and State share to

the Mid-day Meal scheme running in the States; and

(d) the percentage of increase in the number of students in schools on account of the Mid-day Meal scheme; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Though the overall responsibility to ensure all logistic and administrative arrangements for regular serving of wholesome, cooked mid day meal in every eligible school, EGS/AIE centres lies with the State Government/UT administration, the



Central Government, through National, Regional and State level review meetings had been continuously urging the State/UT Governments to:

- ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment
- food items are stored in dry and safe places
- adequate drinking water is made available
- cooks are properly trained in adopting hygienic habits.

Besides the above, the 42 monitoring institutions have been assigned the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the MDMS in States/UTs. The State Government/UT Administration is also required to send Quarterly Progress Reports (QPRs) to the Central Government. The Central Government analyzes the reports of monitoring institution as well as QPRs and asks States/UTs to take remedial measures, if required, to avoid recurrence of such deficiency in future. States have also been urged to involve the parents and community members to supervise the cooking and serving of mid-day meal. It is provided in the guidelines that the food prepared is tasted by 2-3 adults including at least one teacher before it is served to children.

As and when any complaint regarding any kind of anomaly including poor quality of food, under the MDMS comes to the notice of Central Government through various sources, the concerned State Government/UT Administration is asked to conduct a suitable enquiry into the complaint and to take appropriate action against the responsible person(s) and also to initiate corrective measures to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.

(c) (I) Under Mid Day Meal Scheme Central Government bears cost of the following components:

- (i) Foodgrains: Supply of free food grains (wheat/rice) @ 100 grams per child per School Day at Primary classes (I-V) and 150 grams per child

per School day at upper primary classes (VI-VIII).

- (ii) Transportation assistance in the 11 Special Category States (viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) subject to the ceiling of Public Distribution System (PDS) rates and Rs. 75 per quintal for all other States and UTs.

- (iii) Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (MME): at the rate of 1.8% of total assistance on (a) free food grains, (b) transport cost and (c) cooking cost. Another 0.2% of the above amount is utilized at the Central Government level for management, monitoring and evaluation.

- (iv) In addition to the above, one time Central Assistance is provided to States/UTs @ Rs. 5000 per schools for procurement of kitchen devices.

- (II) The cooking cost, cost of construction of kitchen-cum-store and honorarium to cook-cum-helper are shared between the Centre and the NER States on 90:10 basis and with other States/UTs on 75:25 basis.

(d) Enrolment, retention etc. of students in schools depend on several interventions of the Government in the field of education, health, nutrition, economic development, demographic changes, expansion of private sector in Elementary Education etc. including the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Therefore, change in enrolment cannot be attributed solely to Mid-Day Meal Scheme. State/UT wise change in percentage of enrolment (including private unaided schools in which mid-day meal is not served) between 1995-96 to 2006-07 is given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement****Enrolment of Classes I-V during 1995-96 and 2006-07**

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Enrolment		Percentage increase/decrease with respect to 1995-96
		1995-96	2006-07	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7640402	7363237	-3.63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	141904	200803	41.51
3.	Assam	3352604	3245754	-3.19
4.	Bihar	9961032	11503960	15.49
5.	Chhattisgarh*	0	3195546	-
6.	Goa	127009	114922	-9.52
7.	Gujarat	5879030	6560923	11.60
8.	Haryana	1895897	2197296	15.90
9.	Himachal Pradesh	680709	676245	-0.66
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	865022	1134528	31.16
11.	Jharkhand*	0	4064769	-
12.	Karnataka	6505828	5725006	-12.00
13.	Kerala	2865066	2524232	-11.90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9328672	11812968	26.63
15.	Maharashtra	11456469	11648450	1.68
16.	Manipur	232179	369758	59.26
17.	Meghalaya	291980	563708	93.06
18.	Mizoram	117081	150977	28.95
19.	Nagaland	161364	224715	39.26
20.	Orissa	4146193	4485315	8.18
21.	Punjab	2078524	1922553	-7.50
22.	Rajasthan	5928559	9326565	57.32
23.	Sikkim	82561	84999	2.95

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Tamil Nadu	8195672	6145971	-25.01
25.	Tripura	431884	493169	14.19
26.	Uttar Pradesh	13395321	25811922	92.69
27.	Uttarakhand*	0	1202153	-
28.	West Bengal	9708543	8862119	-8.72
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	43035	38174	-11.30
30.	Chandigarh	60248	51402	-14.68
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	22010	38059	72.92
32.	Daman and Diu	13903	16403	17.98
33.	Delhi	1375343	1651019	20.04
34.	Lakshadweep	8658	7244	-16.33
35.	Puducherry	102347	110866	8.32
Total		107095049	133525730	24.68

\*Did not exist in the year 1995-96

Source: Selected Educational Statistics Published by Ministry of HRD.

### Kendriya Vidyalaya

1065. SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:

SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY:

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

(a) whether there has been a decline in the number of students in the evening shifts of Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) which are having two shifts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to run two such KVs in the district only in morning shift; and

(d) if so, the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The total number of students in the evening shifts of various Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country has not declined in 2008-09 as compared to 2007-08;

(b) does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

(d) does not arise.

[English]

### Impact of Increased Fees on Poor Students

1066. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

SHRI GAJANAND D. BARAR:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to nudge educational institutions into revising tuition fees, levying user fees and withdrawing hostel subsidies;

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

(c) whether the Government has rejected similar demand of the National Knowledge Commission earlier;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has assessed its impact on the poor students; and

(f) if so, the remedial measures proposed by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a), (b), (e) and (f) In pursuance of Government's policy on rationalization of expenditure and optimization of available resources, economy instructions were issued to various autonomous organizations and statutory bodies like Central Universities, IITs etc. The instructions *inter-alia* directed the organizations for mandatory cut of 5 to 10% under various heads of Non-Plan expenditure excluding salary and pension for the year 2009-10. At the same time, the Ministry was aware that for academic institution, it is often difficult within available resources to meet the cost of various chemicals and consumables etc. required in laboratories and also meeting the cost of library books and journals etc. Given the constraint of resources, leading to mandatory cut in non-salary expenditure, it was suggested that the institutions would make efforts to generate additional resources by gradual revision of tuition fees, levy of user fees, withdrawal of hostel subsidies and through other measures. To meet the needs of needy and meritorious students, Government has introduced schemes like interest subsidy on loans, award of scholarship etc.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission as well those made by the Committee to Rejuvenate and Renovate Higher

Education are inputs to policy decision to reforming and strengthening Higher Education.

#### **Pension Scheme for Navodaya Vidyalaya Staff**

1067. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to implement the Pension Scheme for Navodaya Vidyalaya staff members;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the Government has set up any grievances redressal machinery for the staff members;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) has issued a notification on 4-8-2009 for the implementation of a new pension scheme for the employees of NVS. According to the scheme, all regular employees of NVS joining on or after 1-4-2009 shall be covered by the scheme whereas the employees who have joined NVS on regular basis before 1-4-2009 shall have the option either to continue with the existing contributory pension fund scheme or to join the new pension scheme.

(c) to (e) NVS has set up a grievance cell headed by Joint Commissioner (Administration) for redressal of grievances of its employees.

#### **Pending Cases of Environmental Clearance**

1068. SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI:

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:

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

(a) the details of the various projects/proposals pending with the Union Government for want of environmental and forestry clearance, State-wise;

(b) the period of their pendency alongwith the reasons, project-wise;

(c) the time by which these projects/proposals are likely to be cleared; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for speedy clearance of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A total 186 projects are pending for environmental clearance and 204 projects are pending for Forestry clearance in the Ministry as on 20-11-2009. A Statement showing State-wise details of projects pending for environmental and forestry clearance, is enclosed.

(c) In case of the environment clearances, 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. In case of the forestry clearances, under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Rules 2003, the projects, after the concerned Forest Advisory Committees recommendation, are granted/refused clearance within 60 days of its advise.

(d) The Ministry has taken several steps to reduce pendency of projects which includes constitution of State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities in 23 States and Union Territories, convening the sectoral meetings for longer duration for appraisal of projects and review of pendency at regular interval. Similarly, to expedite forestry clearance, ministry has accorded general approval to Government Departments for carrying out certain specified activities where forest land involved is less than 1.00 ha, powers have been delegated to the Regional Offices to accord clearance up to 5.0 ha except mining and encroachment and prospecting guidelines have been relaxed from 1 borehole per 10 sq. km to 20-25 boreholes per 10 sq. km for metallic ores and 15-20 boreholes for Coal and Lignite.

### **Statement**

#### *Details of Pending Projects for Environmental and Forestry Clearance*

State	Number of Pending Projects for Environment Clearance	Number of Pending Forestry Projects for clearance		Total Pending Project
		Area More than 40 Ha.	Area Up to 40 Ha.	
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	1	1
Andhra Pradesh	30	3	2	35
Arunachal Pradesh	2	0	0	2
Assam	3	1	0	4
Bihar	1	0	3	4

1	2	3	4	5
Chhattisgarh	15	7	0	22
Chandigarh	1	0	0	1
Daman and Diu	0	0	1	1
Gujarat	17	1	15	33
Goa	12	0	0	12
Haryana	0	1	19	20
Himachal Pradesh	4	1	12	17
Jharkhand	14	8	22	44
Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	0	1
Kerala	12	0	0	12
Karnataka	12	2	0	14
Madhya Pradesh	10	5	9	24
Maharashtra	23	4	3	30
Meghalaya	0	1	0	1
Orissa	9	3	3	15
Punjab	1	0	15	16
Rajasthan	5	2	4	11
Sikkim	0	1	0	1
Tamil Nadu	5	1	2	8
Uttar Pradesh	2	0	9	11
Uttarakhand	3	5	36	44
West Bengal	4	0	2	6
<b>Grants Total</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>390</b>

### Legislation for Whistle Blowers

1069. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drafted a legislation to protect the whistle blowers;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether the proposed legislation contains provision to deal with corporate whistle blowers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of corruption cases that were brought to light by whistle blowers during the last three years and the current year, year-wise; and

(f) the role of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) stipulated in the said legislation?

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) and (f) The Government is in the process of finalizing a draft legislation to protect the whistle blowers. Details are yet to be firmed up.

(e) The number of complaints received in the CVC during the last three years were as under:—

Year	No. of complaints
2006	338
2007	328
2008	276

#### **National Water Policy**

1070. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

SHRI PURNMASI RAM:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Water Policy has accorded first priority to drinking water in planning and operation of water resources system;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the challenges before the Government to solve the water scarcity in the country;

(c) whether the Government has set up any committee to solve the water crises in the country as per the directives of the Supreme Court of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the causes identified by the Committee for the scarcity of water in the country; and

(e) the effective steps/measures taken or to be taken by the Government to meet the shortage of water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (e) The National Water Policy has accorded first priority to drinking water in planning and operation of water resource system. Further, the National Water Policy provides that adequate safe drinking water facilities should be provided to the entire population both in urban and in rural areas and that irrigation and multi-purpose projects should invariably include a drinking water component, wherever there is no alternative source of drinking water. The Policy also states that the drinking water needs of human beings and animals should be the first charge on any available water.

As per the directive of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government of India has constituted a Technical Expert Committee on water solution under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology. The function of the Technical Expert Committee are as under:

- "(a) The function of the Technical Expert Committee will be to find technical solutions, test validate and prove the feasibility of implementation of these technical solutions in different social contexts;
- (b) The Chairman of the Committee will approach the Government for constituting an Empowered Committee of Secretaries under his Chairmanship to serve as the decision making body of the mission and to monitor and review the progress of the activities by the Technical Expert Committee; and
- (c) The Committee shall undertake its task on war footing and shall comply with the guidelines issued by the Honorable Supreme Court."

The Plan Document for the Technology Mission: Winning Augmentation and Renovation for water,

prepared by the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology mentions that "problems associated with water can be broadly grouped as (a) availability of water, (b) poor quality of water for the intended use, and (c) indiscriminate use of a valuable natural resource namely water." The Plan Document further mentions that "the selected approach plan includes selection of about 25 different water related challenges in select locations and matching most appropriate technology solutions within the capacity of the local community to apply the solution in a sustainable manner followed by technical scale evaluation and proving of viabilities in credible sizes".

#### **Opening of New Education Institutes**

1071. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Tamil Nadu regarding opening of new educational institutions in the State; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the said proposal and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), opening of 5 new primary schools (1 each in Thangarur and Thirucallur and 3 in Virudhunagar) and upgradation of 831 primary schools to upper primary schools have been sanctioned to the State of Tamil Nadu during the year 2009-10.

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has received one (01) proposal from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for opening of Kendriya Vidyalaya at Virudhunagar District. The proposal is under consideration.

A proposal has also been received for locating the Central University of Tamil Nadu at Thiruvaroor in the State. The University has since started functioning from Thiruvaroor.

A proposal for setting up of an Indian Institute of Management (IIM) was received from the State

Government of Tamil Nadu. The Cabinet has (*inter-alia*) approved the proposal for setting up of IIM at Thiruchirappalli (Tamil Nadu), which would become functional from academic session 2010-11. The State Government has offered a piece of land measuring 192.35 acres, free of cost, at Suriyur Village, Tiruchirappalli Taluk and District and the same has been approved by the Central Government. The MOA and Rules of IIM—Tiruchirappalli has been finalized and the same has been sent to the State Government for registration of the Society.

#### **Right to Education Act**

1072. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

(a) the salient features of the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act passed by the Parliament recently;

(b) the funds spent/being spent by the Government for providing education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years, during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(c) the extra funds required for implementation of the Act during the next five years, and the manner in which the funds required will be raised;

(d) whether all the States and the private sector have also been asked to share the cost of fulfilling the commitment under the Act;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the State Governments/private sector in this regard;

(f) whether the Government plans to bring Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) under the Act;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government to implement the Act?



THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 *inter alia* provides for the:

- (i) Responsibility of the Central and State Governments and local authorities for free and compulsory elementary education to all children in the age group of six to fourteen years.
- (ii) Prescribed norms and standards relating to infrastructure, pupil-teacher ratios and other quality parameters.
- (iii) Minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher.
- (iv) Curriculum and evaluation procedure conforming to values enshrined in the Constitution.
- (v) School Management Committees to monitor the working of the schools.
- (vi) Mechanism for the protection of the rights of the child under the Act.

(b) Government of India releases under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and District Primary Education Project (DPEP) during the last three years and the current year for each State is given in the Statement-I and II enclosed.

(c) to (e) The National University for Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has, at the instance of the Government, prepared estimates for additional requirement of funds for a 5-year period from 2010-11 to 2014-15 for the implementation of the provisions of the RTE Act, which works out to Rs. 1,71,484 crore. The RTE Act provides that the Central Government and the State Governments shall have concurrent responsibility for providing funds for implementation of the Act. Under the Act unaided school are required to admit at least 25 per cent children belonging to disadvantaged groups and weaker sections from the neighbourhood in Class I and provide them free elementary education. The expenditure so incurred will be reimbursed to the extent of the per-child expenditure incurred by the State, or the actual amount charged from the child, whichever is less.

(f) and (g) A Committee on Harmonization of SSA with the RTE Act has been set up to examine the overall approach and implementation strategies under SSA and align the SSA vision, strategies and norms with the RTE mandate. The Committee has held five meetings and met with representatives of almost all the States during the course of its deliberations. The Report of the Committee is awaited.

(h) The Government has initiated several steps for implementation of the RTE Act including preparation of financial estimates, consultations with State Governments and Civil Society Organisations, and preparation of 'Model' Rules under the Act.

#### **Statement**

*GOI releases during 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	GOI Release			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (as on 17-11-2009)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	46245.56	28100.00	71031.78	13569.90
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7143.74	11043.55	13683.64	4117.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	51464.72	28903.62	42740.91	42480.00
4.	Bihar	107744.39	135417.64	186158.47	45000.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	50182.20	46787.76	51853.86	46892.60
6.	Goa	724.12	899.57	804.41	550.58
7.	Gujarat	14806.97	22658.26	25432.47	8031.73
8.	Haryana	25647.12	14220.00	20546.87	10000.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6250.75	7638.30	8552.99	8608.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	22083.37	20063.27	20532.59	30000.00
11.	Jharkhand	51515.00	80748.99	69041.09	15000.00
12.	Karnataka	54206.98	40604.78	51578.19	44220.60
13.	Kerala	6382.00	8323.42	10854.04	6039.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	110879.68	86769.94	85569.35	100249.00
15.	Maharashtra	52158.56	45729.96	67386.02	48023.00
16.	Manipur	9.24	1850.95	321.21	500.00
17.	Meghalaya	4294.00	9359.63	9440.36	8383.00
18.	Mizoram	3441.69	4212.02	5112.59	2645.00
19.	Nagaland	2315.20	4596.00	2867.87	1413.00
20.	Orissa	44010.95	62853.68	49080.9	63061.60
21.	Punjab	12879.92	10493.88	13808.1	8973.00
22.	Rajasthan	75809.82	101307.20	108326.8	112724.00
23.	Sikkim	402.14	1036.25	1075.31	986.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	37329.65	53125.09	45414.47	48366.00
25.	Tripura	5330.01	4178.49	6464.12	4273.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	206654.00	204758.00	212884.89	178448.30
27.	Uttaranchal	16934.00	13162.80	11444.45	13997.29
28.	West Bengal	61736.80	90571.68	65169.37	94142.00
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	419.62	187.10	780.54	312.44

1	2	3	4	5	6
30.	Chandigarh	300.00	934.95	820.52	826.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	100.00	418.54	104.63	350.18
32.	Daman and Diu				69.00
33.	Delhi	4230.24	1671.55	1529.01	1163.00
34.	Lakshadweep	87.47		70	41.00
35.	Pondicherry		577.07	638.59	273.96
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1083719.91</b>	<b>1143203.94</b>	<b>1261120.41</b>	<b>963729.68</b>
36.	National Component	1115.04	1328.58	1459.41	1117.89
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1084834.95</b>	<b>1144532.52</b>	<b>1262579.82</b>	<b>964847.57</b>

**Statement-II***Funds Released under the Scheme of District Primary Education Programme*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1.	Rajasthan	31.90	58.22	Project closed	Project closed
2.	Orissa	66.01	35.96	05.59	Project closed

**Amendment to Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act**

1073. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government is considering representations to amend the Right of

Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 to incorporate concerns relating to (a) children with certain disabilities and (b) applicability of the provisions of School Management Committee in respect of Minority institutions.

*[Translation]***Funds for Tribal/Hilly/Rural Areas**

1974. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated during the last three years for the tribal/rural/hilly areas, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the State Governments have sent

proposals to Central Government/Planning Commission for the sanction of additional funds for these areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount of funds sanctioned during the current financial year, 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) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

### Shortage of Teachers

1075. SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:

SURI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

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

(a) whether there is a shortage of about eight lakh teachers in primary and middle schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to tackle the problem;

(d) whether there is any scheme to reduce the shortage in a phased manner; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Information regarding vacancy of teachers in schools of the country is maintained by the respective State Governments. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), State Governments make an assessment of additional requirement of elementary school teachers based on SSA norms namely (i) one teacher for every 40 children in primary and upper primary; (ii) at least two teachers in a primary school; (iii) one teacher for every class in the upper primary, of the three teachers sanctioned under SSA

for every new upper primary school, one each will need to be a teacher with mathematics and science specific educational background. The number of additional teachers required to meet the SSA norms is assessed annually and approved under the State Annual Works Plan and Budget.

Teachers are required by the respective State Governments as per their own specific rules and regulations, and norms and remuneration. Upto 2009-10, 12.82 lakh teachers have been provided to States/UTs under SSA.

[Translation]

### Coal and Lignite Mines

1076. SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR ALIAS KUSHAL TIWARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal and lignite mines, both underground and opencast, in the country;

(b) the total production in these mines, during the last three years and the current year, company-wise, grade-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of Public and Private Companies engaged in the exploitation of lignite;

(d) the total revenue earned through sale of coal and lignite during the last three years and the current year, company-wise;

(e) the number of complaints received by the Government for illegal mining during the last three years and the current year; and

(f) the action 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 details of coal and lignite mines, both underground and opencast, operated by Coal India Limited (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) are as follows:

Company	UG Mines	OC Mines	Mixed Mines	Total
ELC	82	21	7	110
BCCL	47	18	17	82
CCL	24	36	2	62
NCL	0	10	0	10
WCL	43	39	4	86
SECL	69	21	1	91
MCL	9	15	0	24
NEC	5	3	0	8
CIL (Total)	279	163	31	473
NLC	0	4	0	4
SCCL (Andhra Pradesh)	36	14	0	50

(b) The company-wise, grade-wise production of coal and lignite from the aforesaid coal and lignite mines is given below:

**Coal**

(Fig. in Lakh Tonne)

Grades	ECL			(April '09- Sept '09) 2009-10
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	
Blendable SC-1	0.25	0.22	0.23	0.08
W-III	0.57	0.15	0.25	0.21
Total Coking	0.82	0.37	0.48	0.29
A	10.09	9.95	9.34	5.41
B	95.77	97.10	106.24	48.01
C	51.74	33.17	37.06	14.73
D	23.31	24.33	16.57	6.26
E	7.37	5.05	5.05	2.00
F	115.56	70.62	106.61	47.43
<b>Total Non-coking</b>	<b>303.84</b>	<b>240.22</b>	<b>280.87</b>	<b>123.84</b>
ECL	304.66	240.59	281.35	124.13

Grades	BCCL			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5
S-I	1.27	0.83	0.76	0.49
S-II	5.59	2.82	9.60	4.89
W-I	2.91	4.71	3.13	1.50
W-II	11.26	11.75	8.58	4.23
W-III	33.35	35.03	38.86	19.99
W-IV	56.36	64.65	69.78	45.31
SLV	0.31	0.26	0.09	0.00
Total Coking	111.05	120.05	130.80	76.41
A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B	0.61	0.67	0.76	0.29
C	51.14	51.90	45.94	23.14
D	55.58	66.35	59.20	19.30
E	23.67	13.18	20.44	0.75
F	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Non-coking	131.00	132.10	124.34	43.48
BCCL	242.05	252.15	255.14	119.89
	<b>CCL</b>			
W-I	0.00	0.00	0.05	
W-II	1.52	1.25	1.17	0.54
W-III	26.20	26.62	27.09	12.47
W-IV	93.80	104.99	97.07	51.74
Total Coking	121.52	132.86	125.38	64.75
B	60.14	6.12	4.73	2.20
C	28.34	23.91	21.94	8.11
D	1.70	1.75	1.85	0.91

1	2	3	4	5
E	199.33	224.75	224.80	79.09
F	55.16	52.07	53.66	20.59
Total Non-coking	291.67	308.60	306.98	110.90
CCL	413.19	441.46	432.36	175.65
<b>NCL</b>				
B	0.00	3.98	8.45	3.74
C	160.92	185.46	168.62	97.31
D	22.86	32.01	46.79	28.59
E	337.80	374.78	412.63	175.80
Total Non-coking	521.58	596.23	636.50	305.44
NCL	521.58	596.23	636.50	305.44
<b>WCL</b>				
Medium (W-II)	7.75	6.76	7.30	2.48
B	5.58	6.28	5.95	2.85
C	21.62	21.14	22.87	10.85
D	168.64	168.38	161.14	75.68
E	228.53	232.56	249.74	119.71
Total Non-coking	424.37	428.36	439.70	209.09
WCL	432.12	435.12	447.00	211.57
<b>SECL</b>				
SC-II (Coking)	1.57	1.59	1.46	0.70
Total Coking	1.57	1.59	1.46	0.70
A	28.99	28.05	26.05	11.92
B	92.76	97.37	98.61	45.06
C	96.54	100.19	95.78	46.34
D	40.90	37.27	44.43	22.47
F	624.26	673.44	745.17	357.80

1	2	3	4	5
Total Non-coking	883.45	936.32	1010.04	483.59
SECL	885.02	937.91	1011.50	484.29
<b>MCL</b>				
B	2.08	2.23	2.32	1.05
C	2.12	2.17	2.33	1.11
D	16.13	16.80	16.85	7.86
E	44.56	43.32	77.47	28.83
F	735.12	815.58	864.39	381.44
G	0.00	0.02	0.00	--
Total Non-Coking	800.01	880.12	963.36	420.29
MCL	800.01	880.12	963.36	420.29
<b>NEC</b>				
A	10.50	11.01	10.09	3.07
Total Non-Coking	10.50	11.01	10.09	3.07
Grades	Coal India Limited (Aggregate)			Apl '09-Sept '09
SC-I Blendable	0.25	0.22	0.23	0.08
SC-II Blendable	1.57	1.59	1.46	0.70
W-I	2.91	4.71	3.18	1.50
W-II	20.53	19.76	17.05	7.46
W-III	60.12	61.80	66.20	32.46
W-IV	150.16	169.64	166.85	97.05
S-I	1.27	0.83	0.76	0.49
S-II	5.59	2.82	9.60	4.89
SLV	0.31	0.26	0.09	0.00
Total Coking	242.71	261.65	265.42	144.63
A	49.58	49.01	45.48	20.40
B	203.94	213.75	227.07	103.20



Grades	Coal India Limited (Aggregate)			Apl '09-Sept '09
C	412.42	417.94	392.54	201.59
D	329.12	346.89	346.83	161.07
E	841.26	893.64	990.13	406.18
F	1530.10	1611.71	1769.83	807.26
G	0.00	0.02	0.00	
Total Non-Coking	3366.42	3532.94	3771.88	1699.70
CIL	3609.13	3794.59	4037.30	1844.33

**Lignite**

(Figure in Million Tonnes)

Company	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (April '09 to October '09)
NLC	21.016	21.586	21.307	13.360

(c) The details of public and private companies in lignite mining are as under:

**Name of the Lignite Mining Company**

- Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC)
- Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDC)
- Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Ltd. (RSMML)
- Gujarat Industries Power Corporation Ltd. (GIPCL)
- Gujarat Heavy Chemicals Ltd. (GHCL)
- V.S. Lignite (Marudhar Power Private Limited)

Besides the following private companies have been allotted lignite blocks for captive purpose.

Sl. No.	Name of the private Companies	End use
1.	NSL Power and Infotech Ltd.	Power
2.	DCM Shriram Ltd.	Power
3.	Binani Cement Ltd.	Power
4.	Nandalal Enterprises Ltd.	Power
5.	Indure Pvt. Ltd.	Power
6.	TICAPCO	Power

(d) The company-wise, sale value of coal and lignite (as per Audited Accounts) for the period 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto 30-09-2009—Unaudited) are given below:s  
(Rs. in crore)

Company	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto 30-9-2009)
ECL	3518.21	3187.61	3837.40	1998.93
BCCL	2879.20	2954.78	3399.13	1623.13

Company	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto 30-9-2009)
CCL	3900.73	4362.94	5210.89	2512.03
NCL	4630.84	5455.21	6551.94	3183.17
WCL	4392.96	4909.18	5636.01	2523.96
SECL	6323.70	7181.59	8485.67	4076.14
MCL	3712.75	4347.08	5383.39	2732.65
NEC	243.80	235.47	284.40	121.36
<b>CIL Total</b>	<b>29602.19</b>	<b>32633.86</b>	<b>38788.83</b>	<b>18771.37</b>

**Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited**

Company	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 upto Oct '09 (Prov.)
Sales Revenue	227.03	261.24	246.62	155.19
Value of lignite supplied to own power plant	1428.11	2022.62	2558.00	1411.93
<b>NLC Total</b>	<b>1655.14</b>	<b>2883.86</b>	<b>2804.62</b>	<b>1567.12</b>

(e) The number of FIRs lodged for illegal mining during the last three years and the current year are given below:

Company	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto Sep '09)
ECL	61	19	43	34
BCCL	53	55	69	32
CCL	35	131	47	4
NCL	0	0	0	0
WCL	5	3	1	0
SECL	9	0	0	0
MCL	0	0	0	0
NEC	3	2	3	7
CIL	166	210	163	77

(f) Law and Order is a State subject, hence primarily it is the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining. FIRs are lodged by the units/area/CISF officials whenever cases of illegal mining of coal detected. After lodging of FIRs, prosecution cases are launched and contested by the State Government/Police. However, the following steps have been taken by the coal companies to prevent illegal mining of coal:

- (a) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.
- (b) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth 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 the 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.

[English]

#### **Progress of Projects/Schemes**

1077. SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:

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

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the progress of projects/schemes in operation in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of achievements made alongwith the reasons for shortfall, under utilisation/non-utilisation of funds during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the details of new projects/schemes launched during the last three years in Maharashtra; and

(d) the details of fresh proposals received/pending in Maharashtra alongwith target set for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Madam. The Government has reviewed the progress of projects/schemes in operation in the country including Maharashtra from time to time.

(b) The schemes/projects approved and being implemented by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests for conservation of forests, wildlife and environment to the State of Maharashtra during the last three years (2006-07 to 2008-09) are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Amount released (Rs. in lakhs)		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	National Lake Conservation Plan	230.00	100.00	75.50
2.	National River Conservation Plan	1009.00	1521.47	0.00
3.	National Afforestation Programme	1593.09	2991.77	2187.03
4.	Intensification of Forest Management	103.46*	232.84	232.00
5.	Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats	223.85	331.33	390.22
6.	Project Tiger	238.56	295.72	411.12
7.	Project Elephant	50.40	56.30	77.76
8.	Environment Education and Awareness (Directorate of Social Forestry, Maharashtra)	237.30	232.53	236.35
9.	Environmental Information System (ENVIS) (Environment Department, Maharashtra)	0.00	6.93	2.67
10.	Assistance for Abatement of Pollution (Maharashtra Pollution Control Board)	0.00	0.00	35.42
11.	Common Effluent Treatment Plant (Maharashtra Pollution Control Board)	223.03	252.09	323.94

\*Funds were sanctioned but adjusted against the earlier unspent funds.

(c) Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has approved one project under National River Conservation Plan and two (2) projects under National Lake Conser-

vation Plan for the State of Maharashtra during the last three years. The details are given as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Estimated cost/ approved cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Year of sanction
<b>National River Conservation Plan</b>			
1.	Pollution Abatement of River Tapi at Prakasha	244.00	3-11-2008
<b>National Lake Conservation Plan</b>			
2.	Varhala Devi Lake, Bhiwandi	460.00	2006-07
3.	Siddheshwar Lake, Solapur	432.00	August, 2008

(d) Ministry has approved a project "Pollution Abatement of River Panchganga at Kolhapur" under the NRCP scheme with the cost of Rs. 7429.00 lakhs on 3-08-2009. No other fresh proposal has been received is pending from Maharashtra.

#### **Launch of Oceansat-02**

1078. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO has recently launched Oceansat-02;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the total cost of the project;

(c) the main benefits from the satellite;

(d) whether the satellite is functioning as per the expectation of the ISRO; and

(e) the extent to which this satellite is likely to monitor sea and cyclone?

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) Oceansat-02 was launched using India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) on September 23, 2009 from Sriharikota. The satellite has 3 instruments on board, namely Ocean Colour Monitor (OCM) to monitor chlorophyll in oceans, a Scatterometer to monitor ocean surface wind and a Radio Occultation Sounder for atmosphere. The total cost of the project is Rs. 129.15 crores.

(c) The data from Oceansat-02 will facilitate identification of potential fishing zones; deriving ocean surface wind velocity, forecasting ocean state, study of temperature and humidity of atmosphere etc.

(d) Yes, Madam.

(e) This satellite will facilitate monitoring of sea, specifically chlorophyll in sea waters, and fronts and eddies in the ocean. This satellite will also provide additional data for understanding cloud system and cyclone related studies.

#### **Funds under CAMPA**

1079. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has asked State Governments to submit action plans for allocation of funds under Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA);

(b) if so, the details of proposals received from various States, State-wise including from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether funds have been released;

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

(e) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken to release funds under CAMPA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Union Government requested the State/Union Territory Governments to submit Annual Plan of Operations (APOa) duly approved by the state Level Steering Committee (SLSC) to the Ad-hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) for release of funds. Accordingly, 29 States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh had submitted APOs for utilization of funds both towards site specific schemes such as Compensatory Afforestation (CA), Additional Compensatory Afforestation (ACA), Penal Compensatory Afforestation (PCA), Catchment Area Treatment Plan (CAT), etc., and the works under Net Present Value (NPV) and wildlife management in Protected Areas.

(c) to (e) The Central Government with the concurrence of the Supreme Court of India formulated the guidelines in consultation with the States/Union Territories to utilize the money deposited in Ad-hoc CAMPA by establishing State CAMPAs. As per these guidelines and the Supreme Court order dated 10-7-2009,

a sum of Rs. 1000 crores per year, for the next 5 years, shall be released to the State CAMPAs in proportion of 10% of the principal amount deposited by the States/ Union Territories in Ad-hoc CAMPA subject to fulfilment of following conditions:

- (i) the details of the bank account opened by the State Executive Committee (in Nationalized Bank) are intimated to the Ad-hoc CAMPA;
- (ii) the amount towards the NPV and the protected area may be released after the schemes have been reviewed by the State Level Executive Committee and the Annual Plan of Operation

is approved by the Steering Committee; and

- (iii) the amount towards CA, Additional CA, PCA and the Catchment Area Treatment Plan may be released in the respective bank accounts of the States/UTs immediately for taking up site specific works already approved by the MoEF while granting prior approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

So far, about Rs. 646 crores have been released to 15 States/UTs, who have fulfilled the requisite conditions for establishment of State CAMPAs. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Fund received from States/UTs as on 30-06-2009	10% of fund received as on 30-06-2009	Fund released to states/UTs (about 10%)*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	109,906,133.00	10,990,613.30	10,990,000.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	8,978,325,571.48	897,832,557.15	897,832,000.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,636,763,088.74	163,676,308.87	—
4.	Assam	671,749,049.00	67,174,904.90	67,174,000.00
5.	Bihar	773,448,981.00	77,344,898.10	—
6.	Chandigarh	17,652,067.00	1,765,206.70	1,765,000.00
7.	Chhattisgarh	12,321,350,743.39	1,232,135,074.34	1,232,135,000.00
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	16,829,000.00	1,682,900.00	1,682,000.00
9.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—
10.	Delhi	1,224,523,363.00	122,452,336.30	—
11.	Goa	1,211,970,919.58	121,197,091.96	121,197,000.00
12.	Gujarat	2,496,471,445.00	249,647,144.50	249,647,000.00
13.	Haryana	1,911,413,386.79	191,141,338.68	191,141,000.00
14.	Himachal Pradesh	3,667,719,848.60	366,771,984.86	366,771,000.00
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Jharkhand	9,500,280,928.03	950,028,092.80	—
17.	Karnataka	5,855,732,170.00	585,573,217.00	585,573,000.00
18.	Kerala	175,090,762.58	17,509,076.26	—
19.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
20.	Madhya Pradesh	5,304,823,886.00	530,482,386.60	530,482,000.00
21.	Maharashtra	8,935,493,798.50	893,549,379.85	—
22.	Manipur	74,568,219.00	7,456,821.90	—
23.	Meghalaya	9,675,979.00	967,597.90	—
24.	Mizoram	—	—	—
25.	Nagaland	—	—	—
26.	Orissa	13,106,182,423.00	1,310,618,242.30	1,310,618,000.00
27.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
28.	Punjab	3,305,472,163.50	330,547,216.35	—
29.	Rajasthan	3,259,088,410.85	325,908,841.09	—
30.	Sikkim	800,924,612.00	80,092,461.20	80,092,000.00
31.	Tamil Nadu	197,130,414.00	19,713,041.40	—
32.	Tripura	354,181,754.00	35,418,175.40	—
33.	Uttar Pradesh	4,709,629,585.46	470,962,958.55	—
34.	Uttarakhand	8,165,322,154.65	816,532,215.47	816,532,000.00
35.	West Bengal	529,577,838.00	52,957,783.80	—
Total		99,321,298,695.15	9,932,129,869.52	6,461,949,000.00

\*Amount rounded of Rs. '000.00

[Translation]

**Projects Pending for Approval**

1080. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects for backward and rural areas pending for approval with the Union Government

as on date, along with their pendency period;

(b) the reasons for non-approval of the projects and the time by which these are likely to be approved;

(c) whether the Government has received request from the State governments for early clearance of these projects;

(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) Government of India has been implementing many Centrally Sponsored Schemes through the State Governments for development of backward and rural areas. Some of the major schemes, which are under implementation for development of backward and rural areas, are National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, National Rural Health Mission, Indira Awaas Yojana, Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana, Backward Regions Grants Fund, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Integrated Child Development Services, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-day Meal Scheme etc. All these schemes have been sponsored by the Government of India and are under implementation in the States by the State Governments/UTs through respective Central Ministries. The Central Ministries approve plans/projects under such schemes based on the programme guidelines and the requirement of fiscal prudence as per laid down procedures under General Financial Rules.

Planning Commission accords investment clearance for irrigation projects (which generally benefits rural areas) having inter-State ramifications for their inclusion in the Annual Plan of the State. This clearance is also required for inclusion of the projects for availing funds under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme. Currently, there are no irrigation projects pending for action/clearance by the Planning Commission.

[English]

#### **National Afforestation Programme in Karnataka**

1081. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the National Afforestation Programme implemented in the State of Karnataka during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of Forest Development Agencies projects approved for Karnataka during the last three years, year-wise and the allocation made for the same; and

(c) the exact increase in forest cover in the State in view of the above efforts during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas in the country through a two-tier decentralized mechanism of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level in the country, including State of Karnataka. As on 30-10-2009, 45 FDA projects in Karnataka involving 1560 JFMCs have been approved under the scheme since inception. An amount of Rs. 70.02 crores has been released during last three years (2006-07 to 2008-09). Year-wise funds released are as under:—

Sl. No.	Year	Amount Released (Rs. in crore)
1.	2006-07	23.54
2.	2007-08	31.02
3.	2008-09	15.46
Total		70.02

(c) No study has been undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to assess the exact increase in forest cover in the State of Karnataka in view of the above efforts during the last three years.

#### **Minority Education Institutes**

1082. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the minority Education Institutions functioning in the country, State-wise;



(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more Minority Education Institutions in the country;

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

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to give more autonomy to Minority Education Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Minority status to educational institutions is given by the designated authorities of State/Central Government under whose jurisdiction institution falls. List of educational institutions recognized as minority institutions by various States is not maintained centrally. Central Government has recognized following institutions as minority educational institutions:— 1. Jamia Hamdard, 2. Allahabad Agricultural Institute, 3. Karunya University Coimbatore and 4. Aligarh Muslim University (which is under challenge before the Hon'ble Supreme Court).

(d) In order to make the procedure of giving minority status hassle free and protect their autonomy, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) has issued elaborate guidelines to be acted upon by the State Government. NCMEI has till date issued 2502 minority status certificates.

[Translation]

#### Allocation of Funds for Sanskrit Schools/Universities

1083. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Sanskrit Schools/Universities in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the funds and the other resources allocated to such Sanskrit Schools/Universities during the last three years and the current year;

(c) when the Government proposes to launch any scheme to provide Sanskrit Scholars with employment and to promote the use of Sanskrit at home and abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The information regarding number of Sanskrit Schools in the country is not maintained in this Ministry. However, as per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the number of State-wise Sanskrit Universities, including Deemed Universities, in the country are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Number of Universities	Nature of Universities
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	Deemed University
2.	Bihar	1	State University
3.	Delhi	2	Deemed University
4.	Gujarat	1	State University
5.	Kerala	1	State University
6.	Maharashtra	1	State University
7.	Orissa	1	State University
8.	Rajasthan	1	State University
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1	State University
10.	Uttarakhand	1	State University

(b) The details of grants released to the Sanskrit Universities, including Deemed Universities during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to launch any scheme to provide Sanskrit Scholars with employment and to promote the use of Sanskrit at home and abroad by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. However, under the Scheme for Development of Sanskrit Education, 2007, the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, a Deemed University, provides financial assistance for the following major activities:—

- (i) Financial assistance for Sanskrit Teaching (a) towards salary of Sanskrit teachers for Traditional Sanskrit Pathashalas/Schools/Mahavidyalayas, (b) Teachers for Modern subjects in Traditional Sanskrit Pathashalas/Mahavidyalayas and (c) Sanskrit teacher for Secondary/Higher Secondary Schools.
- (ii) Samman Rashi to Eminent Sanskrit Pandits in indigent circumstances.
- (iii) Financial Assistance for Utilisation of services of retired/eminant literary Sanskrit Scholars (Shastra Chudamani).
- (iv) Financial Assistance to NGOs/Deemed Sanskrit Universities/Universities for various Research

Proects and Programmes/Activities for promotion of Sanskrit.

- (v) Financial Assistance for Publication, Re-print of Rare Sanskrit Books and Bulk Purchase of Sanskrit Books.
- (vi) Financial Assistance to Registered Academic Organisations to Conduct "Prayogik Prasikshan" for Vocational training courses for the students of Traditional Sanskrit Pathashalas/Institutions.
- (vii) Financial Assistance to Universities/Deemed Universities/CBSE/NCERT/SCERT etc. to improve standards of Sanskrit teaching.
- (viii) Award of Scholarships to Students of Sanskrit Pathashalas/Mahavidyalayas/High/Higher Secondary Schools/Colleges.
- (ix) All India Sanskrit Elocution Contest.
- (x) In addition, a Presidential Award Scheme is also in place to honour eminent Sanskrit Scholars, under which there are 16 Certificates of Honour (including one International Certificate), and 5 Maharishi Badrayan Vyas Samman for young scholars, annually. The Presidential Award carries a one-time grant of Rs. 5 lakh while Maharishi Badrayan Vyas Samman carries a one-time grant of Rs. 1 lakh.

#### **Statement**

(Rupees in lakhs)

#### (Grants released by the University Grants Commission)

Sl. No.	Name of the University	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (As on 20-11-09)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh	603.79	842.66	1694.45	737.71
2.	K.S. Darbhanga Sanskrit University, Darbhanga, Bihar	65.59	160.74	122.37	1.79

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Shri Lal Bhadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, New Delhi	852.05	1025.72	1858.53	861.19
4.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi	2.47	0.00	6.11	0.00
5.	Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala	41.01	142.73	122.61	15.99
6.	Shri Jagannath Sanskrit Vishva-vidyalaya, Puri, Orissa	92.25	95.24	0.40	105.50
7.	Sampurnand and Sanskrit Vishva-vidyalaya, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	97.17	93.00	134.64	90.00

In addition to the above, the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education has also released grants of Rs. 4414.00 lakhs, Rs. 5219.67 lakhs, Rs. 6224.00 lakhs and Rs. 6632.00 lakhs to the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi during the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10.

#### **World Bank Assistance for River Ganga**

1084. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently sought assistance from the World Bank for cleaning river Ganga;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided by the World Bank for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Preliminary consultations have been started for seeking World Bank support for the activities of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA), which was set up on 20th February, 2009 for conservation of river Ganga. A proposal for availing Project Preparation Facility (PPF) assistance of US \$ 2.96 million has been forwarded to the World Bank. PPF would be utilised for preparation of the detailed project report.

#### **Extradition Treaty with Nepal**

1085. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sign an extradition treaty with the Government of Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government of Nepal in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the treaty is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) India and Nepal signed an extradition Treaty on 02-10-1953, which remains in force. With a view to strengthen the institutional legal arrangements for effectively combating crime and terrorism in tune with contemporary realities, India and Nepal have initialed the updated Extradition Treaty in January, 2005. The Government has regularly taken up the matter of early signature of the updated Extradition Treaty with the Government of Nepal.

[English]

#### **Regional Passport Offices in India**

1086. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) set up in the country during each of last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the existing number of RPOs are adequate to provide satisfactory service to the public in the country;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to set up more RPOs in the country including Jharkhand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Currently, there are 37 Passport Offices all over India. Information relating to Passport Offices opened during the last three years State-wise is as under:

Year	Passport Office (State-wise)
2007	(1) Madurai (Tamil Nadu)
	(2) Raipur (Chhattisgarh)
2008	(1) Amritsar (Punjab)
	(2) Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)
	(3) Dehradun (Uttarakhand)
2009	Nil

(b) to (d) Satisfactory passport service is currently available through these 37 Passport Offices. There is no proposal to open new Regional Passport Offices in view of the implementation of the Passport Seva Project. However, it envisages the opening of 77 Passport Seva Kendras all over the country. Under the Passport Seva Project, one Passport Seva Kendra is proposed to be opened in Ranchi.

#### **Study on Impact of Climate Change**

1087. SHRI M.B. RAJESH:

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any scientific study on the impact of climate change on the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the outcome of the study;

(c) whether India is being blamed for its stand on climatic and environmental changes in international arena;

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

(e) the measures taken by the Government to address the issue of climate change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) As a part of the Initial National Communication of India to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), studies in regard to the vulnerability assessment and adaptation to climate change have been made. These studies projected climate scenarios and likely impacts in various areas such as water resources, agriculture, forests, natural ecosystems, coastal zones, health energy and infrastructure.

(c) and (d) The Government's stand on climate change is in accordance with the principles of equity and the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as enshrined in the UNFCCC. The current approach to climate change is fully anchored in the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and the Bali Action Plan.

(e) The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released on 30th June 2008 to outline India's strategy to meet the challenge of Climate Change. The National Action Plan outlines steps that will enable the country to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability of India's development path.

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.

#### **Indo-EU Summit in New Delhi**

1088. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-European Union (EU) Summit was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the dignitaries participated in the Summit;

(c) the details of the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed in the meetings and the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any agreements were signed between India and EU; and

(e) if so, the salient features thereof, agreement-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) The Tenth India-European Union Summit was held in New Delhi on 6 November 2009. The Indian delegation was led by Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. The EU side was represented by Mr. Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of Sweden, in his capacity as President of the Council of the European Union, and Mr. Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, President of the European Commission.

(c) At the delegation level talks both sides reviewed bilateral relations in the context of the India-EU Strategic Partnership. Both sides also discussed multilateral issues of mutual interest such as international terrorism, climate change, international financial crisis etc. A Joint Statement was also issued.

(d) and (e) An agreement for cooperation in the field of Fusion Energy Research was signed between Government of India and the European Atomic Community. The Agreement envisages cooperation and research in the field of fusion energy technology.

#### **Earthquake in Andaman and Nicobar**

1089. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a strong earthquake struck Andaman and Nicobar Islands few months ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the damage caused to life and property in the earthquake?

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) An earthquake occurred at Andaman Islands at 01:26 hrs (IST) with great intensity of 7.8 magnitudes on 11th August 2009. The location of the epicenter was 14.1°N latitude and 93.0°E longitude, 270 km to the North of Port Blair over the Andaman Sea. No Tsunami was generated.

(c) No damage to life and property occurred in Nicobar and south Andaman district. In the north and middle Andaman district, however, marginal damage occurred to eight residential government quarters at Diglipur and the Public Works Department has declared these quarters as unsafe for occupation. Cracks were also developed in General Post Office building as well as some private buildings/shops in Diglipur, Kalighat and Aerial Bay area. No casualties were reported in north and middle Andaman district and power supply, telecommunication and water supply were reported to be normal.

#### **Mission Clean Ganga**

1090. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL  
KCHATGAONKAR:  
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:  
SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:  
SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA':

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

(a) whether National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) has approved an ambitious project 'Mission Clean Ganga' to prevent the discharge of untreated municipal sewage and industrial effluents in the Ganga by 2020;

(b) if so, the salient features of the project;

(c) the amount earmarked under the project;

(d) whether the Prime Minister has recently convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of States through which the river Ganga flows;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the decisions taken therein; and

(f) the time by which the project is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (f) The first meeting of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) was held on 5th October, 2009 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The meeting resolved that under 'Mission Clean Ganga', it will be ensured that by the year 2020, no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into Ganga. An estimated investment of Rs. 15,000 crore over the next 10 years will be required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure. The requisite resources would be shared between the Centre and States suitably after consultations with the Planning Commission. It was decided that the State Governments will formulate detailed project reports at the critical pollution hotspots and major towns. The Central Government has allocated Rs. 250 crore in the budget of the year 2009-10 for NGRBA.

[Translation]

**Natioanl Ganga River Authority**

1091. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI:

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

(a) whether the constitution of the National Ganga River Basin Authority has not resulted in any significant improvement in water management of the river Ganga;

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

(c) the details of the funds allocated to the Authority so far and spent therefrom;

(d) the manner in which the funds allocated were utilised; and

(e) the concrete steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure effective and proper utilisation of funds meant for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (e) The Central Government has constituted the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 20th February, 2009 as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for conservation of the Ganga River. The Authority has both regulatory and developmental functions, Action has been initiated for preparation of a comprehensive Ganga river basin management plan which will form the basis for formulation of projects. The Central Government has allocated Rs. 250 crore in the budget of the year 2009-10 for NGRBA. States have been requested to prepare priority projects for critical pollution hotspots and major towns on Ganga and fast track the implementation of ongoing projects. State River Conservation Authorities have been constituted in Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and West Bengal under the Chairmanship of the respective Chief Ministers for coordinating the implementation of the schemes. Besides introduction of concurrent evaluation of schemes, States have been requested to

constitute City Level Monitoring Committees for better implementation of schemes.

[English]

**Business Visas to Chinese Workers**

1092. SHRI R. DHYUVANARAYANA:

SHRI B. MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has asked India to ease procedure relating to issuance of business visas to their nationals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of Chinese workers have travelled to India on business visas;

(d) if so, the number of business visas given to Chinese workers during the last three years and the current year, year-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government against those Chinese workers who have been working in India using business visas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) No.

(c) to (e) It has come to Government's attention that there have been instances where Chinese nationals on Business visas have been employed as workers on projects contracted by Chinese companies in India. Those who were working in India on a Business Visa were asked to leave by 31 October 2009, and to apply for Employment visa if they wish to come to India for projects related work. Government has directed all the Missions and Posts abroad to strictly enforce the norms specified in the Visa Manual.

**Abolition of Single Teacher Schools**

1093. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

(a) whether a large number of schools are being run on single teacher concept in the country;

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

(c) the adverse impact on employment amongst qualified teachers across the country as a result of the single teacher concept;

(d) whether the Union Government has urged the State Government to take concrete steps to abolish single teacher schools;

(e) if so, the response of the States thereto; and

(f) the details of the assistance given or proposed to be given by the Union Government to each State to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) Government of India, under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), provides one teacher for every 40 children in a primary and upper primary school, and one teacher for every class in the upper primary school. The teachers are provided on the basis of requirement of teachers projected by the States/Union territories in their Annual Work Plan and Budget. During 2009-10, Government of India has approved an outlay of Rs. 27235.88 crore towards implementation of SSA in all States/UTs.

As per DISE (District Information System for Education) 2007-08 data collected by National University of Educational Planning and Administration, 1.17 lakh Government elementary schools in the country are single teacher schools. 12.82 lakh teachers have been provided to States/UTs under SSA so far. States/UTs have been advised to ensure an optimum number of teachers in each elementary school, both through fresh appointments as well through a rational redeployment, as required. The percentage of single teacher government elementary schools has declined from 14.2% in 2005-06 to 11.7% in 2007-08.

**Fee Hike in Kendriya Vidyalayas**

1094. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:  
SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY:  
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the tuition fees in Kendriya Vidyalayas have been raised;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the extent of fee increase and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of sports and other facilities likely to be augmented as a result of fee hike;

(d) whether there is any proposal to review the fee hike; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the time by which decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Since the tuition fees were last revised on 1-10-1998 and in the light of the increase in re-imburement of tuition fee of the children of Central Government employees following the implementation of the recommendations of the 6th Central Pay Commission, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has enhanced the tuition fees in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) with effect from 1-10-2009 as under:—

Class	Pre-revised tuition fee per month	Revised tuition fee per month
I-VIII	Nil	Nil
IX-X	Rs. 40 (For Boys) —Nil— (For Girls)	Rs. 200 (For Boys) —Nil— (For Girls)
XI-XII (Science)	Rs. 50 (For Boys) —Nil— (For Girls)	Rs. 400 (For Boys) —Nil— (For Girls)
XI-XII (Humanities and Commerce)	Rs. 50 (For Boys) —Nil— (For Girls)	Rs. 300 (For Boys) —Nil— (For Girls)

(c) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) has been taking action to improve infrastructural facilities in KVS including those for games and sports.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

**Changing Pattern of South-West Monsoon**

1095. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology

has conducted any study in the recent past on the changing pattern of south-west monsoon in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome of such study; and

(c) the collective measures suggested by the Institute 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) Yes Madam.



(b) The research studies carried out so far at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune indicate that the south-west monsoon rainfall over the country has decreased by nearly 4.7% during the period 1965-2006 as compared to the earlier period (1931-1964). Further, a significant increasing trend in the frequency and magnitude of high rainfall events (greater than 10 cm/day) and a significant decreasing trend in the frequency of moderate events (1-5 cm/day) are noticed.

(c) Continuous R and D efforts are underway to comprehensively understand the causes for the aforementioned changes in the southwest monsoon rainfall and to improve the rainfall predictions in all time scales.

#### **Damage Caused to Environment**

1096. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE:

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

(a) whether the massive fire broke out at Indian Oil Corporation fuel depot at Jaipur has caused large scale damage to environment in a wide spread area;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also conducted any assessment regarding the adverse impact on environment and inhabitants living in the adjoining areas;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether Indian Oil Corporation has obtained environmental clearance before setting up of such a huge depot at Jaipur;

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

(g) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY

OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Government of Rajasthan has constituted a Committee for assessment of the environmental impact of the fire at the Indian Oil Corporation Limited Oil Depot at Jaipur. The Central Pollution Control Board and the Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board have assessed the impact of the fire on ambient air quality by monitoring air quality in the radius of 5 km at 8 locations. Subsequently 6 more monitoring locations were added. The maximum values for pollutants like Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM-376) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM-268), exceeded the National Ambient Air Quality Standards during the monitoring period. However, the Committee appointed by Principal SMS Medical College and Controller of Attached Hospitals, Jaipur, did not indicate any significant health hazards due to this fire. Further, a Committee appointed by the Commissioner (Agriculture), Rajasthan did not find any clear-cut evidence of adverse impact on agriculture.

(e) to (g) As per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification S. O. (E) dated 27-01-1994, new projects covered under Schedule-I and having investment of less than Rs. 100 crores will not attract the provisions of the notification. Hence the setting up of oil depot at Jaipur, having an investment of Rs. 40 crore, did not require environment clearance.

#### **Education Reform Scheme**

1097. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has prepared an Education Reform Scheme for betterment of education in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed reform;

(c) whether many State Governments have expressed displeasure with these reforms;

- (d) if so, the main objections raised by the States;
- (e) the extent to which these objections have been cleared and consensus arrived on the proposed reforms; and
- (f) the time by which these reforms are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes Madam.

(b) to (f) The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in consultation with the Ministry of Human Resource Development and keeping in view of the spirit of National Policy of Education, 1986 has decided to introduce following educational reforms:—

- (i) There will be no Class X Board examination w.e.f. 2011 for students studying in CBSE's Senior Secondary Schools and who do not wish to move out of the CBSE system after Class X. The students studying in CBSE's Secondary Schools will, however, be required to appear in Board's external examination because they will be leaving the Secondary School after Class X.
- (ii) The Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation has been strengthened in all CBSE affiliated schools w.e.f. October, 2009 in Class IX.
- (iii) The new Grading System has been introduced at Secondary School Level (for Class IX and X) effective from 2009-10 academic session. During various meetings with stakeholders, survey etc. the Board has received overwhelming response.

Further, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 has been enacted which envisages significant reforms in the Elementary Education sector specially with reference to admission, attendance and completion of elementary education by

all children in schools which conform to specified norms and standards.

Appropriate policy reforms in higher education sector have also been undertaken. Section 6 of the Central Universities Act, 2009 provides for academic reforms in newly established Central Universities. The reforms are being extended to other Central Educational Institutions also. The reforms have generally been well received. Education reforms are a continuous process.

#### **Irrigation Projects Pending for Clearance by Government**

1098. SHRI P. KUMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the irrigation projects from the State Government of Tamil Nadu are pending for necessary clearance by the Union Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons of 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) and (b) At present, two projects of Tamil Nadu state are under appraisal in Central Water Commission (CWC) status of which is given in the enclosed Statement. Besides, a proposal to seek World Bank assistance for "Modernization of Cauvery Delta Zone Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of Rs. 5100 crore" has been received in CWC in May 2009. However, the matter related to utilization of Cauvery water is subjudice, therefore, the above proposal cannot be considered for according techno-economic clearance at present.

(c) The clearance of projects depends upon satisfactory compliances by the state government to the observations on various aspects of the projects raised by the central appraising agencies as well as production of statutory clearances from Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Forest etc. if necessary.

**Statement**

**Tamil Nadu**

**A. Projects under Various Stages of Appraisal**

Sl. No.	Name of Projects	Major/ Medium	River/ Basin	District Benefited	Date of Receipt	Benefits (Th. Ha)	Estt. Cost (Crore)	Status
1.	Flood carrier canal from Kannadian Cannel to drought prone area of Sathan-kulam, Thisaiyanvilal, by interlinking of river Tamiraparani, Karu-meniyar and Nambiyar rivers	Major	Tamiraparani, Karumeniyar and Nambiyar/ Tamiraparani	Tirunelveli and Thoothkudi	10/2008	23.0400	369.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— DPR received in October 2008.</li> <li>— Comments of all specialized units were sent during Nov. 08 to March 09.</li> <li>— Compliance to the comments of Ministry of Agriculture, National Water Development Agency, Hydrology and CMC were received in September, 2009 and were sent to concerned directorates for examination.</li> <li>— Project authorities have submitted the MoTA and MoEF clearance from state revenue department and district forest department respectively as no tribal area and forest land are involved.</li> </ul>
2.	Excavation of Link Canal to interconnect Ponnaiyar River with Palar River through Cheyyar River and augmenting supply to Nandan canal	Major	Ponnaiyar, Cheyyar and Palar/Ponnaiyar and Palar	Tiruvannamalai Kanchipuram and Villupuram	01/2009 and 02/2009	18.6514	174.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Comments from all specialized units were sent to state government during January 2009 to May, 2009 the satisfactory compliance to which is required to be submitted by the state government.</li> </ul>

**Forging Travel Documents to  
Get Emigration Clearances**

1099. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

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

(a) whether as per the report of CBI a full-fledged industry of forging travel documents to get emigration clearances is thriving in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agency has recommended a change in the system to reduce this menace to control organized corruption; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, alongwith action plan of the Government to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Following the recent CBI raid of the office of the Protector of Emigrants (PoE), Chennai, the agency has reported forging of documents by some Recruiting Agents (RAs) to seek emigration clearance in collusion with the officials of the PoE offices.

(c) and (d) The agency emphasised the need for a relook at the entire system of Protectors of Emigrants. The Ministry has already initiated action to revamp the system by proposing a new legislation.

[Translation]

**National Policy on Flood Control**

1100. SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR ALIAS KUSHAL TIWARI:

SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated/proposes to formulate any National Policy regarding flood Control Management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any study to find out the reasons for recurring flood in many parts of the country and damage caused as a result thereof;

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

(e) whether the Government has constituted any Expert Committee to suggest ways and means to check recurring floods;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the effective strategy adopted by the Government to check flood and the success achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) and (b) No Madam. "National Policy on Flood Control" has not been formulated. However, the issues related to flood management are duly addressed in the National Water Policy 2002.

(c) to (f) Yes Madam. As per the report of the Rashtriya Barh Ayog constituted by Government of India in 1976 for looking into the reasons of floods and recommending measures to mitigate the floods; the floods are caused due to over spilling of water from the river banks due to excessive precipitation combined with inadequate channel capacity. This occurs mainly due to deforestation, lack of soil conservation and indiscriminate use of land for developmental works. Further, due to unprecedented floods of 2004 in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal, a Task Force on Flood Management/Erosion Control headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission was constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources on the direction of Hon'ble Prime Minister to look into the problems of recurring floods in Assam and neighbouring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The Task Force observed that the frequent occurrence of floods can be attributed to wide variations in rainfall both in time and space with frequent departures from the normal pattern, inadequate bank capacities of rivers, river bank erosion and silting of river beds, landslides, poor natural drainage in flood prone areas, snowmelt and glacial lake outbursts. It recommended a

number of flood management works under Immediate, Short Term-I Measures and Short Term-II Measures amounting to a total cost of Rs. 4,982.10 crore for Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and other North-eastern states including Sikkim, to be completed in a time span of next 5 to 7 years.

(g) The Government of India set up a Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) in 1972 for preparation of comprehensive master plans for flood control measures in Ganga basin States. Detailed Comprehensive Plans for all the 23 river systems constituting the Ganga basin had been prepared by GFCC and circulated to the concerned State Governments. Thereafter, Brahmaputra Board was set up by an Act of Parliament in 1980 to prepare comprehensive master plans for flood control in Brahmaputra and Barak Valley. The Brahmaputra Board has prepared the Master Plans of the main stem of the Brahmaputra and Barak along with 52 major tributaries of the region.

In addition, Government of India has set up a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under Disaster Management Act, 2005 for management of natural calamities, including floods. The comprehensive guidelines on "Management of Floods" issued by NDMA in January 2008, *inter alia*, provides for preparation of flood management plans at National, State and District levels covering all aspect of disaster management cycle including the implementation schedule and monitoring system.

Flood Management being a State subject, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments, as per their own priorities, out of their State plan funds which are made available to them through Planning Commission. In order to provide additional financial support to the State Governments, the Government of India has also been assisting the flood prone States in flood management and anti-erosion works for critical reaches since the VIII Plan period, through centrally sponsored schemes. During XI plan, a state sector scheme namely, "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" at an estimated cost of Rs. 8000 crore has been approved 'in principle' by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 02-11-2007 in order to provide financial assistance to the State Governments.

A total of 308 proposals from 19 states with a total cost of Rs. 3033.58 crore have been included under FMP by an Empowered Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance for providing central assistance to states and central assistance amounting to Rs. 833.96 crore has been released to states (including Rs. 83.85 crore for spilled over works of X Plan) upto 31-10-2009.

Besides, the Government of India is having continued dialogue with neighbouring countries viz. Nepal, China and Bhutan on matters related to flood forecasting and construction of storage dams to check floods in Indian territory due to rivers flowing from their territories.

[English]

### Teacher Training Institutes

1101. SHRI VARUN GANDHI:

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN:

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

(a) whether the National Council for Teachers' Education (NCTE) has conducted a national survey to ascertain the quality of teacher's training institute running in the country;

(b) if so, the findings of the survey thereof and the steps taken thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes a planned approach to meet the growing demand of teachers, with the passage of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2009; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and its Regional Committees continuously undertake inspection and enquiries in respect of recognized institutions to ascertain their adherence to the norms and standards prescribed by

it. It recommends measures to be taken by institutions for improving their quality and adherence to the norms and standards, and in certain cases cancels recognition of institutions which violate the provisions of the NCTE Act and the Rules and Regulations made there under:

(c) and (d) The Government has taken various steps with a view to having a planned approach for demand for teachers, including the following:

- (i) The National University for Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has, at the instance of the Government, prepared estimates for additional requirement of teachers under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 and the financial resources required to meet the additional requirement;
- (ii) Consultations with the State Governments have been held to assess the position of teacher vacancy, additional teacher requirement and teacher education institutions;
- (iii) The NCTE has undertaken a study to estimate the demand and supply of teachers and

teacher educations over a ten-year period.

#### **Establishment of Rajiv Gandhi Chairs**

1102. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up Rajiv Gandhi Chairs in various Universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of Universities where it has been made functional; and

(d) the funds allocated by the Government to these Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) There are ten universities where Rajiv Gandhi Chairs have been established and according to information provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the details of the areas of study, the funds allocated and utilized are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

Sl. No.	Name of University	Area of Study	Funds allocated (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount spent (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	University of Allahabad	a. Nuclear Disarmament and Peace Studies. b. Secularism and Nation Building. c. Social Justice.	20.00	20.00
2.	University of Delhi	Impact of Technology in Society (Management of Innovation)	20.00	Nil
3.	North Eastern Hill University	Livelihood and Food Security	20.00	14.14
4.	Punjab University	Panchayati Raj System and Local Governance	20.00	Nil
5.	University of Mumbai	Impact of Technology on Society	40.00	17.25

1	2	3	4	5
6.	University of Calcutta	Eco-Systems and Sustainable Development	20.00	Nil
7.	University of Madras	Social Justice	20.00	Nil
8.	Cochin University of Science and Technology	Protection of Child Rights	60.00	36.77
9.	Barkatullah University	Secularism and Nation Building	60.00	40.00
10.	Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science and Technology	Tribal Development	60.00	37.64

[Translation]

#### Water Conservation for Irrigation

1103. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of water for irrigation in the country which is affecting the agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government for water conservation by increasing the number of the water reservoirs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA): (a) to (c) Acute water shortage is not anticipated for the country as a whole. The average annual water availability of the country has been assessed to be about 1869 billion cubic meter (BCM). It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, about 1123 BCM can be utilised for various purposes including irrigation. The National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) has assessed the total water requirement for various purposes as 1180 BCM by the year 2050 which includes irrigation requirement of 807 BCM. However, there are

large temporal and spatial variations in the availability of water which requires measures for conservation of water and transfer of surplus water to water deficient areas. With a view to augment the water resources for utilization for various purposes, several measures are undertaken by respective State Governments which, *inter-alia*, include conservation of water resources through reservoir, traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water. Storage capacity of about 225 billion cubic meter (BCM) has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under constructions is about 64 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM.

[English]

#### Joint Working Group with Indonesia

1104. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Indonesia have decided to form a joint working group for exploration and execution of coal assets abroad:

(b) if so, the countries where the possibility of exploration of coal is possible and whether any talks have been held with these countries:

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India has been importing coal from Indonesia and other countries; and

(e) if so, the countries and the quantity of coal imported from each country during the last three years and the current year alongwith the amount spent thereon?

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, Madam.

(b) and (c) Government of Mozambique has recently allotted exploration license for two numbers of Coal Blocks, A-1 and A-2 covering an area of about 224 Sq. Km in the Moatize district of Tete province to Coal India Limited (CIL).

(d) Significant quantities of non-coking coal are imported from South Africa in Western coastal ports of the country and from Indonesia in Southern/Eastern coastal ports of the country and coking coal is imported from Australia.

(e) The year-wise details of coal imports in the country for the last three years are as under:—

Year	Coking Coal		Non-Coking Coal	
	Quantity (Million tonnes)	Value (Million Rupees)	Quantity (Million tonnes)	Value (Million Rupees)
2005-06	16.891	95373	21.695	53722
2006-07	17.877	101806	25.204	65080
2007-08	22.029	121025	27.765	86358
2008-09 (Prov.)	24.00	—	35.00	—

[Translation]

**Rehabilitation Campaign in  
Jharia and Raniganj**

1105. SHRI TUFANI SARJO:

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:

SHRI BAIDYANATH PRASAD MAHATO:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines where fire incidents have taken place during the last three years and the current year alongwith the reasons thereof, company-wise and subsidiary-wise;

(b) the details of the total loss incurred by the Coal India Limited (CIL) due to fire in coal mines and the number of families affected thereof, company-wise and subsidiary-wise;

(c) whether the Government has launched any rehabilitation campaign for saving the families residing in Jharia and Raniganj areas of West Bengal;

(d) the total amount spent/likely to be spent on this rehabilitation campaign;

(e) the details of pending cases of resettlement and rehabilitation of the persons/ families affected due to fire incidence, company-wise;

(f) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry to check the incidents of fire in coal mines; and

(g) if so, the outcome 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) As reported by Coal India Limited (CIL), company-wise details where fire



incidence have taken place during the last three years

and the current year alongwith the reasons thereof are as under:—

Company	No. of coalmines fire for last 3 years and current year	Reasons of fire in coal mine
ECL	16	The basic cause of coal mine fire is self-heating or auto-oxidation of coal that starts as soon as it is exposed to the oxygen of the air in the course of mining operations. When the heat generated by the reaction of oxidation of coal is not dissipated at an adequate rate, rise in temperature occurs. This rise in temperature leads to acceleration in the rate of oxidation, which can ultimately lead to an outbreak of fire. This is termed as spontaneous heating, which depends on the intrinsic characteristics of coal and other extrinsic causes encountered in the course of mining operations, which may facilitate or retard initiation of mine fire. The intrinsic properties include chemical composition of coal (presence of certain macerals e.g. vitrinite etc.), moisture contents, volatile matters, presence of pyrites and other geological factors presence igneous intrusion, faults etc.). The extrinsic causes include method of mining (such as depillaring with caving etc.), ventilation, presence of external combustible materials, un-scientific mining in past etc.
BCCL	5	
CCL	2	
WCL	14	
SECL	2	
CIL	39	

(b) There were no loss of lives involved in those mine fires in last three years and current year.

(c) For rehabilitation and resettlement of people affected due to fire and subsidence of Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields, the Master Plan for Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields dealing with fire subsidence and rehabilitation and diversion of surface infrastructure has been approved by the Government in August, 2009 at an estimated investment of Rs. 9657.61 crores (Rs. 7028.40 crores for Jharia Coalfield and Rs. 2629.21 crores for Raniganj Coalfield) excluding Rs. 116.23 crores sanctioned earlier for various Environmental Measures and Subsidence Control (EMSC) schemes for implementation in 10 years in two phases of five years each and in case of BCCL 2 years additional pre-implementation period.

(d) In ECL, total 139 sites are proposed to be rehabilitated including ongoing schemes which will be done in 2 phases within a time frame of 10 years. A total of 33196 houses owners are proposed to be rehabilitated/resettled in fully developed Satellite Townships with all basic amenities and infrastructural

facilities. The total amount earmarked in the Master Plan for rehabilitation is Rs. 2610.10 crores. Prior to the sanction of the Master Plan, a demonstration scheme for rehabilitation of 4 villages for an amount of Rs. 32.52 crores was sanctioned by Government.

In BCCL, as per Master Plan, a total nos. of 79159 houses are required to be resettled/constructed. Out of this, 25000 families are BCCL employees, 29444 are private, authorized families while 23847 are private unauthorized and 868 are service holdings. An amount of Rs. 4780 crores has been allocated for rehabilitation. Parallely, Rs. 2311 crores are allocated for dealing with the fire.

(e) The Master Plan for Jharia Coalfields has been approved by Government in August, 2009. In the meantime some initiatives have already been taken for rehabilitation of persons affected due to fire/subsidence in BCCL which are under process of implementation.

(f) and (g) The enquiry of such incidence in mines are entrusted to Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), the Regulatory Authority under the Mines Act, 1952.

[English]

### Cultural Centres Abroad

1106. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with whom India has cultural relationship as on date;

(b) the details of cultural programmes organized in other countries during the past three years and current year;

(c) the funds allocated, expenditures incurred on such programmes during the above period;

(d) the number of Indian cultural centres set up in other countries or abroad; and

(e) the existing monitoring mechanism in place in the Ministry to monitor/evaluate the functioning of such cultural centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The Government of India seeks to maintain good and

friendly relations with all nations. The Council on its part does endeavor to improve cultural ties with friendly nations by formulating and implementing policies pertaining to India's external cultural relations. The Council fosters cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries through promotion of cultural exchanges with them.

(b) Details of programmes organized abroad by the ICCR during the last three years and the current year are given below:

Year	No. of programmes organized abroad
2006-07	97
2007-08	90
2008-09	116
2009-10	96

(c) The year-wise summary of funds allocated and expenditure incurred in this regard is given below:

Year	Budget Allocation	Expenditure Incurred
2006-07	Rs. 8.00 crore	Rs. 10.53 crore
2007-08	Rs. 7.00 crore	Rs. 7.54 crore
2008-09	Rs. 7.45 crore	Rs. 7.81 crore
2009-10	Rs. 16.00 crore	Rs. 6.30 crore Till date

(d) Twenty-four Cultural Centres are currently maintained by ICCR (List of the Centres are given in the enclosed Statement).

(e) The performance of the Centres is monitored on a regular basis through an institutionalized system of monthly reporting by these Centres. These reports are carefully scrutinized at the Council. These Centres function as an integral part of Indian Missions abroad and their activities are also continuously monitored by our Heads of Mission in the countries concerned.

The principal objective of this ongoing process of monitoring and review is to seek a continuous up-gradation in the quality, content and reach of the activities of the Cultural Centres. The activities of the Cultural Centres have resulted in a significant expansion of India's cultural outreach overseas.

#### Statement

##### List of Indian Cultural Centres Abroad

1. Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Colombo, Sri Lanka

2. Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre Embassy of India, Jakarta, Indonesia
3. Sub-Centre, Bali C/o Embassy of India, Jakarta, Indonesia
4. Indian Cultural Centre Embassy of India Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
5. Indian Cultural Centre Embassy of India Almaty, Kazakhstan
6. Indian Cultural center Embassy of India Dushanbe, Tajakistan
7. Indian Cultural center Embassy of India Tashkent, Uzbekistan
8. Indian Cutlural Centre Consulate General of India Durban, South Africa
9. Indian Cultural Centre Consulate General of India Johannesburg, South Africa
10. Indira Gandhi for Indian Culture, High Commission of India, Port Louis, Mauritius
11. Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture, Embassy of India, Cairo, Egypt
12. Indian Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Berlin, Germany
13. The Nehru Centre High Commission of India, London, UK
14. Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural center, Embassy of India, Moscow, Russia
15. Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, Georgetown, Guyana
16. Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cutlural Co-operation, High Commission of India, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
17. Indian Cultural Centre, Embassy of India Paramaribo, Surinam
18. Indian Cultural center, High Commission of India, Suva, Fiji
19. Sub-Centre Lautoka C/o High Commission of India, Suva, Fiji
20. Indian Cultural center, Embassy of India, Tokyo, Japan
21. Indian Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Kathmandu, Nepal
22. Indian Cultural center, Embassy of India, Kabul, Afghanistan
23. Indian Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Beijing, China
24. Indian Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Bangkok, Thailand

*[Translation]*

#### **Allocations for S and T**

1107. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government proposes to increase the allocation for Science and Technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount spent on science and technology 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) Yes Madam.

(b) Plan allocation for Science and Technology since 2006-07 to 2009-10 has been increased by 45% from 2836.00 crores to 4125.00 crores. The details of allocations, amount spent on science and technology during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

(Rs. in crores)

Deptt	BE 2006-2007		RE 2006-2007		Exp 2006-2007	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
DST	1340.00	419.26	954.00	235.82	938.15	218.24
DSIR	975.00	775.00	775.00	775.00	820.58	665.69
DBT	521.00	13.60	496.00	14.00	488.85	14.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>2836.00</b>	<b>1207.86</b>	<b>2225.00</b>	<b>1024.82</b>	<b>2247.58</b>	<b>898.01</b>
Deptt	BE 2007-2008		RE 2007-2008		Exp 2007-2008	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
DST	1526.00	261.30	1270.00	253.30	1266.89	248.02
DSIR	1070.00	832.00	1060.00	838.00	1054.98	837.58
DBT	675.00	19.70	683.00	20.00	616.68	19.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>3271.00</b>	<b>1113.00</b>	<b>3013.00</b>	<b>1111.30</b>	<b>2938.55</b>	<b>1105.54</b>
Deptt	BE 2008-2009		RE 2008-2009		Exp 2008-2009	
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan
DST	1530.00	260.40	1523.00	322.33	1517.42	306.45
DSIR	1200.00	878.00	1190.00	1208.00	1180.49	1207.51
DBT	900.00	19.00	879.00	22.50	869.98	21.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>3630.00</b>	<b>1157.40</b>	<b>3592.00</b>	<b>1552.83</b>	<b>3567.89</b>	<b>1535.27</b>
Deptt	BE 2009-2010		Exp. Upto Sep., 2009			
	Plan	Non-Plan	Plan	Non-Plan		
DST	1775.00	365.65	942.99	193.68		
DSIR	1350.00	1341.00	654.47	671.13		
DBT	1000.00	24.00	519.05	17.73		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4125.00</b>	<b>1730.65</b>	<b>2116.51</b>	<b>882.54</b>		

DST: Department of Science and Technology

DSIR: Department of Scientific and Industrial Research

DBT: Department of Biotechnology

[English]

### Visit of US Secretary of State to India

1108. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US Secretary of State visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed and the agreements signed during her visit; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the bilateral relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton visited India during 17-21 July 2009. She called on PM, Leader of Opposition and Chairperson, UPA and held delegation level talks with External Affairs Minister. EAM and Secretary Clinton reviewed bilateral relations and jointly announced a new agenda for Indo-US bilateral cooperation in (i) science technology, health and innovation; (ii) strategic cooperation; (iii) energy and climate change; (iv) education and development; and (v) economics, trade and agriculture. The two leaders also discussed regional and global issues of common concern including the challenge of terrorism, nuclear proliferation, climate change, the global financial crisis and UN reform among other issues. A Technology Safeguards Agreement and an India-US Science and Technology Endowment Fund and Board Agreement were signed during the visit.

(c) India and the US are jointly implementing the bilateral agenda announced on 20 July 2009 to strengthen ties between the two countries.

### Admission in IITs

1109. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI P. LINGAM:

SHRI RAMKISHUN:

SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL  
KHATGAONKAR:

SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE:

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:

SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:

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

(a) whether it is proposed to give more weightage to class XII results apart from revising the pattern of Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for getting admissions into Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs);

(b) if so, the details thereof including the recommendations of the committee constituted for the purpose;

(c) whether this suggestion has been welcomed by parents and teachers and some Chief Ministers have given certain suggestions in this regard;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Joint Admission Board (JAB), which consists of representatives from all the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad and Institute of Technology—Banaras Hindu University (IT-BHU) as well as a representative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, makes recommendation in respect of matters relating to the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). A Review Committee has been set up by the JAB to give its recommendations regarding factoring in of class XII results on a percentile basis while deciding admissions into IITs. Variation in the results of various Boards would be taken care of by following the cut-off marks on percentile basis.

(c) to (e) The report of the Review Committee is expected to be submitted by January, 2010, whereafter a decision would be taken. As the idea is yet to crystallise, it is too early to expect any reaction in concrete terms from the parents and other stake-holders.

### Protection of Tigers

1110. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to revise the guidelines for the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) to deploy forest personnel in place of the local police;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds released by the Government to National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying the STPF; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to stop illegal trade in wildlife?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) The earlier guidelines of the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) have been revised to provide a second option for constituting the said force, comprising of forest personnel, with 30% of the Special Tiger Guards drawn from forest dwelling people like Van Gujjars, outsourced through an authorized service provider. So far, an amount of Rs. 93 lakhs each has been provided to three tiger reserves (Corbett-Uttarakhand, Dudhwa-Uttar Pradesh and Ranthambhore-Rajasthan) for raising, arming and deploying the Special Tiger Protection Force from the one time grant of Rs. 50 crores provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

(d) The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are given in the enclosed Statement.

#### **Statement**

*Milestone initiatives (including the recent) taken by the Government of India for protection 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 Madhya Pradesh 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 copredators, 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 29284.76 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).

#### **Financial Steps**

10. 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**

11. 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.
12. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
13. 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.

14. Based on India's strong intervention during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES at Geneva from 6th to 10th July, 2009, the CITES Secretariat has issued a notification to Parties to submit reports relating to compliance of Decisions 14.69 and 14.65 within 90 days with effect from 20-10-2009 (Progress made on restricting captive breeding, operations of tigers etc.).

#### **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.
16. Special advisories issued for in-situ build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

#### **Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)**

17. 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. Since then, the guidelines of the STPF have been revised for deploying forest personnel in place of Police, with scope for involving local people like the Van Gujjars.

18. In collaboration with TRAFFIC-INDIA, action has been taken for an online wildlife crime data base, and Generic Guidelines for preparation of reserve specific Security Plan has been evolved.

#### **Recent Initiatives**

19. Implemented a tripartite MOU with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.
20. Revised the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) guidelines to involve local people like Van Gujjars and others in field protection.
21. Rapid assessment of tiger reserves done (12 good, 9 satisfactory and 16 poor).
22. Special crack teams sent to tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey.
23. All India meeting of Field Directors convened on 25 and 26 July, 2009 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests for reviewing the status of field protection and related issues in tiger reserves.
24. Chief Ministers of tiger States addressed at the level of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests on urgent issues, viz. implementation of the tripartite MOU, creation of the Tiger Conservation Foundation, stepping up protection etc.
25. Chief Ministers of States having tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey addressed for taking special initiatives.

26. Field visits to Bhadra, Corbett, Sariska and Ranthambhore made by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests to review the initiatives and problems relating to tiger conservation.
27. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection.
28. Advisory issued for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the forthcoming all India tiger estimation.
29. Core Committee involving outside experts constituted for overseeing the forthcoming all India tiger estimation.
30. Report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted for looking into the local extinction of tiger in the Panna Tiger Reserve sent to the State (Madhya Pradesh) for the needful action.
31. Issue of tiger farming and trafficking of tiger body parts discussed at the level of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests with the Chinese Authorities.
32. Action taken for amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act to ensure effective conservation.
33. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.
34. Decision taken to host the World Tiger Summit in October-November, 2010.

#### **Monitoring Centres for Climate Change**

1111. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up centres to monitor climate change in the country;

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

(c) whether any financial assistance has been provided to various State Governments for development and promotion of environmental projects; and



(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Changing characteristics of climate (temperature, rainfall etc.) are being regularly monitored for the last 100 years by the observatories established by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) that are spread all over the country. With the on-going modernization of the IMD, there will be a quantum jump in the coverage of climate observations all over the Indian region which will make impact assessments feasible and make possible better detection of climate shifts in future. IMD has already installed 125 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) all over India. Under the phase-I of the IMDs modernisation scheme, additional 550 AWS are under implementation all over India.

(c) and (d) As per information available till date, a sum of Rs. 82.4 crores has been provided for development and promotion of environmental projects to various State Government during year 2008-09.

**Issue of Visa by China to  
Indian Nationals**

1112. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE:

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is issuing visa to Indian nationals from Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh on loose sheets;

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

(c) whether the Government of India has taken up the matter with the Chinese Government;

(d) if so, the reaction of Chinese side thereto;

(e) whether the Government has issued any advisory to all the airports to follow the Indian norms strictly; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) China regards Kashmir as a bilateral matter to be settled between India and Pakistan. In the case of Arunachal Pradesh, China disputes the international boundary between India and China and illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometers of Indian territory.

(c) to (f) Government has conveyed to the Chinese side its clear and consistent position that Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh are integral parts of India. Government has issued an advisory stating that visas on a separate sheet of paper are not considered valid for travel out of the country.

**Incentives to Improve Forest Cover**

1113. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI:

SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to give incentives to States for maintaining and preserving eco-cover and to expand forest cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response received from each State Government including Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the plan prepared by the Union Government for the current five year plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) No, Madam. No such scheme has been finalised in this regard. However the Eleventh Five Year Plan outlays under various schemes of this Ministry are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement***"Incentives to Improve Forest Cover"**Eleventh Five Year Plan—Ministry of Environment and Forests**Progress of Plan Outlay/Expenditure*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Nature of the Scheme	Eleventh Plan Outlay	2007-08			2008-09			2009-10	
				Appd. Outlay	RE	Actual Expdr.	Appd. Outlay	RE	Actual Expdr.	Appd. Outlay	Anticipated Expdr.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
A—Environment											
1.	Environmental Monitoring and Governance	CS	216.00	51.20	44.99	43.43	40.00	41.14	41.21	40.80	40.80
1.	Central Pollution Control Board		177.75	45.00	37.50	37.50	34.50	34.50	34.50	34.50	34.50
2.	Establishment of Environment Protection Authorities and Commission and Tribunal		12.25	3.00	4.45	3.51	2.00	3.17	3.28	2.80	2.80
3.	Activities under EIA		26.00	3.20	3.04	2.42	3.50	3.47	3.43	3.50	3.50
2.	Pollution Abatement	CS	235.00	19.00	21.00	19.36	23.00	23.06	21.79	32.07	32.07
1.	Industrial Pollution Abatement through Preventive Strategies		45.00	1.00	1.00	0.96	1.50	1.47	1.46	1.50	1.50

2. Assistance for Abatement of Pollution Environment P and L		45.00	4.50	4.50	4.34	5.00	4.75	4.64	5.00	5.00
3. Clean Technology		43.00	1.50	3.50	3.44	3.05	3.05	2.94	3.05	3.05
4. CETP		32.00	4.00	4.00	3.91	4.45	4.45	4.40	5.02	5.02
5. Hazardous Substances Management		70.00	8.00	8.00	6.71	9.00	9.34	8.35	17.50	17.50
3. Research and Development for Conservation and Development	CS	250.00	53.00	47.81	45.52	60.00	60.75	59.31	59.21	59.21
1. Botanical Survey of India (BSI)		50.00	10.00	10.23	9.89	18.00	13.93	13.80	14.19	14.19
2. Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)		62.50	11.00	10.88	10.53	11.15	16.33	16.28	14.07	14.07
3. GBPHIEWD		40.00	8.50	8.50	8.50	9.45	12.20	12.20	12.00	12.00
4. Assistance to Botanical Gardens		15.50	2.00	2.00	1.74	2.20	2.20	2.05	2.20	2.20
5. Taxonomy Capacity Building		12.00	2.50	2.50	2.13	2.75	2.75	2.86	2.75	2.75
6. Bio-diversity Conservation		20.00	4.00	3.70	3.15	4.45	3.34	3.30	4.00	4.00
7. National Natural Resource Management Scheme (NNRMS)		20.00	10.00	5.00	4.80	6.00	4.00	3.03	4.00	4.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	8. Research and Development		30.00	5.00	5.00	4.78	6.00	6.00	5.79	6.00	6.00
4.	Conservation of Natural Resources and Eco-systems	CSS	600.00	108.19	92.40	90.78	110.00	75.00	74.65	75.00	75.00
	1. Conservation of corals, mangroves, wetlands		102.39	17.19	18.19	17.08	19.00	19.00	18.72	19.00	19.00
	2. Biosphere- Reserves		57.60	11.00	11.00	10.49	11.00	11.00	10.94	11.00	11.00
	3. National Lake Conservation Plan		440.00	80.00	63.21	63.21	80.00	45.00	44.99	45.00	45.00
5.	Environment Information, Education and Awareness	CS	295.00	92.26	78.27	71.08	95.00	83.80	75.10	94.82	94.82
	1. Environment education and Awareness		162.00	40.00	40.00	38.44	53.50	52.55	46.99	53.50	53.50
	2. NMNH		50.00	9.00	8.30	5.44	10.00	9.33	7.27	17.30	17.30
	3. Centres of Excellence		28.50	7.50	7.50	6.99	8.50	8.50	7.71	8.50	8.50
	4. ENVIS		16.00	5.26	5.26	4.87	6.00	6.00	5.74	6.50	6.50
	5. Information Technology		36.00	30.00	16.71	15.00	16.50	6.92	7.02	9.02	9.02
	6. State of Environment Project		2.50	0.50	0.50	0.34	0.50	0.50	0.37	0.00	0.00
6.	Environmental Management in Heritage, Pili-	CSS	0.01	0.01		0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01

grimage and Tourist Centres including Taj Protection											
7.	International Co-operation Activities	CS	80.00	15.40	18.78	16.78	12.00	12.71	12.31	19.01	19.01
	1. IC Activities		25.00	3.00	5.50	2.64	3.00	3.11	3.04	4.28	4.28
	2. GOI-UNDP-CCF		25.00	5.00	5.00	6.27	5.00	5.60	5.44	7.47	7.47
	3. Climate Change		20.00	3.39	4.23	4.03	3.50	3.50	3.43	7.25	7.25
	4. Grants in aid to States for EAP/ other EAPs including EPCO		7.95	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.50	0.50	0.36	0.01	0.01
	5. Civil Construction Unit (CCU)		2.05	2.01	2.05	1.84			0.04	*	*
8.	National Coastal Management Programme	CS	10.00	0.10	1.55	0.48	1.37	3.54	1.53	15.50	15.50
9.	National River Conservation Plan (NRCP)	CSS	2100.00	260.00	263.70	257.73	260.00	281.71	281.24	532.33	532.33
	1. NRCD		35.00	6.00	6.00	4.80	6.00	5.71	5.25	6.33	6.33
	2. NRCP		2065.00	254.00	257.70	252.93	254.00	276.00	275.99	526.00	526.00
	<b>Total Environment and Ecology</b>		<b>3786.01</b>	<b>599.16</b>	<b>568.50</b>	<b>545.16</b>	<b>601.38</b>	<b>581.71</b>	<b>567.14</b>	<b>868.75</b>	<b>868.75</b>
B—Forestry and Wildlife											
10.	Grants in aid to Forests and Wildlife institutions	CS	450.00	80.00	84.90	84.67	90.00	117.28	117.33	117.28	117.28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	1. ICFRE		320.00	59.00	62.00	61.99	66.65	89.93	90.23	89.93	89.93
	2. IPIRTI		20.00	4.00	5.00	5.00	4.45	5.14	5.00	5.14	5.14
	3. IIFM		30.00	6.00	6.90	6.68	6.70	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
	4. WLL		80.00	11.00	11.00	11.00	12.20	15.21	15.10	15.21	15.21
11.	Capacity building in forestry sector	CS	110.00	9.70	10.39	10.01	20.00	11.29	11.30	19.51	19.51
	1. Training to IFS officers		10.00	1.50	1.50	1.33	2.00	1.90	2.58	2.00	2.00
	2. DFE		25.00	4.75	4.75	4.09	4.00	3.98	3.48	4.00	4.00
	3. IGNFA		30.00	3.45	4.14	4.59	6.00	5.41	5.24	5.51	5.41
	4. Training of Personnel of other services		10.00				2.00	0.00		2.00	2.00
	5. Foreign Training of Forestry Personnel		30.00				5.00	0.00		5.00	5.00
	6. Training of other Stakeholders		5.00				1.00	0.00		1.00	1.00
	7. Capacity Building for Forest Management and Training of Personnel@										
12.	Gregarious Flowering of Muili (Melacanna baccifera) Bamboos#	CSS	42.00	27.00	27.00	20.78	15.00	15.00	14.93	0.00	0.00

13.	Intensification of Forest Management (former IFPS) Scheme	CSS	600.00	71.65	71.65	67.78	130.00	75.76	75.57	76.00	76.00
14.	Strengthening Forestry Divisions	CS	100.00	12.16	13.98	11.42	15.00	20.72	21.17	19.63	19.63
	1. Forest Survey of India		28.50	5.00	6.17	5.08	5.50	5.41	5.35	5.80	5.80
	2. Strengthening of Regional Offices		32.30	6.34	6.65	6.06	7.00	13.68	14.15	11.33	11.33
	3. National Forestry Information System		13.50	0.16	0.50	0.02	0.50	0.41	0.40	0.50	0.50
	4. National Coordinated Programme for assessment of Non Timber Forest Product resources		7.70				0.50	0.00		0.50	0.50
	5. Certification Programme for wood and non-wood forest resources		18.00	0.66	0.66	0.26	1.50	1.22	1.27	1.50	1.50
15.	Strengthening of Wildlife Division	CS	150.00	24.00	25.50	21.72	25.00	22.29	22.03	22.58	22.58
	1. Control of wildlife crime		35.00	6.00	4.00	2.82	6.00	3.79	3.73	4.08	4.08
	2. Central Zoo Authority		115.00	18.00	21.50	18.90	19.00	18.50	18.30	18.50	18.50
16.	Integrated Development of Wild Life Habitats	CSS	800.00	62.00	62.00	63.64	80.00	79.46	79.50	80.00	80.00
17.	Project Tiger	CSS	615.00	68.00	67.87	65.30	80.00	157.78	157.45	243.13	243.13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	1. National Tiger Conservation Authority		600.00	65.00	65.40	64.35	77.00	157.09	157.00	240.13	240.13
	2. Bio-diversity Conservation and Rural Livelihood Improvement Project		15.00	3.00	2.47	0.95	3.00	0.69	0.45	3.00	3.00
18.	Project Elephant	CSS	81.99	17.00	17.00	16.41	20.00	21.50	21.38	21.50	21.50
19.	National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB)	CS	250.00	36.66	37.16	29.12	38.00	26.59	25.34	31.00	31.00
	1. NAEB		180.00	26.66	26.66	19.21	27.50	16.09	14.84	20.50	20.50
	2. Eco task force		70.00	10.00	10.50	9.91	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50	10.50
20.	National Afforestation Programme	CSS	2000.00	322.57	392.95	392.93	345.62	345.62	345.61	345.62	345.62
21.	Afforestation through PRIs (Panchayat Van Yojna)	CSS	900.00	0.10	0.10	0.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	10.00
22.	Animal Welfare	CS	120.00	21.00	21.00	20.79	25.00	25.00	24.89	25.00	25.00
	Total Forestry and Wildlife		6218.89	751.84	831.50	804.57	898.62	918.29	916.50	1011.25	1011.25
	Total Ministry of Environment and Forests		10005.00	1351.00	1400.00	1349.73	1500.00	1500.00	1483.64	1880.00	18880.00

\*Scheme shifted to Non Plan Budget.

@New EAP funded component approved by Planning Commission.

#Scheme completed in 2008-09.



**Establishment of National  
Textbook Council**

1114. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

(a) whether the Government has initiated the process for establishment of a National Textbook Council (NTC);

(b) if so, the main aims and objectives of the Council;

(c) whether the proposal in this regard has been circulated to State Governments, for their approval and consensus;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has received the opinion of the States on the issue;

(e) if so, the response received from each State; and

(f) the time by which a decision is likely to be arrived on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A Committee of Central Advisory Board of Education on "Regulatory Mechanism for Textbooks and Parallel Textbooks taught in schools outside Government system" has recommended for establishment of "National Textbook Council" to monitor textbooks taught in schools in the country so that standard of education could be maintained and the student community should not be exposed to inferior quality of textbooks or undesirable content.

(c) to (e) A draft proposal has been circulated to the State Governments seeking their opinion. Replies have been received only from the States of Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu, and Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(f) A decision will be taken after receiving the opinions of the State Governments.

[Translation]

**Forest Policy, 1988**

1115. SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR ALIAS KUSHAL  
TIWARI:

SHRI BASORI SINGH MASRAM:

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

(a) the aim and objectives under Forest Policy, 1988;

(b) whether the Government has not achieved desired result under the policy;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to review this policy; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The principal aim of National Forest Policy, 1988 is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance including atmospheric equilibrium which are vital for sustenance of all lifeforms, human, animal and plant. The derivation of direct economic benefit must be subordinate to this principal aim.

The basic objectives of the Forest Policy 1988 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Since, inception of the Forest Policy 1988 the forest and tree cover in the country has increased from 19.7% of geographical area (State Forest Report, 1987) to 23.4% of the geographical area (State Forest Report, 2005) and is indicative of the facts that the forest policy prescriptions are helping gradually towards achieving environmental stability and maintenance of the ecological balance. The major achievement of National Forest Policy, 1988, *inter alia*, are as follows:

- Increase in the forest and tree cover.
- Involvement of local communities in the protection, conservation and management of forests through Joint Forest Management Programme.

- Meeting the requirement of fuel wood, fodder minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations.
- Conservation of Biological Diversity and Genetic Resources of the country through ex-situ and in-situ conservation measures.
- Significant contribution in maintenance of environment and ecological stability in the country.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. There is no proposal presently to review the National Forest Policy, 1988 since the National Forest Commission in its report published in 2006 has recommended that there is no need to change the National Forest Policy, 1988.

#### **Statement**

The basic objectives that should govern the National Forest Policy are the following:

- Maintenance of environmental stability through preservation and, where necessary, restoration of the ecological balance that has been adversely disturbed by serious depletion of the forests of the country.
- Conserving the natural heritage of the country by preserving the remaining natural forests with the vast variety of flora and fauna, which represent the remarkable biological diversity and genetic resources of the country.
- Checking soil erosion and denudation in the catchment areas of rivers, lakes, reservoirs in the "interest of soil and water conservation, for mitigating floods and droughts and for the retardation of siltation of reservoirs.
- Checking the extension of sand-dunes in the desert areas of Rajasthan and along the coastal tracts.
- Increasing substantially the forest/tree cover in the country through massive afforestation and social forestry programmes, especially on all denuded, degraded and unproductive lands.

- Meeting the requirements of fuel-wood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations.
- Increasing the productivity of forests to meet essential national needs.
- Encouraging efficient utilisation of forest produce and maximising substitution of wood.
- Creating a massive people's movement with the involvement of women, for achieving these objectives and to minimise pressure on existing forests.

*[English]*

#### **Establishment of New Polytechnics**

1116. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide assistance to the States to establish 100 new polytechnics in districts without any polytechnic at present;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government in operationalizing 700 revamped Community Polytechnics for skill development of rural youth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Under the "Sub-mission on Polytechnics", the Government Central financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territories for setting up of New Polytechnics in 300 unserved and underserved districts of the country upto Rs. 12.3 crore per polytechnic. So far, 225 districts have already been approved for establishment of New Polytechnics and an amount of Rs. 530.99 crore has been released to various Union Territories/State Governments.

(c) The revamped Scheme of Community Development through Polytechnics has been approved for operationalisation in 703 polytechnics. Of these 479

Polytechnics are those which were implementing the erstwhile Community Polytechnic Scheme.

#### **Management Head in Cultural Institutions**

1117. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether top cultural Institution like Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), National Archives, etc. remained without full-time management head as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the facts thereof, institution-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for appointment of management head for each institution?

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) Of the eight attached and subordinate offices under the Ministry of Culture, three (viz National Gallery of Modern Art, National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property and Central Reference Library) are currently headed by professionals. The incumbent for the post of Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, is an Additional Secretary level officer, appointed with the approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The posts of Director General, National Museum; Director General, National Archives; Director, National Library and Director, Anthropological Survey of India are currently headed by officers on additional-charge/in-charge basis.

In order to induct professionals, at the helm of affairs in these institutions, the Recruitment Rules in respect of posts of heads of attached/subordinate offices of the Ministry of Culture have been revised to provide for a Search-cum-Selection procedure (in place of selection procedure earlier), appointment on contract basis in addition to the existing modes of promotion and/or deputation basis and increase in the age of appointment on contract basis.

The posts of DC of the Archaeological Survey of India; National Museum; National Archives and Director, National Library have been advertised and the Search-cum-Selection procedure has been set in motion.

[Translation]

#### **Report on Vidarbha**

1118. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Facts Finding Committee constituted by the Planning Commission to inquire into the causes of slow development of backward areas of Vidarbha has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is formulating any action plan to remove the backwardness of Vidarbha in the light of the recommendations made in the said report;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) 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) Yes Madam.

(b) The Fact Finding Committee was constituted on March 2nd, 2006 by the Planning Commission to study the situation regarding disparities in regional development, to recommend necessary measures for reducing regional disparities, Maharashtra, and for addressing the issue of rural distress, especially in the Vidarbha region. The Team conducted intensive field tours of all the six affected districts, namely, Yavatmal, Akola, Amravati, Wardha, Buldana and Washim in Nagpur and Amravati in Maharashtra and submitted its report on 30th May, 2006. The Team recommended that a time frame of 5 years may be fixed for removal of backlog; absorptive capacity of various sectors for incurring expenditure be improved; a strong monitoring mechanism be established for ensuring implementation; a non-lapsable budget head may be created for funds allocation and expenditure for the previous years so as to facilitate better monitoring. The Team also felt that it was necessary to focus on overall perspective planning for the backward regions and emphasis on only removal of backlog should not be the only means of achieving

the developmental needs of the region. Other recommendations of the Fact Finding Team were relating to waiving of all institutional credits owed by the farmers in affected districts of Vidarbha region, strengthening the Development Board of Vidarbha, Distribution of appropriate seeds, disciplining unlicensed money lenders, Streamline Institutional credit flow etc.

(c) and (d) Based on the recommendation of the Fact Finding Committee on Vidarbha, a rehabilitation package for 6 affected districts of Vidarbha region was announced by the Prime Minister on 1st July, 2006 amounting to Rs. 3873.26 crore. The status of progress in implementation of Package, as on 30th September, 2009 in respect of various programmes is as follows:

**Progress in implementation of package (as on 30th September, 2009)**

(Rs. in crore)

**A. Credit related measures**

Debt relief to farmers	Loans to be rescheduled per package		Loans rescheduled	
	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount	
	1,296.00	937,000	1418	
Interest Waiver	Overdue interest to be waived		Overdue interest waived	
	837.5	937.5		
Credit Flow	Target 2008-09	Disbursement	Target 2009-10	Disbursement as on 30-7-2009
	2401.8	1250.89	2635.61	3141.42

(Rs. in crore)

**B. Assured Irrigation Facilities**

	Allocation		Progress		
	Physical	Financial	Physical Achievement	Expenditure by State Govt.	Release by Government of India
Major and Medium Irrigation	17	1728.58	17	1893.96	1209.79
Minor Irrigation	Allocation under package		Progress		
	Physical	Financial	Physical Achievement	Expenditure by State Govt.	Sanctioned by NABARD
	557	448.68	557	790.93	701.43

(Rs. in crore)

**C. Watershed Development**

Check Dams	Allocation under package		Progress		
	Physical	Financial	Physical (lakh ha)	Amount sanctioned by NABARD	Amount released by Government
	9000	180.00	9086	151.50	176.21

  

Watershed Development Programme	Allocation under package		Progress	
	Physical (lakh ha)	Financial	Physical (lakh ha)	Sanctioned by NABARD
	2.70	162.00	0.163	39.09

  

Rain Water Harvesting Scheme	Allocation under package		Achievement	
	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
	18000	18.00	18000	18.00

**D. Seed Replacement Programme**

(Rs. in crore)

Allocation	Seeds supplied		Releases during 2006-07 to 2008-09	Amt. Utilized
Package	Agency	Qty (lac qtls)		
180.00	NSC/Maharashtra State Seeds Corporation	14.07	180.00	201.07

(Rs. in crore)

E. Micro Irrigation	Allocation under package		Progress		
	Physical (lakh ha)	Financial	Physical	Release by Gol	Expenditure by State Govt.
	0.534	78	0.989	112.93	113.19

	Allocation under package	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09 and 2009-10	
		Release*	Expenditure \$	Release*	Expenditure \$	Release*	Expenditure \$
F. Horticulture Development	225	46.88	28.14	29.23	28.83	86.45	61.32
G Extension Services	3	3.83	3.82	3.64	2.68	3.65	3.84

\* Release by Government of India;

\$ Expenditure by State Government

H. Subsidiary Income

Allocation under the package	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		Expn.
	Allocation	Release*	Allocation	Release*	Allocation	Release*	
98.87	32.78	17.49	29.61	19.27	30.97	17.16	59.05

**Physical progress (as per statement):** Subsidiary Income

- 20210 milch animals inducted.
- 11424 calves enrolled
- 11028.88 MT supplied
- 2 fodder block making units set up
- 32 units of chilling units set up
- 90 ponds completed (101.94 ha)

**Modification in the Rehabilitation Package**

The following modifications in the Rehabilitation Package have been approved by the Government of India in October, 2008.

- (i) Extension of period for implementation of non-credit component by two more years i.e. up to 30th September, 2011.
- (ii) 'In principle approval' for provision of need based additional financial support to concern Ministries/Departments.
- (iii) Increase in per farmer area limit under seed

replacement programme from one hectare to two hectare.

- (iv) Adoption of 'Cafeteria Approach' for participatory watershed development programmes in accordance with the common guidelines approved by NRAA and subject to the condition that financial assistance will be as per the approved norms of WDF.
- (v) Inclusion of 'Women Farmers' empowerment programme under extension services.
- (vi) Constitution of Empowered Committee headed by Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries and consisting of representatives from Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance as members for taking decision regarding modification or inclusion of new components under subsidiary income activities subject to the total financial implication remaining within the existing approved outlay for the concerned State
- (e) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Illegal Trade of Tiger and  
Leopard Body Parts**

1119. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:

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

(a) whether an investigation carried out by an international NGO-Environment Investigation Agency (EIA) revealed that skins and other body parts of Indian wild tigers and leopards are being sold openly in China and at much higher prices than before;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government has also conducted any investigation in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the effective measures taken by the Government to address the issue with greater seriousness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) It is learnt that a foreign Non-Governmental Organisation, the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), has investigated the illegal trade relating to Asian big cats in China during this year (2009).

(c) to (e) Reports are received from various sources on the illegal wildlife trade linkages in various countries, and action is taken wherever necessary in respect of any connected crimes on Indian soil.

(f) Alerts have been issued to the concerned Police and Forest Departments to step up vigil in the tiger habitat and its surroundings including bus/railway stations. Joint operations have been undertaken by various agencies to pursue linkages. The issue of illegal trade has been taken up for inclusion in the agenda

for the Foreign Office Consultations with Myanmar and Nepal. A Special Coordination Committee, comprising various intelligence, security and enforcement agencies, has been formed and checks are conducted at the exist points by various agencies to prevent trafficking of wildlife articles. The milestone initiatives taken by the Government of India for protection of tigers and other wild animals are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

*Milestone initiatives (including the recent) taken by the Government of India for protection 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 Madhya Pradesh 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 benchmarks for future tiger conservation strategy.
9. An area of 29284.76 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).

#### **Financial Steps**

10. 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**

11. 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.
12. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
13. 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 stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.
14. Based on India's strong intervention during the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee of the CITES at Geneva from 6th to 10th July, 2009, the CITES Secretariat has issued a notification to Parties to submit reports relating to compliance of Decisions 14.69 and 14.65 within 90 days with effect from 20-10-2009 (Progress made on restricting captive breeding, operations of tigers etc.).



**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.
16. Special advisories issued for in-situ build up of prey base and tiger population through active management in tiger reserves having low population status of tiger and its prey.

**Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)**

17. 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. Since then, the guidelines of the STPF have been revised for deploying forest personnel in place of Police, with scope for involving local people like the Van Gujjars.
18. In collaboration with TRAFFIC-INDIA, action has been taken for an online wildlife crime data base, and Generic Guidelines for preparation of reserve specific Security Plan has been evolved.

**Recent Initiatives**

19. Implemented a tripartite MOU with tiger States, linked to fund flows for effective implementation of tiger conservation initiatives.
20. Revised the Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) guidelines to involve local people like Van Gujjars and others in field protection.

21. Rapid assessment of tiger reserves done (12 good, 9 satisfactory and 16 poor).
22. Special crack teams sent to tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey.
23. All India meeting of Field Directors convened on 25 and 26 July, 2009 under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests for reviewing the status of field protection and related issues in tiger reserves.
24. Chief Ministers of tiger States addressed at the level of the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests on urgent issues, viz. implementation of the tripartite MOU, creation of the Tiger Conservation Foundation, stepping up protection etc.
25. Chief Ministers of States having tiger reserves affected by left wing extremism and low population status of tiger and its prey addressed for taking special initiatives.
26. Field visits to Bhadra, Corbett, Sariska and Ranthambhore made by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests, to review the initiatives and problems relating to tiger conservation.
27. Steps taken for modernizing the infrastructure and field protection.
28. Advisory issued for involvement of Non-Governmental Experts in the forthcoming all India tiger estimation.
29. Core Committee involving outside experts constituted for overseeing the forthcoming all India tiger estimation.
30. Report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted for looking into the local extinction of tiger in the Panna Tiger Reserve sent to the State (Madhya Pradesh) for the needful action.
31. Issue of tiger farming and trafficking of tiger

body parts discussed at the level of Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment and Forests with the Chinese Authorities.

32. Action taken for amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act to ensure effective conservation.
33. Initiatives taken for improving the field delivery through capacity building of field officials, apart from providing incentives.
34. Decision taken to host the World Tiger Summit in October-November, 2010.

#### Changes in Mid-Day Meal Scheme

1120. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to

carry out certain changes in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the changes that are likely to be carried out;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon;

(d) whether the expenditure will be shared both by the Union Government and State Governments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which these changes will be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a), (b) and (f) Yes, Madam. The Government has made certain changes in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. The details of changes approved and their implementation schedule are as under:—

Sl. No.	Approved changes	Implementation schedule
1	2	3
1.	Revision of food norm for upper primary children by increasing the quantity of pulses from 25 to 30 grams, vegetables from 65 to 75 grams and by decreasing the quantity of oil and fats from 10 to 7.5 grams.	Within one month from the date of approval.
2.	Revision of cooking cost (excluding the labour and administrative charges) to Rs. 2.50 for primary and Rs. 3.75 for upper primary children for the balance period of this financial year from the date of making it effective. The cooking cost will be shared between the Centre and the NER States on 90:10 basis and with other States/UTs on 75:25 basis.	Within one month from the date of approval.
3.	Payment of honorarium of Rs. 1000 per month to cook-cum-helper and engagement of one cook-cum-helper for schools upto 25 students, two cooks-cum-helpers for schools with 26 to 100 students and one additional cook-cum-helper for every addition of upto 100 students. The expenditure towards the honorarium of cook-cum-helper will be shared between the Centre and the NER States on 90:10 basis and with other States/UTs on 75:25 basis.	Within one month from the date of approval.
4.	Determination of cost of construction of kitchen-cum-store on the basis of State Schedule of Rates. The Department of School Education and Literacy will lay down the plinth area norm on the basis of number of children studying in the school instead of one norm for all schools. The cost of construction	Within one month from the date of approval.

1	2	3
	of kitchen-cum-store will be shared between the Centre and the NER States on 90:10 basis and with other States/UTs on 75:25 basis.	
5.	Transportation assistance in the 11 Special Category States (viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Tripura) to be at par with the PDS rates prevalent in these States.	Within one month from the date of approval.
6.	Decentralization of payment of cost of foodgrains to FCI to the district level.	From 1-4-2010.

(c) to (e) The additional expenditure for the balance period of the 11th Plan will be Rs. 10140.33 crore for Central Government and Rs. 4280.79 crore for State/UT Governments. The total budget requirement for Central and the State/UT Governments (including the additional expenditure) during the remaining period of 11th Plan will be Rs. 31,174.09 crore and Rs. 7920.93 crore respectively. The expenditure on cooking cost, honorarium to cook-cum-helper and construction of a kitchen-cum-store is to be shared between the Central Government and North Eastern (NE) States in the ratio of 90:10 and the sharing between Centre and other States UTs will be on the basis of 75:25.

**National Climate Change  
Mitigation Authority**

1121. SHRI GAJANAN D. SABAR:  
SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a National Climate Change Mitigation Authority for meeting the aspirational climate related targets to be achieved by 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the modalities for the Constitution of such a body been worked out, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY

OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) An Institutional mechanism consisting of Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change at the national level functions to coordinate national action to assessment, adaptation and mitigation of climate change. The Council is composed of key representatives from academia, industry, media and civil society.

**Meets on Climate Change**

1122. SHRI K.C. SINGH 'BABA':  
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN

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

(a) whether the gap between developed and developing countries including India has widened on the issue related to climate change which was reflected in G-20, finance minister meet, G-8 and Head of States meets held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the stand taken by India and other developing countries at these platforms;

(c) whether India and China alongwith other developing countries are united in their effort to resist the West in their attempts to link trade with climate change;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the effort made by India to put forward its concerns and bring other countries to an amicable agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) At the G-8 Leader's summit held in L'Aquila (Italy) in July 2009 and G20 Finance Minister's Meeting held in St. Andrews (UK) in November 2009, issues relating to implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Bali Action plan, in particular, those relating to enhanced action on Mitigation, Adaptation, Technology Development and Transfer and provision of financial resources to support action on mitigation and adaptation have been discussed. Differences persist in the approach of the developed and developing countries towards mitigation actions, long term goal for emission reduction, and financial resources for addressing climate change impacts and vulnerabilities.

(c) and (d) India and China closely coordinate their position with other members of the group of G77 and China on the matters relating to climate change including the adverse impacts of unilateral trade measures proposed by some developed countries to target import of goods and services from developing countries having no emission reduction targets.

(e) India participates actively in the international negotiations conducted by the UNFCCC and other international fora to highlight developing country concerns. Parties are expected to reach an agreed outcome on the relevant issues in the 15th Conference of Parties scheduled in Copenhagen in December 2009.

#### **Bodies of Mumbai Attack Terrorists**

1123. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has refused to accept the bodies of four of the nine terrorists killed in the 26/11 Mumbai Attacks;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Government has seen reports that Pakistan has denied that it had agreed to accept the bodies of four of the nine terrorists killed in the 26/11 Mumbai attack. The Government of Pakistan has not approached the Government of India in this regard. However, Pakistan has confirmed the identity of some of the terrorists killed in the Mumbai attack, based on the DNA reports provided by the Government of India to Pakistan.

#### **Export Control System on Nuclear Technology**

1124. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has in place a comprehensive export control system on nuclear technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is committed to non-transfer of sensitive technologies and equipment to other countries which do not possess them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action plan of 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) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Government has notified (i) the revised list Prescribed Substances, Prescribed Equipment and Technology on 18-1-2006 and (ii) the guidelines for Nuclear Transfers (Exports) on 1-2-2006.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) and (e) The nuclear transfer guidelines notified on 1-2-2006 include special control on Sensitive facilities,

technologies and materials. Necessary steps have been taken to secure nuclear materials and technology through comprehensive legislation (Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005).

#### **Indian Haj Pilgrims**

1125. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian Haj Pilgrims during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of the facilities being provided by the Central Government to Hajis;

(c) whether as a result of Saudi Arabian Government's decision for having a compulsory international passport during Haj there will be a drastic reduction in the number of Indian Pilgrims going for Haj;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) The total number of Haj pilgrims who proceeded on Haj during last three years through Haj Committee of India are as under:

2006-11	2007	2008
1,55,723	1,57,415	1,66,993

(b) The Government of India makes arrangements to facilitate the transportation of the pilgrims going to Saudi Arabia through the Haj Committee of India and facilitates provision of accommodation and other logistical support for them. For efficient management and supervision of Haj arrangements, a large contingent of seasonal local staff, supervisors, data entry operators, drivers and messengers are appointed by the Consulate General of India, Jeddah. In addition, Doctors, Nurses and other para-medical staff, Coordinators, Assistant Haj Officers, Haj Assistants and Khadimul Hujjaj are sent from India on Short-term deputation to Saudi Arabia. A

hospital in Makkah and Branch offices-cum-dispensaries in Makkah and Madina are set up for Haj pilgrims. Medicines provided at these dispensaries and hospital are supplied from India and also procured locally. The Government is also making arrangements for providing polio, meningitis and influenza vaccinations for the pilgrims. The Haj Committee of India is providing to the pilgrims information regarding confirmation of their seats, travel documents, transportation, accommodation, release of foreign exchange, embarkation points and departure dates etc. The Government has taken a number of decisions to streamline the functioning of Private Tour Operators so that they provide proper services and facilities for the pilgrims. For Haj-2009, two embarkation points viz Mangalore and Ranchi have been added to the already existing 17 embarkation points spread across the country.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

#### **Women in Central Government Service**

1126. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE:  
DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been decline in the recruitment of women in Central Government Service;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase their representation in Central Government Service;

(d) whether the Government have exempted women candidates from paying fee for taking competitive examinations conducted by UPSC/SSC and departmental competitive exams; 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) and (b) Available data does not indicate any decline in recruitment of women in Central Government Service.

(c) Government is taking a number of steps to increase the recruitment of women in Central Government jobs and for improving the facilities and concessions to women in Government Service. Instructions have been issued to all Ministries/Departments that all recruitment advertisements will contain a message that Government strives to have a workforce which reflects gender balance and women candidates are encouraged to apply. Instructions have been issued to all Ministries/Departments that all recruitment Boards for more than ten vacancies will mandatorily have a women Member.

(d) and (e) Women candidates have been exempted from payment of fee for competitive examinations conducted by UPSC/SSC in Direct Recruitment/Departmental Competitive examinations/Direct Recruitment by Interview.

[Translation]

#### Most Backward Regions

1127. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN:

SHRI P.L. PUNIA:

SHRI RAMKISHUN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to provide special economic assistance for overall development and removal of backwardness of most backward regions of the country including eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action plan of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which such plan 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) to (d) Overall development and removal of regional backwardness in the states are the primary responsibilities of the concerned State Government. However, to supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Central Government has been providing lump sum Central Assistance to the State in their Annual Plans.

During the Annual Plan 2009-10 meeting of Uttar Pradesh, the State Government was advised to spend a high share of its plan outlay in backward regions so as to bring them gradually at par with the other regions of the State. The Plan outlay for the year 2009-10 of Uttar Pradesh has been approved at Rs 39,000 crore which is 11.42% higher than the plan outlay of 2008-09 at of Rs 35,000 crore.

The Government has also approved Rs 7266 crore package for Drought Mitigation and Integrated Development of Bundelkhand regions of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

#### Construction of Infrastructure by China in Pok

1128. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

SHRI PURNMASI RAM:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is going ahead with projects in Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir region;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date on which said projects were started;

(c) whether the Government of India has taken up this matter with the Government of China to stop the work on the said projects;

(d) if so, whether the work on the said projects has been stopped; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (e) China has engaged in the construction of a number of projects in the Pakistan occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir since the 1960s, including, *inter alia*, Karakoram Highway, Mangla Dam Raising Project, Neelum-Jelum Hydropower Project, Muzaffarabad City Development Project, Naltar Hydropower Project and Buji Hydropower Project. China regards Kashmir as a bilateral matter to be settled between India and Pakistan. Government's consistent position is that Pakistan has been in illegal occupation of parts of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir since 1947. Government has conveyed its concerns to China about their activities in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, and asked them cease such activities.

[English]

#### Strike by IIT Faculty

1129. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY:

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

SHRI SAKTI MOHAN MALIK:

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

(a) whether the faculty members of various IIT's in the country went on strike to protest against anomalies in the implementation of the 6th Pay Commission Report;

(b) if so, the details of their demands;

(c) whether the Government has promised to look into their demands;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to resolve this issue amicably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The major demands of the IIT faculty and the action taken by the Government are as under:—

Sl. No.	Demand	Action taken
1.	The designation of Lecturers be done away with and the criteria for appointment to the post of Assistant Professor be relaxed to accommodate exceptional and deserving cases.	In a meeting of the Council of IITs held on 19-10-2009, it was decided to empower the Board of Governors to relax the condition of 'Ph.D with first class at the preceding degree' and also experience in terms of number of years required for the post of Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors, in exceptional and deserving cases, after recording the reasons in writing. However, the norms as indicated in the Pay revision Order should be followed in general and the committee of Directors should also lay down the criteria for relaxation within the frame work of the approval accorded by the Competent authority.
2.	Assistant Professors with 3 years of service may be placed in Pay Band-4 with a minimum of Rs 37,400.	Demand accepted and notification issued on 16-9-2009.
3.	Academic Grade Pay of Rs. 10,000 may be given to Associate Professors and	The pay structure of IITs had been designed keeping in view the pay structure of other sections of the Government. This demand was not agreed to.

Sl. No.	Demand	Action taken
	Rs. 12,000 with minimum of Rs. 48,000 to Professors.	
4.	The limit of 40% for Professor moving to the higher AGP of Rs. 12,000 be done away with.	The issue was discussed in the Council of IITs.
5.	A scholastic pay of Rs. 15,000 per month be given to all faculty irrespective of position or experience.	The pay revision of the IIT faculty, <i>inter-alia</i> , includes a Performance Related Incentive Scheme (PRIS) which will be a financial remuneration to those who excel in the area of research.

**Attacks on Indians in  
Foreign Countries**

1130. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI:

SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI:

SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

SHRI P. BALRAM

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

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

(a) whether attacks on Indian studying and working abroad particularly in Australia and Canada are still taking place;

(b) if so, the country-wise details thereof for the last three years and the current year, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the said attacks;

(d) whether the Government of India has taken up the matter with the Governments of the respective countries;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to protect

the Indians including students and ensure their safety and security abroad particularly in Australia?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) A few cases of attacks on Indians studying and working in Australia have been reported. However, no incident has been reported from Canada. The motive for such attacks are reported as robbery, rivalry and racial element, in some cases. Available information on such incidents during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) to (f) Yes, Madam. The Indian Missions/Posts abroad have taken up the issue of attacks on Indians with the local Governments in Australia and other countries whenever any incident was brought to their notice. In respect of cases from Australia, the matter has been taken up with the Australian Government at the highest level. As a result of a series of discussions with visiting high level Australian delegations and demarches made by Indian Mission/Posts in Australia, the Australian Government has taken various steps. They have announced a series of measures, including stricter policing in Victoria and NSW, aimed at ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Ms. Julia Gillard introduced in the Parliament, an Amendment Bill to the ESOS Act, 2000, under which all educational institutions will be required to re-register under new and tighter criteria by 31 December, 2010. Similarly rapid audit of service providers is being undertaken by the Australian authorities, as a result of which some colleges have already been de-registered



and shut down. These steps have been useful and the incidence of attacks has decreased.

To address the problems faced by Indian students in Australia and to recommend measures for enhancing their safety and wellbeing, the Government has set up a Joint Working Group (JWG) with the Australian side on student mobility. The JWG held its first meeting on

6th October, 2009.

Detailed advisory for Indian students who plan to study in Australia has been placed on the websites of MEA, MOIA and the Indian Mission and Consulates in Australia. Advisory to students who wish to study in certain other countries, have been placed on the website of MOIA.

### **Statement**

#### *Details of incidents of attack on Indians including students in various countries during the last three years*

Sl. No.	Country	Details of incidents
1.	Australia	As per information available 99 cases of attacks on Indian nationals including students have been reported.
2.	Bulgaria	During last three years there have been five cases of assault on Indian nationals.
3.	Germany	Two cases of beating up of Indian nationals by a gang of Germans were reported in 2007. An Indian student was beaten up by a neo-Nazi while he was traveling in a tram in Dresden in July 2007.
4.	Ghana	An Indian national was murdered by miscreants in the course of an armed robbery in September, 2006. Two incidents were reported in 2008, where the victims were Indian nationals. In 2009, an Indian was murdered during the course of an armed robbery, while another was robbed of 23.20 kgs of unrefined gold.
5.	Iran	Two incidents of attack/looting of Indian businessmen in Zahidan were reported in 2008 and 2009 by miscreants.
6.	Ireland	One incident of mugging of Indian national was reported in April 2009.
7.	Italy	One incident of attack in 2008 and one in 2009.
8.	Ivory Coast	(i) One case of attack on an Indian national reported in 2008. This was reportedly part of the mounting protests from local youth against the company in which the Indian national worked.  (ii) Some Indian dealers in scrap materials in Abidjan had last year complained of harassment and looting in the Abidjan Port area.
9.	Kazakhstan	Stray incidents involving Indian nationals of beating while snatching purses, mobile phones, and other personal belongings have been reported. While there were no incidents in 2006, 3 cases of robbery were reported in 2007 and one incident each in 2008 and 2009 have been reported.
10.	Kuwait	In 2007, the Indian Community living in Jleeb Shuyouk area of Kuwait had reported concerns over the general law and order situation there arising out of incidents of

Sl. No.	Country	Details of incidents
		bag snatching, harassment, physical assault by some criminal elements with the intention of robbery.
11.	Philippines	In 2006, deaths of 18 Indian nationals and Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) who were victims of kidnap-for-ransom and murder were reported. There were reports of five such cases in 2007, 14 cases in 2008 and 7 in 2009.
12.	Poland	A group of Indian students were racially abused in a Pub in October, 2008 and one of them was attacked by a sharp object.
13.	Russian Federation (Moscow)	There have been 16 cases of attacks of an Indian nationals by reported from Russia by anti-social and criminal elements.
14.	South Africa	Two Indians were attacked by criminals in Johannesburg, one died of injuries sustained in the attack and the other was seriously injured.
15.	Sudan	One Indian was shot dead in October, 2009 by robbers in Juba.
16.	UK	During the last three years, three incidents attacks on Indian nationals have been reported from UK. The motive for such attacks has been reported as robbery.
17.	USA	As per reports received one Indian student was assaulted by two of his classmates in 2007.  In 2008 there were 2 cases of assaults on Indian nationals by criminal elements and 5 Indian nationals were shot dead by criminal elements.  In 2009 an Indian national was attacked by 3 member gang in Jackson Heights, Queens. Report of an Indian software engineer being assaulted physically by his flat-mate in October, 2009 has been reported from San Francisco.
18.	Uganda	There was one incident of attack on an Indian national during rioting in Kampala on 12 April 2007, who was killed in the incident.  In a mob violence in April 2007 an Indian national riding on a motorcycle accidentally ran into the mob and was attacked. He succumbed to injuries in the hospital.
19.	Ukraine	Some stray incidents of racial attacks during 2007 (4 cases) and 2008 (2 cases) where member of Indian community and students received minor injuries. No cases have been reported in 2009.

### Endorsing Goldstone Report

1131. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had expressed its reservations over endorsing the findings and recommendations of the Goldstone Report on Israel at the United Nations General Assembly recently;

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

(c) whether there has been any change in India's stand on Israel issue; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) India voted in favour of the relevant resolution at the United Nations General Assembly, recently. However, after the voting, we made an Explanation of Vote, because we did not want our support for the resolution to be construed as our endorsement of the referrals to the United Nations Security Council, and the International Criminal Court, recommended in the Goldstone Report.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now Papers to be 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): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, for the year 2008-2009, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, for the year 2008-2009.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 803/15/09]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, for the year 2008-2009, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 804/15/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Antarctic Ocean Research, Goa, for the year 2008-2009, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Antarctic Ocean Research, Goa, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 805/15/09]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-2009, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 806/15/09]

- (5) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2008, under sub-section (3) of Section 14 of the Central Vigilance Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 807/15/09]

- (6) 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 Police Service (Uniform) Amendment Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 616(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2009.

[Shri Prithviraj Chavan]

- (ii) The All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Amendment Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 714(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 808/15/09]

- (7) A copy of the Central Administrative Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and Members) Amendment Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 545(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 2009 under sub-section (1) of section 37 of the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 809/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization, Dhanbad, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization, Dhanbad, for the year 2006-2007.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 810/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:—

- (i) The Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. S.O. 1799 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st July, 2009.

- (ii) The Hazardous Wastes (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Second Amendment Rules, 2009 (published in Notification No. S.O. 2447 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2009.

- (iii) S.O. 2412 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2009 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 394(E) dated 16th April, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 811/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Central Pollution Control Board (Method of Recruitment, Terms and Conditions of Service of Officers and other Employees other than Member-Secretary) Amendment Regulations, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 820(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2009 under sub-section (3) of section 63 of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 812/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority Manipur, Imphal, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of

the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan State Mission Authority Manipur, Imphal, 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 813/15/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Karnataka, Bangalore, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Karnataka, Bangalore, 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 814/15/09]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Silvassa, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Silvassa, for the year 2006-2007.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 815/15/09]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Pondicherry, for the

year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Union Territory of Pondicherry Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Pondicherry, for the year 2005-2006.

- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 816/15/09]

- (9) (a) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep State Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Kavaratti, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep State Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Kavaratti, for the year 2002-2003.

Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) (a) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 817/15/09]

- (b) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep State Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Kavaratti, for the year 2003-2004 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep State Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Kavaratti, for the year 2003-2004.

Statement (Hindi and English versions)

[Shrimati D. Purandeswari]

showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) (b) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 818/15/09]

- (c) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep State Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Kavaratti, for the year 2004-2005 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep State Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Kavaratti, for the year 2004-2005.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) (c) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 819/15/09]
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Port Blair, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Port Blair, for the year 2007-2008.
- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 820/15/09]
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Union Territory of Daman and Diu (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Daman, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Union Territory of Daman and Diu (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Daman, for the year 2007-2008.

- (14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 821/15/09]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Silvassa, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Mission Authority (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Silvassa, for the year 2007-2008.
- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 822/15/09]
- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Union Territory of Pondicherry (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Pondicherry, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Union Territory of Pondicherry (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Pondicherry, for the year 2006-2007.
- (18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT 823/15/09]
- (19) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and

- English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 824/15/09]
- (21) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mizoram University, Aizawal, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 825/15/09]
- (23) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tezpur University, Tezpur, for the year 2008-2009, together with Audit Report thereon.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 826/15/09]
- (24) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Manipur University, Imphal, for the year 2007-2008.  
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Manipur University, Imphal, for the year 2007-2008.
- (25) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (24) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 827/15/09]
- (26) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tripura University, Suryamaninagar, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (27) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (26) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 828/15/09]
- (28) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva Bharti, Santiniketan, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (29) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (28) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 829/15/09]
- (30) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.  
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (31) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (30) above.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 830/15/09]
- (32) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Guwahati, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.  
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Guwahati, for the year 2008-2009.  
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 831/15/09]
- (33) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.  
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute

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of Technology, Jalandhar, for the year 2006-2007.

- (34) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (33) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 832/15/09]

- (35) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gujarat Council of Elementary Education (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Gandhinagar, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gujarat Council of Elementary Education (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Gandhinagar, for the year 2007-2008.

- (36) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (35) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 833/15/09]

- (37) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Bhopal, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Bhopal, for the year 2007-2008.

- (38) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (37) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 834/15/09]

- (39) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan),

Bhopal, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajiv Gandhi Shiksha Mission (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), Bhopal, for the year 2007-2008.

- (40) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (39) above.

- (41) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ujala Society, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Jammu and Kashmir, for the year 2007-2008, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ujala Society, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Jammu and Kashmir, for the year 2007-2008.

- (42) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (41) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 835/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA):  
Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uttar Pradesh Projects Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2005-2006.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Uttar Pradesh Projects Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2005-2006, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 836/15/09]



(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andhra Pradesh State Irrigation Development Corporation Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 837/15/09]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2004-2005..

(ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Land Development Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 838/15/09]

12.02 hrs.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

### Cancellation of Sitting of the House

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that as decided in the meeting of Business Advisory Committee held on 24th November, 2009, the sitting of the House fixed for Friday, the 27th November, 2009 may be cancelled on account of Idu'l Zuha (Bakrid) being celebrated in some parts of the country.

12.02¼ hrs.

### FINANCIAL COMMITTEES—A REVIEW

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the 'Financial Committees (2008-09)—A Review'.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 839/15/09]

12.02½ hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

#### 1st Report

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Madam, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02¾ hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

#### 1st Report

[English]

SHRI GOBINDA CHANDRA NASKAR (Bangaon): Madam, I beg to present a copy of the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on "Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)."

12.03 hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

#### 1st Report

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Madam, I

[Shri Vilas Muttemwar]

beg to present a copy of the First Report (Hindi and English versions) on action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twenty-seventh Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution pertaining to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

12.03¼ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN  
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**218th Report**

[Translation]

CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD (Muzaffarpur): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 218th Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the standing committee on Human Resource Development regarding 'National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2009'.

12.03½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**35th to 37th Reports**

[English]

DR. TARUN MANDAL (Joynagar): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Action Taken Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare:—

- (1) Thirty-fifth Report on Action Taken Note (ATN) furnished by the Department of Health and Family Welfare on the recommendations/observations contained in Committee's Twenty-seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Department;
- (2) Thirty-sixth Report on Action Taken Note (ATN)

furnished by the Department of AYUSH on the recommendations/observations contained in Committee's Twenty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Department; and

- (3) Thirty-seventh Report on Action Taken Note (ATN) furnished by the Department of Health Research on the recommendations/observations contained in Committee's Twenty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2008-2009) of the Department.

12.04 hrs.

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**7th Report**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Madam, I beg to present the Seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.05 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF  
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Situation arising out of shortage of fertilizers and  
seeds in the Country and steps taken by the  
Government in this regard**

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Madam, I call the attention of the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of shortage of fertilizers and seeds in the country and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Madam, the availability of fertilizers in the

country in the current year is comfortable. During Kharif 2009, sufficient quantities of fertilizers were made available by the Department in various parts of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, where is the Cabinet Minister? It is a very important issue. The Cabinet Minister should remain present in the House and he should make a statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, it is a very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Minister make his statement. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: There is a collective responsibility of the Cabinet.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Madam, we want the Cabinet Minister to make the statement. ...*(Interruptions)* Fertilizer is a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandoli): Madam, there is shortage of fertilizers and seeds...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is quite an important subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Therefore, we want the Cabinet Minister to make the statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: The Minister is making the statement. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Cabinet Minister should come. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Why is the Cabinet Minister not present in the House? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur): There is no rule. They should read the Rule Book. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: On such an important issue, the Cabinet Minister should be present. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: All this will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)...*\*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Acharia and Shri Ananth Kumarji, you know about the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. The Minister is replying.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Let us proceed with the Calling Attention. It is something very important.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Acharia, let us proceed with the Calling Attention.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Let the hon. Minister reply to this, please...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: It is a very important issue of farmers. As I already said this is the collective responsibility of the cabinet. They are entirely capable of issuing this statement. You please conclude this topic so that we can take up Calling Attention ahead.

...*(Interruptions)*

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\*Not recorded.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Speaker, he is an ex-Minister ...*(Interruptions)* If he challenges your ruling, this is totally unacceptable. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let us proceed. It is something very important. It concerns the farmers. Hon. Minister, please proceed.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: The availability of fertilizers in the country in the current year is comfortable. During Kharif 2009, sufficient quantities of fertilizers were made available by the Department in various parts of the country. There were no significant complaints on supply front during Kharif 2009.

The requirement of fertilizers is assessed by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) at the start of the each agriculture season in consultation with the State Governments. This year, DAC has assessed a requirement of fertilizers for Rabi 2009-10 as follows:

Urea	—	145.53 LMT
DAP	—	57.76 LMT
MOP	—	22.24 LMT
Complex Fertilizers	—	40.21 LMT

The DoF finalized the production and imports of fertilizers with fertilizer companies for making fertilizers available during Rabi 09-10 as per requirement well in advance. DoF has also advised all the State Governments to tie up the supplies of decontrolled fertilizers like DAP, MOP and NPK with the importers/manufacturers well in advance for Rabi 09-10 through their State level Marketing agencies like State MARKFED etc. to avoid any shortage. Many States like Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh etc. have taken advance action to tie up supplies of these fertilizers through their State level marketing agencies. The availability of fertilizers is comfortable in these States. ...*(Interruptions)* The States like Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand etc. have not nominated

any State level agency to deal in fertilizers despite repeated requests made by DoF.

The requirement of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers for the month of October 09 is assessed as 23.33 LMT, 21.25 LMT, 4.92 LMT and 9.45 LMT respectively. Against this requirement, the availability of urea, DAP, MOP and Complex Fertilizers during October 09 has been 27.03 LMT, 25.69 LMT (this includes 14.45 LMT of DAP pre-positioned in Kharif against the requirement of Rabi 2009-10), 5.31 LMT and 10.44 LMT respectively. As can be seen, the availability of all fertilizers has been very comfortable during the month of October 2009.

In the month of November 09, against the requirement of Urea, MOP, DAP and Complex Fertilizers of 29.70 LMT, 15.80 LMT, 4.62 LMT and 9.27 LMT, the availability as on 23-11-2009 is 24.85 LMT, 11.7 LMT, 5.16 LMT and 7.80 LMT respectively.

During November 09, no State except Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan has indicated any shortage of urea. The State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan wanted priority movement of urea to certain Districts immediately and dispatches of the entire allocated quantities by the companies as per the supply plan by November end. The Department of Fertilizers has already advised all the supplying companies to move urea on priority to these two States and ensure compliance of supply plan by month end. The availability of MOP and Complex Fertilizers is comfortable during November 2009. As regards DAP, the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar have reported shortages. The Department of Fertilizers is in touch on regular basis with the State Agriculture Secretaries of these States and is making all efforts to dispatch rakes to the desired destinations on priority basis to ensure that there is no shortage of DAP in these States.

There is no perceptible shortage of Seeds in the country during Kharif 09 and Rabi 09-10.

Prior to each sowing season, i.e. Kharif and Rabi, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation organizes Zonal Seeds Review Meeting (ZSRM) with all State Departments of Agriculture, State Seeds Corporation, National Seeds Corporation, State Farms Corporation of

India, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and representatives of private sector seed companies (National Seeds Association of India) to assess the crop-wise requirement and availability of certified/quality seeds in States and to facilitate advance tie-up arrangements for meeting shortages, if any.

ZSRM for Rabi 2009-10 was organized in August/September, 2009 to assess requirement and availability of certified/quality seeds for the country. The outcome of ZSRM reveals that at National level there is no overall shortage of certified/quality seeds for Rabi 2009-10. At all India level 153.21 lakh quintals of certified/quality seed is available as against the requirement of 138.15 lakh quintals indicated by the States. Adequate seed is available at start of Rabi 2009-10 with surplus of 15.06 lakh quintals. However, at National level minor shortages have been indicated in case of Lentil (2519 quintals) and Linseeds (2241 quintals). This shortage will be met from farm saved seeds or seeds procured locally or States will shift to alternative crops. Regional shortages pointed out by specific States were tied-up with seed producing agencies.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please make your submission.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Basu Deb Acharia says.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Statement made by the hon. Minister has shown that the situation is quite comfortable in regard to fertilizer, urea, DAP, MOP and complex fertilizer as well as in regard to the availability of certified seeds. But the ground reality is quite contrary to what the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has stated in his Statement.

Madam, I have the State-wise figures in respect of

the availability of urea for the last one year. In Chhattisgarh, there is a wide variation between the requirement and the availability of urea. In the case of Haryana also, there is a wide variation between the requirement and the availability of urea; there is a shortfall. In J and K also, where the requirement is not so much, there is a huge shortfall. Then, I come to Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. These are the major States. I have mentioned about Bihar.

In this Statement, the Minister has stated that the availability is more than the requirement. Fertilizer is not reaching the farmers. Fertilizer is there but it is being sold at a double the price. The farmers have to pay much more for one bag of fertilizer. That is the ground reality in a number of States.

When DAP is required during potato-sowing season, it is not made available to the farmers. DAP is not used when it is required. Madam, when DAP is available more than the requirement and it is not made available to the farmers, then how will the farmers be benefited?

The per head consumption of fertilizers or the per acre consumption of fertilizers in our country is much less than the consumption in other developed countries. Although there has been an increase in the production of urea, DAP and other fertilisers during the last 62 years from 0.3 metric tonnes to 53 million tonnes, still we are to import urea.

Last year, the total production of urea in our country was 108.70 lakh tonnes and the production of phosphate was 34.64 lakh tonnes whereas during the same period we imported 56.66 lakh tonnes of urea, 66.31 lakh tonnes of DAP and 43.66 lakh tonnes of MOP by spending thousands and thousands crores of rupees.

Madam, the Durgapur unit is closed in the year 2002. How can the farmers of West Bengal get fertilizers? Hundred per cent fertilizers, which are being used in West Bengal is imported. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar):  
What about Haldia?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Haldia Fertilizer unit

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

was not commissioned at all. ...*(Interruptions)* Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation was not a State Public Sector Undertaking... *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, please address the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam, during the National Democratic Alliance regime, seven urea manufacturing units starting from the Gorakhpur unit were closed. At that time, Trinamool Congress was the ally of the NDA. ...*(Interruptions)* Gorakhpur unit, which was one of the units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India was closed in 1998. Then, only urea manufacturing unit of Bihar, which is the Barauni unit, was closed in 2002. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh is sitting here. He knows it. Myself and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh went to the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji to plead before him that at least one urea manufacturing unit should be there in the State of Bihar.

Similarly, the Durgapur unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation was closed in 2002. Then, the Haldia unit; Talchar unit of Orissa, which was one of the coal based fertilizer units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India, and the Ramagundam unit, which was also a coal based fertilizer unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India in Andhra Pradesh were closed. So, in all, seven units of the Fertilizer Corporation of India and the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation were closed.

What we were told at that point of time was that there was no gap in demand and supply. At that point of time, we produced what we required and because of that seven units were closed. What is the situation today? We have to import 56.63 lakh tonnes of Urea, 66.31 lakh tonnes of DAP and 43.66 lakh tonnes of MOP.

The first United Progressive Alliance, not the second one, decided to reopen these fertilizer units in principle in 2007 but no action has yet been taken. As there is a huge shortage and because of delayed monsoon, the farmers could not cultivate more than 10 lakh hectares of our cultivable land. There is no sowing in almost 10 lakh hectares of cultivable land. In Kharif,

the Minister has admitted while replying to a question that there will be less production of Kharif crop.

Last year, the total food production was 232 million tonnes. This year, it will be almost 200 million tonnes which is 32 million tonnes less than what our Agriculture Department is expecting. Their assessment is like that. So, there is a need to compensate the loss of Kharif season. There is a need for increasing the production of Rabi crop. I would like to know from the Minister what steps he is going to take in order to bridge the gap, in order to compensate in Rabi season and to provide for the DAP which is required now. The farmers of West Bengal are asking for DAP. Now, one rack will come from Kandla Port of Gujarat because 100 per cent is imported as we have closed down all the seven fertilizer units and also one unit in the private sector, that is, Duncan of Kanpur.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please frame your question.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This unit has been closed for the last five years.

*[Translation]*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariaganj): Madam Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Under which Rule is your Point of Order?

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I would like to raise a Point of Order under Rule 197.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Madam Speaker, What will be his point of order

*[English]*

Under what rule?

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: "A member may, with the previous permission of the Speaker, call the attention of a Minister to any matter of urgent public importance and the Minister may make a brief statement or ask for time to make a statement at a later hour or date:

Provided that no member shall give more than two such notices for any one sitting."

[Translation]

You have given permission for that.

[English]

"There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a clarificatory question and the Minister shall reply at the end to all such questions."

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You are a new Member...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Through you, I would like to know as to whether a question is to be asked or Debate to be taken up. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Basu Deb Achariaji, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I have raised a point of order with your permission. ...(Interruptions) Now you please give and order otherwise we are also interested in fertilizer. I had given a notice to speak during the Zero hour but I did not get an opportunity to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: He is speaking so you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: If you are allowing debate on this issue then I would request that I may also be given permission because yesterday also I had given a notice to speak during the zero hour but I was not given the opportunity. The House was adjourned yesterday on this question. Can a debate be held on this issue or only a clarificatory question can be asked for merely clarifying the question? I would like your order on this....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: The first speaker is given

10 minutes' time approximately. He can ask his question in that time. Basu Debji, now your time is getting over.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Why don't you give us permission to speak on this issue?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am asking the question. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. There is no debate taking place.

[Translation]

No debate is taking place on this issue. This is Calling Attention and it is taking place as it should. Basu Debji, now you please conclude.

[English]

Do not prolong, ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Hon. Minister has stated that fertilizer is available. But the availability of fertilizer will not solve the problem of farmers unless farmers get the fertilizer at subsidized rates. Farmers are not getting it.

He has mentioned about only three States. I can mention about more than three States. There are major States like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal where every year the consumption of fertilizer is increasing.

MADAM SPEAKER: Basu Deb Achariaji, please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know what measures the Minister of State for Fertilizer will take immediately. It has to be taken immediately. It

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

cannot be delayed. Farmers cannot wait for one month to get DAP. They need DAP immediately. But it is not made available to the farmer. I do not know where it is made available. What the Minister has stated is...

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In order to reduce the import of Urea, DAP and MOP, what has been decided by the UPA Government in its earlier incarnation was that all the closed fertilizer units starting from Gorakhpur to Ramagundam, seven units, will be revived. I would like to know whether Government will take steps to revive and restart production in those units, so that the import of DAP, Urea and MOP can be reduced substantially. I have also mentioned about Barauni in Bihar.

Then we revert to the availability of seeds. He has mentioned about the certified seeds. What about foundation seeds?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam Speaker, you please let him speak. This is no way that you have asked him to sit down just because he said so. You ask him to speak in short. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: You have touched all the points. Basu Deb Achariaji, please address the Chair. Now please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There is a shortage of foundation seeds everywhere. 25 per cent production depends on quality seeds, certified seeds, foundation seeds. But seeds are not being made available. In order to increase Rabi production, whether they will supply all types of seeds, both certified as well as foundation seeds, so that farmers can get the seeds and the production can be increased. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Basu Debji, now you please

conclude your speech. You have asked questions also so now you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Basu Debji, please take your seat. Bharuthari Mahtabji, now you speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Achariaji, whatever you are speaking now, will not go on record. You please sit down.

[English]

Thank you so much.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Madam Speaker, thank you very much for allowing me to participate and put certain questions regarding this Calling Attention relating to the situation arising out of shortage of fertilizers and seeds in the country and steps the Government intends to take in this regard. I would put my question on a different perspective relating to the same Calling Attention. The intention of India's fertilizer subsidy scheme is basically two-fold; firstly to ensure availability of fertilizers at an affordable price to the farmers, and secondly to promote balanced fertilizer application, farm productivity and food security.

We are aware of the fact and that is why we have moved this Calling Attention Motion. I want to know whether subsidy outflow on account of phosphorous and potassium fertiliser for the year 2008-2009 went up to Rs. 57,618 crore from Rs. 15,290 crore in 2007-2008. I want to know whether this is 265 per cent increase in subsidy without enabling any substantial increase in food grains production which has been static in the range of 220 million tonnes for the past three years. I want to know whether being a major importer of fertiliser and intermediates we are not in a position to dictate terms in fixing global prices.

What steps the Government is taking for fixing the import price for fertilisers? I want to know whether the

\*Not recorded.



Government is going to fix the subsidy outflow and not leave it to the markets to decide? Is it true?

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab, you also know; you have to ask one clarificatory question. Please concentrate on that.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Yes, Madam. I will ask on shortage of fertilizers.

I want to know whether the Board for Construction of Public Sector Enterprises has proposed to the Government a revival of five-six fertiliser units with an investment of more than Rs. 50,000 crore. Is it true that the proposed revival of the units will be done by the Government funding mainly from revenue raised from ongoing disinvestment drive and what about Talcher Fertiliser Plant? Is it true that the Government has been increasing fertiliser subsidy for farmers thus inflating the import bill?

I want to know whether 88 per cent of the increase in subsidy has been due to sharp increase in international prices. Is it only 12 per cent increase in the past five years attributed to the increase in consumption of fertilisers? I would like to know about the reform agenda that the fertiliser department is working upon—are you going to shift from the cost plus subsidy system to a nutrient-based subsidy system?

As on today the use of balanced fertilisers had been stifled as only select products were subsidised and other fertilisers received no subsidy? Are you going to free MRPs from Government control? In this year's Budget speech the Finance Minister had signalled to move towards direct transfer of subsidy to farmers. What steps are being taken in this regard? Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Calling Attention Motion on shortage of fertilizers and seeds in the country.

Shri Basudeb Acharya and Mahtabji have expressed their views on it now and this issue was also revised during 'Zero Hour' yesterday and the House had to be adjourned. Often, the Union Government holds the States

responsible for it saying the problem in its distribution arises because of lapse in sale and distribution mechanism of the State Governments. The Government of India has full details about the land holding and the requirement of per acre fertilizers. My submissions is that the Government should provide subsidy for transportation of fertilizers and the freight for ensuring its availability at block level. Then only it will be available at block level.

So far as seeds are concerned, National Seeds Corporation and Uttar Pradesh Beej Nigam are facing shortage of seeds. The Union Government is supplying the seeds regularly but the seeds are not available at fair price. The private seed sellers charge arbitrary rates. Higher prices are charge from the farmers. The farmers in my constituency were charged Rs. 550 in place of its price of Rs. 440. And when the farmers objected to it, 100-100 rupees were returned to them. He has said that the details will be made available by the Monitoring Committee on the website. It will be a good move. He has said that there will be open sale of single super phosphate. No doubt, it will benefit the farmers. The production of gas based fertilizers has been estimated to the tune of 2.1 crore metric tonne in the country. The figures are encouraging. But, at the same time, NLG is used for producing 60 per cent fertilizer in the country. Problem faced by various states have been discussed here, but I would like to make a point about my state Uttar Pradesh. There was a requirement of 2 lakh metric tonne in my state. The Government made 3,82,000 tonne fertilizers available still, there is a shortage. When a farmer demands fertilizers, he is beaten up. Especially there is a shortage of DAP. In his reply, the Minister has said that DAP is not available in UP and therefore, the Government will pay special attention towards it. He has already stated in his reply that the situation is satisfactory across the country. In fact, it is misleading. My submission is that the farmer should be provided subsidy on fertilizers directly, then only he will be able to produce foodgrains. There are no public distribution agencies of fertilizers in Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam and that's why there are problems over there. But, in case of Uttar Pradesh, fertilizers are being sold through cooperatives. It has been observed

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

that most of such cooperatives have gone insolvent and their functioning is not proper. When a farmer buys fertilizers from a private shop there is no guarantee of quality of said fertilizers. My submission is that the Government should provide a package of Rs. 50,000 crore for revival of sick fertilizer units, so that fertilizer is available to the farmer. He has made a mention of wrong requirement related estimates and lackadaisical arrangement in the states. It will have to be seen. If the farmers are not provided with the fertilizers at right time wheat, pulses etc. in Rabi crops would be adversely affected.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now you conclude. You put your question on the clarification you want to know and then conclude.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: The State Government of Uttar Pradesh had sought 40 lakh metric tonne of fertilizers. The Union Government has made arrangements for 30 lakh tonne Urea, 12 lakh metric tonne DAP and 4.5 lakh metric tonne NPK. However, the Government need to see whether the supply is commensurate with the demand, then only we would be able to do something. So far as the shortage of DAP is concerned, as he has mentioned, rabi sowing season is on the peak and the farmers are running from pillar to post for getting urea. Black-marketing of fertilizers is going on. Yesterday also, several hon. Members raised this issue. It is being supplied to Madhya Pradesh. The fertilizer is being smuggled even to Nepal and Bangladesh from Uttar Pradesh and its black-marketing and hoarding is going on openly. It will lead to agricultural crisis in the country and the Government will be forced to import rice as wheat is being imported. It will put a burden on our exchequer.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask your question and conclude.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I would like the hon. Minister to reply to all those issues in affirmative. I want him to say that the shortage of fertilizers in the country, including DAP, will be met. He should seek reports from the States mentioned by him and provide them the fertilizers. If the distribution system is not functioning

properly the Government should ensure its supply through cooperatives so that farmers can get fertilizers and become prosperous. The Rabi crops would be able to be sown in time. With these words I conclude. I am highly grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI LALJI TONDON (Lucknow): Madam, Kharif crop in Uttar Pradesh and many other States has been adversely affected because of shortage of fertilizers, drought or heavy rains. There was a hope that better Rabi crop would be able to control the bazaar to some extent, but fertilizers are not available. Not only this, it is being black-marketed. As per the Government records there is a need for 37 lakh tonne DAP, but we had only 19.51 lakh tonne. DAP is required while sowing wheat crop. Wherever wheat has been sown in, it has been sown without DAP. DAP is more required in October and November and it was missing during these months.

My predecessor Speaker was saying that first of all it is not available and whatever quantity is available, it is being smuggled to other States. Neither the Union Government nor the State Governments are able to check it. Ultimately what a farmer can do? His production capacity is declining. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is not present now, yesterday he has admitted that the shortage of fertilizers will be met very soon. Today, in reply to the Calling Attention Motion, he should explain how the Government proposes to meet the said shortage, though he is not present here. If urea is made available it will still be useful but if DAP is not available before sowing, our production will fall. And consequently it will lead to price rise. The achievement of targets which are fixed by the Government depends on all these aspects.

We are paying attention towards setting up of various types of industries but whether there is any provision to establish necessary industries for the foodgrains which are our basic need? Are they on our priority or not? Hon. Minister should tell the scheme through which this shortage of fertilizers will be met. How long we will depend on the imports and how long our farmer will bear the black marketing? The

Government should make available DAP to the farmers so that sowing can be done in the few days left for it. The situation is not different in respect of seeds. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): The Congress Government is doing much for the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): The Congress Government is not concerned about the farmers. Had it been concerned about them, then the hon. Minister of Agriculture would have been present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat please. It is a matter concerning the farmers, so, do not interrupt it.

SHRI LALJI TANDON: Does the hon. member want to prove the figures given by the Government as wrong? The fertilizers are not available today as per the requirement. Whether the hon. Member wants to say that it is wrong? There is scarcity of seeds everywhere today, seeds are not available. Even if they are available, then they are available in black. Their quality is not good. It is going to have an adverse impact on the Rabi crops. If we do not get alert then the people will die of hunger. When foodgrain will not be produced in the country, we will import it from abroad and then our growing economy would become a laughing stock. I would like to urge you to give directions to the Government to make available fertilizer anyhow.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now the hon. Minister will make reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): There is crisis in the whole country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat please, only then I will speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: About Rs. 30,000 crore subsidies have been given to the State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Be silent please.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Lalji Tandon has said.

*(Interruptions)...\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Madam, kindly give me a minute to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: How can I allow you to speak like this? You also know that debate is not allowed on Calling Attention motion. Debate is allowed under Rule-193 and there are other devices for debating. I can allow debate if you give a notice and all members can take part in that. But, as per rules, debate cannot be allowed on the Calling Attention Motion. You let the Calling Attention Motion go on today. I know that all of you are concerned about the issue and want to give your suggestion in the House. You give notice and I will allow debate on it but, now, it is not possible to have a debate on the Calling Attention Motion.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: But, Madam, a question by each of the member is allowed or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

*[Translation]*

You should listen to the Minister's reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Thank you Madam Speaker,

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\*Not recorded.

[Shri Srikant Jena]

I am thankful to Shri Basu Deb Achariaji and other members, those who have raised this important issue today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Hon. Minister can give a reply only after listening to all the Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: I understand your point. You let the Minister give reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: This is a very important issue pertaining to fertilizers. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GANESH SINGH: I want reply in the case of Madhya Pradesh too. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: I will give reply about Madhya Pradesh also...*(Interruptions)* Please, give me some time.

[English]

Please let me respond to the debate. I will give answers to all your questions.

[Translation]

This is not the way. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You should allow him to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: You please listen to me. You please take your seat. ...*(Interruptions)* What shall I do, if you do not listen? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You should, at least, listen to the Minister please. Take your seat please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Only what the Minister will say go on record.

*(Interruptions)*...\*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. First listen to him. It is in accordance with the rules for calling attention motion. Please listen to whatever Mr. Minister wants to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Without listening to him, to what are you objecting? When he finishes, you may ask about what he may not have said. Listen to him first.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Please sit down. Listen to what I have to say first.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Sanjay Nirupamji, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam Speaker, the condition of farmers is very poor in the country. The farmers are very much distressed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: I will answer all the points raised in the House.

[Translation]

You please listen to me. You have been a Minister, why are you speaking so loudly? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down please. Listen to him. Mr. Raghuvansh Prasadji first listen to what he has to say. After that you may raise your objection, if any, or ask for clarification. Sit down please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: See, you have to address all his questions and doubts.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Madam, I will reply.

[English]

I am prepared to give you all the answers.  
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Do you want to listen to him or not? Tell me whether you want to listen to the Minister on this important issue or not. If you do not want to listen to him, tell me frankly whether you want to listen to him or not.

...(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

MADAM SPEAKER: Whether you want to listen to the Minister or no? Tell me clearly.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: If you want to listen to him, please sit down. Do you want to hear his reply on such an important issue or not?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let the Minister speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You take your seat, only then Mr. Minister can speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Raghuvansh Prasadji, I can understand that you are very much pained but you should listen to the Minister's statement. Sit down please.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I understand how much pained you are for the farmers.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: I know that you are doing so because you are deeply pained but you should listen to the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. ...(Interruptions) Please listen to my reply, hon. Members. I will answer to all of your concerns in every respect. Shri Basu Deb Babu has raised three major issues—firstly, availability of fertilizers in different parts of the country and in different States; secondly, there is a shortage of fertilizers, about which I have already made a statement, and I would give a detailed picture of the availability of fertilizers in different parts of the country. I am responding to you. ...(Interruptions) Thirdly, the closure of the units and its revival package. These are the three major issues which have been raised. ...(Interruptions) Let me complete first. You can supplement later. ...(Interruptions) Shri Shailendraji, I am very thankful to you that as you know, most of these fertilizers—if you see the records—the requirements given to us by the State Governments through Department of Agriculture to the Ministry of Fertilizers and on the basis of that, whatever was your requirement in every State in terms of the requirement and availability, I would say that availability is more than the requirement. I will give the certificate of different State Governments, which I can place it, if you want. ...(Interruptions) Please listen to me. Let me complete. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: This will not go on record. Except the Minister's statement, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: If you do not listen to me, what will I do?... (Interruptions) Please listen to what I have to say... (Interruptions) Let me complete my Statement. ... (Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let him complete his statement first.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Why have you stood up again? Sit down please.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Let me start from Uttar Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please continue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: The availability of ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair and continue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Madam, as you know, the Fertilizer Control Order is very specific. The duty of the Government of India is to make available the subsidized fertilizers at the district points of each State as per the requirement placed in advance by the State Government through the Agriculture Ministry and on the basis of that, we make available fertilizer to the district points as per their requirement. Whether it is urea or DAP or complex fertilizers, we always give it at the district points as per the supply plan of different State Governments. ...(Interruptions)

I am coming to that issue.

[Translation]

Madam, I am telling the figures about Uttar Pradesh. The requirement for urea in Uttar Pradesh was 33 lakh metric tonnes in the year 2009-10 and we have made available 30.73 lakh metric tonnes urea. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

This was certified by the Agriculture Department of the Uttar Pradesh Government.

[Translation]

Madam, 30.73 lakh metric tonnes of urea has been sent and only 24.45 lakh metric tonnes of urea has been sold. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Listen to me. Shri Lalji Tandon was saying that there is requirement for DAP. I am telling that there is no problem regarding urea. DAP requirement is still to be met. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

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

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Madam Speaker, just now I am telling about Uttar Pradesh and will take up Bihar later. ...(Interruptions) We have provided Uttar Pradesh. 12.29 lakh metric tonnes out of 13 lakh metric tonnes and seven days are left in November. ...(Interruptions) Let me make one thing clear. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat. Let the Minister finish his speech.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You, please sit down.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Madam Speaker, from the time we have come to power in Uttar Pradesh. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, if

the Government of Uttar Pradesh has not functioned properly, then. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...*\*

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: As per the Fertilizer Control Order, the State Governments are supposed to monitor and distribute fertilizer inside the State. If there is any black-marketing, under the Essential Commodities Act, they can arrest, and prosecute; we have been writing to the Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh also, to please take immediate action on this. But smuggling is taking place; we have written to the State Governments.

I am not politicizing this issue; I am only stating the facts before the august House so that the hon. Members can really know what is the scenario. In 2008-09, there was a good rainfall. In spite of the bad monsoon in 2009-10, we have supplied more fertilizer than what was the case in 2008-09. If the hon. Members understand, they could ask the State Governments as to where it has gone, when it was made available, and why they did not take action, why the Agriculture Ministry did not take any action. That is my point.

Last year, 2008-09, the total subsidy package was Rs. 1,17,000 crore; this year, in 2009-10, the subsidy bill may even cross Rs. 70,000 crore. If anybody asks this question as to why it was high last year, it is because of the international price; we are importing it and it was on a higher side. This year, the international prices of different fertilizers have gone down, but the quantity has not gone down. As per the requirement, we have supplied, and more than that also.

The only problem is that the small States like Punjab and other States like Maharashtra, through their cooperative societies, are pre-positioning their fertilizer, keeping in view that in rabi, this requirement will be immediately supplied to the farmers; it is because the cooperative organizations in those States are really in operation, whereas in Uttar Pradesh, I am sorry to say

\*Not recorded.

this; I do not want to make any comment; but something has to be done. We have supplied, but that is not going to the farmers. That is the whole problem. Let me complete.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Madam, the whole quantity of fertilizer supplied by the Centre has been distributed. But, our demand is not being met by the Centre. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You, please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: No speech of any hon. Member, except that of Mr. Minister, will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Only the Minister's statement will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...*\*

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: So far as West Bengal is concerned. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down.

*...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down. Listen to the Minister. He is telling you.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please address the Chair and continue making your statement.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Let me now come to West Bengal. In West Bengal the requirement of Urea in 2009-10 was 7,16,000 MT. ...*(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down. You, too, sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down. You are interfering too much. Do not interfere please. Here interests of the farmers are being discussed. You should not interfere so much.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down. Farmers' interest are being discussed.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: In West Bengal the requirement of Urea fertilizer was 7,16,000 MT and the availability was 6.75 LMT. There is a surplus of fertilizer in West Bengal also. So far as DAP is concerned, its requirement was 3.07 LMT. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You, sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may continue.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: The requirement of DAP in West Bengal was 3.07 LMT and the supply position is 3.10 LMT. There is a surplus.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down and listen to the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down. Now, you speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You continue.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Let me place the facts with

regard to West Bengal before the House. The requirement of DAP in West Bengal was 3.07 lakh MT and the supply position is 3.10 lakh MT. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You may continue with your statement.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: Madam, the total scenario of fertilizer in the country is actually satisfactory. I would request the hon. Members if they have shortage of any fertilizer anywhere in their parliamentary constituencies. ...(Interruptions) There is absolutely no shortage of fertilizers, including DAP, in the country. A special care is taken. ...(Interruptions)

With these words I assure this august House that there will be absolutely no problem so far as the availability of fertilizer is concerned.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 840/15/09]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 2.30 p.m.

13.14 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Matters under Rule 377. Shri P. Viswanathan.

SHRI P. VISWANATHAN (Kancheepuram): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would like to raise an important matter under Rule 377. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only read what you have submitted. Do not tell the details.

...(Interruptions)



[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only the approved text will go on record. Do not read other than the approved text.

- (i) **Need to erect a wall along the sea coast in Kancheepuram Parliamentary Constituency to provide protection to the Coastal villages and Nuclear Power Station against high tidal waves**

SHRI P. VISWANATHAN (Kancheepuram): Sir, in my constituency Kancheepuram, along the 66 kilometre coastline, there are 34 villages with about 25,000 fishermen families. High tidal waves cause severe sea erosion, submerging the coastal area inhabited by fishermen since 1966, and coastal landward length of sea ranging from 25 to 300 metres have been occupied by sea. The Nuclear Power Station of Kalpakkam had to be shut down during the Tsunami in 2004.

Due to the North East Monsoon effect, the coastal villages of Pudupattinam and Uyyalipuppam were seriously affected. The coastal belt can be protected from sea erosion by construction of groyne walls.

I request the Central Government to take up the work on top priority so that the fishermen families can be protected.

- (ii) **Need to take stringent action against the persons and companies indulging in adulteration of milk and milk products in the country**

[Translation]

SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE (Latur): Sir, the business of adulterated milk, adulterated ghee has spread all over the country. The trade in adulterated milk at large scale in different states like Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and cities, particularly in Delhi and Mumbai, is playing with the lives of the people, children, women and patients.

Therefore, the Government is requested to take action after conducting probe against the companies and persons involved in producing adulterated milk.

- (iii) **Need to set up a Cashew Board in district Kollam, Kerala**

[English]

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (Mavelikkara): Cashew is one of the major industries in Kerala. We are earning crores of rupees as foreign exchange from cashew exports. About 90 per cent of the cashew processing units are in Kerala especially in Kollam district. Around 2 lakh cashew workers are working in Kollam, Alleppy, Pattanamthitta and Trivandrum. More than 300 cashew factories are running in Kerala. Cashew trees are also in Kannoor and Kasargod districts. There is a proposal for setting up of Cashew Board under the Ministry of Agriculture. Setting up of a Cashew Board is a long pending demand from the Kerala State. There is an urgent need to set up the Cashew Board in Kollam district, Kerala. Only then the cashew industry can be promoted and farmers' and workers' interests can be protected and we can earn more foreign exchange.

Keeping in view the above facts, I urge upon the Minister of Agriculture to set up the Cashew Board in Kollam at the earliest.

- (iv) **Need to release the share of Central Funds for payment to farmers whose crops have been damaged due to drought in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY (Anantapur): Sir, the State of Andhra Pradesh has faced severe drought last year, 2008, in kharif season and a large number of farmers have suffered losses. The Agriculture Insurance Company of India Limited, after taking all facts into account, had approved the first instalment of claims of Andhra Pradesh amounting to Rs. 801 crores for kharif season of 2008. Out of this, the share of the Government of India is Rs. 356 crore. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has released its share and the Government of India has to release its share of the total amount for payment of AICI.

I understand that the funds allocated by the Ministry of Finance for this purpose for the current year is only Rs. 640 crore and it is insufficient to meet this

[Shri Anantha Venkatarami Reddy]

demand as the total amount payable by AICI works out to more than Rs. 3,200 crore and the share of the Central Government works out to approximately Rs. 1,500 crore. In this connection, I submit that the farmers have suffered great losses and are looking forward to the receipt of this amount from the AICI which would mitigate their grievances to some extent. The matter pertains to 2008 and the payment is already delayed.

I would request the Government of India to take immediate steps to obtain additional funds from the Ministry of Finance and release the share of the Government of India so that the payments could be made by the AICI to the farmers who suffered losses.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Vilas Muttemwar—Absent

Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava—Absent

Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi—Absent

**(v) Need to release special grants for "Sandhya Courts" in Gujarat**

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (Mahesana): Sir, in consultation with the Gujarat High Court, the Gujarat Government has started the Sandhya Courts scheme from 14-11-2006. Forty two such Courts are functioning in the state as of now. A request has been made to the Central Government for a special grant. I urge the Government to allocate a special grant for this scheme at the earliest.

**(vi) Need to open Indian Institute of Information Technology and Indian Institute of Management in Himachal Pradesh**

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (Hamirpur): Sir, I, through you, would like to bring to the notice of the Human Resource Development Minister that an Indian Institute of Information Technology is proposed to be set up in district Una. Land measuring 132 acres in Up Mohal Sam Laihari has been identified for the purpose by the Deputy-Commissioner of Una, the information of which has been sent to the Human Resource Development Ministry by the State Government. Now, the in-principle

approval of the Government for setting up of the said Institute is awaited.

Sir, I urge that since Himachal Pradesh has achieved double the enrolment rate as compared to the national average in the field of higher education in the country, therefore, setting up of an IIM there has also become compulsory. I, therefore, request that all the necessary action should be taken as soon as possible while according in-principle approval for the setting up of both the said institutes.

**(vii) Need to set up a NTPC power plant in District Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL (Banda): Sir, the Government of India has been making a lot of efforts for power generation in the country from time to time but despite all these efforts the shortage of power-supply is still being faced. New industrial units could not be set up in the rural areas due to shortage of power.

I demand from the government to set up a NTPC power plant in district Chitrakoot in the much backward Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh in view of the shortage of power and unemployment in that backward area.

The said region is a backward region. The setting up of a power plant will help the farmers and industries of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and provide enough power to the rural areas and facilitate the development of backward area and setting up of new industries.

I, therefore, demand to set up a NTPC plant in Chitrakoot district in Uttar Pradesh at the earliest.

**(viii) Need to provide air-conditioned chair car coach in Saharsa-Danapur (train No. 3225A) and Danapur-Saharsa Intercity Express (train No. 3226A) in East Central Railway Zone**

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Khagaria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there had been air-conditioned chair car coaches attached in the train no. 3225A Saharsa Intercity Express in East Central Railway zone from the day train was introduced but air-conditioned

chair car coach has been detached from Intercity Express for the last 4 to 5 months thereby causing much inconvenience to the passengers.

Therefore, I demand that the air-conditioned chair car coaches be reattached in train no. 3225A and train no. 3226A Intercity Express.

**(ix) Need to include the Attingal revolt of 1721 in the history syllabus for school children**

*[English]*

SHRI A. SAMPATH (Attingal): The first revolt against the colonialism of the English East India Company erupted in April 1721 in the Anjengo (Anjuthengu) of Attingal in Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala. Anjengo was one of the earliest settlements of the British in East India Company India. Even though the revolt was crushed after several weeks, the spirit of the people could not be put down by the imperial rulers. The glorious history of the Attingal revolt still inspires the people to kindle the feelings of anti-imperialism and the peoples struggle for self-rule.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to include the Attingal revolt of 1721 in the history syllabus of school children at the earliest.

**(x) Need to sanction rice under 'Antyodaya Anna Yojana' for additional BPL families in Kandhamal district of Orissa**

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): As per the World Bank Report, 2008 the food security is lowest in Kandhamal district and is at the bottom of the country. The percentage of S.T. population is 53 per cent. The intake capacity of food by the people of Kandhamal district is very low. Moreover, 25,000 families in Kandhamal district are out of BPL category due to a mistake in survey. As such these families are deprived of availing BPL rice at Rs. 2 per kg as introduced by the Government of Orissa.

The hon. Chief Minister of Orissa has requested the hon. Minister of Agriculture, the Government of India to sanction rice so as to cover 25,000 additional Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families to enable them to avail rice at Rs. 2 per kg.

It is, therefore, urged upon the Union Government to sanction AAY rice for additional 25,000 families in Kandhamal district of Orissa urgently.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P. Kumar not present.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Majumdar, you have not given a notice to speak in Bengali language.

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Sir, I had given the notice in Bengali.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should have given a notice for speaking in Bengali. you may read your speech in English.

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: I am reading in Bengali.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you speak in Bengali, that will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given notice for speaking in English.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not argue in this case. You have given a notice for speaking in English, you may speak in English. If you have to speak in Bengali, you should have given a notice earlier.

**(xi) Need to organize education tours to Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

*[English]*

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): People who had participated in the freedom struggle of India against the Britishers had to sacrifice their lives. Many of them were confined in a jail in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Thus, from the historical perspective, these Islands are extremely significant. The Cellular Jail was home to hundreds of prisoners who fought valiantly for their country. The Jail occupies a prominent place in the history of the freedom movement.

[Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar]

Students of the present generation feel an urge to visit this historical place but are not able to go there due to financial constraints and lack of proper transport facilities. Especially, the airfare is too high. I, therefore, urge upon the HRD Ministry to arrange for educational tours to help the students visit the Islands, to see the Cellular Jail and also support them financially.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Sir, I am on a point of order. He is referring to the Cellular Jail. That is a Rashtriya Smarak. He cannot say "Cellular Jail." ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

Next, Shri Jose K. Mani—not present.

Shri Gutha Sukender Reddy. Please come in time in future.

**(xii) Need to set up Cotton Purchase Centres of Cotton Corporation of India in Nalgonda and Rangareddy districts of Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY (Nalgonda): Thank you, Sir.

Farmers in Nalgonda and Rangareddy districts are selling off huge quantity of cotton to middlemen and private buyers at a cheap rate due to the absence of purchase centres of Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). Knowing well how to make hay while the sun shines, the market forces are buying cotton at the farmers' doorsteps in a big way.

However, no effort is being made by the Central Government to operate CCI purchase centres at Konda Mallepally, Suryapet and Valigonda in Nalgonda district and Vikarabad, Thandur, Pargi, Marpally Mandal, Chevella in Rangareddy district. Farmers raised cotton in more than 1.5 lakh acres and they reaped 7-9 quintals per acre in many areas.

Farmers have taken serious exception to the delay in opening the CCI centres in these districts. Farmers are at the mercy of private parties since the Government machinery has failed to come to their rescue at this

critical juncture. Officials have failed to encourage the farmers to approach the CCI centres.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to take immediate steps to procure the cotton from farmers by opening Cotton Purchase Centres in the above-referred places. CCI has also to visit the doorsteps of the farmers who are unable to bring their produce to the centres. It is also requested that efforts be made in quick delivery of payments to the farmers.

**(xiii) Need to provide special allowance to the employees working in the coalfields located in the naxalite-affected areas**

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir, the employees working in the Coalfields, particularly in the naxalite-affected areas, have to stay permanently at their place of posting along with their families. They have to put in their best to continue in the service. Their lives are already hazardous and the hazard becomes all the more difficult when coalfields are located in the Maoist-dominated areas. Therefore, they have been demanding a special allowance of 15 per cent as an incentive for working in the coalfields located in the naxalite-affected areas besides other allowances like tribal allowance, etc. The request of the employees appears to be quite genuine and I would urge upon the Government to consider the sanction of special allowance to the employees working in the Coalfields in the naxalite-affected areas.

Incidentally, the hon. Minister is here and, I hope, he will take cognizance of this appeal.

14.49 hrs.

**WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 2009—Contd.**

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House will take up item no. 16. Shri Arjun Meghwal.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak

on Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the government to the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The said Act is very old and after so many years a Bill has been brought for amendment in this Act. Four major provisions have been emphasized in the proposed amendment. I would like to dwell upon these provisions. Simultaneously, I would like to make some suggestions also. First, definition is being changed through the said amendment. The existing word "Workman" shall be substituted by the word "Employee". There is a slight difference of opinion between the National Labour Commission and the ILO so far as the said definition of workmen and employee is concerned. But since it is being amendment, I would like to say something with regard to the four provisions being made through this amendment Bill. The first provision is regarding increasing the compensation amount in case of death of a workman from the present Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1,20,000; the second is regarding increasing compensation in case of permanent disability of a workman from the present Rs. 90,000 to Rs. 1,40,000. Apart from it there is a proposal to hike the present rate of expenditure towards the last rites of a workman, who died while carrying out his duties from the existing Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5,000, however, it was raised from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 2500 in 2000 itself. It means, now this Act is being re-amended since 2000. The Standing Committee relating to the Ministry of Labour, in one of its reports, had recommended that there should be a provision for reimbursement of expenses incurred by a workman for treatment in case he falls sick. Earlier, there was no such provision. In view of it, now the said provision is being made. In a nutshell, the present amendment bill is focused on these four main provisions.

Sir, perhaps, this is the only law which has no concern with regard to social security of workmen. Therefore, there is a need to have an extensive debate on it. Talks should also be held with several unions concerning workmen and the workmen employed in the unorganized sector. And perhaps, they have not been consulted earlier. The provisions proposed through the said amendment are inadequate. Compensation in case of death is proposed to be hiked from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1,20,000. Although it is minimum, in the old Act a

gap of Rs. 4000 existed and if it is not rectified, so hiking the compensation will not be relevant. Wage limit has been provided at upto Rs. 4000. Until and unless the wage limit is increased, there will be no use of increasing the amount of compensation. I fail to understand the logic of making a provision of Rs. 1,20,000 in case of death and Rs. 1,40,000 in case of permanent disability. If young workman of 22 years dies, his dependents should get more compensation. Whereas, on the contrary, if a workman of 50 years is rendered permanently disabled, the proposed provision provides him more compensation. I do not understand it. The time of death and the time of payment of compensation is also not clear. Compensation should be more in case of fatality. It should be Rs. ten lakh in case of death and Rs. five lakh in case of permanent disability. Similarly, the last rites expenses have been increased from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000. What does it meant? There are expenses to be incurred even after the last rites are over. Therefore, there is a need to hike it to Rs. ten thousand. I do not think Rs. 5000 is enough to meet last rites expenses. Moreover, after this amendment it may take another 3-4 years for next amendment. There is a proposal for reimbursement of medical expenses. In this regard, my submission is that a contributory health insurance scheme, on the lines of handloom and handicraft sectors, should be launched for the workmen. The premium of the insurance is paid partly by the Government of India, partly by the State Government and partly by the promoter, and when the handloom weaver or the artisan falls ill, he is treated free on the basis of his health card. We should follow the same scheme and introduce it here also. Why should we go for reimbursement? If a workman falls ill and gets treatment anywhere, he may face difficulties at the time of reimbursement on various grounds and he will get reimbursement after 2 to 4 months. In view of it, my submission is that the workmen should be covered under health insurance schemes on the lines of scheme meant for the handloom and handicraft sectors. And they should be provided health cards and should be permitted to avail free medical facilities from government hospitals or some select private hospitals can be authorized in this regard. It will be much better.

Secondly, the report of the National Labour

[Shri Arjun Ram Meghwa]

Commission and the ILO convention has repeatedly discussed whether the definition of workman and employee is the same. In the proposed amendment, it is being substituted by the word "employee". There may be a legal angle of it. Therefore, there is a need to clarify it as the Bill should be based on the theme of constructive labour welfare. It is not that someone gives suggestions and the same are incorporated.

Section (20) stipulates that the State Government will be authorized to appoint commissioners. Some modifications in their requisite qualification are also proposed. But it is nowhere mentioned that the State Governments have been consulted in this regard. I welcome the proposed time limit of three months for disposal of cases. It is very good. But, I have observed that it takes years for disposal of cases in labour courts or State Governments. But, now there is a proposal to prescribe a time limit of three months. My contention is that the limit of three months is not practical. Even if it is practical, I would like to add one thing to it that if the matter is not disposed within 6-7 months in that case the workman should be provided at least the wages and facilities that he was getting while working. This change should be incorporated otherwise it is not going to be of any use. Secondly, the proposed Act is not applicable to the workmen who are covered under employee state insurance laws. Why this condition? The workman should have the option to choose one, whichever is beneficial to him.

As regards the Motor Vehicle Act, the Supreme Court has constituted Motor Accident Claims Tribunal for disposal of cases of motor accidents. Therefore, my suggestion is that a tribunal should be established for workmen on similar lines. The formula adopted by the said tribunal for providing compensation is very good. Therefore, a similar formula can be evolved for providing compensation to the workmen so that they could get more amounts. But, this is not going to happen unless the wage ceiling of Rs. four thousand is removed.

15.00 hrs.

I would like to make one more suggestion. If the workmen working in hazardous industries, where the

factory owner has not made any safety measures such as providing helmets, masks or gloves, meet with an accident, the compensation to be provided to him should be doubled. It is the responsibility of the factory owner to take safety measures and also insure the workman. Therefore, my submission is that under such circumstances, if a workman meets with an accident, dies or gets injured, his compensation should be doubled.

Now, I would like to make a point with regard to the unorganized sector workers engaged in construction industry. If a worker, working on any building having a height of 20 feet meets with an accident and dies, his dependents get the claims. But if any worker works on any building with a height of less than 20 feet, he gets no claim in case of any eventuality. I hail from Rajasthan. People there construct houses having a height of only ten feet. Therefore, if any worker dies there while working does not get any claim. Why is there a condition of 20 feet height in this regard? People in rural areas construct houses, which are below 20 feet high. Therefore, an amendment should be made in this regard also. If the relation between the widow of a deceased workman and his other dependents go sour, then there should also be a provision for compensation to them.

Sir, through you, I should urge upon the government to remove the wage ceiling of Rs. four thousand. The time limit of three months is alright, but, in case the case is not disposed of within a period of three months then the worker should be paid the remuneration that he was drawing when he met with the accident.

I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the hon. Minister of Labour for bringing the extant Bill. I support the said Bill. The said Bill has been brought with a view to making certain amendments in the interest of workmen. We have a large army of workmen in our country. If we look at it from global perspective, we have nothing in the name of social security for the said workforce. The existing law, which is a very old one, was enacted way back in 1923 in British era. The law provided that if a workman gets injury while on job, he should be

paid compensation. There was no such concept anywhere in the world some 125 years ago. For the first time, such law was enacted in Germany in 1884. A number of movements got underway in the run up to it and then it was realized that if any worker gets injured or dies while on duty he should be paid something either by the owner of the industrial establishment or by the government. Then a law came into being which was followed the world over. The hon. Minister has brought an amendment to that very Act. Mainly there are 2-3 points in the proposed amendment. One of our colleagues from BJP has thrown light on these points very well. First the compensation to be paid in the event of death or permanent disability of a workman has been increased. Earlier, it was Rs. 80,000 in case of death and Rs. 90,000 in case of permanent disability. Now, the hon. Minister has increased it to Rs. 1,25,000 and Rs. 1,40,000. I do not feel it is adequate. This provision has also been made that here onwards the Central Government will be authorized to increase the said compensation whenever it finds it necessary. It means that further there will not be any need to bring any amendment again in Parliament. In view of it, I would urge the hon. Minister that by the time the said Bill is passed and gets implemented the prescribed amount of compensation of Rs. 1,25,000 and Rs. 1,40,000 should be doubled, as death cannot be assessed in terms of money. If an ordinary person dies, there is no compensation. But if any worker dies and if there is no other earning member in his family then suddenly the whole family comes on the verge of starvation. In such a scenario his family should be paid some money at least to make both ends meet for some time. And Rs. 1,25,000 has no value in such a scenario. In the present time of high rate of inflation one-and-a-quarter lakh rupee in just nothing. In view of it, I would urge the hon. minister that once the Bill is passed and the Act is enforced the compensation amount of Rs. 1,25,000 and Rs. 1,40,000 should immediately be doubled so that it can, in fact, benefit the workmen in whose interests the said amendment bill has been brought.

It is a matter of great joy that even the workers of the level of Railway Clerk have also been included in it. Earlier, it was not so and I would like to congratulate the Minister for this. A major amendment

made in it is that the eligibility norms for appointment to the post of commissioner have been changed, making them more comprehensive. Hon. Minister has said that lawyers and people from judicial service too can be eligible alongwith such Gazetted officers who have work experience of 5 years. But, even more important thing than this is that such a person should be made commissioner who must finish the work relating to payment of compensation within three months. He should be such a person who had never been anti-worker because it is very much necessary to keep it in mind that, presently, we are living in the era of globalisation. Privatisation is being done indiscriminately and private companies are mushrooming. Hire and fire policy is being enforced. The workers are not very much secure. In this phase of economic reforms, if there is anyone who is bearing the brunt most, then, it is surely the working class. Be it privatization or globalisation or disinvestments all have resulted in rendering a large number of workers jobless. The predecessor of the UPA Government had sold many hotels in our Mumbai and their workers are jobless today with many of them having committed suicide. Thus, there is nothing to give them protection. I, therefore, feel that we will have to be a little sensitive while implementing this law in the given context. Care should be taken to check the track record, besides, the eligibility of the person to be appointed to the post of commissioner. Otherwise, the large private companies would like to deliberately get some person appointed as commissioner who would, in case the company faces any problem or situation demands compensation for the workers, will work in the interests of the company instead of the worker. Therefore, special attention should be paid during the appointment of a commissioner.

Secondly, I would like to draw your attention to the unorganized workers. In this regard, you have mentioned and there is a provision in this law that care will be taken of the workers engaged in hazardous employment. This falls under the purview of this law. The meaning of hazardous is very limited, which needs to be widened. If we have about 3-4 crore organized workers in the country, then, about 40 crore people work in unorganized sector and they do not have social security even today. Just now our friend from BJP was

[Shri Sanjay Nirupam]

telling that large companies are running a scheme in the name of social security with the aim of garnering business profits. It is alright, but, in true sense, it is not so in the construction sector only, which you have mentioned. I will cite an example of Mumbai where a large number of small businesses are running there and lakhs of labourers are working there. Small factories of readymade garments are running in the jhuggi-clusters of Mumbai. These factories are not regulated under any law. Leather industry is also functioning at large scale. The labourers working in the leather industry really live a hellish life. They do not get any kind of social security. Some provisions have been made for the handloom/power loom sector but without getting much focus. I do not think that the Beedi workers of the entire country are covered under this law. The workers engaged in zari work are, perhaps, the saddest lot. They work in total darkness where there is no air, water and light and they do not even get proper salary. Thus, whether the labourers working in the unorganized sector will be brought within the purview of this law because they are working in the hazardous conditions or the workers of the sectors mentioned by you will be brought under the purview of this law. I would like to have a special clarification from the hon. Minister in this regard.

Sir, time and again mention was made of the working class at the ILO convention. Concern was expressed about the labourers there repeatedly. The previous UPA Government too had always taken care of the interests and rights of the unorganized workers but this law does not reflect such seriousness. I would like that the hon. Minister should think from the view point of protecting the life of the workers in the unorganized sector. Similarly, there are landless workers. The landless labourers working in the cottage industries do not even have the right to form a union. If, in this situation, attention is paid to the labourers engaged in the unregulated sector, which is known as informal sector, then it will be a great service to these workers. The economic reforms should have a human face. Economic reforms are taking place at a very fast pace but such laws are being enacted in the economic reforms. I welcome the view point for protection of the interests of the workers during the pursuit of economic

reforms. In this economic reforms programme, it is necessary to see that the workers do not lag behind. I welcome the spirit of the Workmen Compensation Act 2009 Amendment Bill. The Ministry had made rules with total honesty to implement this Act. In such situation, efforts should definitely be made to implement that spirit there and only then can the object of this Bill be realized. I, once again, congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this Amendment Bill to the House and welcome and support this Bill.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill, 2009. Hon. Minister Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge has brought this Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 to this House and I rise to support it. I would like to emphasise on this bill too. First of all I would like to thank hon. Minister for giving his speech in Hindi yesterday. It was a very good effort made by him. I would like to thank him particularly for proposing an amendment in the Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill by replacing Workmen word with Employees. Workmen word sounds a little strange but employee word is popular amongst the common people, it is known to everyone and people of all the states also know it very well. Under this, you have clarified certain departments which include railway employee, Shipmaster and Sailor and his crew, Captain of an aircraft and his crew members, driver, helper, mechanic cleaner of a motor vehicle, and you have also discussed these in detail. You have made certain amendments also in this. All the hon'ble members have expressed their opinion on this and it is a fact that efforts were made from time to time by the International Labour Organisation and under all the Labour laws that maximum facilities be provided to the employees and we have discussed their problems regularly in this House.

Right now, some hon'ble Members expressed their opinions and gave suggestions regarding organized and unorganized workers and these should be accepted. In my opinion that will rightly prove the purpose of this Bill. So far as the amendment brought regarding compensation in case of death of an employee or injury caused to an employee to increase the amount from



Rs. 80 thousand to Rs. 1 lakh 20 thousand and from Rs. 90 thousand to Rs. 1 lakh 40 thousand is concerned, this is a good decision. But at the same time I feel that in today's time of inflation this amount is too less. There is a need to increase it further. This should be increased. In my opinion, amendments brought again and again regarding any issue are not good. In view of today's circumstances it will be appropriate if we increase this.

Secondly, he has talked about medical expenses. The amount here has been increased from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000, an hon'ble Member just now mentioned that CGHS facility has been provided for the Central Government employees. Some employees avail CGHS facilities and some have to go to private hospitals for treatment. At present, the expenses on health facilities are too high, a rich person can afford his treatment but one who does not have money cannot afford treatment. Everybody can manage for small illnesses, all the employees can manage but in case of serious diseases like cancer, brain tumor, heart problem or kidney failure, the expenses can go up to 10-15 lakh. That employee cannot afford this much expenditure. Therefore, there should be such an arrangement that all these employees get health facilities.

One thing mentioned by you is that in case of death of an employee, the assistance amount at the time of his last rites has been increased from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000. This is good. But, while giving my suggestions with regard to this Bill, I would like to request you that this Bill is for the employees. The Employees are the axis of development of this country. Be it a matter of salary, compensation for the dependents in case of death of an employee, treatment, life or welfare of the employees, if we are able to provide them facilities in real terms, then only these people, who play a major role in the development of the country, will be able to reap the benefits of the same. In the end, I would like to conclude my speech by supporting this Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill.

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, at the threshold I would like to

say that the amendments have been sought for are nothing but periodical in nature. From time to time benefits have been extended. I have seen that this time you have brought in the definition of an employee. But there is no amendment in respect of Section 3 of the Workmen Compensation Act itself. You have brought in definition within the statute book relating to an employee. But the benefit of the employee has been extended under Section 7 (b) which would be substituted as Section 4 1(b) of the main Act. By this amendment Government are giving the benefits of an employee who will be working outside the country. But Government are not extending the benefit to an employee who is working within this country. Therefore, you are not giving the benefit under Section 3 to an employee. Section 3 has been restricted only to the workmen. By this amendment you are extending the benefit to an outside employee also. Therefore, this part itself is discriminatory in character. Government must give the benefit. When you have brought the amendment, you have given the definition of an employee, you must extend the benefit of an employee who will be working within the country, apart from the workman. You have engrossed it now by bringing in two identities—employee and workman.

The other point is that in Section 8 of the new Amending Bill you have said that apart from the member of a State Judicial Service for a period of not less than five years or is or has been not less than five years an advocate or a pleader or a gazetted officer, having educational qualification and experience in personnel management, can be appointed a commissioner. I do not have any difficulty insofar as the State Judicial Service is concerned. But what is the guideline for selecting an advocate for appointment to the post of commissioner? Would it be depending on the *ipse dixit* of the State Government or whoever is the ruling party there? In their discretion whoever lawyer is there, will he be appointed? What are the criteria for selecting a lawyer to be appointed as a commissioner? I am not against the selection of a lawyer for appointing him as a commissioner. But there must be fixed guidelines for selecting an advocate for appointment to the post of commissioner.

Similarly, you are appointing a civil servant, who is a gazetted officer, to the post of commissioner. The

[Shri Kalyan Banerjee]

next point is this amendment has been brought in regarding the disposal of the case by the commissioner. In my humble experience in which I have served for the last 28 years in my practicing career, not a single case is disposed of earlier than one year. Here, you have made a provision that within three months it has to be done. The provision has not been made mandatory, you have made it directory. I can appreciate your thinking that it should be disposed of. If you want to get it disposed of within three months, it must be made mandatory. Some penal clause has to be there. If the commissioner is not in a position to dispose a matter within a period of three months because of the non-cooperation of the management, under the statute you must make a provision that the employer must give compensation for each and every day and it should be a penalized compensation. Ultimately what is happening? Who is gainer when a workman gets compensation? Ultimately the insurance company, that is, the most nationalized insurance company is fighting against the award of compensation. Now you will find in all litigations which are going up to Supreme Court, there is no shortage of money to the Central Government insurance company.

They are fighting for cases even where Rs. 100 is awarded as compensation going up to the Supreme Court taking the matter for long, 20 years or 25 years. Is it possible for a workman to contest in such cases? Therefore, an in-built provision has to be made. When the Central Government is bringing the Act for the benefit of the workmen of this country, the Central Government must also restrict its another hand regarding the national insurance companies. At one stage they must accept it. The Commissioner will pass the order, then in the High Court there are two stages and then the matter goes to the Supreme Court. In all matters the national insurance companies are going to court. Therefore, whatever laudable object that has been fixed by the Central Government by giving workmen compensation and to provide benefit to the workmen, it is really frustrated. It is ultimately frustrated in the hands of the national insurance companies whoever those companies may be.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Labour to look into this. He is having a tremendous experience when he was in the Assembly. I find that earlier also he has said so many things in favour of labour. I would request you, Sir, to consider these aspects. You must stop your insurance companies from going to the higher courts. Ultimately one of the adjudicating authorities is deciding the matter. Thereafter the High Court is giving its order. Why should they carry every matter up to the Supreme Court? It is not a matter of fight for the moustache and the workman is suffering. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, I would humbly request for three things.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): What is that fight?

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: It is the fight for moustache—*mooch ki ladaai*. ...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, you kindly consider about the respect of the workmen. First of all, you kindly fix up a time. You have done it; but it has to be made mandatory. If the employer takes time, you give power to the Commissioner to impose a heavy penalty for the time he takes every time. Secondly, when you have got the definition of the employee under the Act, you extend him the benefits when he is outside the country. You give that benefit to them when he is within the country also.

My request to you, through the hon. Deputy-Speaker is, there must be a guideline. Rather I would say that there must be a subordinate legislation to this extent fixing up the criteria for selecting a lawyer to be appointed or a gazetted officer to be appointed as a Commissioner. Otherwise, in other things I find that this is really beneficiary so far as the workmen are concerned. To that extent I really support the Bill. Some benefits have also been extended. Of course, these are being extended periodically. To that extent I support this Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Workmen Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009. This amending legislation has been brought before the House after the second National Labour Commission, set up in 2002, recommended for amending certain provisions of the Workmen Compensation Act, 1923.

This Act was enacted in 1923. Since then there had been a number of amendments. The Act was amended to enhance the rate of compensation. The Bill was introduced and then it was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee on Labour has also made certain recommendations. Not all the recommendations have been accepted by the Ministry but some recommendations have been incorporated in the amending legislation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when the Act is being amended, there are four main purposes. One is to widen the definition of 'workman' and that is why, it is being replaced by 'employee' as in the original Act, certain employees were excluded from the ambit of the Act and there, it has referred to the Indian Railways Act, 1989. There, certain categories of employees have been excluded from payment of compensation. Before the enactment of the Indian Railways Act in 1989, there was Railways Act of 1898 where even the permanent employees of railways were paid as per the Workmen's Compensation Act while in the place of work, if an employee got injured or died because of an accident. When the Indian Railways Act was amended in 1989, in the definition of 'passenger', the 'railway employees on board' has been included, but certain categories of employees, say casual workers, were excluded. There is no casual worker now, but in the past, there were more than three lakh casual workers in the Railways. While working on the track, if a wagon or coach on another track falls on the workman and he dies because of that, he would be paid as per the Workmen's Compensation Act. He will not be treated as passenger.

Now when the Act is being amended and the amount of compensation is also being enhanced after eight years, I would submit that the amount which is being enhanced to be paid in case of death from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1,20,000 is not sufficient. I would request the hon. Labour Minister to increase it because it is called 'minimum'. If certain amount is fixed as minimum, no employer will give more than what has been stated as the minimum in the Bill. We have the experience of the past. We have the Minimum Wages Act which mentions 'minimum' wage, but are the contractors' workers getting more than the minimum wage fixed by the State Government by way of notification? It is very

rarely that they are getting more than that. Even the Labour Minister knows that the contractors' workers do not get even the minimum wages as per the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act of 1970. Their exploitation is taking place. So, my request is that the minimum compensation payable on the death of a workman or employee should be enhanced suitably as also in case he sustains injuries. It is mentioned that: "for the words "ninety thousand rupees", the words "one lakh and forty thousand rupees" shall be substituted." I would suggest that this amount should also be enhanced or increased.

Now, we have got the Act. Has the Minister got any report as to how many workmen are getting the workmen's compensation as per the existing Act? There are a number of cases where the kith and kin of the workmen do not get the minimum compensation after the workman's death. They do not even get the minimum compensation. Sometimes, they have to compromise or to accept it because they need immediate help. They need immediate succour when the only earning member dies while working in a factory or in a workplace. But the kith and kin have to wait for months together to get the workmen's compensation. As they have to wait for months together, they generally approach the employees or with the help of the Union they get some amount. It takes time to get compensation through Commissioner with the help of the Act, and because of this he has to accept any amount. Something has to be done to make expeditious payment of compensation. Sometimes, it takes more than one year to get this small amount of Rs. 85,000, which is there today. Therefore, some mechanism has to be developed, and some time-bound process should be there. This three months time—which has been fixed now in this amendment—should be made mandatory, and the families of the workmen should be paid the monthly salary that he gets until that compensation is paid. This provision should also be incorporated in the amending legislation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, please conclude your speech.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am concluding. There are only a couple of points left to mention.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

We have a number of labour laws. But what is happening today? These labour laws are being violated or not being observed. They are being violated blatantly. What is the safeguard here when the amending legislation is brought before this House? What is the safeguard here that these provisions of this legislation would not be violated? How can it be safeguarded in case it is violated? How can it be prevented? How many have been prosecuted for violation of the labour laws?

We have many labour laws. We have the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act; the Minimum Wages Act; the Workmen's Compensation Act; the Maternity Benefit Act; the Payment of Wages Act, and yet the workmen or the employees do not get their salary for months together. There is no such thing to prevent the violation of labour laws. That is the main problem today. The workers of our country are facing this problem. We have 37.5 crore workers who are under unorganised sector. The Social Security Act was enacted in the last Lok Sabha. The social security which the workers in the unorganised sector should get, they are not getting. Even the laws enacted by this Act are also not being implemented properly. So, I would request the Labour Minister that whatever amendments he has brought before this House, these are the good amendments. But there is a scope for further improvement. What is this amount of Rs. 1.25 lakhs? It is nothing. It should be increased to minimum of Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

15.42 hrs

[SHRI INDER SINGH NAMDHARI *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): You pass it first.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why? When you are amending it, you can increase it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am addressing you only. The Minister of Labour Shri Harish Rawatji is my old colleague. Shri Mallikarjun Kharge is a senior

Minister. I often meet him...(*Interruption*) I am an atheist. ...(*Interruption*)

[*English*]

He also knows about the contractor workers. Once he was discussing with me as to how their interests can be protected. How can the contractor workers be saved from exploitation? They are not even getting minimum wages. We have the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act of 1970. But nowhere this is being implemented.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Achariaji, Will you kindly conclude now?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In the Central Public Sector Undertakings, this is not being implemented. My humble request is to enhance the compensation both for the death and for getting permanently injured and improve the functioning of labour court. There is the Office of the Commissioner. But unless there is some direction, some mandatory provision by which time it has to be disposed, till then such penalty has to be given to the workmen and that has to be incorporated in the Bill. Then this Bill will be welcomed by all.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today I am delighted to greet you because of your permission to me on the discussion on the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009. Sir, I am delighted to participate on the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009. This Act may be called the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 2009. In the long title to the Workmen's Compensation Act, the word "employees" shall be substituted throughout the principal Act with the words of "workman" and "workmen", wherever they occur.

A worker becomes a worker by his birth. *Itihasa ratha pachhaku ghurena, agaku thahargati; itihasa ratha chakrachalak, hemanisha mehnati*. The wheels of the world never move back. They always move ahead. The entire world is organised because of the dedication of the poor workers. But they are born as workers and they die as workers. The greatest tragedy on this earth is the life of a worker. He sacrifices his life to construct

roads, bridges, mansions, temples, mosques, churches, monasteries, etc. But the living conditions of a worker have almost been the same now as prior to our Independence.

In my Constituency there are about five hundred slum dwellers who are actually workers. They die without food, without clothing, without shelter and without medicine. This must be the case with every Constituency in the country. The hon. Minister is a senior Member of Parliament. He knows about the Act in and out. We people are sitting here formulating the Act. I would like to ask if the workers are really benefited by the legislations that we are formulating sitting here. They are not benefited at all. They do not have money to go to the court. They do not have money to pay to the advocate to argue their case.

The Minister has mentioned in the Bill that the compensation which is about Rs. 85,000 now would be enhanced to Rs. 1,20,000. What is the value of the rupee now? In these days of steep hike in the prices of essential commodities when even the middle class people are suffering, you can imagine what the situation of a poor man could be. The keeper of an Alsatian dog spends more than Rs. 200 a day to feed meat to it these days. However, a worker gets less than Rs. 100 a day to feed his entire family. Is this amount sufficient to feed a worker's family during these days of steep prices?

I would propose to the hon. Minister that it should be doubled for organised as well as unorganised workers. When a worker sleeps on a hungry stomach, the rich man's mansion would be moving. That natural calamity may come one day if we do not feed the poor workers who are living in the slum areas in our cities.

These people are living in the slums in the city areas. They are serving in our families. Therefore, I pray to the hon. Minister that money should be doubled. At the same time, law should be binding. I would say that Parliament is a law-making body, which is promulgating law, enacting law and the Act for the poor workers. But if the Acts are not being implemented properly, poor workers may not go to the court. Therefore, I would like to pray to the hon. Minister that he should consider doubling the amount. Everywhere,

Bills are brought to Parliament for carrying out amendments.

[*Translation*]

Amendments keep taking place and will keep happening but we will now to see that if we are unable to provide relief to a poor person then we will fail in keeping peace in the country as well.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, the think-tank, the saffron colour would definitely make effect on the Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009 on behalf of Shiv Sena party. I would like to thank both—the Cabinet Minister and the Minister of State. I support this Bill. Certain provisions made in this Bill are very good but there could be more improvement and more amendments. ...(*Interruptions*) A notice has to be given in advance for speaking in Marathi, otherwise, I would have spoken in Marathi language...(*Interruptions*). So, I will speak in Hindi here. I speak in Marathi language in Maharashtra.

This Bill was referred to Parliamentary Standing Committee for consideration and the Committee has returned it to the government with its recommendations. So, I would not discuss this Bill in detail because it has been comprehensively discussed in the Standing Committee. The workers, who will be called employees from now, will be highly benefited from this Bill. I am a member of ESIC. You and the former minister, the then Director General and presently Secretary, Department of Labour have made a large contribution to the developments in ESIC. Due to this the employees of ESIC have got medical benefits. They are getting better medical facilities and super specialty benefit also. There is no provision for them in this Act and we should make the provision in this regard. The coverage limit of the workers of ESIC is Rs. 10,000 and that limit should also be increased. The government employees have got the benefits of the sixth pay commission but these

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

benefits have not been provided to the employees of the factories and the companies. So, those workers, who get more than Rs. 10,000 as wages and are employed in a factory or a company covered under ESI, should also get these benefits. Now the cost of limit has increased. So the benefits should also be increased. Few employers help their employees. Several employers do not provide proper benefits to their workers on the grounds of no profit or other reasons. The provisions of minimum compensation of Rs. 1,20,000 and Rs. 1,40,000 provided in this Bill are good. There should be a provision that if one can pay more than the minimum provision then it should be paid. There are several companies like Voltas, Videocon or Baja which earn good profit, so they should pay more. There should be a figure for minimum benefits on the lines of minimum wages but more than that can also be paid. There can be no changes in the Act but I request that a circular to this effect may be issued. The amount of funeral expenses is the same as in our corporation. So it is sufficient. But if one wants to pay more for funeral expenses also then one may pay.

After being discharged from the hospital, an employee is under medication for several days and in such case he should continue to get the benefits till he is fully fit.

Medical report is not submitted in time. You have provided for a Commissioner but I would like to ask what kind of Commissioner has been provided. Labour Commissioner, Divisional Commissioner or which kind of Commissioner? I would like to say that a Labour Commissioner should be provided because earlier one had to go to Labour court in regard to any case under Workmen's Compensation Act. Now-a-days there are Labour Courts in the districts also and if a Labour Court is to be substituted by a Commissioner then it should be a Labour Commissioner. There will be Labour Commissioner in Mumbai, Bihar and Delhi but at district level there are Deputy Labour Commissioners and there are Assistant Labour Commissioners in some districts and government Labour officers at some places. All these should be covered under this Act. For example, an employee of Vidarbha will go to GLO or ALO of

Vidarbha. How will he go to Bangalore and how many times he will have to go to Bangalore for one lakh rupees? So the commissioner should be appointed at the lowest level.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Khaire, the definition has been provided in this Act as to who can be appointed as Commissioner. There are provisions in this regard.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Yes Sir, there is a provision but there should be a provision upto the lower level, otherwise the government labour officer will refer the case to commissioner who will be in Mumbai. How much money will have to be spent by an employee for travelling to Mumbai? So I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister, through you, that this settlement should be provided at lower level. So far as the provision of three months is concerned, the doctor should submit the report within one month. The compensation in regard to a person's death should be provided to his/her dependents within one month. An injured person should get the benefits within three months. There should be no problem in granting compensation in case of death if death certificate is issued by gram panchayat or Municipal Corporation or any other authority but this compensation should be provided within one month. I would like to thank you for giving me time to speak. I would like to thank the Ministers, the Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Secretariat of the Ministry also for presenting such a good Bill. I extend my full cooperation and hope that my suggestions will be considered by you.

**16.00 hrs.**

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Workmen's Compensation Amendment Act, 2009. At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude towards the hon'ble Minister for he has substituted the word 'Workmen' by 'Employees'. Actually, the common people were not able to comprehend the word 'workmen' whereas the word 'employees' is very much connected with general public. Under the amendments, the hon'ble Minister has put forth some points which are related to some organisation or community in some way or the other. In some unorganised sectors, in case of untimely death of an

employee, his dependents do not get the due compensation. The increase made in the amount of compensation is insufficient in proportion to the rise in prices. We all are facing the problem of price rise. The amount of compensation has been increased from eighty thousand to one lakh twenty thousand and from ninety thousand to one lakh forty thousand. It is a very meagre amount. It would be insufficient to cater to the needs of his family. The situation becomes worse for the families in case of untimely death of the single earning member. Therefore, the amount of compensation should be increased more.

Secondly, the increase made in the limit for reimbursement of medical expenses from two thousand five hundred rupees to five thousand rupees is commendable though this much is also insufficient and should be increased. Provision made for the last rites of a deceased employee is also commendable but there is a need to enhance the amount meant for this purpose. In the wake of price rise, grieved family can face problems in making such arrangements also. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards those workers of unorganized sector who neither have any union nor any access to the officers to place their grievances. Their dependents face problems in case they die in harness. Labourers and farmers in the villages earn daily to fend themselves. Unfortunately, no arrangements have been made in this compensation amendment bill to provide them benefit under such circumstances. Such an arrangement should be made in the bill for the labourers, masons and the labourers working in some organisation that in case of their death in an accident on work place, their family members could be taken care of. Even the labourers working in small scale domestic industries running in villages and towns are not getting any such benefit in case of accidents. For the labourers engaged in beedi industry, carpet industry or stone cutting or engaged in such types of other works and who are living in villages below poverty line, those who are the sole earning member of their family and the family has no other means of livelihood, in such a situation, if the sole earning member dies, the amendment bill should have the provision to provide help to his family. Those labourers who are organised under a union can raise their concerns before the Government through unions or various other media

but other poor labourers who have to earn daily for their livelihood should also be included under this bill. Then only it would reach the people in real terms. As has been stated, the amendments proposed in the bill are praiseworthy but the unorganised labour sector which is a part of our society should be covered under the bill so that the people of the country, poor people and jhuggi-jhopari dwellers could be benefited through this bill in real terms. With these words, I conclude while welcoming the amendment bill.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister. His good name is Mallikarjun Kharge. I went to him to know the meaning of Mallikarjun. He told me that the meaning of this word is Lord Shiva. Lord Shiva has made justice to everyone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Did you not ask the meaning of Kharge?

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: I do not know the meaning of Kharge. Mallikarjun is sufficient.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kharge means the one with the sword in his hand.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: All right. Mallikarjunaji is like Vishwakarma for the poor and labourers in the country. He has brought their constitution amendment bill to do justice to the poor people. However, when I went through the draft, it seemed like "old wine in a new bottle with cocktail." I did not find any real changes in it. The Government in power claims that it is the Government of common man, it is a progressive alliance. Therefore, I repeat that serving the poor people is like serving the Lord Shiva. The bill has been brought for the poor labourers, the labourers who have built roads, hospitals and schools, the road by which we all have come to attend this Parliament today is also constructed by them. Therefore, my submission is that the amendments to be made in the bill should reflect that this Government is really a common men's government and is concerned about the poor people. I would like to cite an example. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to mention that the Delhi Government has done a good thing. Delhi Government issues a

[Shri Bishnu Pada Ray]

circular when D.A. is increased. With the increase in DA, wages are also increased. But did the wages increase actually? I submit that 62 years ago they were working as bonded labourers under the zamindars and kings but now they are bonded labourers under contractors. Let us come back to Delhi. The organisation named AGDG located in Ghuna Mandi, Paharganj supplies labour, security staff and drivers for our Andaman and Nicobar Bhawan. The security man receives a salary of Rs. 2200 per month i.e. 70 rupees daily whereas minimum wages in Delhi are Rs. 140. There is no facility like GPF, earned leave, uniform, medical treatment or other benefits for the labourers. The situation is same for all be they security staff, labourers, drivers, peons or clerks. Now I would like to tell you about the situation in Andaman and Nicobar Island. Andaman Nicobar Islands do not have any state Government and it is directly governed by the Union Government as it is a Union Territory. I would like to draw your attention towards what is happening in Andaman. There is a single Municipal Corporation over there and for the last 12-14 years labourers have been working as DRM, TRM and have neither been regularized nor given any benefits. Now let's move to the situation prevailing in private sector, there the labourers are working in Quarry, crusher, as loaders-unloaders, in private boats, dungi, hotels, security and in road construction. What is their condition? I would like to give an example that Rahul Gandhiji had visited a village and that was discussed in Parliament. I would like to submit that the condition of workers is worst there. Their family is malnourished. Our fathers earned well and fed us well, that is why we are healthy. But the children born in a poor worker's family are malnourished. Telegu women come to bamboo flat, Portblair for work, I asked them how much money do they earn. They said that they get Rs. 150 daily out of which they spend Rs. 28 on bus and boat fare and save the remaining Rs. 122. The minimum wages over there is Rs. 150 in place of 156. If the worker is a male he gets more money and if a female then the wages are less and therefore are not able to take proper diet while in family way and this is the reason why malnourished children are being born. I would like to

submit that proper minimum wages must be fixed. The Government of Delhi declares the minimum wages formula in newspapers based on DA, however, the same is implemented later. If DA is increased then allowance is also increased and the minimum wages is also increased by the Delhi Government. Now let's look at the private sector. Workers work under contractors, and sign on blank piece of paper. In Andaman no register is maintained, the workers work, sign on a piece of paper and take their wages, no EPA, no bonus, no gratuity is given and if they die in accident or due to any disease no compensation is given. This is the situation in our country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, you give some advice to the hon'ble Minister.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: I will give. What is the meaning of worker-A worker is the one who is working for same consideration.

[Translation]

He might work mentally or physically or both. All workers must be allowed to work as permanent, temporary, trainee, on contract, ad-hoc, casual or DRM worker. One who is working is a worker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude.

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Sir, so far I have not said anything. I hail from Andaman, Kala Pani. I would like to request you to give me time to speak.

Now, I would like to say something about the Bill. I find that the word "clerk" has been withdrawn from the Bill. If a clerk working in a Godown and maintaining the store falls down from a height, then he will not receive any compensation. Therefore, a person who is involved mentally in work should also be included in this Bill. A provision has been made in this bill that for excavation and digging work manpower should be of 25 and the man days average will be calculated for 12 months. For those working in godowns, minimum manpower should be 10. Minimum manpower for porters who carry items in market should be five but I say that it should not be so at all. None of the workers in India will be benefited from this condition. A worker will remain



a worker only, they will keep signing on blank paper and their payments will be made. I would like to request the hon. Minister to remove this particular condition that compensation will be paid only in case of certain number of workers are employed. Any worker, working for one day, five days or ten days, should receive compensation. I was listening to Basu Debji regarding death of workers. He mentioned that in railways, if a worker dies while working he would get a compensation of Rs. 5 lakh. The families of workers, who lost their lives in the bridge that collapsed in Delhi got a compensation of Rs. 5 lakh. What amount of compensation has been mentioned in the Bill earlier was Rs. 80 thousand and now it has been raised to Rs. 1 lakh 20 thousand. Compensation in railways is Rs. 5 lakh, for someone who dies on border the compensation is Rs. 5 lakh, for someone who is killed by a militant in Kashmir the compensation is Rs. 4 lakh, 5 lakh or Rs. 6 lakh, Rs. 8 lakh or Rs. 10 lakh if a military personnel dies and the amount is just Rs. 1 lakh 20 thousand if a worker dies? What is the index today? I have heard that salary or MP is going to be raised upto Rs. 90 thousand on the basis of Consumer Price Index. Therefore, I would like to request that in case of death of a worker the compensation should be Rs. 5 lakh.

The compensation amount in case of permanent disability has been increase from Rs. 90 thousand to Rs. 1 lakh 40 thousand. Everybody knows it very well that a person, who is on bed and has lost both his eyes, legs or got paralyzed, becomes really helpless. He is a handicapped person lying on the bed. He prays to god for death to come. Permanent disability is like death itself. Therefore, I would like to urge that a provision of Rs. 5 lakh as compensation should be made. Next is the issue of reimbursement. Which type of medical claim we are going to reimburse? Two types of reimbursements have been mentioned here. One is for severely injured and the other for partially injured. Where will a worker go for treatment if he gets injured while working? If he is a serious patient and the disease is serious then he will have to go to a Specialist. There is no super speciality hospital in Andaman. He will have to go to Chennai. Who will pay for the airfare? For patients in stretcher the airfare charges are Rs. 92,000. How can a poor worker afford the airfare for stretcher

charges? Therefore, I would like to demand that airfare should also be given under reimbursement scheme for the patients in remote areas like Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands. How will that poor worker get that reimbursement? For MP's and any government employee they have to submit the estimate and are given 90 per cent advance for treatment. If a poor worker has to spend Rs. 4-5 lakhs for treatment in hospitals like Apollo or in Ramchandra hospital, then from where will he arrange that money? I would like to demand that there should be a provision for giving 90 per cent advance to that worker also on the basis of estimate. I would like to submit that under partial disability, the compensation under death is Rs. 5 lakh, so this amount should also be increased accordingly.

In the end I would like to submit about preventive protective hazards. The Minister himself belongs to mining area. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, people who work in cement factory, or construction of roads or in quarry suffer from a lung disease called silicosis and in this disease the dust of cement and stone gets deposited in their lungs. It goes into their stomach and becomes stone. That is why the Union Government has decided that all the workers under the Cement Wage Board shall be given one and a half kg of jaggery every month. This jaggery when consumed will remove dust of cement and stones from the body, which will pass out through motion. Alongwith this the worker should also be provided coconut oil to apply on his body. In the end I would again like to request that the Government should think about workers engaged in hazardous jobs. In the end I would again pray to Lord Shiva Mallikarjuna to make such an amendment which could help government to earn the name of being a common man's Government. It is a progressive alliance and every poor worker must be benefited from this Bill. Otherwise people will say that there is money for the rich to feed their dogs with food worth Rs. 500 but there is no money for the poor people. No one will call this Government Common Man's Government then. With this humble request I would once again urge that the Government must do justice to the poor workers.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR (Dibrugarh): Mr.

[Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar]

Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I stand to support the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009. Let me, first of all, congratulate the hon. Labour Minister and his colleague for bringing forward this Bill before this House for the consideration of the hon. Members.

Sir, the Second Labour Commission in 2002 recommended the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act. But it is good of the UPA Government that it has brought forward the Bill. I should say that it is the first step in the right direction. I will confine myself to the proposed amendments in this Bill.

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to the amendment from "Workmen" to "Employees." Definitely, it will enlarge the coverage of the workmen and it will be gender neutral. Earlier, it was workmen. At one point, the PMO also constituted a Task Force to look into the gender neutrality of the Act. They also suggested that the expression "workmen" should be changed. I would congratulate the hon. Minister that he is going to change the title of the Bill by putting the word "Employees" and enlarging the area.

I have a submission in this regard because this Act will benefit those people who are the beneficiaries of this Act. In the changing scenario of the labour market. There is changing scenario in the industrial behaviour also, what about the other people, those who are not covered by the expression "Employees", I would request the hon. Minister to look into the definition of "Employees". It should give protection as much as possible to the employee concerned because there are diverse type of workmen who are coming to the labour market. It is also true that in this country, only 10 per cent of the workforce is organized and 90 per cent of the workforce is unorganized. Unfortunately, the unorganized lot are always outside the purview of any Act. Hence, I think, the UPA Government is thinking of bringing forward a Bill for the benefit—I mean the social security scheme for the unorganized workers. Definitely, by this amendment, the Government has taken some bold steps. This time, the Government has empowered itself to revise the wages. In this regard also, I have a

submission that there should be a time limitation. So that within four or five years, there should be a revision of the wages. There should be some change in the Workmen Compensation Act. The revision will be based on the Consumer Price Index. The Consumer Price Index is changing every year. So, I think, if we wait for an indefinite period, workers are not going to get the benefit. Hence, there has to be a revision by the Central Government. When the Government is empowering itself, I think, Government need not come to this House. This should be periodically revised so that the workmen can get the benefit of the increased wage.

The State Governments are supposed to frame the rules. The crux of the problem is there because in many States, there are a fewer number of Workmen's Compensation Courts, Compensation Commissioners. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take up the matter with the State Labour Ministers to see that as many Workmen Compensation Commissioners are appointed. Otherwise, after the disability of the workers or after their death, the family members have to wait for a longer period under distressed condition. Again, I would say that it is a laudable step taken by the Central Government. They are limiting the period that within three months, the Commissioners have to give the judgment. If there is no Commissioner, who will give the judgment?

Then, there are fewer numbers of Labour Commissioners and they are loaded with more compensation cases. So, these things have to be looked into by the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, I will take only one or two minutes more.

The amount of compensation to be given is based on the Consumer Price Index of December, 2000 and they have increased the amount according to this index. It is a good step because it was never looked into by the earlier Government. The NDA Government had never cared to look into the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act. There were continuous demands from the trade union movement of the country, but they were never serious and they never tried to bring this Bill before Parliament.

Sir, the Government is also enlarging the qualification of the Commissioner. So, the State Governments will be enabled to appoint more and more Commissioners to attend to the cases of aggrieved persons. This is also a good step.

There are 50 types of injuries mentioned in the Workmen's Compensation Act and according to the assessment of the injury, they can offer compensation from 1 per cent to 100 per cent and it is a cumbersome procedure. So, I think, the Government has to look into the procedure as to how best it can be simplified.

Now there are more and more chemical and other hazardous industries coming up in our country. If the worker gets an internal injury, there is no system to assess it and there is no scope of considering the internal injury of the workers. There are many chemical industries functioning in the country now and the workers, who get an internal injury, suffer for a long time. So, there has to be a system to assess their internal injury and they should be properly compensated through this Act because these are emerging industries. There are many outsourcing companies in the country now and we have to look into the conditions of the workers working in the outsourcing industry.

Sir, the implementation of this Act is totally dependent on the performance of State Governments. There are many good provisions in the Act, but when the time comes for implementation, the responsibility always lies with State Governments. So, I would request the hon. Labour Minister to call for a meeting of the Labour Ministers of all States, after the passing of this Bill, so that they can quickly formulate the rules and implement the policy envisaged in this Bill.

With these few words, I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the government says that it has brought the present Bill to amend the Act of 1923 on the recommendations of second Labour Commission. Standing Committee also considered it and made some recommendations. The government further said that the

word "workman" has been substituted by the word "employee." They say that it has been done on the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

Now my question is, since the word "workmen" wherever appeared in the said Act has been substituted by the word "employee" then why this word has not been substituted in the short title of the bill itself? In the text of the Act word "employee" has been inserted. Since this word has been inserted in the text then why the word 'workmen' has not been substituted by the word "employee" in the short title of the bill itself? It is my question number one.

Sir, it has been said that the Act was enacted in the year 1923. The then government took bold decision by providing for compensation of Rs. 80,000 in case of death and Rs. 90,000 in case of injury. You are a learned person, see, they are pro-labourers. A compensation of Rs. 80,000 in the year 1923. It is a bold step they took. Their party men are giving them thanks and are also congratulating them. ...*(Interruptions)*. The conditions now in 2009 are absolutely different from those in 2000. I urge the treasury benches that they can vote in favour of the Bill, but please do not get mileage on the issues concerning common man, especially poor ones, the labourers.

I would differentiate on it. Who will see the interests of the poor? There are many a complexities in the law. The definition of workman is spread over three pages, but the person, who, in fact is a workman, is not covered under the said definition. The employees who are covered under Employees State Insurance Corporation will get compensation in case of death and the contract labourer, who is not covered, will not get anything. Labourers from my state come to Delhi for work. They carry bricks on their head while engaged in construction work. The said labourer carries bricks upstairs and if he slips, falls and dies, which law will cover him? Which law will provide help to such a poor man? Wherefrom he will get compensation? Workers working in small factories lose their limbs accidentally and some times even death occurs. Suffer runs from pillar to post for getting compensation. Under which definition he is covered. The definition is spread over three pages. But it carries only the categories, which

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

are not to be covered under the definition of employee and nowhere it is provided that such and such categories will be covered under it. The definition should be positive. I totally differ on this point. You may see, what the definition contains? Firstly, it has been stated that hereinafter the workman will be called employee. Does it carry any meaning? The definition is, employee means a person who is not permanently employed in any such capacity as is specified in Scheduled-II. Who is not employed is negative, then who are those covered under it? A poor man who works anywhere, say in unorganized sector, small factories, has no job record. Daily wagers too, have no such records. Recently, there was accident involving metro workers. Girder and heavy stone fell on the labourers and one of them succumbed to injuries. Even people relaxing beneath the girder also died. What shall be their fate? Are they also covered under any section of this Bill? It is highly discriminating? Under which law they will be defined? It is a great fraud with the poor man, especially with labourers. Wherefrom the law will be brought for them? Let us see Scheduled-II to the Bill, what has been provided in it. ...*(Interruptions)* In Schedule-II to the original Act, Dada, you work for the people. Leftists just say workmen, workmen, they merely make unions. But how the problem of poor will be solved?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh Babu, conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, it is basic issue I am talking about. The Bill provides that Labour Commissioner, Labour Court will decide the case within three months. What will the government do if the case lingers on for say more than three months, i.e. for three years or even five years? Very large number of cases involving poor men are pending in courts. Has any provision been made in this regard in this Bill? The Bill provides that it will be disposed off within three months. Law on election petition provides that electoral disputes will be disposed off in six months. But are the cases settled within six months? Though the law is being framed that the case will be settled within three months. But what will happen, if as we know, it takes 3-5 years for disposal of the cases.

Maruti is a leading company. A large number of

touts are its supporters. Supporter of Dada's party have formed a trade union there. The company retrenched 150-200 employees working there. They moved the Court. I think it happened 5-6 years ago. It was heard that the said automobile company gave car to court officials. What shall be the fate of case in this scenario? Therefore, my submission is that the Labour Courts should not have such lax laws which fail to provide justice in case a labourer gets injured or died while working. What shall be the legal remedy if case is not decided within three months? Where will go the poor man? Whose door will he knock?

Dainik Jagran carried an editorial captioned, 'Shram Kanoonon Ka Such'. Sir, I think you definitely read Dainik Jagran. The newspaper writes—the acceptance of Union Minister of Labour and Employment that the Labour laws are not at all affective is meaningless. Since it is ineffective, then what shall be the use of enacting such laws? The Minister says so. The Bill we are passing will soon be implemented. He rightly said so. So far his Ministry has done nothing except bipartite settlement between employers and the employees. As he has a little time, therefore, how can he work more? It is not expected from persons holding responsible posts especially Ministers that they only reflect the gravity of problem. Will the persons who are not part of the government express seriousness of the problem? They are supposed to deliver the goods, but they do not do so. Unfortunately, the present Minister of Labour is doing the same. The irony is that the need for changes in labour laws at various levels was felt several times, but nothing was done. I am not saying so, it is the observation made by learned editor in the said newspaper. But, I want to draw attention of the government to the poor labourers. Anything can be created through hard labour. A factory runs on labour, textile is manufactured by labourers, a house is constructed by labourers, even the parliament's building has been constructed by labourers. Some labourers may have carried bricks while constructing it. And their interests are not being taken care of. The law is so complex that he has to run from pillar to post for settlement of claim. The wife of the deceased will approach M.P. and say that Labour court is not listening to her. What shall be the fate of the family whose only

bread earner has died? It is our concern. It is the responsibility of the Minister of Labour to cover the labourers of unorganized sector and daily wagers also under the provision of the proposed law as they have migrated to cities since there was no job for them in villages. They are carrying bricks on their head, operating the machines in the factories, operating pumping sets. If they die while doing such jobs no provision of the law covers them. The present Bill is not going to do anything in the interests of such labourers. Therefore, a comprehensive law should be brought. Proposed compensation is inadequate. No provision relating to time frame of three months is going to help the poor labourers working in such factories. There is no possibility of any benefit likely to be available to the poor workers in this Bill, who works hard and create wealth for employers. Therefore, I urge all the parties and House that there should be no tendency whereby workers are neglected. Such kind of social security should be ensured whereby the workers feel that if they die while working their family will not face starvation. I conclude with these words.

\*SHRI P. LINGAM (Tenkasi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Communist Party of India, the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009 moved in this House on 7th of August, 2009. I would like to thank the Government for this move.

It is a long awaited action on the part of the Government to improve the lot of the working class of this country. Due to the changes in economic scenario, we find an impetus to both economic and industrial growth. Whether the standard of the industrial labour who contribute to the industrial growth has improved is a moot question. A labour, who is entirely dependent on his body and physical strength to earn his livelihood, is contributing to the industrial growth in his own way. Hence, the labour class must be adequately compensated when there is a dire need at a time when they are disabled.

When there is a sudden stoppage in the lives of the labour class either due to death or disablement or incapacitation or invalidation because of accidents or

other causes, there must be an effective mechanism to provide for the social security needs of his family members and other dependents. This Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill must ensure social security to an individual labour and his dependent family whenever there is a cessation of his productivity either due to disablement or death.

I would like to point out that the quantum of compensation spelt out in this Bill for death and disability is inadequate. I would also like to point out that the allowance provided for cremation at the time of death is very meagre and does not meet the present day requirements as available in the wake of rising prices. I would like to place on record that it is incumbent on the part of the Government to ensure that the compensation amounts so paid are adequate and compatible to the needs based on the ground reality.

Social security cover is available to the workers and employees in the organised sector. We cannot afford to ignore the lot of the workmen in the unorganised sector. Their standard of living needs to be improved and it has been neglected all these years. I would like to impress upon the Government to provide a cover to those workers also and, if it is possible, we must ensure that the benefits of this Bill accrue to the workers in the organised sector too.

In this Bill, the compensation provided to workmen has been enhanced from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. One lakh and twenty thousand only. I would like to point out that even in a road accident, the compensation paid is more. While calculating compensation for the victims of road accidents, their annual income is taken into consideration and it is multiplied by 10. Thus, an amount equivalent to 10 years' annual income is paid as compensation. But in the case of workmen, the compensation sought to be paid through this Amendment Bill is not adequate, particularly when we consider the huge price rise that we are witnessing now. We must recognise the fact that the dependents and the family members of such workmen who die in harness must have befitting compensation to help them come out of the shock and the grief due to an abrupt end to their livelihood. I would request the Government to increase the compensation amount to Rs. Five lakh. Totally incapacitated workmen

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri P. Lingam]

are to get Rs. 1,40,000 as compensation which has been enhanced from Rs. 90,000. I would like to point out that this is also not adequate. After spending on medical treatment, the worker must ensure that the day-to-day needs of his family must also be met. Hence, the sudden stoppage of livelihood of the worker must also be taken into consideration. I request the Government to enhance this compensation also to Rs. Five lakh while providing for medical assistance and healthcare on a continuous basis from then on.

I would like to point out that the allowance extended to perform the last rites of the workmen in this Bill is much less than what is provided in other social security measures. Even poor people are forced to shell out at least Rs. 20,000 for such ceremonies. At least that compensation must be paid fully taking into consideration the ground realities.

Medical Advance must be extended to workmen for undergoing treatment in place of the medical reimbursement procedure resorted to in this Bill. The sorry plight of the working class must be taken into consideration while providing medical care. Almost all of them are not in a position to spend during such exigencies. It will be meaningless to say that they can take back the money after spending it first during those critical hours when they are in dire need of anything and everything. This Amendment Bill, by itself, could have provided for medical treatment through certain notified hospitals. At least from now on, a holistic view must be taken and a comprehensive compensation package must be extended to workmen. Saving the lives of workmen at the needy hour is more important and this must not be lost sight of.

This Bill provides for the setting up of Statewise Commissions. I would like to impress upon the Government that the wings of such Commissions must be operative in all the district headquarters all over the country considering the vast population and the large number of workmen in our country. Deputy Commissions must be set up in all the districts. Trade union representatives, especially from Central Trade Union organisations, must be roped in to take part in the

functioning of these commissions so that the workers' point of view is not lost sight of. Emphasising the need to cover workmen from the unorganised sector also to get the benefits of this Amendment Bill and also the need to increase the number of members in the commission from 20 to a further enhanced number, let me conclude my speech extending my support again.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Prabha Kishor Taviad wants to lay her speech on the Table of the House. She can give her written speech on the Table of the House, which will be taken as read.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009 moved by the Government with certain amendments. Four points have been mentioned in this Bill mainly. First, the word 'worker' should be substituted by the word 'employee'. Secondly, the existing compensation of Rs. 80,000 in the event of death of an employee in an accident has now been enhanced to Rs. 1,20,000. Thirdly, there was a provision of paying Rs. 90,000 to an employee who has suffered permanent disability which has now been raised to Rs. 1,40,000. Fourthly, the amount of Rs. 2,500 paid for the last rites on the death of an employee will be increased to Rs. 5000.

I think that a large population in the country consists of these workers who are engaged in the unorganized sector. Their estimated number will be more than 35 crore for whom this Bill has been presented. I believe that it is a sector which is divided in many parts. Laws have been made for their help and assistance but the fact is that the benefit of these laws does not reach them. One reason for this is that the enacted laws play game with words and there are a number of ifs and buts everywhere in their provisions. The workers do not benefit from these laws due to this also. There is no doubt that this Bill is worth welcoming but the provisions made in the Bill deserve to be enhanced. What is the value of a poor man—Just Rs. 1,20,000!

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Similarly, what is the value of a poor man who becomes permanently disabled—just Rs. 1,40,000! I would like to know the amount paid to those who are insured through the Life Insurance Corporation of India in such circumstances? Insurance is provided when some accident occurs. If the Government really wants to help, then these limited provisions should be enhanced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make my second point. The hon. Minister has said that they have included the workers, other than the ESI labourers, in it. The hon. Minister should tell as to what type of workers are to be included in this Bill and the sectors in which they are engaged. If this could have been mentioned, then the efforts made by him in amending the Act by keeping in mind the poor man would have been successful. But, this did not happen. Even now, there are many sectors, like I will tell you about my area, there are huge factories in my area and lakhs of workers work there. We must be concerned about them also. Besides, what are the provisions regarding the labourers who work as domestic help, work in the fields forests etc? In addition to it, there are Beedi workers who spend their life time only in making Beedis and catch diseases like TB, cancer etc. What has been thought about them? Whether a provision has also been made for them in it and whether the Government is going to provide assistance to them also.

16.53 hrs.

[DR. GIRIJA VYAS *in the chair*]

Will the life of a worker witness only these 3-4 stages of permanent disability, death or funeral as proposed in the Bill? I think more provisions are needed besides these such as provision for the education of their children, medicines for their family. As Raghuvansh Babu was saying just now that if a worker loses his hand or feet then he will not come under the category of permanent disability and then how will he get compensation? Therefore, we will have to look into all these things also. We will also have to see that proper treatment facility is provided to a worker in case he gets injured in any accident while on duty. The workers of the organized sector get treated through the ESI hospitals but can we provide this facility to the workers

engaged in the unorganized sector? Such is the situation in the unorganized sector that a pregnant woman keeps working until she goes under labour pain. Similarly, it is seen frequently that the women working in the fields and their children, both remain sick. We cannot help such pregnant women.

The Government of my state Madhya Pradesh has brought a Workmen Assistance Scheme. A number of such workers have been included in this scheme. Seventy five lakh such workers have been identified in the entire state and they have been given identity cards through which proper arrangements have been made for free education of their children and treatment of their parents and children. Besides, compensation is also paid to them in case of any accident. A pregnant lady worker gets 40 days of leave alongwith wages. Similarly, her husband gets 15 days of leave alongwith wages for taking care of the mother and child.

A similar provision, like the provision made for the last rites in this Bill, has also been made in this scheme. I urge that a mention of the requirements of a poor family and how can they be fulfilled should be made in the Bill. I am sure that he will pay attention to all these things because his viewpoint is correct. I would like to say that more provisions should be added to this Bill in addition to these four provisions and complete protection should be provided to the workers. The labour laws have many aspects. There are implementation agencies for these labour laws and they are implementing them in their own ways. Everyday accidents take place in factories and workers die but they do not get anything in the name of compensation. They may get some money by putting pressure through administration to keep the law and order in factories under control but that does not solve the problem of the family members of the deceased workers. Cases are registered in the courts and when will the time limit for their disposal be decided? A time limit of three months is being provided for but I do not feel that the courts can implement this time limit. The Government will have to pay attention to the poor for whom this Act is being amended. There is also a need to enact stringent laws to see how can we benefit the poor. I support the Bill with these amendments.

[English]

\*DR. PRABHA KISHOR TAVIAD (Dahod): The people of unorganised sector—working in stone crushing factory are inhaling the dust of stone—small micro parts of stone which is known as silica, and the disease is known as silicosis. The lungs are destroyed to such an extent that they are getting infection of lung off and on mostly tuberculosis. Then the patient has to die as there is no treatment of Silicosis. Such persons/workers are to be given compensation.

In Gujarat ESIS—scheme is there but these workers are not able to get benefit because these persons are not on roll calls because the factory owners are always showing less number of workers on record, when they have a visit of labour officer they are declaring holidays and not allowing them to represent.

These people are poor. The factory owners are giving shelter to stay in factory. These people are not knowing the hazards of 24 hours inhalation of silica—whole family is at risk.

So I request you to include them and if they are diagnosed any occupational disease they should be given compensation irrespective of duration of exposure. Any occupational disease, if diagnosed should be given compensation.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Madam, I have risen to speak in favour of the Bill presented by the hon. Minister today. You know very well that the targeted beneficiary of the Bill is that category of Indian citizens who are in dire straits today. For hundreds of years the labourers have had the lowest standard of living in all societies. Ours is a democratic society. When the age of democracy dawned it was thought that the labourers, the workmen would get a hearing. What is the condition of the houses of labourers? Their houses have no roof. It is easy to recognize a labourer from his demeanour, his clothes and his being. When will a labourer get the dignity of considering himself at par with other human-beings. It is time that you have brought a major bill and more effective amendments.

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

But I do not think that the labourers are going to benefit from these amendments. It is true that you have talked of conferring dignity upon them. This is commendable. It has been proposed to raise the compensation for death from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1.20 lakhs. Would Rs. 1.20 lakh be sufficient to sustain his dependants and enable them to live with dignity? Also, take another look at the Rs. 1.40 lakh compensation, that has been proposed. First, it is proposed to offer Rs. 1.40 lakh as compensation for someone who has been disabled. Secondly, the clause which talks of submission of a bill for injury, says nothing about the medical treatment of a labour who falls ill. It talks only of injury sustained at work. Why so? This is not good. What are the diseases that labourers suffer from? T.B. and cancer are endemic in which section of the society? It is the labourers who suffer most from these diseases. The rich fall prey to imported diseases. They contract SARS and AIDS in foreign countries. There is no defence from diseases for the poor. No one speaks for them. This is the situation of the organized labourers. Think of the unorganized sector. In Vaishno Devi, there are 25000 labourers who carry people on their shoulders upto the shrine. They have to pay 12 per cent tax. I had raised this point five years earlier when hon. Oscar Fernandes was the Minister. Today everything is different but nothing has been done.

17.00 hrs.

They are being exploited even today. You must have heard of income tax, sales tax, toll tax but have you ever heard of labour tax? I would like to ask why are the labourers at Vaishno Devi being forced to pay tax? No one cares about this. That is why I keep on saying again and again and inspite of much of hullabaloo by an MP, no one listens to him. All of us are under the mistaken impression that an MP can bring about change by raising issues in the House. No, nothing of this sort will happen. I equate the situation of MPs with that of labourers. We have no representation either. Give this some thought. An MP is a respected person, he is supposed to be at a higher level than the Chief Secretary but what is the use? He does not have the power to offer a cup of tea to his visitors. If the Secretary has a visitor in his office he can offer him official tea. But an MP is shown to be corrupt.



MADAM CHAIRMAN: Lal Singhji, please speak on your own topic.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Madam, Lal Singhji is absolutely right. Let him speak.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: What I want to say is, that the labourer is involved in production of all things, from a needle to an aeroplane, he is a human being. He can not afford to travel in an aeroplane. He constructs the biggest buildings, but is not allowed to use them. He makes mattresses but cannot lie on them. He constructs huge mansions but lives in a jhuggi. What have we done for him? We have done nothing. This country will overcome all problems when the labourers are provided the essential comforts of life. The labourer is the most downtrodden member of the society who is forced to live a miserable life. His children long to go to school. Do you know or any labourer whose children have gone for education to become doctors or engineers? Show me one labourer whose child has been able to get a proper education. There is just a mid-day meal scheme and children fall ill after consuming the food offered under the scheme. With great difficulty an amount of 100 rupees has been fixed under NREGA for the unorganized sector. What are the prices of pulses and rice? A labourer cannot even afford to buy oil. He does not fry his food. You ask things to be fried so easily. Ask the labourers if he has even seen what fry is.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: They cook pulses but you will find very little quantity of pulse therein.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Hon. Member please conclude.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Madam, I am going to conclude. The compensation should not be less than five lakh rupees. The Standing Committee has also recommended an amount of Rs. 4.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. The Committee must have given deep consideration to this issue. When the Committee has made the recommendation, why has this amount been reduced? My view is that the recommendations of the Standing Committee must be implemented. Medical reimbursement has also been mentioned. Money has to exchange hands before reimbursement is made. If you ever had to apply for reimbursement, you might understand what all the

labourers have to go through to get reimbursement. They should be provided treatment, not reimbursement. How would they buy medicine? How would they be able to get x-rays done?

Finally, I would like to talk of the decision to appoint a commissioner who has experience in the field of education and management. What kind of management one who has expertise in exploiting the labourers? It knows very well how to exploit the workers. If you constitute a Commission then it should be headed by someone who has first-hand experience of the situation of labourers, that means some ex-MP who has risen from that community as he would have compassion for them. I know that we are representing the country. I know the powers of an MP and how he thinks. Hence, the head of such a Commission should be an ex-MP or ex-MLA. Although, actually there is no need for a Commission.

\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Madam Chairperson, we all discuss about the labourers in the unorganized industrial sector but to date we could not take any concrete steps to improve their lot. For the first time, a Comprehensive Bill has been introduced in this august House and has been said that it would keep pace with the changing times and scenario. Therefore, I take the floor to support this Workmen's Compensation Bill, 2009 and would like to express my views on it.

We all know that workers are the source of creation. Be it in agriculture, in industry or in general, workers are creators. But what is the condition of the workers? They die unattended. Their children do not receive education, they do not get proper medical treatment, or pension or gratuity. This is the ground reality. Labourers in the Bidi Industry, Construction Sector, Motor Vehicle Industry are at high risk. They are infact bound to obey the instructions of the management and can be retrenched any moment. Their demands are never met.

Thus the Bill is here today but it has to be implemented in the right earnest. Otherwise there is a tendency among the owners and employers to violate the rules. If rules are not followed properly then the

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar]

workers do not benefit at all. A provision should be there by which the employers are kept under control and they do not dare to overstep. Along with this, I'd say that whenever anyone dies of accident, both the Central Government and the State Government, in the quasi-federal structure, immediately declare a compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs. So why won't the labourers be paid only Rs. one lakh twenty thousand or one lakh forty thousand? They should also be given 5 lakh rupees and if his/her next kin is suitable for job then they should also be accommodated in job. This is my request to Hon. Minister.

Secondly, there is a provision of Rs. 5000 to be paid to the workers to perform the last rites of their near and dear ones. We know that prices are shooting through the roof. So this amount is not sufficient at all. It should be at least Rs. 10,000. If any labourer is injured or incapacitated, he has to bear the primary cost of his own treatment. This is not proper. He is not financially sound enough to do so. Thus the Government should come forward to take the responsibility of medical treatment of the workers this provision should also be there.

One more thing is that there might be unnecessary delay in payment of compensation to the workers. Often 5 to 10 years pass but still the compensation money is not paid to them this should be mentioned in the Bill as pointed out by Shri Kalyan Banerjee. He should also be given interest along with the compensation money if there is a delay and the officer or commissioner responsible should be punished for non-performance of duty.

In the country, there are large number of unorganized labourers who are suffering. Something needs to be done for them and better provisions should be added to this Bill so that the workers are benefited. With these few words, I thank you and conclude my speech.

[English]

\*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): I welcome this Workmen's (Amendment Bill). Sir unorganized sector

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

workers particularly Mason, *PERIA ALL* (big worker) Chithal (Lady worker) and their work-load is more. Their life is miserable. They don't have any security for job. If they fall from the home (construction site) they cannot afford a private hospital. Thanks to Tamil Nadu State Government for bringing a new law namely 'KALAINAR KAPPETTU THITTAM' to spend one lakh from the Government of Tamil Nadu. Same way I request the Government under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh and under the guidance of Madam Soniaji for providing medical compensation namely actual expenses—even if it is Rs. 3 lakh. Our UPA Government have to give the amount that will go directly to the hospital and the Government should give instruction to the Hospital, i.e. actual expenses of medical or whatever it is, even if it is Rs. 3 lakh will directly go to the Hospital. The card holders either BPL/Workmen Cardholder should be entitled for that. In an organized sector, you have to increase the compensation for death from Rs. 1,20,000 to Rs. 3 to 5 lakh so that they can manage with the money by opening a small shop in a market and thus manage their livelihood.

Madam, there job is not a secured one. If they suffer from any disease, they can be allowed to take treatment in Government ESI Hospital. For that, the Government have to issue orders to the hospitals. Sir Bidi workers' condition are very pathetic. The weight of a man is not more than 60 kg and woman is not more than 50 kg Their health is very pathetic. So the Government have to take special care for these Bidi workers which is an unorganized sector. The Government is bringing this legislation which is of real importance. With this Act, the unorganized labourers and temporary makeshift workers and their poor families will be benefited.

With these words I welcome this historic Bill.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani): Madam, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I have a special gratification in participating in this discussion as I was also an industrial employee working in a chemical factory for about 15 years, and I am still a humble Trade Unionist. Hence, I had many occasions to deal with the Workmen's Compensation Act, and I really appreciate the usefulness of this piece of legislation.

This is a much awaited amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act. Even though it is a small piece of legislation, yet I would say that it is the outcome of a laborious work. The intention of this legislation is very good. The Second National Commission on Labour (2002) recommended for such an amendment. Similarly, the Standing Committee on Labour had a series of discussions with the stake-holders, Trade Union people, industrialists, safety officers, etc., and they have made on-the-spot study about the necessity of such an amendment. They have visited industrial cities like Ranchi, Bangalore, Kochi and Trivandrum, and they have had enough threadbare discussions with the concerned persons.

If we are asked whether this amendment is adequate, then we may not be able to say 'Yes'. But, it is really meaningful. The definition is changed from workmen to employees, which will be covering most of the employees; the minimum compensation amount has been increased from Rs. 80,000 to Rs. 1,20,000 and from Rs. 90,000 to Rs. 1,40,000; the funeral expenses have also been increased from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 5,000; reimbursement for actual treatment is also met in this; and widening of eligibility criteria for Commissioners is also there. Another important point in this is the time limit, that is, within three months the decision will have to be taken by the Commissioner. These are all good things.

But, when we analyze all these things, we have to verify certain other things also. For example, in the list of injuries external injuries are listed in it, but it is not sufficient. I would like to quote just a couple of sentences from the Report of the Standing Committee. It says that:

"The Committee strongly, therefore, recommends that besides external injuries, internal injuries caused during the course of employment, which *inter alia* should include passage from residential workplace, should also be incorporated in the appropriate schedule of the Act to determine the compensation payable to the employees."

Unfortunately, this part has not been considered in this Bill, and I would humbly request the hon. Minister

to give due consideration to this recommendation of the Standing Committee.

Then, I would like to make some general observations. One is about the industrial accidents. In reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, the figure that is mentioned is really alarming. Industrial accidents are increasing day by day. Statistics is with me. Considering the time constraints, I do not want to enter into that details.

Madam, this Factories Act says about the safety of the industrial employees. Sections 27 to 40 talk about the precautions to be taken to avoid accidents. Safety clause is there. But unfortunately, it has not been monitored effectively. There are Inspectors of Factories and Boilers. They are not visiting the factories. Even if they are visiting the factories, trade union people are not aware whether they have come to the factory or not. So, I suggest that periodical inspection by the Inspectors of Factories and Boilers should be strictly adhered to. When they visit the factory, the concerned trade union people also may kindly be informed about that. So, in order to avoid the accidents, we have to do such kind of monitoring. When we talk about the industrial workers, factory workers, what about the workers in the unorganised sector? Take an example of Delhi. Now the Commonwealth Games are going to come next year during the same period. About the construction workers engaged in this Commonwealth Games. *The Asian Age* reports that 48 construction workers have died and another 98 suffered serious injuries in the series of mishaps which have occurred on construction sites during 2008-2009. It is really alarming. It is only an example. So, I would like to say that we must give some emphasis on the unorganised workers. Even though there is the law, it has not been adhered to strictly.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: I am concluding. I myself was a workers. The compensation rate which is stipulated in this Act may considerably be increased. I would like to point out that also. On the spot visit of the Offices, as I mentioned earlier, that should be made compulsory. I do not want to take much

[Shri Mohammed E.T. Basheer]

of the time. A comprehensive reform is required in the Workmen's Compensation Act. I take this as a humble beginning. I hope that the hon. Labour Minister and the Government will come forward and make a comprehensive law on the safety of the workers. With these few words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Madam Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on this very important Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill, 2009. I consider myself fortunate also because this Bill was to be passed by the 14th Lok Sabha. This Bill was presented before the 14th Lok Sabha after comprehensive deliberations. As all of our friends have said that the variation in amount of compensation might be an issue for discussion in regard to disablement or death of a workman or an employee or reimbursement of the actual medical expenditure incurred by the workman or the employee. But Congress and UPA Government must be congratulated for the effort to cover the people working in those factories which were not covered under the Insurance Act till now in the country.

Madam Chairman, the enhancement of compensation is also a good step. Not only the amount has been enhanced but an enabling provision has been provided in this Act so that there is no need to bring amendment Bill every time for enhancing the amount of compensation in future. I would like to congratulate hon. Minister of Labour alongwith the Government for this also.

Madam, this Bill was discussed by the Standing Committee. Second National Commission on Labour was set up in the year 2002 for it. The present Amendment Bill to the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 has been presented after incorporating the amendment based on the recommendations made by the Commission after discussions with all the Ministries, Labour Ministries of all the States and Union Territories. Thus it is obvious that this is the first ever Bill on which views of the whole country has been taken into consideration. The

views of all the States and Union territories have been sought in this regard because this matter is related with the future of the workers of the whole country. We need not imagine but we have seen in real life that if any worker in unorganized sector dies, his widow has to mortgage even her 'mangalsutra' for the funeral expenses. The amount of funeral expenses has been enhanced from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 5000 in this Bill. Now at least a widow will not have to sell her 'mangalsutra' for meeting the funeral expenses. So I would like to thank the Government for bringing this Bill and I welcome the Bill.

Madam, today if any worker gets disabled or permanently disabled, he becomes a burden for his family and only his wife or family has to bear that burden. So the enhancement of compensation in this regard is also a welcome step. In case of death of a workman earlier his dependent got Rs. 80,000 but now this amount has been increased upto Rs. 1,20,000 and in case of permanent disablement it has been provided that the disabled workman would get Rs. 1,40,000 whereas earlier he would have got Rs. 90,000. Thus the government's intentions are clear as the definition of workman has been widened so as to bring them under the category of employees and all the persons, whether working in railways, or on ships or in airlines, who were not covered under this Act till now, have been covered under the said Act. Thus an effort has been made to provide security to crores of people through this Bill.

Madam, we witness day to day in real life whatever has been said by our Senior Members and hon. Members of Opposition and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal as to how the cases of workmen's compensation are dragged on and the Labour Commissioners are influenced by the Employers. I do not want to go into details. All the workers in unorganized sector in sugar mills and other such units will be benefited from it. It is correct that the mill owners do not want to pay even small compensation because the employers and corporate houses want to teach them a lesson. They say that they will give compensation on their own terms and conditions. This Government has atleast provided for appointment of a Commissioner and it will be ensured that the compensation is paid within three

months. Even after all this if the compensation is not paid within three months, the government would certainly consider it. The Government has provided for a mandatory provision in this Bill for providing compensation resulting from disablement, death or medical expenses or any other cause. It is certainly a welcome step.

Madam, I think that this Bill contains an enabling provision and I would like to thank the Government for that and say as well that it would be better if the compensation is directly linked to inflation index so that the rates of compensation are increased with the rise in price index. It will certainly be a welcome step if the Government considers it because this Bill voices the concerns of those people whose voices do not reach here. But we represent them. Today I am happy that something has been done for them.

It is a fact that this Bill was in cold storage from the year 2002 to 2004 when the Congress led UPA Government came in power in the year 2004, the report of Second National Commission on Labour was brought out and the recommendations made in the report were considered and we sought the opinion of the States in this regard.

I hope that this House will pass this Bill un-animously.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI (Bhadrak): Thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity to speak on certain points regarding this Amendment Bill.

At the outset, I thank the hon. Minister as well as his colleague for having realized the pitiable condition of the workmen and for incorporating certain aspects. The Standing Committee has made recommendations in the course of their examination of the Bill. But, whatever recommendations made by the Standing Committee have been accepted by the Government, I must say that that is not enough. More should have been done because all the hon. Members from both the sides have not only spoke for the workmen but they have tried to highlight the problems of the workmen in regard to their conditions, when they get injured, or when the person working in the factory or any other

organization get killed. So, I once again thank the hon. Minister for bringing in this Bill.

At the same time, I would like to point out, as has been pointed out by the hon. Member from Kerala, that all the recommendations of the Standing Committee have not been considered and not given effect to in this particular amending Bill. As has been pointed out, I would like to again quote the recommendation of the Standing Committee:

"The Committee, therefore, strongly recommend that besides external injuries, the internal injuries caused during the course of employment, which *inter alia*, should include places from residence to workplace and vice versa. We have also incorporated in the appropriate Schedule of the Act to determine the compensation payable to the employee."

This aspect, I must recommend to the Government that it should consider seriously because workmen are workmen and we all know the condition of workmen. The hon. Minister also, being a very experienced politician and Minister, he must have been aware of it. Hence, I strongly plead to the Government that it should include this particular recommendation of the Standing Committee that had been given by the Committee, having considered in detail.

Similarly, there are other aspects that have been recommended by the Standing Committee, which have also made other recommendations, which I quote:

"The Committee, therefore, strongly emphasise that the provision for reimbursement of actual medical expenditure incurred for treatment of injuries caused during the course of employment be made part of the Act."

They have also categorised the period, which means that the claim for reimbursement of the medical expenses submitted below three days of the injury would not be considered. This categorisation should not be there. I would plead before the hon. Minister not to categorise the kind of injury as also the period of injury. The Government should consider this and if possible, at this eleventh hour, bring an amendment to the

[Shri Arjun Charan Sethi]

amending Bill. As I have stated earlier, workman is a workman. If a person gets killed due to some accident or some other kind of injury caused in the course of his working in the factory, his whole family becomes orphan. If the only earning member in a particular family gets killed working in a factory, what will be the condition of the whole family? So, I would request the Minister to consider these suggestions.

While pleading for all these facilities for the workmen, I must remind the hon. Minister as well as the House what our Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi said, because I consider this quotation very relevant to this particular amending Bill. Mahatma Gandhi said:

"I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country in whose making they have an effective voice; an India in which there shall be no high class or low class people."

This is very prophetic and I urge the hon. Minister to consider this. In the light of these observations of our Father of Nation, the Government should take into consideration all the aspects of this particular amending Bill and the recommendations of the Standing Committee.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Adhir Chowdhury, a number of Members from your Party have already spoken. So, I would give you just three minutes to speak.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Baharampur): Thank you Madam for this generosity. I know that there is a severe time constraint. Therefore, I shall be very brief in my deliberations on this Bill.

At the outset, I must say that the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2009, was a long pending and long cherished dream of the labour force of our country that some succour should be provided to the labour force of our country. In this Bill the word 'workmen' has been substituted by 'employee'. So, now we may say it as the Employees' Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2009.

Madam, three or four very salient features are sought to be incorporated in this amendment:

1. Enhancement of the minimum rates of compensation payable to the workers.
2. Confer power upon the Central Government to specify the monthly wages in relation to an employee.
3. Enhancement of the funeral expenses.
4. Reimbursement of the actual medical expenditure incurred for treatment.

Fifthly, appointment of Commissioners, and last but not least increasing the coverage of the restrictive clause in Schedule II of the Act and inclusion of additional hazardous activities.

Madam, as per the Directive Principles of State Policy as enshrined in our Constitution, social security must be provided to all the employees of our country. But so far only a fraction of our workmen could avail of this opportunity. Therefore, the Bill seeks to widen the scope of compensation for a larger number of employees in this country. At the time, that is in the year 1923, when this Bill was enacted, there was no outsourcing and there was no computerisation and automation in our country. So, now in the present scenario it is an archaic and obsolete Act and there was a felt need for a review of the entire spectrum of the compensation scenario for workmen and the present Bill under discussion has sought to bring in the aspect of compensation within the purview of legislation. So, the legislative proposal as has been brought before the House after a meticulous examination by the Standing Committee is not only a need of this age but also need of this hour.

Madam, I would like to put forward two to three points before the hon. Minister for his consideration. In view of the increasing price, when the price indexes of commodities have been rising. The Government has made an enabling provision in this legislative proposal which has sought to review, on one hand, the wages and on the other hand the compensation aspect. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the maximum limit of the compensation that can be provided. It is because in this Bill there is no reference to the maximum limit that could be given by the Ministry.

Secondly, today the labour market scenario is changing very rapidly and therefore, the list of injuries of employees should also be expanded keeping in view the percentage of income of the employees. Another point that I would like to make is that in case there is an insurance coverage, then what will prevail upon—compensation or insurance?

Madam, I am hailing from a district in West Bengal, namely, Murshidabad where there is a huge concentration of *bidi* workers. They have been suffering from diseases like Tuberculosis, Asthma and such other diseases. I would like to request the hon. Minister to take into account the sufferings of the labour force in our country and make further amendments to this Act if it is so required. I will again then support that legislation as I am now supporting this legislation wholeheartedly which is being brought forward under the nomenclature 'Employees Amendment Bill, 2009'.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): Madam Chairman, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the workmen compensation (Amendment) Bill, 2009. Two-three very important points have been mentioned in the bill. The word 'workmen' has been replaced by 'employee' and the amount of compensation in case of their accident has been increased. However, the increase is very meagre. This amount has been increased from Rs. 80,000 to just Rs. 1 lakh 20 thousand. There is a need to further increase this amount as the prices of all the commodities have increased. The increase made in this amount is insufficient and I hope it would be increased further. The minimum amount under it should have been increased more, it should have been above two-three lakh rupees. We had given this suggestion when the matter was referred to the Standing Committee.

In the second clause of the bill, a provision of Rs. one lakh forty thousand has been made in place of Rs. ninety thousand and medical and other facilities have been provided in place of Rs. twenty five hundred. Certainly, the Government has taken a good step but there are two-three types of labourers. One type of labourers are those who are working in the factories where contract system is still prevailing. They are not

enrolled by Labour Commissioner or Labour Inspector. Therefore, in case of an accident in the factory, these labourers are considered as contractor's labourers and are deprived of all such facilities. It protects the Factory owner. Therefore, a law should be enacted to put a check on such people.

A big industrial area is located in my area where accidents often take place. Sometimes, an undertaking is taken from the labourers and out of ignorance they lose these facilities. Factory owners do not provide them these facilities on the pretext that they are contractor's employees. I demand from the Government to amend it. Such types of factories should be banned. Besides, there are some factories wherein the working conditions are so unhygienic that it affects the health of the workers. Such industries should be identified and appropriate health care facilities should be provided there effectively.

Through you, I would like to submit one final point that the children of these labourers should be provided social and educational security. Schools, colleges and hospitals are not in sufficient number in this area. Setting up of a Medical College and a degree college was also discussed during the discussion in Standing Committee. It was discussed there as how can we provide facilities of higher education to the children or labourers. Labourers get meagre wages and they have very less sources. Therefore, the Government should pay attention to it as to how can we provide educational facilities to the families of these labourers at an affordable rate ...*(Interruptions)*. I would wind up in two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: A number of MPs from your Party have already spoken. I have given three minutes time to each of them.

SHRI RAMKISHUN: I would conclude after mentioning two points. ...*(Interruptions)* A large number of weavers are residing in our Varanasi and Chandauli areas but their condition is pathetic. The schemes like National Health Insurance and Weavers Insurance which have been formulated for them, have not been implemented at all places. ICICI bank cards have been issued to them for availing benefits under these schemes. However, the situation is that the doctors

[Shri Ramkishun]

nominated under these schemes are misappropriating the card and the labourers could not get the money for their treatment. A scam of crores of rupees has been made in this regard. I would like to draw it to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that the Government should keep a watch over such people also. Alongwith it, Government should provide good health care facilities to the beedi workers who often catch diseases like T.B. etc.

SHRI KAMAL KISHOR COMMANDO (Bahraich): Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I congratulate Shri Kharge Sahib. I rise to support the Workmen Compensation (Amendment) Bill.

The UPA Government always considers the interests of poor people. It is true that this bill is really praiseworthy. I thank the Government for it but I would like to place before you two-three points. A provision or reimbursement of medical expenses has been made in it.

[English]

There are two types of categories, "temporary" and "permanent". What does that mean? What sort of arrangement will be made by the Government for "permanent" and "temporary" categories. It should be very clearly defined in the Act.

[Translation]

What provisions are going to be made for the permanent category which includes the victims whose hand or foot has been amputated and are unable to move and also for the temporary category in which victim has not lost his hand or foot but injured them partially. May be the hon'ble Minister has this point in his mind, but if not, I would request that this point may please be noted.

Secondly, the Government is going to appoint officers or Commissioners in this regard but is it hopeful that they would be able to reach the poor people. What steps are being taken at district and lower level in this regard? I would like to bring this point to the notice of the hon'ble Minister. I hail from Bahraich which is a poverty stricken area. I myself have witnessed the

condition of the poor people there. A very good bill has been introduced. Just now an hon'ble Member was mentioning that there should be a provision of compensation to the family members if a worker while working at the site meets with an accident and dies. Besides, advance payment for medical treatment should be made to the workers working in hazardous industries so that they could receive prompt treatment from the hospital if they fall ill. Therefore, these officers, be Deputy Commissioners or Inspectors, should be appointed on district level otherwise the poor labourers will remain in trouble.

I would like to mention one more point that is a worker dies due to any reason. One of his children should be given employment immediately in the company or the factory in which he was working. While supporting this bill, I conclude myself.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): Madam, more than 22 hon. Members have spoken on the Bill. Many of them have also appreciated and a few of them criticized also. But in spite of that, I take it that it is a credit for the Department that the Department is doing its best with the cooperation and help of the Members of the Parliament as well as the Standing Committee Members. I congratulate all the Standing Committee Members who have given very good suggestions. We have already implemented a few of them and still we have to implement many more such progressive amendments.

[Translation]

Shri Arjun Meghwal started debate on this Amendment Bill. Subsequently, our young firebrand from Mumbai Shri Sanjay Nirupam expressed his views. It seems he is not present in the House now. After him Shri Prasanna Kumar Patsani, Shailendra Kumarji, Shri Kalyan Banerjee spoke. Then, Shri Basudeb Acharyaji spoke. He is also not present in the House now. Subsequently, Shri Gorakhnath Pandeyji, Mr. Rai, Paban Singh Ghatowarji, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji expressed their views. It seemed Dr. Raghuvansh Babu annoyed at me. Perhaps, he has gone through today's editorial.



After him Shri P. Lingamji expressed his views. Dr. Prabha Kishore Taviad laid her speech. After her, Shri Ganesh Singhji, Choudhary Lal Singhji, Prashant Kumar Majumdarji, Md. Basaiji gave some good suggestions. Then Shri Jagdambika Pal, who had been CM also, gave some practicable suggestions. After him, Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, also a Member of Standing Committee, spoke. Then followed the speech of Adhir Ranjanji, Ram Kishunji and Kamal Kishorji spoke in the last.

These all hon. members gave their valuable suggestions during the debate on the said Amendment Bill. Several points were repeated in the debate. I would like to dwell upon the suggestions made and the apprehensions raised during the debate. I would also like to reply to what Shri Arjun Meghwal said while initiating the debate. Hon. Sanjay Nirupam has rightly said that the changes brought in Schedule-(2) of the Bill relating to the workers engaged in dangerous, hazardous nature of work would benefit the workmen. Earlier, it was applicable to the industrial units employing at least 20 or more persons. Now it has been done away with. Now the Bill provides that any unit employing even a single workman will have to pay the compensation. It is the greatest benefit of new Bill. Earlier these benefits were available in case of units having 20 or more workmen on their rolls. But now even a single workman, be it in organized or unorganized sector will be eligible for compensation in the event of any injury rendering him incapacitated or in case of his death. He can also get medical expenses reimbursed. Now all these benefits are available to a workman, so there can be no other greater benefit than it. A lot is yet to be done. And everything cannot be done in an overnight. On my saying so, Raghuvansh ji may say that I am saying it out of compulsion. No, it is not so. It needs cooperation of everyone for passing it and implementing it and it is not a matter of mere assurance. Therefore, whatever I am saying now, we will incorporate it in the Bill. We have brought a number of changes. For example, the funeral expenses being paid have been enhanced to Rs. 5000 from Rs. 2500. I know, it is still inadequate. But, the provision for Rs. 2500 was made nine years ago in the year 2000. As per the price index, it needs to be further

increased. Therefore, the government has been empowered to hike it from time to time commensurate with the increase in price index. The government will notify the changes from time to time. So, Raghuvansh Babu do not worry about it.

It has been further provided that the compensation for a workman in case of disability or death will be changed from time to time and there will be no need of coming to Parliament every time. Earlier, Parliament's nod was required for each change. Earlier, if there was a need to increase amount paid to meet funeral expense, disability compensation, every time bringing an amendment was a legal necessity. But, now the government has been empowered, it can notify the changes. As and when the need arises we will change it. Today, the amendments we have proposed are based on consensus of employees, employers and also the government. Further, we have empowered the government to notify the need-based changes. And these would be done definitely.

**18.00 hrs.**

Thirdly, the hon. Members have given suggestion only on 2-3 points. These are relating to disability, medical expenses, funeral expenses, etc.

*[English]*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: It is 6 o' clock now. If the House agrees, the sitting of the House may be extended by half-an-hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We will examine all the suggestions. Whatever we can do in the interest of workmen, we will definitely do. If there is any problem and anyone of you needs my help, I am ready for it. Our 23-24 Members have held discussion on it.

The hon. Member has said that in Rajasthan, there are houses with height of only 10 feet and the law has specified a height of 20 feet. We have amended it to 12 feet. After Tamil Nadu amendment, the schedule reads as:

[Shri Mallikarjun Kharge]

[English]

"Employed in the construction, maintenance, repair or demolition of any building which is designed to be or is or has been more than one storey in height above the ground or twelve feet or more...in height from its lowest to its highest point;"

[Translation]

If there is a need to specify it as 10 feet, the State Government can notify it from time to time as a committee in this regard exists at State as well as at Central level. If either of the governments feels there is a need to decrease the said height in the provisions, it can do so. If the government realizes that any occupation is hazardous it can include that occupation in the list of hazardous occupations and at the same time it is empowered to delete the occupation from the said list if it feels that the said occupation is no more hazardous. Section-32 empowers the government to frame rules in this regard. The State Governments are also empowered in this regard and the Central Government will consider it from time to time. Vishnu Padji I am looking at your concerns. Let me speak first, you can speak later on. You are Vishnu and Vishnu and Parmeshwara are always at daggers drawn. I will say this, you will say something else. So, you wait for a while.

You know, we have given a lot to the railways. The clerks in railways were not covered earlier under the benefits of the said Act. By removing one word, we have covered them also. Similar is the case of workmen working on ships. Workmen working on ships with carrying capacity of 25 lakh tonne goods were covered under the said Act. Now even a ship carrying one or two tonne goods has been covered under the provisions of the said Act.

We have removed all these restrictions. Due to the removal of all the restrictions, everyone whether there is a single worker or more, benefits from the Act. Therefore, it should be welcomed. I had thought that Raghuvansh Saheb also welcomed it but, perhaps, he was not in upbeat mood today and that is why he did not pay much attention to it. He paid more attention to

our paper. He paid slightly less attention to it. I am his admirer because he did a great job in rural department and he is a follower of Lohia and that is why he has been raising his voice for the suppressed and downtrodden sections of the society. But, I have only one appeal that it will be better for me if any Member raises his point at such moments then he should keep in mind my background and the legal background as well. In addition to that we have placed some amendments initiating 5 amendments recommended by the standing committee, which we have accepted. Some more have also been accepted. We have made a beginning with this and it is not the end. It is a beginning. If more changes will be needed in it, then sooner or later we will definitely bring them. But, at least, a beginning has been made and crores of workers, whether in organized or unorganized sector, can benefit from it.

Secondly, the biggest amendment in it is that the department will definitely make a proper use of the power the Government is getting today as there is a provision of the compensation amounts of Rs. 2 lakh, 1.5 lakh and 1.4 lakh. Prasanna Kumar Patsani had said that this amount befits a dog. But, I would like to inform him that each and every law is different. If he will tell us what changes we should bring in this law then we will definitely make those amendments. But, it will become difficult for me to give a reply to some suggestion not pertaining to this legislation. I would just say that we have brought 10 amendments to it and have made it gender neutral by changing its title from Workmen Compensation Act to the Employees Compensation Act. We are using the words employee-employer because of the sensitivity of the gender issue today so that nobody can have objection to it. All the amendments are good and I thank all the Members for these suggestions and several hon. Members have appreciated it too. Everyone has given good suggestions and out of the 22-hon. members who spoke on it, there is not even a single Member who did not appreciate it. Everyone has praised it and provided me the courage to bring such legislation. If you will keep giving me encouragement like this then I will bring ESIC Act, Industrial Disputes Act and other Acts before the House and we will work together for the welfare of the poor.

Lastly, I always listen to the Members when they speak but I speak colloquial language as my expression in Hindi or Urdu is not that much perfect. Particularly, when Raghuvansh Prasadji was speaking, I was thinking what to say to him because it is such an issue of the workers which can be described in many words. But, the question is how to work it out and implement it? For this, a leader had told me the following lines in some context:

"Manzil bahut door hai, Rasta bada kathin hai,  
Phir bhi hamein panhuchana hai,  
Dil mile ya na mile, kam se kam haath milate chalo."

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Only three questions, please.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Madam, I would like to say a few words.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We did not listen to Vishnu but Vishnu is the preserver deity.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please ask only one question, then.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: I support the Bill you have brought. But I have a submission. Since both Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep are a Union Territory there is no Assembly there and the people there cannot make their own Bill. The condition is there in the bill that benefits will be given if 5, 10, 25 workers are there.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: This condition has been removed. Even if there is one worker,

[English]

That employee can fight with the employer under this. This is the Act.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Madam, it's a question

ir reimbursement. The problem in the Andaman is that if a worker gets grievously injured in an accident then he has to go to Chennai for the treatment. But, who is going to pay the stretcher fare?

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You got the answer.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I would like to clarify that your State or Union Territory or any State can make rules as suitable to them.

[Translation]

There is no objection if some State/UT wants to provide more compensation. There is no objection if it wants to pay lesser compensation. I would like to say that State/UT Government can make rules under section-32 to enforce the Act there. If there is any difficulty in that, then, we will definitely think about it.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I thank you for allowing me to participate in the discussion. I am grateful to the hon. Minister for making a number of arrangements for the worker's compensation as told by him in his reply. He spoke about women in his reply. I, through you, would like to ask him if the Government has any plan to make special provisions, particularly for the women, in the Bill.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Everyone has been taken care of it in this Bill. There is no discrimination in the Act. There are different kinds of facilities for different categories.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Hon. Minister had accepted in his reply that the said recommendation was made in 2002. Funeral expenses were Rs. 2500 then which have been raised to Rs. 5000, which, I think, is still low. We are definitely passing this Bill. If the hon. Minister also thinks that the amount is still low then will he consider raising it through notification, as in this Bill we are going to empower him to raise it through notification without requiring any amendment?

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Madam, I want to know only one thing that discussion was held about having a commissioner there that is there should be a

[Shri Chandrakant Khaire]

Labour Commissioner. There should be a Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Labour Commissioner and Government Labour Commissioner (GLO) at deserving places. They should be given power. A number of my friends have asked as to what will be the required period of experience for these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): It contains words that gazetted officer has also been empowered through amendment. Besides, a legal practitioner with five years of experience has also been included.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 10 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 10 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MADAM CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Matters of Urgent Public Importance.

Shri Jai Prakash Agarwal—not present.

Shri Sanjay Nirupam.

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM (Mumbai North): Madam Chairman, it is 25th today and exactly one year ago on 26th Mumbai faced a most horrifying terrorist attack. First of all, I would like to recall that day and pay homage to the citizens who lost their lives in that attack.

18.47 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI *in the Chair*]

I recall the brave policemen, the NSG commandos who lost their lives while trying to save people during the attack. I would like to draw the attention of the government to the fact that tomorrow is the first anniversary of the 26/11 attacks. On this occasion, I would like to draw the attention of the government towards the fact that although it is indisputable that for the last one year work on strengthening the intelligence agencies is being done in an effective manner under the leadership of Shri P. Chidambaram to ensure security of the country, but there are a lot more shortcomings that remain to be dealt with. There are two points on which our security is still lax which I would like to bring to the notice of the government. One is the coastal security of North Mumbai where the government has not been able to make adequate security arrangements. Our coasts are still insecure, particularly, the area from Gorai to Manori in North Mumbai where Thane district ends and Mumbai region starts. This is a 12 km long stretch that is completely unprotected. This region has no check posts, no fencing and lighting arrangements. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nirupamji, what do you want to be done, please clarify.

SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: I would like to urge the government and the Home Ministry to set up coast guard checkpoints along the said coastline. Arrangements for lighting and fencing should be made there because

through this route only on 26-11-2008 the terrorists reached the Taj Hotel and that point of South Mumbai via Karachi and Gujarat. My first demand is that security arrangements should be made along this coastline in North Mumbai as soon as possible.

The second thing I would like to say is that the Maharashtra government has regularly been writing to the Home Ministry asking for financial assistance in order to strengthen the coastal security. Nearly 12 marine police stations, 24 barracks, and 27 check posts need to be constructed in Mumbai and adjoining coastal areas. There is a demand for four or four and a half crore rupees for purchase of computers for card-reading and other equipments.

Sir, we have sent a number of reminders. Through you, I would like to urge the Union Government to provide financial assistance to the Maharashtra government at the earliest so that an incident like the 26/11 attack does not recur in Mumbai or anywhere in the country and no terrorist dares to cross the border into India. Thank you for giving me the time to speak.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak and finish quickly. I would like to draw the attention of the government towards the paddy farmers in Uttar Pradesh. Those farmers, who have already harvested their crop, are facing a lot of difficulties and their condition is pitiable. The government's sales-purchase counters, particularly, have failed to issue tokens to the farmers in time. Secondly, there is a provision that only the small and marginal farmers would be allowed to bring their paddy to the government-run sale and purchase counters. Where are the remaining big farmers supposed to take their paddy? This is a very big problem faced by the farmers.

Sir, the tokens that have been issued are postdated. There is no provision for sale of paddy on an immediate basis. They have been allotted the months of May, June and July for sale of their paddy due to which the farmers are distressed. When these farmers sell their paddy at the sale-purchase counters they get a fair price for their produce. Thereafter, they earn their livelihood by planting Rabi crops, such as wheat or potatoes. But this provision has caused a crisis for them

because they have not been paid for their crops and have been told to receive it in May, June and July next year.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the government towards the seriousness of this issue. The government ought to procure the paddy crops of all the farmers at the sale-purchase counters whether they are marginal, small or big farmers, and pay them fair price for their produce as early as possible so that the farmers are able to plant Rabi crops in the next season. This is the only way to ensure the prosperity of the farmers as well as the country. I conclude and express my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (Barasat): Respected Chairman, Sir, I rise to draw the attention of this august House to what is happening in West Bengal. Here, we are today celebrating the Women's Day, against atrocities against women. But in West Bengal everyday, women are being maimed, raped and tortured by the cadres of the CPI(M) party. The people of the Schedule Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes are being killed everyday. Even the hospitals are not being spared.

Yesterday, when some people, who were injured by the CPI(M) cadres' bullets, were being taken to the Imambara Hospital in Hoogly and also in the Panihati District General Hospital, the CPI(M) cadres were waving swords, throwing and hurling bombs on these people inside the hospital. They also had unauthorized, unlicensed, illegal weapons and arms with them. They tried to shoot at people. They were killing people. But nothing is being done by the State Government over there. Nearly, 120 people have already been killed in West Bengal after the Lok Sabha elections. I know law and order is state subject but when minorities, SC, ST, OBC and women are attacked, killed, Central Government should intervene.

I would like to draw your attention to this fact that there is neither law nor order in the State of West Bengal. The State-sponsored terrorism is being undertaken in every nook and corner of West Bengal.

[Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar]

Therefore, in this state of affairs, I would humbly request the Government to please send a Central team to West Bengal and impose Article 355 there so that all the other persons specially women and minorities, SC, ST, OBCs being maimed by the torture of the CPI(M) led State-sponsored terrorism can be saved.

Sir, in the hospital of Chinsurah, Imambara and also the District hospital of Panihati, the common man is being killed, women and children are being tortured. Therefore, I would again urge upon the Central Government to take a serious note of this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, it is a very serious matter... *(Interruptions)*

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR: There is a Bengali saying: "Aami saidin hobo shanto, jaidin utpiriter krondon rol aakashe baatashe dhwoni bena.", which means: "I will be quiet only on the day when people around me are not crying and are not raising hue and cry for their survival."

Please take a serious note of this.

*[Translation]*

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL (Banda): Sir, entire Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand region in particular, is in the grip of severe drought. In these circumstances, 1200 applications for energisation of tubewells have been submitted by the people of Bundelkhand during 2009-10 and the farmers have deposited the money for the said purpose but their tubewells are not being energized.

I would like to point out, through you, that the farmers who are yet to sow and irrigate their crops will be ruined if their tubewells are not energized as they are already in the grip of drought. The hon. Prime Minister has recently announced a special package of Rs. 7266 crore for Bundelkhand region.

I would like to request the government, through you, to supply the equipments needed for the energisation of tubewells of the farmers and also provide irrigation facilities in this area through installation of deep bore tubewells out of the said package.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers are not getting DAP and NPK fertilizers due to acute shortage of chemical fertilizers in various parts of the country. There is acute shortage of chemical fertilizers in various states, especially in Bihar. Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal etc. in the country. The sowing of Rabi crop is being affected due to shortage of DAP and NPK in Nalanda district of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This matter was discussed during the Calling Attention. So, you can just mention it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: The traders are over-charging the farmers for the fertilizers which are available to the farmers in black market due to smuggling and black-marketing of the fertilizers. Hence I demand that the government should ensure proper supply of D.A.P. fertilizer in Nalanda district.

*[English]*

\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Hon. Chairman Sir, you all know that the state of West Bengal has two parts—North Bengal and South Bengal. North Bengal is well known for its scenic beauty and natural resources. It is a major tourist spot. People from all over the world flock here to enjoy the beauty of Darjiling, Terai Hills, Sikkim and other places. But there is high level of water pollution in the area due to which, now-a-days, less number of tourists visit these spots. Another set back of the region is the rising political unrest.

Earlier, there used to be dense, green forest, tea gardens, orange orchards and numerous birds and animals. Infact the northern region was rich in flora and fauna. But due to environmental pollution rainfall has also become less. So my demand is that in order to check pollution, during the monsoon season, the river water should be tapped and conserved so as to bring down water and air pollution. All the major rivers emerging from the hills can be properly utilized for this

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

purpose. If that is possible then there will be a marked improvement in our atmosphere and environment.

This area is the gateway of eastern India so the Government should concentrate more on this region and declare a special package for overall development of the people of this area and North Bengal as a whole.

With these words, I thank you for allowing me to speak and end my speech.

[English]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (Ludhiana): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the 20th of November, 2009, activists owing allegiance to a political party attacked the offices of a national news channel in Mumbai and Pune. That the attack is reprehensible and it needs to be condemned by all sections of the House goes without saying. But however, the attack raises a larger question and the larger question is that while the law may deal with the miscreants who perpetrated the attack, what is the culpability of those political parties which conceive, conceptualize, orchestrate and then own up to such attacks? What is their culpability is the larger question which has been raised. My submission is that the time has come for the Government to consider that Section 29(a) of the Representation of People's Act which deals with the registration of political parties needs to be suitably amended, so that those political parties which subvert. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

First, you listen to me...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Nothing will go on record except the submission of Shri Manish Tewari.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: My submission is that the time has come for the Government to seriously consider an amendment to Section 29(a) of the Representation of People's Act so that those political parties which violate the constitutional mandate of sub-section (4) whereby they take an oath of allegiance to the Constitution, suitable action should be taken against them.

Connected with this is another matter. It pertains to provision 16 (a) of the. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. It is not being recorded, Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Today the Election Commission does not have the superintendence of police in a non-election season. Since political parties are not exercising restraint, they are subverting the constitutional mandate. There is a need for outside regulation. Therefore, my submission is that before the fort of democracy descends into anarchy, this House should take note of it and take suitable action.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise a very important issue during the Zero hour in the House.

About 100 persons died of swine flu during the last few days in the country. The Union Government took action urgently in this regard. A team of doctors was deputed on all the airports and railway stations. Several hospitals were identified in the national capital Delhi for treatment of the patients suffering from swine flu. Unfortunately 482 children died in Gorakhpur medical college in eastern Uttar Pradesh during the last two months and till yesterday. Today when I enquired on phone, I was told that 486 children, who were the future of the country, had died till then. They suffered from Japanese encephalitis. The State Government has been so indifferent that neither vaccine is provided for its prevention nor proper arrangements are being made for treatment of encephalitis in those hospitals. This disease has become an epidemic not in one district but in entire Uttar Pradesh including districts of Gorakhpur, Siddarthnagar, Basti, Sant Kabir Nagar, Balrampur, Bahraich, Shrawasti, Gonda, Deoria, Kushinagar etc.

If the State Government does not take any action in this regard, I expect the Union Government to pay attention to this. The State Government has been committing irregularities in distribution of the Rs. 450 crore fund received under NRHM from the Union Government. This amount of Rs. 450 crore is not being

[Shri Jagdambika Pal]

utilized. Efforts are being made to...from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Mines. ...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about responsibility. The Union Government has provided Rs. 450 crore to the Health Ministry and this fund has been taken back from the Health Ministry and transferred to the Ministry of Mines of Uttar Pradesh Government. The Ministry of Mines is misusing the said fund. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: No thanks, 486 children have died, it is not a matter of thanks. I want to state that Japanese encephalities has turned into an epidemic but Uttar Pradesh Government is not taking any action in this regard. The Union Government should direct the Health Ministry of the State to set up a control room in this regard. The Union Government should provide the required quantum of vaccines. An inquiry should be made in regard to the misuse of Central funds by the State Government. I want that action should be taken in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the time allotted for this matter is over. There are eight more hon. Members to speak. If the hon. Members agree we may extend the time of the House till this item of work is completed.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Mr. Chairman Sir, this sovereign House has been a witness to several historical events. Issues are discussed and resolved in this House. In the beginning of the 21st century the lives of 35 lakhs people were affected by the devastating Kosi Floods due to breach in Kusaha embankment. Their houses, schools and colleges were destroyed and their land became infertile. The State Government provided them shelter for four months. The hon. Prime Minister and Smt. Soniaji visited the flood affected area. They felt that it was a national disaster. The Government of India was serious and worried about that disaster. I

would like to say with great pain that when the party, which has its own history and has played an important role in the freedom struggle, is in power at the Centre and nothing is being done despite the Prime Minister himself calling it a national disaster. Today is a winter night. Lakhs of persons are still living without any shelter. I would like to request the Government, through you to give a package of Rs. 14,500 crore demanded by the State Government for construction of houses, schools and for making the land fertile. This package carries the hopes of the people of the country. All the state governments in the country are morally bound in this issue. I would like to request the Union Government, through you and this House not to have a broken feather in its wings. The people of Bihar are also loyal to the Government. Bihar has not committed any crime. Bihar has acted within the ambit of the constitutional provisions. I, therefore, would like the Union Government to approve the said package of Rs. 14,500 crore and provide relief.

SHRI PURNMASI RAM (Gopalganj): Mr. Chairman Sir, Bihar is a backward state where there has been shortage of foodgrains and industries. It is the biggest reason for the backwardness of Bihar. There is ample scope for agriculture based industries, especially sugarcane based industries in this agricultural state. Sugarcane is produced on a large scale in Bihar where several new sugar mills can be set up. In this context Bihar Government has approved a mega project for setting up 23 new sugar mills and production of ethanol, but the ban imposed by the Union Government on production of ethanol in the new sugar mills has eclipsed the prospects of new sugarcane based industries and discouraged private investment. Hon. Prime Minister stressed the need for production of ethanol in the year 2007. Despite that a ban has been imposed on production of ethanol through an order whereas thousands of MW of power would be generated from the sugarcane based industries and at the same time, level of pollution caused by petrol and diesel would also be reduced with the production and use of ethanol.

Sir, I would like to urge the Government that the said order imposing ban on ethanol production be



withdrawn with a view to encouraging the agriculture based industries in a backward state like Bihar so as to pave the way for setting up sugarcane based industries in Bihar. Thank you.

SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE (Latur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. There has been shortage of drinking water in my Parliamentary constituency Latur and in entire Maharashtra. There has been shortage of water for irrigation as well as for drinking on account of declining water level. The agriculture sector is in crisis due to landslide, fall in groundwater level and problems relating to irrigation. According to a survey, per capita availability of drinking water has been decreasing rapidly. 5177 cubic metre drinking water was available in the year 1951 whereas it has decreased to 1820 cubic metre per capita in the year 2001. There is an apprehension that it is likely to come down to 1140 cubic metre by the year 2050.

Hence I demand from the Union Government to address this water crisis by augmenting the groundwater conservation capacity and using the scientific methods for water management.

[English]

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (Palakkad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House and also the Government to a very serious issue, that is, the acute shortage of vaccines in Kerala as well as in the whole of the country. Life-saving vaccines which prevent rabies, diphtheria, tuberculosis, polio etc. are now hugely lacking in supply. The country present is in need of 58 crore doses of vaccines, while only 30 crore doses are available. So, there is a huge shortage of 28 crore doses.

Earlier, one hundred per cent of our requirement was met by three public sector vaccine producing factories of Kunoor, Chennai and Kasauli. However, the Government had closed these three public sector vaccine producing factories. This is the reason for the present shortage of vaccines.

Presently, the country is hugely dependent on private sector for vaccines. It is clear that the closure of these public sector vaccine producing factories was

to help the private sector. The prices of vaccines produced by private sector are eight times higher than those produced in the public sector. While the prices have skyrocketed and private companies are making huge profits, our immunisation programmes for children have been badly affected. This will seriously harm the health of our future generation.

So, in order to save our infants from the clutches of fatal diseases, the Government should intervene immediately and re-open the closed public sector vaccine producing factories.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important problem in the country. A number of train accidents have been reported from all over the country during the last two-three months in which a large number of people have lost their lives. Railways have suffered a loss of its property worth crores of rupees and common people have also suffered losses. Besides it, a number of tractor and truck accidents have taken place at overbridges and unmanned railway level crossings. There are two reasons for it—one is—roads have been constructed under PMGSY to provide connectivity to the villages located near railway lines but railway level crossings have not been constructed there. Now these villages have been connected with pucca roads and people have started using them. But is the absence of railway level crossings, accidents are on the rise.

I demand that it should be taken into consideration and all the unmanned railway level crossings should be converted into manned ones. Second is under National employment Guarantee Scheme also roads. ...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding in one minute. ...*(interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your demand.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMKISHUN: I am doing that only. Roads were constructed there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak only on one topic.

SHRI RAMKISHUN: I am speaking on one topic only. In my district Chandauli railway line divides the district headquarters into two parts. Level crossings are there but an overbridge is needed there. Courts and other facilities are located on either side of the railway line and people especially the patients face difficulties in moving across the railway line. I demand from the Government to construct an overbridge at district headquarters Chandauli and unmanned railway level crossings at various places in the country should be converted into manned ones so that the safety and security of life and property in the country could be ensured and the property of railways worth millions and billions of rupees could be saved.

CHOUHDARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, you are aware that the Government of India has declared 299 districts as drought affected. But there are some districts which have not been declared drought affected as the recommendation to this effect was not forwarded to the Government as has happened in my state. And consequently, there is a serious problem of water. This problem exists all over the country. Many areas in my state are facing water shortage. Our handpumps, dugwells, tubewells, stepwells and ponds have almost dried up. The water table has depleted. Even gravity water has declined. At the same time, the quantum of water in our rivers and nullahs has also come down. Why are we facing drought problem today? The Government got the trees planted but later on no one bothered to see as to how many trees survived? There was a need to monitor it, but it is not being done. I want to say that the situation will further deteriorate. If my state, which has water in abundance, faces water shortage, what shall be the fate of other states? My submission is that adequate attention should be paid to water recharging. The Government should prepare some action plan to bring water in our rivers or nullahas which have dried up. Drought has not only created food crisis, it has also created shortage of water. Some districts in my state, such as, Kathua, Udhampur, Riyasi, Ramban, Kishtwar, Doda and Gul should also be declared drought affected.

SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR (Supaul): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very old problem of residents of

Mithula. It is regarding delay in construction of rail-cum-road bridge over river Kosi in my parliamentary constituency Supaul. The said bridge was to be constructed in 2009-10. But it has not been constructed so far. Due to the step-motherly treatment by the Government and in the absence of any control over the department it seems that the bridge may not be completed even in the next five years. Construction of the said bridge will facilitate travelling of lakhs of people and four-laning of the road will be lifeline of this area. The bridge will connect poorvanchal to west. It will also provide connectivity to proposed East West corridor. Kosi river divides my Parliamentary constituency into two parts as a result of which we people have to come via Nepal and because of that we cannot take our guard there. Construction of this bridge will solve our problem. This bridge will also be of strategic importance because the way to Nepal and China goes from there. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to make funds available at the earliest for construction of this bridge keeping in view this basic problem in public interest.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of yours and the Union Government towards an extremely serious issue. Recently on the 3rd of November a resolution was passed by Jamiyat-Ulema-a-Hind in its 30th conference in Deoband of Uttar Pradesh against our National song Vande Mataram. The Minister of Home Affairs was also present in that conference. It is really shameful for the entire country that a resolution was passed against the national song. Vande Mataram song was composed by Late Shri Bankim Chandra Chatterji to to inspire the freedom fighters fighting for country's independence. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN (Vellore): There is no condemnation of that. There is no such word. When you raise an issue in Parliament, you should put forward the correct facts. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: This song evoked inspiration for a massive freedom struggle throughout the country. This song was written in 1857. Vande Mataram

is not just a song, infact it pays salute to the freedom fighters and sings of those who lost their lives in order to win freedom for India. This song was sung while paying tribute to our motherland. Jamiyat-Ulema-e-Hind has insulted this song...(Interruptions). I would like to say that if someone has to live in this country then one will have to sing Vande Mataram. Action should be taken against those who insult Vande Mataram. We sing this song in the Parliament also...(Interruptions). Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to take action against those who passed a resolution against our National song because it amounts to treason. This is my demand. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): What he is saying is not there in the resolution. Why should he talk about things which are not there in the resolution? He can create a conflict. ...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, with your kind permission I want one thing to go on record. The hon. Home Minister who attended that conference had already clarified the position. He very clearly said that there was nothing at the time when he was there in the conference. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN (Vellore): Your statement is completely false.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever is unparliamentary and derogatory will be expunged from the record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Sajjan Singh Verma.

(Interruptions)...\*

[Translation]

SHRI SAJJAN VERMA (Dewas): Mr. Chairman Sir, a massive fire had broken out in an Oil Depot at Jaipur in the beginning of this month in which a number of people lost their lives and petrol, diesel worth lakhs of rupees got burnt. Losses worth crores of rupees were incurred in this entire fire incident. I would like to request that such Oil Depots should be set up away from human habitations. All such Oil Depots in the country which are situated next to human settlements should be transferred to secluded areas and efforts should be made to ensure that no human settlements are allowed near that place.

One more thing I would like to request with regard to the same issue is that a large amount of adulteration takes place in such oil depots with the connivance of higher officials, action should be taken to check the same. I hail from Madhya Pradesh. Mangli Oil depot in Indore is located in a densely populated area. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to immediately shift the Mangli Depot from there to a secluded place and wherever oil depots are situated near human settlements in the country, all of them should be shifted to vacant places under some big scheme formulated for this purpose.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

18.54 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the  
Clock on Thursday, November 26, 2009/  
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