

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

## **(English Version)**

**Third Session**  
**(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते

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**LOK SABHA DEBATES**  
**(English Version)**  
**Thursday, November 26, 2009**

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

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*Thursday, November 26, 2009/Agrahayana 5, 1931 (Saka)*

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*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock*

[MADAM SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

#### RESOLUTION RE: FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACK IN MUMBAI

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I place the following Resolution before the House:

"Today is the first anniversary of the terrorist attack in Mumbai which resulted in huge loss of innocent lives of Indian citizens as well as of foreign nationals.

Terrorism is the gravest threat to humanity and a total negation of values which man holds dear. Mindless violence unleashed by the terrorists has devastated countless number of families.

Terrorism has no justification whatsoever in a civilized world and it is the duty of every country which wants to see peace and progress to resist and defeat these dark forces of terrorism. This House shares the sorrow and grief of all those families who have lost their near and dear ones in the terrorist attacks.

Realizing the global network of terrorists and their unlimited resources, sophisticated arms and training and also their diabolic mindset, there is an urgent need to mobilize the resources and coordinate actions by all countries to track down and eliminate these enemies of mankind.

This House is of the firm view that with strong will and determined action, we will be able to effectively counter terrorism. The House salutes the indomitable

courage of the security forces who gave a crushing blow to the terrorists on 26th November, 2008 and the fortitude of the people of Mumbai and urges upon the Government to take all steps necessary to wipe out the scourge of terrorism from our country.

On this day, this House resolves that we will unitedly fight and defeat the forces of terrorism and never again allow them to spill the blood of innocent people."

I hope the House agrees.

*The Resolution was adopted unanimously.*

MADAM SPEAKER: The House may now stand in silence for a short while to mark the solemnity of the occasion.

11.02 hrs.

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

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur): Madam, I am on a point of information.

Today also, one of the Trinamool Congress workers has been killed by the CPI (M), and four workers have been injured. From the time of elections, till today, 130 persons have been killed by the CPI (M) workers....  
(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please let the Question Hour continue.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please allow the Question Hour to be taken up.

...(Interruptions)

11.04 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Q. No. 101, Shri Ashok Kumar Rawat – Not present.

Shri Bhausahab Rajaram Wakchaure.

[Translation]

## Expansion of PNG Infrastructure

+

\*101. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:  
SHRI BHUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:

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

(a) whether the Government has embarked upon an ambitious plan to provide Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to various cities/towns in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such cities;

(c) whether any investment strategy for tapping resources from the public and private sectors for promoting the use of PNG has been evolved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) to (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has finalized 'Vision-2015' of the Oil and Gas sector for 'Consumer Satisfaction and Beyond', wherein efforts would be made to provide PNG facilities to 201 more cities by the year 2015. The list of cities as per initial report of Auto Fuel Policy Review Committee working in this regard is enclosed as Annexure.

City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities authorized by Central Government, including Joint Ventures of GAIL (India) Limited, are undertaking activities to expand the PNG network. Further authorizations are to be done by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

PNGRB Act, 2006 has been notified to provide a regulatory and developmental framework for developing inter alia city/local natural gas distribution networks and to promote investment in the area from both public and private sectors.

**Annexure**

Sl.No.	State	City
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Kukatpally
2.		Lal Bahadur Nagar
3.		Outubullapur
4.		Eluru
5.		Visakhapatnam
6.		Warangal
7.		Guntur
8.		Nellore
9.		Gajuwaka
10.		Ramagundam
11.		Nizamabad
12.		Tirupati
13.		Kurnool
14.		Anantapur
15.		Karimnagar

1	2	3	1	2	3
16.	Bihar	Patna	40.		Khanna
17.		Gaya	41.		Amritsar
18.		Sasaram	42.		Jalandhar
19.		Aurangabad	43.		Hoshiarpur
20.		Barauni	44.		Phagwara
21.		Bhagalpur	45.		Kapurthala
22.		Muzaffarpur	46.		Sangrur
23.		Darbhanga	47.		Ropar
24.	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur	48.	Haryana	Panipat
25.		Ranchi	49.		Hisar
26.		Bokaro Steel City	50.		Kamal
27.		Dhanbad	51.		Yamunanagar
28.	West Bengal	Kolkata	52.		Bhiwani
29.		Hugli	53.		Ambala
30.		Durgapur	54.		Rewari
31.		Asansol	55.		Kalka
32.		Kulti	56.		Rohtak
33.		Bardhaman	57.	Gujarat	Jamnagar
34.		Kharagpur	58.		Nadiad
35.		Haldia	59.		Bharuch
36.		Medinapur	60.		Navsari
37.	Punjab	Ludhiana	61.		Mahesana
38.		Patiala	62.		Godhra
39.		Bathinda	63.		Kalol

1	2	3	1	2	3
64.		Dahod	89.		Tumkur
65.		Halol	90.		Bagalkot
66.		Valsad	91.		Harihar
67.		Bhavnagar	92.		Ranibennur
68.		Gandhidham	93.		Hukeri
69.		Bhuj	94.		Gokak
70.		Palanpur	95.		Shimoga
71.		Patan	96.		Bellary
72.		Mahuva	97.	Goa	Margaon
73.		Junagadh	98.		Panaji
74.		Porbandar	99.	Keral	Kochi
75.		Veraval	100.		Kozhikode
76.		Jetpur	101.		Kanjirkod
77.	Karnataka	Bangaluru	102.		Thrissur
78.		Hubli	103.		Alappuzha
79.		Mysore	104.		Palakkad
80.		Belgaum	105.		Kottayam
81.		Mangalore	106.		Kanhangad
82.		Davanagere	107.		Cherthala
83.		Dharwad	108.		Thalassery
84.		Anekal	109.		Ponnani
85.		Gulbarga	110.		Malappuram
86.		Bijapur	111.		Kasargod
87.		Chitradurga	112.		Thiruvananthapuram
88.		Gadag-Betigeri	113.		Kollam

1	2	3	1	2	3
114.		Kayankulam	138.		Satna
115.	Tamil Nadu	Thiruvavur	139.		Rewa
116.		Pondicherry	140.		Hoshangabad
117.		Cuddalore	141.		Itarsi
118.		Coimbatore	142.	Maharashtra	Nagpur
119.		Salem	143.		Nashik
120.		Tiruppur	144.		Kolhapur
121.		Chennai	145.		Sangli-Miraj Kupwad
122.		Vellore	146.		Latur
123.		Madurai	147.		Chandrapur
124.		Tiruchirappalli	148.		Ichalkaranji
125.		Tirunelveli	149.		Satara
126.		Dindigul	150.		Osmanabad
127.		Kancheepuram	151.		Solapur
128.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior	152.		Ahmadnagar
129.		Guna	153.		Baramati
130.		Ratlam	154.		Aurangabad
131.		Bhind	155.		Amravati
132.		Bhopal	156.		Nanded
133.		Jabalpur	157.		Akola
134.		Raipur	158.		Jalgaon
135.		Bhillai	159.		Jaina
136.		Chhindwara	160.		Malegaon
137.		Vidisha	161.		Dhule



1	2	3	1	2	3
162.		Parbhani	186.		Saharanpur
163.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar	187.		Muzaffarnagar
164.		Cuttack	188.		Rampur
165.		Berhampur	189.		Shamli
166.		Puri	190.		Budhana
167.		Balasore	191.		Varanasi
168.		Bhadrak	192.		Aligarh
169.		Raurkela	193.		Gorakhpur
170.		Sambalpur	194.		Mirzapur-cum-Vindhyachal
171.	Rajasthan	Bharatpur	195.	Uttarakhand	Haldwani-cum-Kathgodam
172.		Alwar	196.		Kashipur
173.		Neemrana	197.		Rudrapur
174.		Jaisalmer	198.		Sitarganj
175.		Bhiwadi	199.		Dehradun
176.		Jaipur	200.		Haridwar
177.		Ganganagar	201.		Roorkee
178.		Jodhpur	<i>[Translation]</i>		
179.		Udaipur	SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Madam, the hon. Minister was the Mayor of Mumbai.... <i>(Interruptions)</i>		
180.		Ajmer	MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except question and its reply.		
181.		Bhilwara	SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: The hon. Minister said that the entire city of Mumbai would be covered with piped natural gas (PNG).... <i>(Interruptions)</i>		
182.	Uttar Pradesh	Shahjahanpur	<i>[English]</i>		
183.		Bulandshahr	THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I will take it up.... <i>(Interruptions)</i>		
184.		Modinagar			
185.		Khurja			

[Translation]

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: However, a large area of Mumbai is still waiting to be covered by PNG. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that as to when entire Mumbai would be covered by PNG? What steps are being taken by the Government to provide PNG in cities of Maharashtra like Pune, Nagpur, Sataram, Aman Nagar, Shirdi?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as the question of the hon. Member regarding Mumbai is concerned, I would like to tell the House that a city distributor with the name of MGL is functioning in Mumbai and 4 lakh connections have been given in Mumbai as on date. As far this Government is concerned, a new scheme 'Vision 2015' has been embarked upon, under which PNG facilities would be provided to 200 cities across the country during the next 5 years. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, there are certain other cities which are likely to be linked like Latur, Chandrapur, Satara, Osamabad, Sholapur, Baramati, Akola, Jalna etc. about which I will give details.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): Gondia is also covered under it.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Gondia is also covered.

Madam, 200 cities will be covered in the next five years. First priority will be accorded to places equipped with pipeline and second priority will be accorded to places where pipelines have been authorized. PNG facilities will be provided across the country wherever possible under this programme.

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Madam, people are in a bothered State and sick owing to polluted atmosphere in major cities like Mumbai. The use of C.N.G. has become necessary for abatement of pollution in atmosphere. I would like to know the proposals of the hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: C.N.G. would also be put in use in all the 200 cities referred to by me. The objective

is to use C.N.G. progressively in the cities for abatement of pollution. PNG is safer and better than LPG since it is lighter in weight and quickly gets dissipated in air and LPG is heavier. It does not get absorbed in air. PNG is more eco-friendly and saves the trouble of changing gas cylinder.

SHRI MAHABAL MISHRA: Sir, it was stated in the last Five Year Plans that 500 cities would be covered with gas line, however, it has been stated in the reply that so far only 200 cities have been connected. In Delhi it was divided in 70 parts, in which only 25 per cent work has been executed whereas the deadline was year 2008. Where pipeline has been installed only 25 to 40 per cent people have been given connections. I would like to know from the hon. Minister by when connections will be provided at places where infrastructure has been completed and by when the remaining work would be completed?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Sir, one and a half lakh PNG connections have been provided in various colonies of Delhi and I can also give you details in this regard. We face hurdles like that it is not under the purview of our Ministry had other obstacles like seeking permission from Municipal Corporations and local administration, seeking permission for excavation or digging of road which can cause delay in the execution of work. However, we are fully committed to provided PNG to maximum houses so that we could provide better facilities to the people.

SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH: Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to ask supplementary on such an important question. The scheme of providing PNG to houses is a very ambitious plan, however, it is regretted that it is being executed at a very slow pace. What to talk of entire country, gas cannot be supplied even in half of the Metropolitan city like Delhi. It is being learnt from the reply of the hon. Minister that Piped Natural Gas is proposed to be provided only in 8 cities of my State Bihar. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister if there is any scheme to supply gas through pipelines in the remaining cities of Bihar? In my State dealers commit large-scale irregularities in the supply of gas and gas cylinder is often short weighed. I would like

to know if there is any scheme for the proper supply of LPG till the pipelines are installed?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Your question is over.

**SHRI JITIN PRASADA:** Madam Speaker, we are providing LPG to the consumer in Bihar which is pretty cheap and causes loss to the Exchequer at the rate of Rs. 200 per cylinder. Although the pipeline network scheme has simultaneously been evolved in Bihar to ameliorate the situation. Right now there is no gas pipeline and there is delay in the scheme due to insufficient availability of gas in the country. Gas has been procured for commercial utilization only a few years ago and it is being supplied across the country through existing pipelines. The scheme for laying new pipelines is being evolved to supply gas in those eastern regions like Bihar and Orissa referred to by the hon. Member were the pipelines have not been installed as on date and that is why there is no gas supply. However, the Government proposes to set up a National Gas Highway Authority. It is being set up with the objective of supplying gas even in those backward areas. It has been noticed that industries have grown and new industries have been set up wherever the pipelines have been laid and Bihar will also become a part of that map.

**SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN:** Madam, the hon. Minister has not stated the reasons for their absence in Bihar. Why Bihar is neglected? The hon. Minister should also pay some attention to Bihar in comparison to Maharashtra. Why Bihar is so much neglected? Madam, we need your protection in the matter as not even dealership has been allotted in Bihar. Why your area is so much neglected? Gas would be supplied in areas where pipelines have been laid and Eastern India would remain neglected because there is no pipeline, after all why there is so much discrimination and why so much exception for Bihar? Why the Government is not paying any attention to Bihar?

**MADAM SPEAKER:** Alright.

**SHRI JITIN PRASADA:** Even the hon. Member was in Government for 6 long years. The Gas has become available now only.

**SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY:** Madam Speaker, through you, I welcome the scheme evolved for the supply of PNG in various cities, however, many a time it has been seen that there is huge gap in envision, planning and implementation since several projects have been sanctioned in the past in addition to several cities of Uttar Pradesh mentioned in the list given in the particular. It includes Meerut and my Constituency Mathura which falls under the Taj Zone and where the consumers are anxiously awaiting its implementation, since the entire procedure, the action and several decisions taken by PNGRB are in the eye of a storm. Several public sector companies have moved to Energy Appellate Court. So, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister if there has been a negative impact on the implementation of this scheme in view of hurdles in the procedure, and approval particularly for several areas of Uttar Pradesh and Mathura and by when this scheme would be implemented particularly in Mathura?

**SHRI JITIN PRASADA:** Madam, the hon. Member has rightly stated that there lies a gap in planning and implementation. So far the PSUs like Gas Authority of India Limited has been executing this work. It was felt that the market condition was not fair, it was monopolistic and so far only one company has been getting this opportunity so a Regulatory Board was organized in the year 2006. Its objective was to allow any public or private sector company to freely start gas distribution network in cities. The Regulatory Board given them permission for bidding after fulfilling certain norms. Besides, there is some dispute as to which agencies would be allowed to bid, the ones who were in distribution network before the setting up of Regulatory Board or the new agencies so some matters are pending in the court. These disputes shall be settled very soon and work will be executed. As far as Mathura is concerned, the work has begun there. DSM infratech agency has been assigned the task of distribution network in Mathura so that people could be facilitated.

**SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY:** Madam, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply right now that the scheme is likely to cover 200 cities. Laying of pipelines is proposed to be completed on priority basis at places where these have been partially laid. The towns in rural areas,

metropolitan cities and municipal councils should be covered in this list in view of pollution and environmental concern. Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh is important from all points of view but it is also missing. Bhadohi is known as the city of carpets so pipeline is necessary here. This scheme proposes to provide this facility in 200 cities, whether the hon. Minister proposes to cover Allahabad and Bhadohi districts under this Scheme?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, Allahabad is in priority list. Allahabad, Jhansi, Ghaziabad, Chandigarh Yenam, Rajamundri and Shahdol will be covered in the second round of bidding.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Is Lucknow there?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, I will tell you about Lucknow. In regard to rural areas, I would admit that India is a vast nation and we do not have adequate quantum of gas available. We have to import gas as well, so it is not possible to supply gas in every house. Priority will be accorded to major cities. We have tried to provide LPG connections in rural areas under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramine Vitarak Yojana. Under the scheme an agency would be appointed on every thousand connections in a village so that LPG facility could be provided to every household which was restricted up to urban areas only.

Madam, Lucknow has been referred to here. CNG and Piped Natural Gas are being provided there. The State Government and the local agencies are facing problems of digging up roads and pipelines which is causing delay otherwise efforts are being made to provide all facilities there.

[English]

#### Multi-functional Complexes

\*102. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IRCON International Ltd. and Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) have since developed business models and action plan for construction of multi-functional complexes in the railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the stations selected for the purpose in various States including Kerala; and

(c) the details of the preliminary work started for this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) to (c) 66 Railway stations serving places of Pilgrimage, industry and tourist interests have been identified for development of Multi Functional Complexes (MFCs) for providing rail users facilities like shopping, food stalls and restaurants, book stalls, PCO/STD/ISD/FAX booths, medicine and variety stores, budget hotels, underground parking, etc. List of stations, in the country including those in the State of Kerala, is enclosed as Annexure.

The work of construction of MFCs has been entrusted to IRCON and Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) who have taken up the work in a phased manner.

Action Plan for development of business models, architectural and structural designs suiting local architecture and ethos, as well as construction programme has been formulated by IRCON and RLDA. Consultants have since been engaged by IRCON to develop business models.

#### Annexure

S.No.	List of Stations for Multi-functional Complexes
1	2
1.	Alipurduar Jn.
2.	Allahabad

1	2
3.	Alleppey
4.	Anandpur Sahib
5.	Ayodhya
6.	Banspani
7.	Bardhaman
8.	Bikaner
9.	Bilaspur
10.	Cuttack
11.	Darjeeling
12.	Dehradun
13.	Digha
14.	Durg
15.	Ernakulam Jn.
16.	Gandhidham
17.	Gangasagar
18.	Ghatsila
19.	Guntur
20.	Gwalior
21.	Haldia
22.	Haridwar
23.	Hazur Sahib Nanded
24.	Hubli
25.	Hyderabad
26.	Indore

1	2
27.	Jabalpur
28.	Jammu Tawi
29.	Jasidih
30.	Jhansi
31.	Jodhpur
32.	Kanniyakumari
33.	Kannur
34.	Kathgodam
35.	Katra
36.	Khajuraho
37.	Kottayam
38.	Kozhikkode
39.	Kurukshetra
40.	Madurai Junction
41.	Manmad
42.	Mysore Jn.
43.	Nainital
44.	Nasik Road
45.	New Alipore
46.	Palakkad Jn.
47.	Parasnath
48.	Rae-Bareilly Jn.
49.	Raipur
50.	Rajahmundry

1	2
51.	Rajgir
52.	Rajkot
53.	Rameswaram
54.	Ranchi
55.	Shirdi
56.	Silchar
57.	Siliguri
58.	Talcher
59.	Tarapith Rd. (Rampurhat)
60.	Tiruchchirappalli Jn.
61.	Tiruvalla
62.	Trichur
63.	Udaipur City
64.	Ujjain
65.	Vadodara
66.	Vishakhapatnam

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : Madam Speaker, construction of quality speciality complex is a new idea for developing the Railways with public-private participation.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the hon. Minister, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, for including Alappuzha, one of the tourism destinations in India to develop the Multi-Functional Complex. Alleppey, which is a major tourism destination was also announced by the railway authorities as a model station. But its premises and the railway station are in a pathetic condition. The parking ground and the approach road to the station are in a dilapidated state and

there are no sufficient rest rooms. Other passenger amenities are also lacking.

I would like to know whether the Minister gave any time limit for the completion of these Complexes in the country. If any priority has been fixed for starting the project and whether passenger amenities and infrastructure improvement in the respective stations have been taken up along with the Multi-Functional Complexes.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. Alleppey is a very important place in Kerala. Of course, there are other important places all over the country.

Already our business plan is ready. The IRCON and the Rail Land Development Authority are planning the business model. The consultant has already been appointed. I think, within a month this MFC project will start. We will complete the project also within the time frame. I can assure you that whatever passenger amenities or facilities are needed in this Multi-Functional Complex, the Railway is willing to provide them and complete it within their commitment.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : Shortage of sufficient coaches in most of the trains, including express and passenger trains in Southern Railway is a major problem. It needs urgent consideration. The passengers are forced to travel in passenger trains and they travel in a dangerous manner. I want to inform you that Trivandrum Railway Division had already submitted a proposal for infrastructure development of stations for an amount of Rs. 27 crore. It was already announced by the hon. Minister of State during his visit to Kerala. The Trivandrum Railway Division authorities also submitted a proposal for more coaches. But the sanction has not been given so far. I would like to know whether the Minister will ensure immediate sanctioning of both coaches and passenger amenities works.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: This supplementary question is not related to the main Question. The

main Question is related only to the Multi-Functional Complexes.

With regard to coaches, we know that there is a scarcity of coaches. The coaches, rakes and wagons are not available in the market. Had it been clothes, I would have gone to the market and bought them easily. But, coaches, rakes and wagons are not available in the market. So, we will take some time to get coaches, wagons, etc. We have given extra orders for wagons this time in our Budget. It is about 12,000 to 18,000 wagons. With regard to coaches also, we are trying our best to get them. Give us time. We have given orders for more coaches for railways. We are just waiting.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Madam Speaker, hon'ble Minister has stated that 66 railway stations have been selected by her for the multi functional complex. You are aware that Gujarat State is the front-runner and on the path of progress. The Minister has identified pilgrims, tourism and industry as the three criteria. I feel that Gujarat occupies the number one position in view of the said three criteria. That's why a decision has been taken to convert Ahmedabad into a world class Railway station. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister while you are going to convert Ahmedabad as a world class Railway station which is the target station in Western Railways having a population to sixty lakhs, if the name of Ahmedabad has not included in the list of multi functional complex will you include it, so that Ahmedabad get all those facilities which are meant for the world class station. Despite the fact that capital of Gujarat in Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad is an industrial city.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam Speaker, Ahmedabad and Porbandar are included in the list of world-class railway stations.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: I have raised the question with regard to the multi functional complex.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: World-class railway

station will be bigger than the multi functional complex.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: But the name of Ahmedabad is not appeared in the said list.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: World-class railway stations will be ranked as number one while multi functional complex and model stations will remain number two and three respectively.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: But name is not included in the list, please include it.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I am saying that the name is included in our list.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Thank you.

[English]

SHRI M.B. RAJESH : Palakkad is one of the stations identified for the development of MFCs. In her reply the hon. Minister has stated the facilities to be available such as shopping malls, book stalls, food stalls, etc. However, the point is that these railway stations, including those identified for MFCs, are lacking the minimum basic facilities such as toilets, adequate number of staff and other basic facilities. So, my question is whether the scope of MFC concept will be enlarged so as to include the comprehensive development of these railway stations.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: The cost of these Multi-functional Complexes will be between Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 8 crore. We will spend money for these Multi-functional Complexes. We need for that maximum about 4,000 square meters of land. It will be about one acre of land. It will give all the facilities to the passengers as warranted by traffic required including the budget-hotels, the underground parking, the medical stores the ISD, STD booths and other facilities also. So, it will give all the good facilities to the passengers whatever they would need. It is a new concept, it is a new vision and it is a new life-line of the nation.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Madam Speaker, in this list, two places of Bihar namely Rajgir and Digha have been included. Patna-Digha railway section is not operational. I would like to express my gratitude to the hon'ble Minister of Railways for her consent to transfer Patna-Digha railway section to the State Government. In such a scenario, there is no point of justification in constructing a multi-purpose mall in Digha. I would like to know from the Minister of railways whether Bodhgaya or Motihari to Hajipur railway station to Vaishali district would be considered for the development purpose when the tract of land is transferred to the State Government.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam Speaker, as per the budget, Patna is to be converted into a world-class railway station. Apart from this, if the hon'ble Member wishes to make any other suggestions, he is welcome.

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Madam Speaker, the list includes the name of Rajgir and Digha for which I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister of railways but perhaps she may not have noticed that the State Government has requested her that the Patna-Digha railway section is abandoned and the Ministry of Railways is transferring it to the State Government for constructing section-road while a proposal to convert it to a multi-purpose mall has been included in this list. I am of the opinion that instead of the said tract of land, you should take up Vaishali or Motihari for this purpose.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: This is a separate question and this is not related to this question. However, I know the things. Your hon. Chief Minister came to me. [Translation] We have discussed it. [English] He has talked about the Digha line, which is lying abandoned. Shri Nitish Kumar told that they want that line to be developed. So, please hand over this to us so that people get the facilities. I assured the hon. Chief Minister. [Translation] If the Chief Minister said something then we have given an assurance for it and we are doing it. [English] If the Chief Minister

gives the optional place, then we will consider it. There is no problem. That is a different question.

MADAM SPEAKER: It is all right. You have to give a different notice.

#### Compensation for Land Acquired for Oil/Gas activities

\*103. SHRI HARISH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present system for payment of compensation to the land owners for the land acquired for carrying out oil and gas activities in various parts of the country;
- (b) whether oil and natural gas pipelines have been laid in Rajasthan;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether compensation has been paid to the farmers whose land has been acquired for this purpose;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action proposed to be taken, if any, to streamline the process so that the land owners are not denied their legitimate dues?

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

#### Statement

- (a) and (f) The compensation to the landowners for the land acquired for carrying out oil and gas projects (other than pipelines) is paid as per the provisions contained in the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. As regards, pipelines projects for oil and gas sector, Right of User (ROU) in land is acquired under the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines Act, 1962 (P&MP Act, 1962). These Acts provide comprehensive legal framework under which



land for the projects is acquired with adequate safeguards to the interests of land owners. The compensation payable to the land owners for acquiring ROU in land is determined as per provision of Section 10 of the P&MP Act, 1962. The compensation amount such determined is deposited with the Competent Authority. The Competent Authority in pays the compensation to the persons entitled thereto as provided under Section 11(3) of the P&MP Act 1962.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. The details of the oil and gas pipelines laid in Rajasthan by major oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are given at Annexure-I.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. The details of compensation paid to the land owners for laying the pipelines by major oil PSUs in Rajasthan are placed at Annexure-II.

#### **Annexure-I**

##### *Pipelines laid in Rajasthan*

#### **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)**

[Length in kilometers (kms)]

Sl. No.	Name of Pipeline	Length in Rajasthan
1.	Salaya-Mathura Pipeline	863 kms
2.	Mundra-Panipat Pipeline	626 kms
3.	Koyali-Sanganer Pipeline	742 kms
4.	Mathura-Bharatpur Pipeline (under construction)	7 kms
<b>Total</b>		<b>2238 kms</b>

#### **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**

Sl. No.	Name of Pipeline	Length in Rajasthan
1.	Mundra-Delhi Pipeline	586 kms

#### **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**

Sl. No.	Name of Pipeline	Length in Rajasthan
1.	Mumbai-Piyala-Brijwasan Pipeline	450 kms
2.	Bina-Kota Pipeline (under construction)	100 kms
<b>Total</b>		<b>550 kms</b>

#### **Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)**

Sl. No.	Name of Pipeline	Length in Rajasthan
1.	Part of HVJ-Vijaipur-Kota (P/L) Pipeline	468.80 kms
2.	Regional Pipeline	66 kms
<b>Total</b>		<b>529.91 kms</b>

#### **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)**

Sl. No.	Name of Pipeline	Length in Rajasthan
1.	Part of Barmer-Bhogat Pipeline	157.85 kms

#### **Annexure-II**

*Compensation amount to the land owners whose land were acquired for oil/gas projects*

#### **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)**

(Rupees in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Pipeline	Compensation amount
1	2	3
1.	Salaya-Mathura Pipeline	5.00 crore
2.	Mundra-Panipat Pipeline	

1	2	3
3.	Koyali-Sanganer Pipeline	1.33 crore
4.	Mathura-Bharatpur Pipeline (under construction)	0.82 crore
Total		7.15 crore

#### Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

Sl. No.	Name of Pipeline	Compensation amount
1.	Mundra-Delhi Pipeline	8.19 crores

#### Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)

Sl. No.	Name of Pipeline	Compensation amount
1.	Mumbai-Piyala-Brijwasan Pipeline	5.66 crore
2.	Bina-Kota Pipeline (under construction)	100 crore
Total		6.66 crore

#### Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)

Sl. No.	Name of Pipeline	Compensation amount
1.	Part of HVJ-Vijaipur-Kota (P/L) Pipeline	1.65 crore
2.	Regional Pipeline	0.35 crore
Total		2.00 crore

#### Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)

Sl. No.	Name of Pipeline	Compensation amount
1.	Part of Barmer-Bhogat Pipeline	6.39 crore

#### [Translation]

SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Madam Speaker, through you I would like to express my gratitude to the Central Government that it has done historical work in the field of oil and pipe lines. During last time even in my own Parliamentary constituency Barmer, large areas of oil were discovered. As a result, there will be an increase of 20 percent of oil production. The modus operandi of the hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas is very much appreciable, as he is known for his speedy disposal of work. Some days ago, victims of Jaipur oil depot fire accident have been provided compensation. There is a provision in Land Acquisition Act and Petroleum and Mineral Pipeline Act, 1962 that compensation for ROU is given on ten per cent of DLC rate on which farmers can neither plant trees nor construct any buildings or water tank there. As a result, comparatively lesser amount of compensation is received. Land holdings of farmers are very little. If the pipeline is laid down through it, not much land will be left with them.

I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether there is any provision to change the 10 per cent DLC rate under Petroleum Pipeline Act, 1962 and the time limit for executing the work after section-31, on several times, it takes upto ten years for commencing work after section-31. Therefore is there any provision to fix new time frame by amending section-31?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, in the Pipeline Act of 1962, in which matter related to right of user is mentioned, as far as the question of the pipeline is concerned, land is not acquired under it. The land is merely used upto the time which the pipeline is being laid. After laying the pipeline, the land is handed over to the landowners. A provision has been made to provide ten per cent market value. Separate compensation will be provided for crops, trees and fruits. Even after all these, if there is still any dispute the matter is referred to a district judge and then whatever the case may be, decision is taken by him.

SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Madam, in the absence of time frame, in many places farmers haven't received any compensation. GAIL has laid its pipeline in Gamnewala Ramgarh in Jaisalmer district. In the year 2002, work was completed there, but till the date farmers have not been paid any compensation. There are many other such districts. There is no provision in this Act stipulating that payment should be made within a prescribed time frame and there is not any clause regarding interest also. As a result, farmers are not getting their rights. Similarly, the land acquired for the oil industry, a percentage should be fixed for the rehabilitation of farmers belonging there and also for their employment in the said industry. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether the proposes to bring any amendments regarding both these provisions.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: So far as the question raised by him regarding GAIL is concerned, a meeting is being scheduled on 30th November to look into the matters where there is some dispute and discussion are going on regarding them. Discussion will be held about the issues being faced by the farmers and the people, all these issues will be resolved.

[English]

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: The hon. Minister has stated that the Competent Authority has to pay the compensation for using the land through which the pipeline runs. In this context, I am very much agreeable with the hon. Member Shri Harish Chaudhary that it takes a number of years to pay the compensation to the land owners. More over, in my State, in my constituency, recently, the pipeline which runs from Paradeep to Haldia has leaked. In my constituency, a number of villages have been affected. Whether no payment of compensation or plugging the leakages, has taken place in-between, nobody is looking after. It creates problems for the people living nearby.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister specifically

why it takes much time to pay the compensation to the land owners and why the pipeline authorities do not take enough care to see that this kind of a leakage does not take place so that the people living nearby are not affected. Is there any specific time frame for the Competent Authority to make payment? Is there any time-frame for payment of compensation to the land owners? This is the question relating to payment of compensation to the farmers. Their land has been taken away. They have used the land but payment is not being made. Enough care is not being taken to see that this kind of a leakage does not take place. So, I would like to have a specific answer from the hon. Minister.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker as far as the leakage is concerned and the problems related to that is concerned, that has been brought to my notice and I will ensure that wherever there is a problem of such kind, the leakage will be capped, the people affected will be adequately compensated and whatever problems they are facing will be dealt with as soon as possible.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Madam, I have referred to a particular incident which has taken place in my constituency, that is, in the district of Bhadrak in the State of Orissa. My question has not been replied. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will refer this matter to the competent authority. The pipeline runs through Haldia and Paradip. Will the hon. Minister answer to my question? I seek your protection, Madam? This is a very sensitive question because it creates panic in nearby villages whenever these kinds of leakages take place. I would like to have a specific reply on this.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Madam, I think, the hon. Minister is misleading the House. It is the Central Government who has to look at it. We need a specific answer.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to add to it or would you like to write to him specifically on this.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: I will explain to him what the situation is.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, please do that.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Madam Speaker, the hon'ble Minister said that the farmers are provided compensation on the basis of criterion set by the State Government, but the Union Government provides the funds, the State Government sets the process only. The Land Acquisition Officers acquire land on the basis of criterion set by the Government.

Madam Speaker, the farmers are not given sympathetic consideration rather they are punished. The Government acquires our land and says that compensation will be given at the rate of ten per cent of market rate, but how 10 per cent rate of our land is fixed. One crop, two crop three crop, the rate of land fit for cultivating cash crops like tobacco, chilly, turmeric and spices is fixed by keeping it in the ordinary category. The ten percent provided by the Government includes interest paid due to delay caused in the payment process, but it is paid after two years. The farmers should be given compensation at the market rate prevailing on the date of payment. We do not want interest, we should be made payment as per the market rate prevailing after two years. The compensation should be paid with the consent of the farmers, it should not be paid by taking unilateral decision.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as farmers are concerned, we keep in view that they do not suffer any kind of inconvenience or loss, this also has been our priority. As I said, they are paid compensation at the rate of ten per cent of market rate. As far as pipeline is concerned, we do not acquire any land, but only use the land. After that we return it in the State it was taken. After that, they are paid compensation at the rate of ten per cent of market value. The hon'ble Member raised the issue about, the crop, they are given compensation of the crop cultivated on that land whether it is tobacco, sugarcane, wheat or paddy etc. or any other crop. They are being given

compensation of any crop being grown on that land. Even after that, if any dispute arises it can be settled by the local District Judge and the local competent authority so that they may be able to tell as to whether they have suffered loss of one crop, two crop or three crop, they are given compensation accordingly.

[English]

### Helicopter Accidents

\*104. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has looked into the reasons for the occurrence of the recent helicopter accidents;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for all the helicopters to have a satellite phone connection to ensure better communication especially in difficult weather conditions;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the further steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

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

### Statement

(a) and (b) All accidents are investigated in accordance with the Aircraft Rules, 1937 while action is taken on the recommendations emanating from the investigation with an objective of prevention of future accidents.

(c) to (e) The feasibility of tracking of helicopters during flight is in preliminary stage of evaluation.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI : Madam Speaker, helicopter accidents have become a regular

phenomenon. We have lost prominent politicians in aerial crashes in India, where helicopters are frequently used to ferry VIPs. In September 2009, we have lost our dynamic leader and respected Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, the messiah of the poor farmers. He has carved out a niche for himself in the political history and public service. Recently we have seen a report in the Press that at an airport in Jharkhand when there were no lights, how the President of a national political party forced the pilot to fly the helicopter ignoring the safety rules. These accidents remind us about deaths of popular politicians and industrialists. Some other prominent, popular leaders and politicians had a close shave. According to some aviation experts, the primary cause is pilots' tendency to operate under Visual Flight Rules instead of the Instrument Flight Rules.

Many pilots ignore even crucial weather bulletins from the meteorological department. There is a loss of life of pilot, passengers and destruction of the helicopter itself.

The Minister has not promised to make satellite phone connection mandatory for all the helicopters in order to avoid accidents in future. Is it not that Aircraft Rules, 1937 has become obsolete in view of the vast technological developments that have taken place in the aviation industry? Will he bring in a new Act? May I know from the hon. Minister whether he would expedite the feasibility of tracking of helicopters during flight?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam Speaker, I do appreciate and understand the concerns of the hon. Member regarding safety of helicopters or aeroplanes and especially those used by VIPs. Regarding the current incident which the hon. Member has referred to, the sad demise of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, I would only like to say that inquiry is going on into the causes of the crash both by CBI as well as by the DGCA.

However, as far as helicopter operations are concerned or any flying operations are concerned, they are strictly monitored by DGCA in accordance with the various

rules and regulations. Let me assure all Members of the House that whatever regulations that are in place are appropriate, are in accordance with all possible safety margins in place, and also in accordance with the international regulations. So, if at all there are some incidents, I am sure, we can always learn from the experience and improve on our systems. But to say that *per se* anything is shortcoming or is not accordance with the safety standards laid down, would be, I think, not a fair assessment.

However, in the case of satellite phones, I do not think that would, in any way, be a reason for the safe operation of a helicopter. It is only an additional tool, in case you would like to communicate. But, at the same time, let me also assure the hon. Member that all flying helicopters or aeroplanes in the Indian skies are monitored by radars and there are other modes of communications like VHF and other communication devices. I do understand that, yes, safety and especially for VIPs is a major issue and we should adhere; therefore DGCA also has some important guidelines in place for VIP flying.

In this case, especially the current accident involving the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, I cannot comment extensively though we know the preliminary reasons that there was bad weather and some issues connected with the weather. But, at the moment, till there is a complete inquiry, which I expect to be completed by the end of this month, it would be inappropriate for me to state anything regarding that particular incident.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI : May I know from the Minister whether the Ministry is taking steps to ensure proper coordination among the meteorological department, the air traffic control and the pilots to avoid accidents and save precious lives? May I also know whether airworthiness of helicopters and clearing the same for ferrying VVIPs are ensured?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I would just like to add to what I have stated earlier that there are guidelines in place. I would like to assure that even in this particular accident,

the concerned helicopter was airworthy; the pilots were very experienced; and they were type rated for this particular type of helicopter. They had, in fact, been flying this helicopter for quite some time. Therefore, there is no reason to think otherwise. I think, the regulations, and the statutory and mandatory checks are in place. The only issue in this case is that it was VFR – Visual Flight Route, as she has said. Therefore, the pilot should have, as I can say preliminary, foreseen the weather. You are not supposed to go into bad weather because the flight itself is cleared for a VFR route.

In the case of IFR – just for the information of the hon. Members – when we fly on a commercial plane, we are flying on IFR, that is, on an instrument. Therefore, you can go through all kinds of weather, and you can fly at night. Whereas on a VFR, you are supposed to be able to see ahead, before you enter into any particular terrain or any kind of a situation which unfortunately happened on that particular day.

**National Gas Highway Development  
Authority**

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\*105. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:  
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up the National Gas Highway Development Authority;
- (b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to abolish the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and other such agencies to enable the said authority to function free of all multiple complications;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the manner in which the Government proposes to streamline the functioning of these agencies?

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

**Statement**

(a) and (b) With the increase in availability of natural gas in the country and to ensure supply of natural gas to unserved areas of the country, Government proposes to develop an institutional mechanism for development of long-distance Gas Highways leading to a National Gas Grid. Accordingly, National Gas Highway Development Authority is proposed to be set up. It is envisaged that the Authority would plan, develop, manage and regulate the Gas Highways and concentrate on planning the development of gas pipeline infrastructure, especially in remote and under-developed regions, leading to a National Gas Grid.

(c) No, Madam.

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

(e) Certain amendments are proposed in the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006 to adequately empower PNGRB to perform the desired functions and to remove ambiguities.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: What are the steps being taken to provide natural gas to domestic consumers especially those in unserved areas? I would also like to know whether these unserved areas have been identified or not.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, it is proposed to have a National Gas Highway Authority. The whole intention behind that is that there are large areas within this country which do not have a pipeline network, and as a result of which, they are backward in terms of industrialization. We had formed a Regulatory Board. The procedure of the Regulatory Board was to go through the bidding process and come out with the process, whereby people lay a pipeline but the bidding process ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. MAHTAB : The answer should be about identifying the areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let him reply.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Why we are going through for the National Gas Highway is because people want to lay pipelines only in the lucrative areas such as the western sector and the northern sector. We are going for National Gas Highway Authority to ensure that even in the backward areas – specifically in the eastern region of the country where gas consumption is very little – we go in for gas pipelines so that natural gas is available in those areas.

SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY : What is the percentage of distribution of gas to the consumers in fertilizer industries, power industries and also to the domestic consumers?

Moreover, another thing is that the hon. Minister has given a reply that he is going to empower more powers to Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board by modifying the Act. I would like to know whether this Board will be able to control the proposed Authority or not.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as the distribution of gas is concerned, I can give a broad view of that. Forty-three per cent of the gas consumption is in the western part of the country whereas five per cent of the gas consumption is in the southern part of the country. In the eastern region, it is as good as nil. In the northern region, it is 30 per cent. We are looking at the specific areas. In 2008-09, the power sector's demand is 91.2 mms cmd of gas; the fertilizer sector's is 42.89 mms cmd of gas; city gas distribution's is 12.93 mms cmd of gas; petro-chemicals refineries' is 27.15 mms cmd of gas; iron and steel industry's is 6.42 mms cmd of gas. That is the broad way in which gas is in demand.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Thathagata Satpathy – Not present.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI : Madam Speaker, I just wanted to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to answer

(e) where he has stated that 'the Government proposes to make certain amendments to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.'

What I specifically wanted to ask the hon. Minister is that there is a Section 16 in this Act, which empowers the regulator to have an overview of the entire gas infrastructure from upstream to downstream. Why is the Government not notifying this particular Section? What is the hesitation in notifying Section 16? That is my specific question to the hon. Minister.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as far as Section 16 is concerned, it involved authorization of gas networks in specific cities and laying of pipelines; and there have been certain contentious issues before the Regulatory Board was formed, that there were already people who were existing into the gas laying and pipeline distribution network. So, there is some conflict in that regard, which is pending for consideration. There is a PIL also in this regard in the court as well.

So, once clarity on that issue is there, then there will be no hesitation in authorizing Section 16. But even now, everything else including the preparatory work for laying pipelines in the city gas distribution network is possible where you can go ahead with the bid, you can go ahead with everything for the preparation towards providing gas distribution to the specific cities.

*[Translation]*

#### Capacity Augmentation in AC Coaches

\*106. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have introduced some structural changes involving augmentation of seats in various air-conditioned coaches;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether complaints have been received regarding the inconvenience caused to the passengers thereby;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Railways in this behalf?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) The layouts of 1st AC, AC II tier and AC III tier coaches have been optimized and their passenger carrying capacity was enhanced from 18 to 22, 46 to 48 and 64 to 72 respectively. There has been no change in the passenger carrying capacity in other AC coaches.

(c) to (e) Passenger Complaints were mainly related to inconvenience and inadequate space owing to additional berths in AC 3 Tier coaches. This policy was reviewed and such berths provided in the modified coaches have been removed now.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the justification and need for increasing the seats, as the Government has increased seat in 1st AC from 18 to 22, in AC II tier from 46 to 48 and in AC III tier from 64 to 72?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Madam, this was done during the tenure of Shri Laluji. Probably, he was informed that the income would increase with the enhancement of seating capacity, that's why it was increased but we are trying to remove it due to inconvenience caused to the passengers and a lot of work of removing additional seats has been done, because passengers face discomfort. A lot of problems are caused due to additional side berth therefore we have removed it from many trains and rest will also be removed very soon.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam, I would like to thank the hon'ble Minister but she has replied that it is being removed from AC III tier coaches only. No mention has been made in regard to 1st AC and AC II tier. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that while traveling in the 1st AC, she might have observed that it has become so congested that if the luggage is kept it becomes difficult to move out, the attendant cabin has been removed due to increase in number of seats. Now, the poor fellow has to accommodate himself in the corridor or outside the bathroom, when what's the use of doing this? I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that if the income of railways has to be increased by increasing the seats, then increase the fares, everybody can afford it, they will pay, but please do not increase the seats, it causes a lot of inconvenience, whether the hon'ble Minister will give reply in this regard?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: I agree with him that it has caused inconvenience to the passengers. It was implemented in the sleeper class, AC III tier, was also extended in Duranto by introducing AC economic class so that the passenger may get these facilities at low price, but we are removing it in these classes also. More inconvenience is faced in these classes. It is Railway's job to see the comfort of passengers, therefore, we are removing additional side berths from all the classes.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Madam Speaker, as per the Minister's reply, the Ministry of Railways and created additional seats in 1st AC, AC II tier and AC III tier to increase its income, additional berths in AC III tier coaches have been removed as it causes a lot of inconvenience to the passengers. I would like to submit that there has always been a long waiting list of passengers and the demand for introducing additional coaches in all classes has also always been there. I would like to submit that as 1st AC coaches in Reeva-New Delhi and Mahakaushal Express running from my Lok Sabha constituency have been removed. Instead of adding new coaches already existing coaches have been removed. I would like to ask



the hon'ble Minister as to whether she will re-introduce 1st AC coaches in those trains.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Madam, this question is not related to the main Question. [Translation] But the Member does not get opportunity to seek the information, therefore, I am grateful that he has raised the question.

It is true that there is shortage of coaches. Therefore, we have announced in the budget as to what should be short-term and long-term missions? We should anticipate the likely increase in the population five or ten years in advance. The passengers want this facility. Its demand is constantly increasing but we are not having so many coaches. The problem being faced in this regard, really exists. Therefore we are trying to formulate plan for the next five years, ten years as well as 2020. We will definitely present its vision in the House. Further, he is asking as to why 1st AC has been removed. He must be aware that [English] everyday we run 17,000 trains and everyday 1.8 million people used to travel by railways. So, I cannot give information on one coach without getting into the details. So, I will let you know the details. [Translation] If it has happened with him, we will also restore it.

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 107—Shri Manohar Tirkey—Not Present.

Shri Narhari Mahato—Not Present.

Q. No. 108—Shri Asaduddin Owasi—Not Present.

Q. No. 109—Shri Ramsinh Rathwa.

[English]

### Demand and Supply of Fertilizers

\*109. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether there is a huge gap between the demand and supply of various fertilizers in the country;

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

(c) the average demand and supply of fertilizers in various States including Uttar Pradesh during the rabi season;

(d) the break-up of nitrogen, phosphorous, potash and other fertilizers allocated to States for the rabi season, State-wise;

(e) the steps taken to prevent black marketing of fertilizers due to short supply; and

(f) the efforts being made by the Union Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of fertilizers?

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

### Statement

(a) and (b) No, Madam. Urea is the only fertilizer which is under partial movement and distribution control of the Government/ All other fertilizers viz. DAP, MOP, and NPK etc. are decontrolled/de-canalized since 1992. The availability of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers is decided by the market forces of demand and supply. Union Government monitors availability of fertilizers at State level and State Governments are responsible for further distribution within the State.

The demand and supply (availability) of major fertilizers namely Urea, Di-ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP) and Complex (NPK) fertilizers in the country during the current year 2009-10 (April '09 to October '09) are as under:

('Qty. in 'LMT')

Year	Particulars	Urea	DAP	MOP	NPK
2009-10	Demand/ Assessed requirement	159.69	70.46	26.53	56.97
	Supply (Availability)	149.80	74.04	23.84	45.26
	Sales	142.36	72.66	22.71	43.52

(c) and (d) The State-wise cumulative requirement (demand), availability and sales of Urea, DAP, MOP and Complex fertilizers during the current Rabi' 2009-10 (October' 09 to November' 09) is given in the Annexure. As can be seen, the availability of urea, DAP and MOP has been adequate. However, there has been a little tightness in availability of complex (NPK) fertilizers because of low level of indigenous production and also as these can not be imported.

(e) The State Governments, as the enforcement agencies, are adequately empowered under Fertiliser Control Order, 1985 to take appropriate action against any offender who indulges in any kind of malpractices including black marketing.

(f) The steps taken to ensure supplies of fertilizers as per demand are as under:

- (i) The gap between requirement and indigenous availability of Urea is met through imports;
- (ii) The country is almost fully dependent on imports to meet the requirements of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. Government has taken initiatives to encourage indigenous production in P&K sector by allowing import parity price to the indigenous manufacturers of DAP. Government has also reduced the custom duty on phosphoric acid from 5% to 2% to enable indigenous manufacturers of P&K fertilizers to acquire this

important input at reasonable price. Government is also encouraging private sector and public sector companies to explore the possibilities for joint ventures abroad to ensure uninterrupted supply of fertilizers inputs to P&K sector.

- (iii) Department of Fertilizers operates Buffer Stock of Urea, DAP and MOP through State Institutional Agencies/fertilizer companies in major fertilizer consuming States to the tune of 6.25 LMT, 3.50 LMT and 1.00 LMT respectively;

#### Annexure

*Cumulative Requirement, Availability and Sales during Rabi 09-10 (October'09-November'09)*

#### UREA

(Figures in 000'Mts)

State	Cumulative Requirement	Cumulative Availability as on 23.11.09	Cumulative Sales upto 23.11.09
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	580.00	477.61	339.50
Karnataka	205.00	247.51	162.78
Kerala	30.50	43.09	24.86
Tamil Nadu	315.00	233.37	202.83
Gujarat	370.00	277.74	202.94
Madhya Pradesh	500.31	403.68	258.03
Chhattisgarh	15.50	21.33	12.09
Maharashtra	434.00	304.01	200.23
Rajasthan	368.00	263.90	173.21
Haryana	410.00	322.64	211.76

1	2	3	4
Punjab	570.00	412.02	246.91
Jammu and Kashmir	35.70	5.59	1.39
Uttar Pradesh	800.00	828.75	487.28
Uttarakhand	18.00	28.65	8.57
Bihar	310.00	260.67	200.96
Jharkhand	25.00	23.62	18.25
Orissa	40.00	48.26	16.41
West Bengal	215.77	196.75	114.01
Assam	30.80	29.21	21.48
All India	5303.57	4443.86	2914.75

**RABI 2009-10**

*Cumulative Requirement, Availability and Sales during  
Rabi 09-10 (October'09-November'09)*

**DAP**

(Figures in 000'MTs)

States	Cumulative Requirement	Cumulative Availability as on 23.11.09	Cumulative Sales upto 23.11.09
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	300.00	230.07	186.49
Karnataka	160.00	200.85	184.68
Kerala	8.26	5.97	3.78
Tamil Nadu	131.00	57.57	50.10

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	260.00	178.95	183.07
Madhya Pradesh	354.15	350.49	275.74
Chhattisgarh	18.90	56.01	59.01
Maharashtra	339.70	559.79	528.19
Rajasthan	245.00	222.20	175.52
Haryana	350.00	310.54	300.38
Punjab	450.00	475.73	465.55
Jammu and Kashmir	29.25	11.44	8.04
Uttar Pradesh	750.00	660.28	498.48
Uttarakhand	11.00	18.81	11.49
Bihar	160.00	106.54	77.35
Jharkhand	25.00	22.93	16.80
Orissa	13.48	44.44	47.23
West Bengal	87.40	89.91	70.62
Assam	4.40	5.11	2.58
All India	3706.28	3611.22*	3148.79**

\*Availability includes 14.45 LMT of DAP (AP-85250 MT, Karnataka 142279 MT, Gujarat 66370 MT, Madhya Pradesh 141765 MT, Chhattisgarh 47128 MT, Maharashtra 443244 MT, Haryana 77587 MT, Punjab 184901 MT, Uttar Pradesh 191042 MT, Uttarakhand 9406 MT, Orissa 37087 MT, West Bengal 16066 MT) pre-positioned for Rabi 09-10 during Kharif'09 over and above the Kharif'09 requirement. The entire pre-positioned quantity 14.45 LMT has been sold to state level agencies/private dealers etc. by September end.

\*\*Cumulative Sales upto 23.11.2009 is inclusive of sales of 14.45 LMT of DAP pre-positioned and sold by September end.

*Cumulative Requirement, Availability and Sales during  
Rabi 09-10 (October'09-November'09)*

**MOP**

(Figures in 000' MTs)

State	Cumulative Requirement	Cumulative Availability as on 23.11.09	Cumulative Sales upto 23.11.09
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	135.00	136.59	90.89
Karnataka	90.00	109.46	63.76
Kerala	35.00	40.82	29.93
Tamil Nadu	130.00	113.06	84.76
Gujarat	51.00	56.65	52.59
Madhya Pradesh	39.65	26.56	14.82
Chhattisgarh	4.45	4.22	1.62
Maharashtra	101.90	113.70	62.76
Rajasthan	10.00	711.10	4.14
Haryana	15.00	19.44	18.54
Punjab	25.00	23.97	10.54
Jammu and Kashmir	9.67	1.83	1.82
Uttar Pradesh	90.00	92.07	55.26
Uttarakhand	4.00	2.63	2.63
Bihar	75.00	43.61	30.66
Jharkhand	4.50	1.75	1.38
Orissa	12.21	12.34	8.17

1	2	3	4
West Bengal	97.40	118.22	72.55
Assam	15.40	10.95	5.36
All India	954.84	936.06	613.43

*Cumulative Requirement, Availability and Sales during  
Rabi 09-10 (October'09-November'09)*

**NPK**

(Figures in 000' MTs)

States	Cumulative Requirement	Cumulative Availability as on 23.11.09	Cumulative Sales upto 23.11.09
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	400.00	346.15	216.68
Karnataka	225.00	146.41	111.36
Kerala	37.50	40.99	25.94
Tamil Nadu	88.00	121.77	87.32
Gujarat	106.80	107.46	67.96
Madhya Pradesh	114.51	93.80	59.75
Chhattisgarh	14.45	14.69	7.77
Maharashtra	165.00	148.55	98.88
Rajasthan	41.80	36.43	23.31
Haryana	10.00	19.77	15.67
Punjab	25.00	31.07	22.45
Uttar Pradesh	250.00	266.60	235.33
Uttarakhand	12.50	11.93	8.79

1	2	3	4
Bihar	105.00	54.22	38.68
Jharkhand	16.00	18.94	15.70
Orissa	19.10	19.62	7.55
West Bengal	214.80	160.80	124.87
Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00
All India	1872.58	1651.52	1174.06

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Member as to whether the quantity of fertilizers required by the farmers is produced in the country or not? I would also like to know that in case the production is less in the country, the Government's plan in regard to setting up new fertilizer plants in the country?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Madam, as you know, the production of Urea, DAP and MOP is not sufficient in the country. We are importing Urea. We are also importing DAP and we are importing MOP 100 per cent. Already in 2002, by a decision of the Cabinet, about eight units of different fertilizer plants were closed down. Now, the revival process is on. The Cabinet is considering revival of those seven units which were closed down. We are depending mostly on the gas allocation and if the gas allocation is intimated to the Ministry of Fertilizers, this process will be speeded up so that the country will be in a position to produce the fertilizers required for the entire country. So, we are on the process and we hope we will be taking a decision very soon on the revival process. But still we are depending on import for Urea, DAP and MOP. We are currently importing 60 lakh tonnes of Urea, 65 lakh tones of DAP and 50 lakh tones of MOP.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Unused Airports in the Country

\*107. SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:  
SHRI NARHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- the number of unused airports in the country at present, State/UT-wise;
- the expenditure incurred on the maintenance of these unused airports during each of the last three years;
- the losses suffered by the Government due to non-utilisation of these airports during said period;
- the details of unused airports made operational by the Government during the last three years; and
- the details of the unused airports proposed to be made operational during 2009-10?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : There are 32 airports belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) which are non operational (Unused) namely Cuddapah, Donakonda and Warangal in Andhra Pradesh; Passighat in Arunachal Pradesh; Rupsi in Assam; Jogbani, Muzaffarpur and Raxaul in Bihar; Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh; Deesa in Gujarat; Chakulia in Jharkhand; Mysore in Karnataka; Khandwa, Panna and Satna in Madhya Pradesh; Akola, Solapur and Jalgaon in Maharashtra; Shella in Meghalaya; Aizwal in Mizoram; Jharsuguda in Orissa; Kishangarh in Rajasthan; Vellore in Tamil Nadu; Kailashahar, Kamalpur and Khawai in Tripura; Asansol, Balurghat, Behala and Malda in West Bengal and Jhansi and Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Expenditure incurred on the maintenance of some of these 32 non-operational airports during the last 3 years as well as the loss incurred at these airports are as under:

The expenditure made and loss occurred (Rs. in lacs) are in bracket.

For the year 2006-07-Cuddapah (10.51, 10.47), Jogbani (0.50, 0.50), Jharsuguda (78.77, 78.11), Kailashahar (1.24, 1.24) Vellore (6.95, 6.93), Balurghat (4.81, 4.51), Behala (24.88, 24.88) and Malda (23.07, 22.76); for 2007-08 – Cuddapah (14.50, 14.48), Jharsuguda (83.73, 83.37), Vellore (11.12, 10.81), Balurghat (10.48, 10.48), Behala (51.36, 43.64) and Malda (36.48, 36.48) and for 2008-09 – Cuddapah (42.33, 41.86), Mysore (13.88, 13.88), Jharsuguda (154.79, 154.79), Vellore (13.78, 18.79), Balurghat (10.76, 10.76), Behala (112.59, 112.59) and Malda (56.41, 56.41).

(d) Cooch Behar in West Bengal and Akola and Solapur in Maharashtra were made operational in the last three years.

(e) Mysore airport in Karnataka will be made operational in 2009-10.

#### Scholarships for Students of Minority Communities

\*108. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's scheme for providing scholarships to students belonging to the minority community has achieved its desired objectives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the names of the States which are lagging behind in implementing the scheme;

(d) whether the Government has asked for reports from such States;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) The details of performance in respect of Pre-matric, Post-matric and Merit-cum-means based Scholarship Schemes for students belonging to minority communities are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) No, Madam.

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

#### Statement

*Performance of scholarships scheme to students belonging to minority communities implemented by Ministry of Minority Affairs (As on 20.11.2009)*

S. No.	State/UTs	Merit-cum-means				Post matric				Pre-matric			
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	889	1411	1319	3619	na	9248	26692	35940		25923	86248	112171
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	na	na	a	—	na	na	a	—		na	a	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Assam	504	1372	1801	3677	na	8479	9556	18035		na	27996	27996
4.	Bihar	1595	2500	1454	5549	na	18192	13245	31437		43582	a	43582
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	78	a	89	na	563	822	1385		1600	a	1600
6.	Goa	29	52	68	149	na	269	a	269		151	594	745
7.	Gujarat	195	598	635	1428	na	5763	6595	12358		na	a	—
8.	Haryana	132	367	154	653	256	1934	850	3040		3727	10472	14199
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11	19	33	63	63	158	a	221		540	a	540
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1012	1284	a	2296	na	1867	a	1867		4842	a	4842
11.	Jharkhand	399	620	694	1713	na	4473	6549	11022	Scheme not in force	12003	a	12003
12.	Karnataka	879	1383	1604	3866	5721	7232	27598	40551		21018	a	21018
13.	Kerala	1786	2239	2003	6028	4321	13018	41390	58729		46347	161590	207937
14.	Madhya Pradesh	393	490	419	1302	1615	4319	a	5934		13719	a	13719
15.	Maharashtra	1126	2005	2975	6106	5170	11551	a	16721		58052	201490	259542
16.	Manipur	83	158	98	339	na	1055	a	1055		1960	a	1960
17.	Meghalaya	3	51	85	139	9	56	65	130		5479	a	5479
18.	Mizoram	88	179	122	389	682	1226	a	1908		2661	9428	12089
19.	Nagaland	na	na	33	33	na	27	a	27		na	a	—
20.	Orissa	84	191	a	275	125	837	a	962		3542	a	3542
21.	Punjab	528	592	1680	2800	1585	2647	a	4232		49996	a	49996
22.	Rajasthan	550	882	956	2388	1905	4341	a	6246		18775	a	18775
23.	Sikkim	na	na	13	13	na	na	245	245		na	a	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	1311	1659	2106	5076	2858	8004	26342	37204		24135	84150	108285
25.	Tripura	2	23	53	78	71	203	a	274		821	a	821

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3539	4268	3684	11491	na	31995	a	31995		97785	359178	456963
27.	Uttarakhand	24	65	99	188	na	264	122	386		na	431	431
28.	West Bengal	1897	3336	6063	11296	na	31289	74878	106167		68235	234960	303195
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	na	5	8	13	na	49	19	68		220	a	220
30.	Chandigarh	6	36	1	43	na	120	a	120	Scheme not in force	398	a	398
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	na	na	a	—	na	17	a	17		21	a	21
32.	Daman and Diu	na	na	a	—	na	4	a	4		30	a	30
33.	Delhi	178	322	254	754	456	951	785	2192		6918	a	6918
34.	Lakshadweep	na	na	a	—	na	na	a	—		na	a	—
35.	Puducherry	4	10	a	—	31	122	98	251	177	259	436	
Total		17258	26195	28414	71867	24868	170273	235851	430992		512657	1176796	1689453

a = awaited

na = not applied

[Translation]

**Reforms in Food Processing Sector**

\*110. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring about reforms in the Food Processing sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether opportunities are sought to be provided for large scale investment in the sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of growth achieved in the sector during the last three years and the current year; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to develop farm-to-fork revolution to become a reality in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. As a part of this exercise, Ministry of Food Processing Industries organized a Conference of State Food Processing Ministers on 6.10.2009 at New Delhi. A number of issues relating to the development of the sector were discussed including development of food processing infrastructure, formulation of food processing policies,



capacity building, financing for the sector, food safety and quality and institutional strengthening.

(c) to (e) The data on the level of investments in respect of Food Processing sector in the country, is not centrally maintained by the Ministry. However, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Agriculture based industry groups comprising meat, fish, fruits, vegetables and oils, dairy products, grain milling, other food products, beverage shows the increase in level of investments during last three years as below:—

**Gross Domestic Product at Current Prices**

(Rs. in crore)

NIC Code and Description	2005-06	2006-07 (Provisional)	2007-08 (Quick)
Food products and Beverages	59281	70088	81148
Percentage contribution in GDP*	1.81	1.85	1.88

**Gross Domestic Product at constant prices (Base year 1999-00)**

(Rs. in crore)

NIC Code and Description	2005-06	2006-07 (Provisional)	2007-08 (Quick)
Food products and Beverages	49165	53589	57990
Percentage contribution in GDP*	1.88	1.87	1.85

\*GDP at factor cost

It has been estimated that the average growth rate of the sector is 14.2%.

(f) For the development of the food processing sector, the Government has taken various initiatives to

strengthen the Food Processing Infrastructure, Government has approved a scheme for Mega Food Parks, Cold Chain, Value Added Centres and Modernization of Abattoirs. The Infrastructure scheme envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. It aims to provide a mechanism to bring to together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and support by requisite forward and backward linkages.

Other strategic initiatives during 11th Plan include scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Preservation Infrastructure including Controlled Atmosphere/Modified Atmosphere Storage, Value Added Centres, Packaging Centres and Irradiation facilities. Benefits of the Scheme will also be available to integrated projects of value addition/processing/preservation of horticulture, dairy, marine, and meat sector. Another infrastructure development scheme is for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories which would benefit all stakeholders including domestic industry, exporters, entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises, existing academic and research institutions, food standards setting bodies.

Modernization of Abattoirs is a scheme targeting infrastructure for the meat processing industry. It aims to upgrade qualitative and quantitative capacities of the abattoirs, which will be linked with commercial processing of meat, both for domestic consumption and exports. The financial assistance (grant-in-aid) is being extended at 50% and 75% of the cost of plant and machineries and technical civil works in general and difficult areas respectively subject to a maximum of Rs. 15 crores for each project. The Ministry has approved 'in principle' to set up ten abattoirs in the country with a total cost of Rs. 127.00 crores. An amount of Rs. 7.94 crores has been released.

Further, the Ministry has several other schemes for

promotion of the food processing industry. The Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries is aimed at creation of new processing capacity and up-gradation of existing processing capabilities, modernization of Food Processing Sector to include Milk, Fruit and Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, fishery, cereal, consumer items, oil seeds, rice milling, flour milling, pulse etc.

Similarly Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, R&D and Promotional Activities, is aimed at motivating the food processing industries for adoption of food safety and quality assurance mechanisms such as TQM including ISO 14000, ISO 22000, HACCP, GMP, GHP and preparing them to face global competition in post WTO Regime. The scheme is also aimed at ensuring that end product/outcome/findings of R&D work should benefit Food Processing Industries in terms of product and process development, improved packaging, value addition and leading to innovative products and processes, with commercial value.

The Scheme for Human Resource Development focuses on developing technologists, managers Entrepreneurs and manpower for quality management in Food Processing. The scheme also aims at development of rural entrepreneurship and transfer of technology for processing of food products by utilizing locally grown raw material and providing "Hands-on" experience at such production cum training centres, while according priority to SC/ST/OBC and women minorities candidates.

The Scheme for Strengthening of Institutions is aimed at strengthening of existing institutes like Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology and establishing National Institute of Food Technology and Entrepreneurship Management (NIFTEM). The objective of NIFTEM is to promote cooperation and networking amongst existing institutions both within the country and international bodies, create a complete data base on domestic resources and bring in international best practices for improving the food processing sector. Besides above mentioned institutions, two Boards have been set up under the Ministry i.e. Indian

Grape Processing Board and National Meat and Poultry Processing Board under the scheme.

In addition to the above mentioned schemes, certain fiscal incentives have been given to the food processing industry. Some of these are tax holiday under Income Tax Act, 1961 and as per provisions of Sub-section 11(a) of section 80-1b of the Income Tax Act, a deduction from profits up to specified amount is allowed in the case of an undertakings deriving profits from the business of processing, preservation and packaging of fruits or vegetables; reduction of excise duty on ready to eat packaged foods and instant food mixes from 16% to 8%. The Finance (No. 2) Bill 2009 proposes to also extend investment linked tax incentive by way to insertion of a new section – 35AD in the Income Tax Act, 1961 to the business of setting up and operating cold chain facilities for specified products and to the business of setting up and operating warehousing facilities for storage of agricultural produce. Foreign Direct Investment is under 100% automatic route for most of the processed food products.

[English]

#### Justice to Undertrials/Convicts

\*111. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether a large number of under-trials spend years in various jails in the country for periods exceeding the term of their probable sentence while convicts wait for their appeals to be heard;

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

(c) whether there is need for enactment of a law to compensate such victims;

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government

for rendering justice to such undertrials/convicts; and

(e) the concrete steps contemplated by the Government to reduce the number of undertrials in various jails in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) Information on the time spent by under-trial prisoners, while their cases are under the process of adjudication in the courts, as against the period of their respective probable sentences is not maintained centrally. However, as per the information available 2,50,727 under-trial prisoners were under detention at the end of 2007. Out of these, 1,03,524, i.e. 41.3% of the total number of under-trial prisoners in jails were under detention for a period up to three months.

(c) to (e) Conducting trial expeditiously to render justice to the under-trials is a matter within the domain of the judiciary and the facilitation of such trials is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. While there is no proposal with the Central Government at present to enact a law to compensate under-trials who spent longer time in the jails than their probable sentences, the Central Government has taken a number of steps for facilitating delivery of justice to the under-trials and also to provide that under-trials do not spend long periods in jail. These steps are:

- (i) A new section viz 436A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has been inserted in the Code to provide that where an under-trial prisoner other than the one accused of an offence for which death has been prescribed as one of the punishments, has been under detention for a period extending to one-half of the maximum period of imprisonment provided for the alleged offence, he should be released on his personal bond, with or without sureties. It also provides that in no case will an under-trial prisoner be detained beyond the maximum period of imprisonment for which he can be convicted for the alleged offence.

Section 436(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has also been amended to make a mandatory provision that if the arrested person is accused of a bailable offence and he is an indigent and cannot furnish surety, the Court shall release him on his execution of a bond without sureties.

- (ii) In 2006, the Government of India introduced the system of 'plea bargaining', primarily to reduce pendency of cases in trial courts and overcrowding in prisons.
- (iii) For disposal of long pending sessions and other cases, Government of India has also set up 1562 Fast Track Courts for speedy disposal of cases including those of under-trial prisoners.
- (iv) The facility of legal aid is available to the under-trials.

#### Indo-Oman Gas Pipeline

\*112. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:  
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

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

- (a) whether India and Oman are still pursuing the possibility of an under-the-sea pipeline that could cater energy requirements of the country in a big way;
- (b) if so, the status thereof;
- (c) whether as per the previous study, the aforesaid pipeline is very costly;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken to overcome the impediments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : (a) to (e) An Agreement on

Principal Terms for supply of 56-6 million standard cubic meter per day (mmscmd) natural gas through pipeline from Oman to India was signed between the Government of Oman and the Government of India in 1994. Pursuant to the above, GAIL and Oman Oil Company jointly carried out feasibility study of the Oman-India Deepwater Gas Pipeline. However, the Project could not move ahead due to, inter alia, the technical feasibility of the Project not being established and inadequate gas reserves for the Project.

In recent years, there have been significant technological advancements in the field of Deep Sea Gas transportation technology. Accordingly, for the last few years, interest has been revived in deep sea gas pipeline route from Middle-East to India. Gas supplies from several gas rich countries of Middle East through Gas Gathering pipeline with Hub in Oman (or its proximity) have been proposed, so as to supply gas to Indian Coast through the said Deep Sea Pipeline. GAIL (India) Ltd. has entered into a Principles of Cooperation in the month of July 2009 for developing the pipeline Project. As such, the proposal is at its initial stage.

#### **New National Pharmaceutical Policy**

\*113. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether the proposed new National Pharmaceutical Policy will seek to check the rise in the prices of essential drugs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the delay in the finalisation of the said policy;

(d) whether the policy was opposed to by the pharmaceutical industry;

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

(f) the time by which the new policy is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) :  
(a) to (f) The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 was prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). The draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11.1.2007 and decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). GOM was constituted on 31.1.2007 and had held four meetings on 10.4.2007, 12.9.2007, 30.1.2008 and 30.4.2008.

In the meeting of GOM held on 12.9.2007, presentations were made separately by representatives of Pharmaceuticals Industry and Consumer organizations. During this meeting, GOM interacted with the representatives of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI), Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA), Indian Drugs and Pharmaceutical Associations (IDMA), Confederation of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry (CIPI) and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). GoM also heard the views of NGOs namely Centre for Consumer Education; Research, Teaching Training and Testing (CONCERT), Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS), Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) and Voluntary Organization in Interest of Consumer Education (VOICE). The representatives of Pharmaceuticals Industry and Consumer organizations have expressed their perspective regarding the proposals made in the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy 2006 including Price Control. It has also been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that basket of drugs for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines 2003 (subject to certain condition and exemptions) in addition to the 74 drugs which

are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. GOM constituted on 31.1.2007 has yet give its recommendations to the Cabinet.

After the formation of the new Government, the Department of Pharmaceuticals had recommended on 12.06.2009 for continuation of the Group of Ministers constituted to consider the National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006. The Cabinet Secretariat has re-constituted the GoM on 1.9.2009. The final decision on the issue of Pharmaceutical Policy will be possible after GOM takes a decision in this regard.

[Translation]

### Revenue Leakage in Railways

\*114. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:  
SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of revenue leakage detected in the Railways during the year 2009 till date;

(b) the position of loss of revenue as compared to the preceding three years;

(c) the action taken by the Railways on this count and the firms black-listed and the number of FIRs lodged during the said period; and

(d) the number of officers held responsible and the nature of the action taken against them during the period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) The amount of revenue leakage detected by Vigilance Department in Railways during the year 2009 is Rs. 65.03 crore pertaining to the period from January to September, 2009.

(b) The amount of revenue leakage detected by Vigilance Department in Railways during the preceding three years is as under:—

Year	Revenue leakage detected by Railway Vigilance (Rs. in crore)
2006	105.50
2007	92.91
2008	122.84

(c) The officials found responsible have been taken up under the Railway Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1968 and those found guilty, have been suitably punished.

The number of firms with which business dealings have been banned/suspended during the period 2006 to 2009 (upto 15.11.2009) is as under:—

Year	Number of firms with which business dealings banned	Number of firms with which business dealings suspended
2006	4	—
2007	58	—
2008	12	2
2009	9	—

FIRs in corruption cases are registered only by agencies like CBI and State Police.

(d) The number of officers held responsible and action taken against them (major and minor penalties) during the period 2006-2009 (upto September) is as under:—

Year	No. of Gazetted Officers punished		
	Major Penalty	Minor Penalty	Total
1	2	3	4
2006	51	108	159

1	2	3	4
2007	36	130	166
2008	50	124	174
2009 (Upto September)	36	125	161

[English]

#### Reservation Quotas

\*115. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:  
SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- the details of the various quotas under which waitlisted tickets are confirmed;
- whether the Railways have received complaints regarding non-adherence to such quota or diversion of quota for confirmation of tickets;
- if so, the number of such complaints received during the last three years; and
- the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) Wait-listed passengers are confirmed against the accommodation falling vacant due to cancellation of confirmed tickets, on attachment of extra coaches as also against the unutilised Quotas viz. Tatkal, Defence, Foreign Tourist, Parliament House, Out-station and High Official Requisition (HOR)/Emergency Quota (EQ), Senior Citizen Quota, etc.

(b) to (d) Though all possible efforts are made to adhere to the guidelines framed for utilisation of various quotas for the specific category of passengers, yet the possibility of stray cases of non-adherence, inadvertently, in view of large number of such requests cannot be ruled out. Whenever such instance of non-adherence comes to

notice, the same is examined on case to case basis and necessary action is taken. However, centralised data of such non-adherence and complaints arising therefrom is not maintained.

[Translation]

#### Impact of Recession on FPI

\*116. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:  
DR. MONAZIR HASSAN:

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

- whether the adverse impact of international economic recession has also been felt in the food processing industries of the country;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the Government has taken steps to provide relief to the industry through stimulus package; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) No study/survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries to assess the impact of the international economic recession on the food processing sector in the country.

The food processing sector has been growing at an average rate of 14.03% in the past five years. Furthermore, Ministry has not come across of any case of retrenchment in this sector due to recession. These factors indicate that Food Processing Industries has not been affected adversely due to the current international economic recession. India has huge potential in food processing industry where only 2% of fruit and vegetables and 35% of milk produced are processed presently. The processed food industry ranks fifth in size, representing 6.3% of GDP and accounts for 13% of the country's export and 6% of total industrial investment.

In order to increase level of processing and to promote food processing industries to exploit both the domestic and international market potential for processed food products, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries had come out with a Vision 2015 document which envisages tripling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20% value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. An integrated strategy for promotion of agribusiness Vision, strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector has also been approved by the Government.

In recent times, the Government of India has also taken initiatives to give a boost to the sector by abolishing licensing for almost all food and agro-processing industries. The Government has already granted tax holiday under the Income Tax Act, 1961 and as per provisions of Sub-Section 11(a) of Section 80-1b of the Income Tax Act a deduction from profits upto specified amounts is allowed in the case of an undertaking deriving profit from the business of processing, preservation and packaging of fruits or vegetables. The Finance (No. 2) Bill, 2009 proposes to also extend investment-linked tax incentive by way of insertion of a new section 35 AD in the Income Tax Act, 1961 to the business of setting up and operating cold chain facilities or specified products and to the business of setting up and operating warehousing facilities for storage of agricultural produce.

[English]

#### Manufacture of Railway Coaches

\*117. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway coaches manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) during the last three years, category-wise and unit-wise;

(b) whether it is proposed to augment production capacity of the ICF units in the near future to cope with the increasing demand; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) The number of coaches manufactured by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Perambur during the last three years, category-wise, unit-wise is as under:—

TYPE	Coaches manufactured ICF (In Nos.)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
AC Conventional	111	149	97
NON AC Conventional	869	875	701
EMU	170	173	492
DMU	57	33	38
Others	4	46	4
NRC/Export	40	15	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>1251</b>	<b>1291</b>	<b>1337</b>

NRC-Non Railway Customers

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Three works have been sanctioned at an anticipated cost of Rs. 145.86 Crores for augmentation of production capacity of ICF to 1500 coaches per annum from the present installed capacity of 1000 coaches per annum.

#### Use of Stainless Steel in Manufacturing of Rail Coaches

\*118. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to switch over to stainless steel in manufacturing of rail coaches and other rolling stock which reduces the weight and increases the carrying capacity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways also propose to adopt other technologies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. With the prime objective of addressing the problem of corrosion, Indian Railways have decided to gradually switch over to manufacture of stainless steel coaches. These coaches have about 10-15% higher passenger carrying capacity than the corresponding conventional ICF design (Corten Steel) coaches primarily owing to longer length (by 1.7 meters approx). Layout integration and design, oscillation trials for speed clearance etc. have been carried out by Research, Design and Standards Organisation of Indian Railways.

Open/covered wagons built with stainless steel and having lesser tare weight have also been inducted which has helped in increasing the carrying capacity per rake by 21.7% in case of open wagons and 64.5% in case of covered wagons, besides addressing the problem of corrosion.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Track friendly bogies for Wagons suitable for higher speed with higher carrying capacity are planned to be inducted.

[Translation]

#### Expansion of Rail Network

\*119. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have set any targets for expansion of railway network in the country during the current Five Year Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA

BANERJEE) : (a) and (b) Targets for 11th Five Year Plan were fixed as 2000 km. of new lines, 10000 km. of gauge conversion and 6000 km. of doublings. Project-wise targets are not fixed at the Plan preparation stage. The annual targets are fixed every year keeping in view the progress of projects and the availability of resources. Targets are not fixed State-wise on a five year basis.

In the first two years of the Plan period, 513 km. of new lines, 2112 km. of gauge conversion and 789 km. of doubling have been completed. For 2009-10, target of 250 km. of new lines, 1300 km. of gauge conversion and 700 km. of doublings has been fixed.

[English]

#### Export of Handicrafts

\*120. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase/decrease registered in the export of handicrafts during the last three years and the target fixed for 2009-10;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of handicrafts during the above period, item-wise;

(c) whether the benefits of export earning percolates to the actual craftsmen;

(d) if so, the details and the number of craftsmen benefited, State-wise; and

(e) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that benefits reach the craftsmen and also to ensure adequate supply of inputs to craftsmen in time?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The foreign exchange earned in rupee terms from the export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets, item-wise and the percentage increase/decrease registered during the last three years, is as under:



Rs. in crores				
S.No.	ITEMS	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
<b>A. Carpet and other Floor Coverings</b>				
1.	Woolen	3395.73	3233.27	2434.50
2.	Silk	212.47	221.87	210.85
3.	Synthetic	66.66	69.59	63.65
Total (A)		3647.86	3524.73	2708.73
% (-/+)		+19.23	(-)4.09	(-)23.15%
<b>B. Other Handicrafts</b>				
1.	Art Metalware	4135.06	3308.05	1790.27
2.	Woodwares	1180.02	1038.92	622.78
3.	H.P. Textiles Scarves	2465.18	1773.93	1116.86
4.	Embroidered and Crocheted	5860.35	5145.16	2936.98
5.	Shawls as Artware	216.82	213.56	119.07
6.	Zari and Zari goods	392.45	349.23	175.13
7.	Imitation Jewellery	386.09	351.32	208.28
8.	Misc. Handicrafts	2652.17	1831.88	1213.75
Total (B)		17288.14	14012.05	8183.12
% (-/+)		+19.01	(-)18.95	(-)41.60
Grand Total (A+B)		20963.00	17536.78	10891.85
% (-/+)		+19.04	(-)16.35	(-)37.89

No target has been fixed by Government for the year 2009-10. However, Government has directed Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and Carpet Export

Promotion Council to take appropriate steps to arrest the decline in exports of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The benefits of export earning percolates to the actual craftpersons as they get better remunerative price for their products through export. However, the details of number of craftpersons benefitted, State-wise, are not maintained.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Smart Cards

1132. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to give smart cards to the textile workers;

(b) the aims and objectives of such smart cards;

(c) if so, the details worked out so far;

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose; and

(e) the extent to which this move will be helpful to the textile workers and industries in the present times of recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Rail Under Bridge

1133. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to construct a Rail Under Bridge (RUB) to ameliorate the difficulties being faced by passengers of Mehar Station

railway crossing at Allahabad-Jabalpur Rail route on National Highway No. 7; and

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work of RUB is likely to commence and finished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The proposal of under bridge at the site of level crossing No. 379 has not been found technically feasible. However, work of a Road over bridge in Mehar Yard in lieu of Level Crossing No. 379 at km. 1144/4-6 was sanctioned on cost sharing basis in Works Programme of 2007-08. However, new State Government has advised that the work is being undertaken on BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer concept.

#### **Increasing Prices of Medicines**

1134. SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:

SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

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

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has not been able to control the increasing prices of medicines in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed/proposed to review the functions of the said Authority; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check the increasing prices of medicines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) for prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the first Scheduled, and the formulations containing any of these Scheduled drugs are controlled, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)/Government. Fix or revise prices of scheduled drugs/formulations

as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995 Price fixation/revision is an ongoing process. No one can sell any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government.

In respect of drugs which are not covered under the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 i.e. non-Scheduled drugs, NPPA as part of its price monitoring activity, regularly examines the movement in their prices. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring the prices of non-Scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the specific manufacturers are asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject be prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process. As per the ORG IMS monthly SSA report for the month of June 09, out of 58067 formulation packs covered in the report, the prices in respect of 55307 (around 95.25%) packs have either remained stable or declined during June, 2009.

Further based on monitoring of prices of non-scheduled formulation, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 formulation packs under para 10(b) of DPCO, 95 and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus, in all, prices of 91 packs of non-scheduled drugs were reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA.

As present there is no proposal to review the functions of NPPA.

[English]

#### **Re-opening of Panna Diamond Mines**

1135. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panna Diamond Mines were re-opened after four years following the Supreme Court's conditional clearance for starting mine operations;

(b) if so, the reasons for the closure of the Panna mines, Madhya Pradesh;

(c) the target set for State-run National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) for the next fiscal year and the amount being spent for this purpose;

(d) the total number of employees working in the Panna Mines;

(e) whether any sustenance/monetary assistance was being provided to workers for closing period of Panna Mines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Panna Diamond Mine was closed w.e.f. 22.08.2005 for want of environmental clearance, as per orders of Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Bhopal. As the mine was falling within wildlife sanctuary, clearance of Hon'ble Supreme Court was required for re-opening the mine. Panna Diamond Mine has now been re-opened on 21st August, 2009, after getting conditional clearance from Hon'ble Supreme Court for starting mining operations.

(c) NMDC has set a target of producing 35,000 carats of diamond from Panna diamond mine during next fiscal year for which NMDC plans to spend about Rs. 20.5 crore (variable cost).

(d) A total of 258 employees are working in Panna diamond mine as on 1.11.2009.

(e) and (f) During the period of closure of Panna diamond mine, there was no lay off of workers. Therefore, the question of sustenance/monetary assistance to workers for closing period of Panna Mines does not arise.

#### **Textile Industry at Tirupur**

1136. SHRI C. SIVASAMI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to export only the finished goods in Garments Hosiery Industry instead of exporting the Raw Cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any strategy to increase the export potential of Textiles and Garments Industry at Tirupur in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) No Madam, Questions do not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has introduced several schemes and measures to increase exports of textiles and clothing products from India and the benefits of these measures and schemes are available to the textiles and garment industry in Tirupur also. A list of the schemes and benefits introduced by the Government is annexed as Statement.

#### **Statement**

#### **Schemes announced on 07.12.2008**

1. General reduction of 4% in CENVAT rates. As a result, the textile machinery had 10% (Previously 14%) and Non-cotton textile have 4% (Previously 8%) CENVAT rate.
2. 4% optional CENVAT on cotton textiles has been abolished.
3. NAPHTA has been exempted from import duty (Previously 5%) for use in the power sector.
4. Rate of C. Excise duty on cotton textiles reduced from 4% to Nil (Notification No. 59/2008 (C. Excise dated 07-12-2008).
5. The benefit of Service Tax refund (Already available to 19 other services, which are not in the nature of "input services" but could be linked to export goods.)

is now extended to service provided by a clearing and forwarding agent to exporters.

6. The Threshold limit of refund of service tax paid by exporters on foreign commissioner agent service has been enhanced from 2% of FOB value to 10% of FOB value of exports.
7. Draw back benefit can now be availed of simultaneously with refund of service tax pad in respect of exports.
8. Pre and post-shipment export credit for certain specific sectors including textiles belongs to SME sector is being made more attractive by providing an interest subvention of 2% upto 31/03/2009 subject to minimum rate of interest 7% per annum.
9. An additional allocation of Rs. 1400 crore will be made to clear the entire backlog in TUF Scheme.
10. All items of handicrafts will be included under 'Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana, All items of Handicraft included under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY) Scheme, under which exports are eligible for Duty Credit Scrip equivalent to 5% of FOB value.
11. To boost collateral free lending, the current guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small enterprises on loans will be extended from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore with guarantee cover of 50 percent.
12. Government back-up guarantee for ECGC to the extent of Rs. 350 crores to enable it to provide Guarantees for exports to difficult markets/products, to continue the single buyer policy.
13. Additional fund of Rs. 1100 crores for refund of Terminal Excise Duty (TED).
14. Additional provision of Rs. 350 crores for export incentive schemes.

#### Schemes announced on 02.01.2009

15. The DEPB Scheme extended till December 31, 2009 and restored the rates at those prevailing prior to 5th November 2008.
16. Restored DEPB Credit rates to those prevailing prior to 1-9-2008. However, no benefit to exporters of cotton textiles since there was no reduction the DEPB rates for cotton textiles.
17. Decided to remove the all-in-cost ceilings on External Commercial Borrowings.
18. Duty Drawback revised rates/value caps with retrospective effect i.e. w.e.f. 1-9-2008:
  - (a) Increased Value cap for Cotton Yarn from Rs. 8/- per kg. to Rs. 12/- per kg Grey Yarn and from Rs. 14 per kg to Rs. 16 per kg for Dyed yarn
  - (b) Increased rate of Drawback for Cotton Knitted Fabrics from 4.5% to 5% and value cap from Rs. 14 per kg to Rs. 15.60 per kg.

#### Interim Budget 2009-10

19. General rate of Central Excise Duty is reduced from 10% to 8%. As a result Central Excise Duty on Textile Machinery is reduced from 10% to 8%.
20. Rate of Service Tax on taxable services is reduced from 12% to 10%.

#### Stimulus Package Schemes announced on 24.2.2009

21. Customs Duty-The facility of exemption from Basis Customs Duty on imports of Naptha for generation of Electric energy is being extend beyond 31-03-2009.
22. Excise Duty-
  - (a) General Reduction in Excise Duty rates by 4% made w.e.f. 7-12-2008 is being extended beyond 31-03-2009.

(b) Further reduction in the rate of Excise Duty by 2%, i.e. from 10% to 8%.

(c) Retaining the rate of Central Excise Duty on goods currently attracting Ad-Valorem rates of 8% and 4% respectively.

23. Service Tax - The rate of Service Tax on taxable services has been reduced from 12% to 10%.

24. Exemption from Income Tax for SEZ/s-Removed the anomaly in computation of export profits with reference to the total turnover of the assesses in SEZ/s.

**Major supplementary Trade Facilitation Measures announced under Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009 (on 26.02.2009)**

25. Rupees 325 crore provided under promotional Schemes for Leather, Textiles etc., for exports made with effect from 1.04.2009. It is in the form of 2% duty credit scrip of FOB value of exports under market linked focused product scheme exclusively for exports into US and EU.

26. Benefit of .5% duty credit script of FOB value of exports under Focus Product Scheme has been notified for exports of handmade carpets, in lieu of 3.5% benefit allowed earlier under VKGUY scheme (Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana).

27. Technical Textiles has been added under High-Tech Products Export Promotion Scheme and now entitled to duty credit scrip equivalent to 1.25% of FOB value of exports.

28. Under EPCG scheme, in case of decline in exports of a product by more than 5%, the export obligation of that product is to be reduced proportionately. This provision has been extended for the year 2009-10, for exports during 2008-09.

29. DEPB/Duty credit script utilization extended for payment of duty for import of restricted items also.

30. Procedure for claiming duty drawback refund and refund of terminal excise duty further simplified.

31. Re-credit of 4% SAD, in case of payment of duty by incentive scheme scrips such as VKGUY, Focus product and Focus Market, was allowed.

32. Export obligation period against Advance Authorizations extended up to 36 months.

33. Permitted supply of intermediate product/s by the domestic producer directly from the factory to the port of shipment against Advance Intermediate Authorization.

34. Dispensed with the requirement of MODVAT/CENVAT certificate in cases where the Customs Notification itself prescribed for payment of CVD, in respect of Advance Licences issued prior to 01-04-2002.

35. Export House-Reduced the threshold limit for recognizing Premier Trading Houses from Rs. 10,000 crore in the preceding three years and current year to Rs. 7,500 crore.

**Schemes announced on 04.03.2009**

36. The Government announced facility of refund of service tax paid on all input services, irrespective of whether they are consumed inside or outside the zone, to Special Economic Zones (SEZ) units and developers. Previously, the Government exempted SEZ developers/units from paying a tax on services that were consumed within the zone.

**Other Facilitation Measures**

37. Re-imburement of Additional Duty of Excise levied on fuel under the Finance Act would also be admissible in respect of EOU's.

38. Re-credit of 4% SAD, in case of payment of duty by incentive scheme scrips such as VKGUY, FPS and FMS, has now been allowed.

39. Simplification of the provision for getting refund of Terminal Excise Duty/Deemed Export Benefits and now exporters can submit a statement certified by Central Excise Authorities in lieu of individual invoices and a monthly statement confirming duty payment in lieu of ER-1/ER-3.
40. Krishnapatnam seaport included for the purpose of Export Promotion Schemes.
41. Electronic Message Transfer facility for Advance Authorization and EPCG Scheme established for shipments from EDI ports w.e.f. 01-04-2009.
42. Requirement of hard copy of Shipping Bills dispensed with for Export Obligation discharge.

#### **RBI (25-03-2009)**

43. The validity of interest subvention at 2% on Pre-shipment Credit upto 270 days and Post Shipment Credit upto 180 days was extended from 31-03-2009 to 30-09-2009.
44. The validity of interest subvention at 2% on Pre-shipment Credit upto 270 days and Post Shipment Credit upto 180 days has been extended from 30-09-2009 to 31-03-2010.

#### **Major incentives introduced under Foreign Trade Policy-2009-2014**

45. Incentive Schemes have been expanded by addition of new products and markets.
46. 26 new markets have been added under the Focus Market Scheme. These include 16 new markets in Latin America and 10 in Asia-Oceania.
47. The incentive available under Focus Market Scheme (FMS) has been raised from 2.5% to 3%.
48. The incentive available under the Focus Product Scheme (FPS) has been raised from 1.25% to 2%.

This covers a large number of products from various sectors have been included for benefits under the FPS. These include Jute and Sisal products, Technical Textiles and vegetable textiles.

49. Market Linked Focus Product Scheme (MLFPS) has been greatly expanded by inclusion of products classified under as many as 153 ITC (HS) Codes at 4 digit level. This covers textiles madeups, knitted and crocheted fabrics.
50. MLFPS benefits also extended for export to additional new markets for certain products. These include apparels among others.
51. Higher allocation for Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme is being provided.
52. To aid technological Upgradation of export sector, EPCG Scheme at Zero Duty has been introduced for apparels and textiles among others.
53. To impart stability to the Policy regime, Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) Scheme is extended beyond 31-12-2009 till 31.12.2010.
54. To simplify claims under FPS, requirement of 'Handloom Mark' for availing benefits under FPS has been removed.

[Translation]

#### **Closure of Registered Companies**

1137. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several companies registered under Company Act, 1956 are lying closed;

(b) if so, the details and the number of such companies which have not submitted their balance sheets and annual reports during the last three years;

(c) whether any action has been taken by the Government against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Defunct Companies come to the notice of the authorities when they do not file Annual Returns and Balance Sheets for a considerable period. Newly incorporated Companies have 18 months time to file the Annual Returns and Balance Sheets from date of incorporation. 291509 companies have not filed their Annual Returns and Balance Sheets during the past three years ending 31.03.2008.

(c) and (d) Action taken by the Government against the concerned companies for non filing of Annual Returns and Balance Sheets includes filing of prosecution against the company and its directors and striking off the name of the companies as provided under section 560 of the Companies Act, 1956. As on 31.3.2008, 63917 cases were prosecuted against defaulting companies and directors and 104176 companies were struck off under section 560 of the Companies Act, 1956.

### Food Parks in Gujarat

1138. SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of food processing industries and food parks functioning in Gujarat at present;

(b) the details of the goods exported by these industries and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years and the current year industry-wise and quantity-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for providing financial assistance to these industries?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The data on total number of food processing industries/units functioning in Gujarat and details of the good exported by these industries/the foreign exchange earned therefrom are not centrally maintained. However, financial assistance provided to the various units under the Scheme or Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of Food Processing Industries in Gujarat for the last three years and the current year are as under:—

2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (As on 13.11.200)	
Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released
21	615.857	32	544.06	39	714.81	4	37.36

At present no Food Park is functioning in Gujarat with assistance from Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

The Ministry extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of Food Processing Industries.

[English]

### ROB at Dalkhol in N.F. Railway

1139. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to construct Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Dalkhol in West Bengal under North Frontier Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount sanctioned for this project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The work for construction of a Road over bridge at Dalkhola in lieu of level crossing No. SK-344 at Km.114/9-10 between Dalkhola-Surajkamal stations was sanctioned in Works Programme of 2003-04 on cost sharing basis with the State Government of West Bengal. The level crossing being situated on NH-34 bye-pass, the work was transferred to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for execution. Foundation in approaches portion is currently in progress. Sanctioned cost of the work is Rs. 19.44 crore (approx) and target date is 16.10.2010 as advised by NHAI.

[Translation]

#### Use of LPG in Automobiles

1140. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking steps to check use of LPG in other commercial sectors including automobiles; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Government have been encouraging use of LPG for various commercial activities, industrial use and also auto LPG for running automobiles. However, only imported for import-substituted LPG is to be used for commercial/ auto LPG and is priced at higher level compared to domestic LPG which is meant for domestic use.

The following measures have been taken to prevent the diversion of domestic LPG cylinders for non-domestic purposes, including automobiles:—

(i) Under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders for commercial purposes by the distributors of OMCs is prohibited.

(ii) The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godown, delivery point, as well as en-route to ensure that no diversion/black marketing takes place. In terms of the MDG, in case of establishment of any diversion of domestic LPG cylinder for commercial purposes, the following action is taken against the distributor:—

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence, and
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

[English]

#### Construction of New Airports during Eleventh Plan

1141. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY:  
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:  
SHRI MANOHAR TIRKEY:  
SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals to construct new airports during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating therein the proposed places;



(c) the allocation of funds made for each airport;

(d) the details of such airports which are under construction; and

(e) the time by which the construction work of remaining airports is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. New Greenfield airports proposed to be developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) during the Eleventh Five Year Plan are at Pakyong in Sikkim, Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh and Cheithu in Nagaland.

(c) to (e) Of these three airports, work at Pakyong airport in Sikkim has started with the Probable Date of Completion (PDC) in January, 2012 and estimated cost of Rs. 300 crores. The other two greenfield airports are at the planning stage.

#### Financial Assistance to Food Processing Industries

1142. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, the amount released and spent on this programme during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the total number of such programmes conducted by the Government in each State and the total number of persons benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its Plan Scheme of Promotional Activities, provides financial assistance for

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

The amount released and spent State/UT-wise for the said programmes during the last three years and the current year is given in the Statement enclosed. Eleven studies/surveys have been conducted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries during the last three years and the current year. Out of these, five studies have been conducted in the states i.e. West Bengal (Two), Assam (One), Jharkhand (One) and Gujarat (One). Rest of the six studies have been conducted for different zones involving several states.

All the stakeholders of the processed food sector including farmers, workers/prospective workers, processors, investors, resource persons/consultants, NGOs/Industry Associations, academia, end users/consumers etc. are benefited by the conduct of such programmes.

#### Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount released and spent during last 3 years and current year (Rs. In Lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20.33
2.	Assam	5.75
3.	Bihar	5.45

1	2	3
4.	Chandigarh	12.32
5.	Delhi	1,66.66
6.	Gujarat	15.89
7.	Haryana	1.00
8.	Jharkhand	22.69
9.	Karnataka	3.50
10.	Kerala	4.93
11.	Madhya Pradesh	0.60
12.	Maharashtra	63.71
13.	Meghalaya	18.53
14.	Nagaland	0.27
15.	Orissa	6.60
16.	Puducherry	0.86
17.	Punjab	0.60
18.	Rajasthan	2.50
19.	Tamil Nadu	24.67
20.	Tripura	0.86
21.	Uttar Pradesh	8.78
22.	West Bengal	52.63

#### Concession to Auto Industry

1143. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided some concessions for the Indian auto industries producing cars

and other types of four wheelers either with indigenous technology or in technical collaboration with foreign auto industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the auto industries have utilized these concessions in producing cars and other types of four wheelers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Government has been revising, from time to time, the excise and central duties etc., as applicable to industry including auto industry. In addition, certain incentives for investment, like the project import scheme etc., and for exports are also provided to the industry including the Auto Industry.

However, there are no specific concessions for the auto industry for manufacturing cars with indigenous technology or with foreign technical collaboration.

The various policy measures taken by the Government including those taken in the stimulus packages have had a positive impact on the industry including automotive industry leading to an increase in the production/sales of automobiles.

#### Vision 2015 for Food Processing Sector

1144. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared vision 2015 for food processing sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress achieved in food processing by each State so far; and

(d) the funds earmarked and released for this purpose to each State so far?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. In order to increase level of processing and to promote food processing industries to exploit both the domestic and international market potential for processed food products, Vision 2015 Document has been finalized by the Ministry of food processing Industries (MFPI), which envisages trebling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. An integrated strategy for promotion of agribusiness-Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector has also been approved by the Government.

(c) and (d) Different States have achieved different levels in food processing. Such data is not maintained by this Ministry. Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/ Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries. This Scheme is project specific and allocation is not provided State-wise. The State-wise financial assistance provided to the various units under the scheme in the country during the last three years are given in the Statement enclosed.

#### Statement

Number of projects approved and financial assistance provided during the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, State-wise

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (As on 13.11.09)	
	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released	Approved	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	47	966.353	43	947.49	48	908.999	28	581.86
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	1	17.67	0	0
Assam	19	964.400	12	442.17	17	176.79	2	22.315
Bihar	6	38.165	5	83.915	2	42.3	1	25.00
Chandigarh	1	4.339	6	138.08	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	9	119.890	0	0	10	163.725	4	54.455
Delhi	28	524.601	0	0	7	160.65	2	50.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Goa	0	0	1	17.00	1	24.57	1	24.26
Gujarat	21	615.857	32	544.06	39	714.81	4	37.36
Haryana	31	684.210	19	418.72	23	349.415	34	553.34
Himachal Pradesh	12	210.465	12	325.09	5	152.745	9	224.52
Jammu and Kashmir	8	69.900	9	109.855	3	22.05	6	54.741
Jharkhand	4	52.110	2	9.09	0	0	3	44.09
Karnataka	39	614.290	34	529.62	35	629.895	17	251.375
Kerala	36	674.140	47	876.8	32	545.37	16	281.185
Madhya Pradesh	23	339.998	10	172.32	14	201.87	11	152.655
Maharashtra	118	2174.380	95	1696.805	121	1802.633	85	1216.895
Manipur	4	76.655	3	61.74	3	45.51	4	79.825
Meghalaya	2	21.850	1	8.19	2	159.57	1	13.86
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11.00
Nagaland	2	155.585	1	27.485	4	178.205	0	0
Orissa	13	114.048	6	129.41	2	38.68	4	56.72
Puducherry	2	16.300	2	31.3	0	0	0	0
Punjab	26	519.539	32	481.45	61	841.36	12	143.055
Rajasthan	33	506.160	35	566.075	44	551.975	18	227.827
Sikkim	1	0.150	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	52	745.127	53	951.79	36	594.355	31	471.140
Tripura	1	0	2	39.98	1	13.86	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	56	840.948	63	1123.425	43	875.475	18	308.320
Uttarakhand	17	437.392	9	339.78	6	163.15	4	23.550
West Bengal	47	963.430	35	653.56	19	390.135	4	77.226
Total	658	12481.128	569	10725.2	579	9765.767	320	4986.574

**Funds Released under TUFS**

and year-wise?

1145. SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds released under Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme during each of the last three years and the current year both head-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the number of units benefited both State-wise

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) The details of funds released under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS), during last two years and current year upto Aug., 09, year-wise and state-wise are given in the Statement enclosed. The state-wise data for funds released during 2006-07 is not available as no such data was being maintained at that time.

**Statement***Year-wise/state-wise subsidy released under TUFS*

(Rs. Crore)

State/Union Territory	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (upto Aug., 09)	
	No. of applications	Amount	No. of applications	Amount	No. of applications	Amount	No. of applications	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	Separate data is not available	Separate data is not available	137	34.34	281	134.35	287	134.55
Assam							1	0.05
Chandigarh (UT)			11	1.13	23	4.69	32	6.36
Chhattisgarh							1	0.43
Dadra and Nagar Haveli (UT)			18	1.68	25	2.01	23	4.97
Daman and Diu (UT)			13	0.85	19	1.73	17	1.25
Delhi (UT)			163	24.46	274	64.89	299	60.23
Gujarat			5134	155.76	5116	498.61	4051	286.19
Haryana			198	18.58	370	73.39	429	58.74
Himachal Pradesh			10	1.27	27	13.86	23	4.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jammu and Kashmir	Separate	Separate	7	3.52	14	17.12	12	6.64
Jharkhand	data is not available	data is not available					3	0.68
Karnataka			168	23.54	232	103.24	269	73.46
Kerala			32	6.91	46	15.39	37	25.45
Madhya Pradesh			41	12.14	58	12.80	68	23.55
Maharashtra			917	274.19	1220	465.77	1186	663.43
Puducherry			1	0.37			1	0.58
Orissa					1	0.02		
Punjab			702	134.34	1489	416.53	1543	352.28
Rajasthan			513	60.63	640	142.55	589	134.75
Tamil Nadu			2841	306.74	3332	525.77	3286	669.80
Tripura					1	0.09		
Uttar Pradesh			78	19.49	149	71.08	205	96.89
Uttarakhand			3	2.03	4	1.66	12	6.09
West Bengal			73	11.19	138	17.96	140	27.27
Total	13168	823.92	11063	1093.16	13459	2583.51	12514	2638.63

### Special Trains for Women

1146. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have started special trains for women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to extend the service to all the metropolitan cities in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The following Ladies Specials have been introduced recently:

(i) T121/B36 Chennai Beach-Tambaram EMU

(ii) BA5/AB4 Chennai Beach-Arakkonam EMU

(iii) BVL41/VLB88 Chennai Beach-Velachery EMU

(iv) NP5/NP10 New Delhi-Palwal MEMU

- (v) PL115A Mumbai CST-Panvel EMU  
 (vi) KL1/KL2 Kalyani-Sealdah EMU  
 (vii) LB1/LB2 Howrah-Bandel EMU  
 (viii) LK1/LK2 Howrah-Kharagpur EMU

(c) to (e) Introduction of trains including Ladies Special is an ongoing process subject to operational feasibility, availability of resources and traffic justification.

#### Milk Processing Plants

1147. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:  
 SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to set up milk processing plants in the country during the eleventh plan period;  
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount allocated to various States for setting up of milk processing plants in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries only extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to entrepreneurs in the milk processing sector under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries. Under this scheme, grant assistance @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas is given.

(c) Financial assistance to the dairy sector is being extended by several central and State Government agencies. In so far as Ministry of Food Processing is concerned, no State-wise allocation is being done. However, a Statement of State-wise units assisted in dairy sector during the last three years is enclosed herewith.

#### Statement

No. of dairy cases in which grant in aid was disbursed during 2006-07 to 2009-10 (upto 23.11.2009)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Dairy Processing 2009-10		Dairy Processing 2008-09		Dairy Processing 2007-08		Dairy Processing 2006-07	
		No. of proposals assisted	Disbursed amount (lakhs)	No. of proposals assisted	Disbursed amount (lakhs)	No. of proposals assisted	Disbursed amount (lakhs)	No. of proposals assisted	Disbursed amount (lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	25.00	2	32.50	7	129.50	4	49.22
2.	Assam			1	12.50	1	26.56		
3.	Bihar	1	10.59	1	25.00	1	25.00	1	10.04
4.	Delhi			2	50.00				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Goa					1	17.00		
6.	Gujarat			1	37.50	1	23.13		
7.	Haryana			4	97.98	2	50.00	1	25.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh			1	37.50	5	134.42	1	9.33
9.	Jammu and Kashmir			1	14.08			1	19.56
10.	Jharkhand	1	23.00						
11.	Karnataka					3	58.71		
12.	Kerala	1	14.40	1	14.40	3	42.02	3	41.44
13.	Maharashtra	4	78.44	7	148.44	18	286.02	7	126.98
14.	Orissa					1	18.57		
15.	Punjab			2	48.31	3	28.23	2	33.83
16.	Rajasthan	1	7.00	1	7.00	5	92.54	1	25.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	2	50.00	2	50.00	3	49.32	4	63.25
18.	Uttar Pradesh			3	75.00	8	139.80	4	80.06
19.	Uttarakhand	1	1.90	2	50.00	1	21.59	4	88.50
20.	West Bengal	1	11.01	3	57.91	7	119.38	1	19.29
Total		13	221.34	34	758.12	70	1261.78	34	591.5

[English]

**Revenue earned by Air India**

1148. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue earned by the Air India, Pawan Hans, the Airports Authority of India and other PSUs under the Ministry during the year 2008-2009;

(b) the total expenditure incurred by them on advertisements through print, electronic and other media during the same period;

(c) the percentage of their total expenditure incurred on advertisement, services to passengers and raising infrastructure; and

(d) the various measures being taken by the Ministry to make the national Carrier a profitable organization in the country?



THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The total revenue earned during 2008-09 by Air India was Rs. 13,479.38 crore, by Pawan Hans was Rs. 328.82 crore and by Airports Authority of India was Rs. 4185.95 crore.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on advertisements by Air India was Rs. 40.77 crore, Pawan Hans was Rs. 2.12 crore and Airports Authority of India was Rs. 24.82 crore.

(c) The percentage of total expenditure in respect of Air India on Publicity was 0.2%, on Passenger Amenities was 2.4%, and on infrastructure was 4.6%. The percentage of total expenditure of Pawan Hans on advertisement etc., to the total revenue was 0.64% and the percentage of expenditure of Airports Authority of India on advertisement was 0.81%.

(d) The National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has taken several initiatives to turnaround the performance of the company and is mainly focused on Cost Reduction (Target of Rs. 1500 crore) and Revenue

Enhancement (Target of Rs. 1200 crore). These are broadly segregated under Operational efficiency, Product Improvement, Organisation Building and Financial Restructuring.

#### Railway Projects in Kerala

1149. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals submitted by the Kerala Government for survey of new rail lines and track-doubling project in Kerala;

(b) the status of the said proposals as on date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Details of the proposals received from Government of Kerala are as under:—

Sl. No.	Proposal	Status and target date for completion wherever fixed
1	2	3
<b>NEW LINE</b>		
1.	Kanjanagad (Kanhgad) - Panathur	Survey has been completed. Survey report is under consideration.
2.	Nilambur-Nanjancode (Nanjangud)	Survey has been completed. Survey report is under consideration.
3.	Thalasserry-Mysore	Survey completed and proposal not found viable.
4.	Extension of Sabari rail through Pattanamthita-Punalur-Thiruvananthapuram	Updating survey for Erumeli-Pattanamthita-Punalur-Thiruvananthapuram has been taken up.
5.	Edappalli-Guruvayur	Survey has been taken up.

1

2

3

- |    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 6. | Sabarimala-Chengannur                        | Survey completed and proposal not found viable.                  |
| 7. | Kollancode (Kollengode) - Thrissur (Trichur) | Survey completed and proposal not found viable.                  |
| 8. | Angadipuram-Kozhikode                        | Survey has been completed. Survey report is under consideration. |

### Doubling

- |    |                                |   |
|----|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Ernakulam-Alappuzha-Kayankulam | Survey has already been completed. Patch doublings taken up on Kayankulam-Ambalapuzha section and land acquisition, earthwork and bridgeworks have been taken up. |
| 2. | Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari | Survey has been completed. Survey report is under consideration.  |

(c) The ongoing surveys will take about one year of time in completion.

### Construction of Airport at Chipi

1150. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request from the Government of Maharashtra for the construction of a modern airport at Chipi in Konkan region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the Government has accorded sanction for the proposal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which the work on this project is likely to start and be completed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Government of India have given 'in principle' approval for

setting up of a domestic new Greenfield airport at Sindhudurg in Maharashtra. The State Government of Maharashtra has appointed Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) as nodal agency for construction of the airport. 271 hectares of land has been acquired by MIDC. MIDC has engaged India Infrastructure Initiative - a Joint Venture between IDFC and Feedback Ventures-for project development and partner-selection for the project. Therefore, the project formulation is at a very initial stage.

### Earnings of Railways

1151. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways recorded 6.09 per cent increase in the first quarterly revenue earnings for the current year;

(b) if so, the details of the earnings from goods, passenger, suburban and non-suburban trains and through other sources; and

(c) the total earnings of the South Central Railway during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Indian Railways recorded 4.76% increase in earnings during first quarter of 2009-10 as compared to first quarter of 2008-09.

(b) The details of category-wise earnings during the first quarter of Indian Railways is as under:—

Category	(Rs. in crores)	
	2008-09	2009-10
Passenger (including suburban)	5268.33	5659.77
Other Coaching	484.61	533.62
Goods	13136.15	13524.99
Sundry	301.36	385.11
<b>Total Earnings</b>	<b>19190.45</b>	<b>20103.49</b>

(c) The total earnings of South Central Railway during first quarter of 2009-10 is Rs. 1994.52 crore

#### Setting up of NIPERs

1152. SHRI P. VISWANATHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) are located;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more NIPERs in various parts of the country in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said Institutes are likely to be set up; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the shortage of manpower in the pharmaceutical sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), declared an Institute of National Importance under the NIPER Act, 1998 is located at SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab.

The Union Cabinet has also given 'in principle' approval for setting up 6 new NIPERs. These are presently functioning with the support of Mentor Institutes at Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Hajipur (Bihar), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Guwahati (Assam), Kolkata (West Bengal) and Rae Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh).

(b) and (c) Proposal for setting up a NIPER at Madurai stands referred to Planning Commission for 'in principle' approval. The Government of Tamil Nadu has agreed to provide the requisite land free of cost at Madurai for setting up the Institute.

(d) The prime objective of setting up the new NIPERs in addition to the NIPER set up in SAS Nagar, (Mohali) is to overcome the shortage of manpower in the Pharmaceutical sector.

#### Development of Mysore Airport

1153. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up the development of Mysore Airport for ATR-72 type of aircraft operations in Phase-I and the works are under completion;

(b) if so, whether the Karnataka Government has requested the AAI to share 50 per cent land acquisition cost and to expedite completion of the Mysore Airport and also to provide for economic feasibility analysis for phase-II development;

(c) whether the Government has considered the Karnataka Government's request; and

(d) if so, the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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

(b) Government of Karnataka had requested for sharing of 50% of land acquisition cost for Phase-II expansion of Mysore Airport and to expedite on-going developmental works for Phase-I. However, there was no request for providing Economic Feasibility Analysis for Phase-II development.

(c) and (d) Additional land required for expansion of Mysore Airport shall be acquired by Government of Karnataka (GoK) and transferred to Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost and free from all encumbrances as per MoU signed between Government of Karnataka and AAI.

#### Upgradation of the Status of SAIL

1154. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the status of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) from Navratnas 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 is likely to give Maharatna status to SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (e) The proposal for introduction of Maharatna status to select Central Public Sector Enterprises, including Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), is under consideration of the Government.

#### Preventing Bigamy

1155. SHRI VARUN GANDHI:

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

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

(a) whether Law Commission has suggested that bigamy be made a cognizable offence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to amend the Criminal Procedure Code to check bigamy?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Installation of T.V. sets in Trains

1156. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to install TV sets in the trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Broad guidelines have been issued to the Zonal Railways for installation of on board audio/video information dissemination and entertainment system in trains through open tender.

[Translation]

#### Survey of Rail Line in Chhattisgarh

1157. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request to include Mungeli and Uslapur section in the ongoing survey being carried out for rail line in the Dongargarh-Kota section of Chhattisgarh;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the status of the survey carried out in this regard;
- and

(d) the time by which survey report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) South East Central Railway has received a request in this regard to include Mungeli and Uslapur in the ongoing survey.

(c) and (d) The survey for the new line is being done as per the original alignment between Dongargarh – Kota which is not passing via Mungeli and Uslapur. Field Survey for 90 km. out of approximately 220 km. has been completed. The survey report is likely to be available by 15.04.2010.

[English]

**Absorption of Porters/Coolies as  
Group D Employees**

1158. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railway have decided that porters/coolies are absorbed as Group-D employees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and
- (c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) It was decided in the year 2008-09 that, as a one time measure, all those licensed Porters, upto the age of 50 years, and with a minimum age of 18 years as on 26.02.2008, may be appointed to the post of Gangman in Group D, subject to fulfillment of the stipulated conditions. A total of 21,308 licensed Porters have been appointed as Gangman, upto 16.07.2009. Instructions have also been issued to the zonal

railways to allow those gangman to revert back to the job of licensed porters who are unwilling to continue as gangman.

**Revision of Development Fee**

1159. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is revising the development fee at major airports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the amount so far collected as development fee at each airport and the manner in which it is being utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam. However, an independent regulatory authority will decide these issues.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The amount collected as Development Fee by M/s Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd. and by M/s Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd. has been Rs. 323.11 crores, Rs. 119.75 crores respectively upto October, 2009. Funds collected through the levy is to be utilised only for the construction of such aeronautical assets which will be transferred by the Joint Venture Companies to Airports Authority of India upon completion of lease period.

**Tuticorin Airport**

1160. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the land acquisition work for Tuticorin Airport's runway extension and infrastructure development has been completed;

(b) if so, the total land that has been acquired for the purpose;

(c) whether night landing facility/system has been installed at the Airport;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Not applicable.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. Aeronautical Ground Lighting Facility/System has been provided with one circuit of High Intensity Runway Lighting (HIRL) and Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI).

[Translation]

#### Direct Fertilizer Subsidy to Farmers

1161. SHRI RAJU SHETTI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had announced to provide fertilizer subsidy directly to the farmers;

(b) if so, whether this decision has been implemented;

(c) if so, the names of the fertilizers on which subsidy was directly released to farmers;

(d) the amount released directly to the farmers; and

(e) the number and names of States covered under this scheme alongwith the reasons for not covering all the States?

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

(a) The Finance Minister in this Budget Speech 2009 has said that "In context of the nation's food security, the declining response of agriculture productivity to increase fertilizer usage in the country is a matter of concern. To ensure balanced application of fertilizers, the Government intends to move towards nutrient based subsidy regime instead of the current product pricing scheme. It will lead to availability of innovative fertilizer products in the market at reasonable prices. This unshackling of the fertilizer manufacturing sector is expected to attract fresh investments in this sector. In due course, it is also intended to move to a system of direct transfer to subsidy to the farmers". A Group of Ministers has been constituted to examine the proposed nutrient based subsidy policy and measures for rationalisation of fertilizer subsidy disbursement. The issue of nutrient based subsidy policy is currently under consideration of the GOM.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, questions do not arise.

[English]

#### Life Saving Drugs

1162. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to closure of Public Sector Undertakings manufacturing of life saving drugs have resulted an acute shortage of drugs in the contrary to the goals of the Government's Universal Immunization Programme; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to supply life saving drugs to protect children from life threatening diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 does not define life saving medicines. No Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of the Department of Pharmaceuticals has been closed in the

recent past. However, as reported by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare the manufacturing licenses of the three Public Sector Units (PSUs), namely, the Central Research Institute, Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh), the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor (Tamil Nadu) and the BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Chennai (Tamil Nadu), which are under the administrative control of that Ministry, were suspended by the Drugs Controller General (India) in January, 2008 due to non compliance of the requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) as provided under Schedule M of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. As reported by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare the contribution of these PSUs to the market was negligible. For some months in 2008, there were shortages of some vaccines for Universal Immunization Programme which were overcome by procuring them from private sector as well as public sector other than the aforesaid three PSUs whose licenses were suspended. It has further been reported by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that the Government has decided to revive these units and restart production of vaccines after compliance with GMP requirements.

#### Availability of Kerosene Oil

1163. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita availability of kerosene oil in each State as on date;

(b) whether the said availability is at par with the national average; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) to (c) The State/Union Territory-wise (UTs) details of per capita allocation of kerosene for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) during the year 2008-09 are given in the statement enclosed.

The per capita allocation in case of some States is less than the National Average since Government of India is allocating kerosene to States/UTs on historical basis.

#### Statement

*State-wise per capita allocation of SKO during the year 2008-09*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	(Figures in Kg.)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	16.32
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6.83
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.48
4.	Assam	9.69
5.	Bihar	7.81
6.	Chandigarh	11.10
7.	Chhattisgarh	7.07
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12.62
9.	Daman and Diu	13.40
10.	Delhi	11.68
11.	Goa	14.29
12.	Gujarat	14.70
13.	Haryana	6.91
14.	Himachal Pradesh	8.13
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	7.55
16.	Jharkhand	7.85

1	2	3
17.	Karnataka	8.75
18.	Kerala	6.79
19.	Lakshadweep	13.12
20.	Madhya Pradesh	8.09
21.	Maharashtra	13.20
22.	Manipur	8.33
23.	Meghalaya	8.85
24.	Mizoram	6.98
25.	Nagaland	6.69
26.	Orissa	8.58
27.	Puducherry	12.59
28.	Punjab	9.77
29.	Rajasthan	7.06
30.	Sikkim	10.33
31.	Tamil Nadu	9.00
32.	Tripura	9.66
33.	Uttar Pradesh	7.48
34.	Uttarakhand	10.60
35.	West Bengal	9.38
National average		9.70

[Translation]

**Increase in Fares for Haj Pilgrims**

1164. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fares for Haj pilgrims has been increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for inconveniences and ill-treatment meted out to Haj pilgrims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The cost of travel per pilgrim for Airlines has increased considerably mainly due to increase in input costs, increase in embarkation points etc. However, the amount charged per pilgrim as travel cost has remained static since 1994 at Rs. 12,000. It has been decided by the Government to increase this to Rs. 16,000 from this year.

(c) Haj Phase-I has been completed satisfactorily and there has been no inconvenience or ill-treatment of Haj pilgrims.

**Setting up of CNG Pumps**

1165. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any scheme to set up CNG pumps on all the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Providing CNG facilities depends, inter alia, upon proximity to trunk natural gas pipeline, availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability. As such, no proposal to set up CNG pumps on all National Highways has been formulated by the Government.



(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### Rail Connectivity to Meghalaya

1166. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any rail connectivity to Meghalaya;

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

(c) whether there is lack of co-ordination between Assam and Meghalaya in acquisition of land for laying rail line in the region;

(d) if so, whether the Railways propose to intervene in the matter; and

(e) the time by which the said work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, new line projects of Dudhnoi-Mendipathar and Azra-Byrnihat have been taken up for providing rail connectivity to Meghalaya.

(c) to (e) The land acquisition for the two ongoing projects is being pursued with State Governments of Assam and Meghalaya. On Dudhnoi-Mendipathar new line project, land acquisition is in progress. The work has been taken up where land has been handed over. On Azara-Byrnihat new line, State Government of Assam has advised to change the alignment as it would not be possible to hand over land on the proposed alignment. The work will be taken up after land is made available.

#### Setting up of Steel Plants

1167. KUMARI SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private and public sector steel plants proposed/approved for setting up in the Bastar district in Chhattisgarh; and

(b) the time limit set for setting up the approved plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) As per the information available in the Ministry of Steel, the details of private and public sector steel plants proposed for setting up in the Bastar district in Chhattisgarh are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Company and Location	Proposed Capacity in MTPA	Estimated Investment Rs. in crore	Date of signing of MoU	Present status and progress
1.	M/s. Tata Steel Limited, Bastar	Integrated Steel Plant – 5.00	10000.00 (Approx.)	4.6.2005	Production not Started
2.	M/s. NMDC Limited, Nagarnar, Bastar	Integrated Steel Plant – 3.00	10000.00	03.09.2008	Production not Started

(b) Time limit for Tata Steel Limited — first phase of the steel plant consisting of two million tonnes per annum capacity is likely to be set up within 48 months to 60 months from the date of receiving all statutory clearances

and the second phase of the steel plant will be set up within 36 to 48 months from the date of completion of the first phase. For NMDC Limited — the steel plant is likely to be commissioned in 2014.

**Functioning of CCIL**

1168. SHRI VITTHALBHAI HANSRAJBHAI RADADIYA:  
SHRI P. BALRAM:  
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review of the functioning of Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCIL) has been made;

(b) if so, the time by when such review was made and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the CCI Ltd. has been found involved in wasteful expenditure during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details of the enquiry that has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) the total expenditure incurred on the procurement of cotton by Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCIL) during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The functions of the CCIL are reviewed on regular basis which have been found to be satisfactory.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Question does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The details of expenditure incurred on the procurement of cotton by CCIL during last three years are as under:—

Year	Rs. in crores
2006-07	Rs. 1531.54
2007-08	Rs. 1169.98
2008-09	Rs. 13141.99

[English]

**Airport at Kokrajhar in Assam**

1169. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the feasibility and cost of revival of Rupsi airport in Kokrajhar district before taking the decision of a new airport in the same district and that too within 50 Km of the existing airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the justifications and cost effectiveness of setting up of new airport by abandoning existing airport with more than 6000 ft. runway and necessary infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. A feasibility study carried out recently for revival of non-operational airport has confirmed that Rupsi airport can be developed into an operational airport in phased manner at a cost of Rs. 94 crores for ATR type of aircraft. Government of Assam has not yet provided the details of identified sites for the proposed new Greenfield airport at Kokrajhar.

**Fines for Travelling on Train Roofs**

1170. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fines imposed by the Railways for travelling on train roofs and ignoring crossings are not having much effect;

(b) if so, the details of casualties occurred during last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to minimize casualties on tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) The

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

#### New Work Orders for BHEL

1171. SHRI BHOOPENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the projects and works for which Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Bhopal has received work orders during the last three years;

(b) the time by which the said work orders was to be completed and the time by which these orders were actually completed by BHEL;

(c) the number of works/projects on which work has been in progress and the time by which the said work is likely to be completed;

(d) whether BHEL, Bhopal had received order for the power projects of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(e) if so, the date when the said order was received and the time by which the said project was to be completed; and

(f) the reasons for delay in the completion of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Bhopal Unit of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) is primarily engaged in the manufacture and supply of electro-mechanical equipment/package for hydro power projects.

It is also engaged in manufacture and supply of varied range of products such as transformers, motors, switchgears, control and relay panels, substation equipments, high pressure heaters, heat exchangers, various electrical and fabricated equipment etc. All supplies made by the Bhopal unit are scheduled to match the customer/site requirements.

The name and status update of major hydro power projects for which orders have been received by BHEL, Bhopal during the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) to (f) BHEL, Bhopal has received an order for supply of electro-mechanical equipment for the 10x40 MW Maheshwar Hydro Power Project of Shree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corporation Ltd. (SMHPCL) in Madhya Pradesh in November, 2007. Depending on timely availability of fronts/inputs/clearances etc. from the customer, BHEL (Bhopal) scope of supply/works is expected to be completed as per schedule by March, 2011. As on date, there is no delay on the part of BHEL (Bhopal).

BHEL, Bhopal is presently not implementing any major hydro power project is Chhattisgarh.

#### Statement

*Status of major hydro power projects for which orders have been received by BHEL Bhopal during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09*

Sl. No.	Project	Rating (MW)	Customer/State	Scheduled Supply completion	Status
1	2	3	4	6	6
<b>2006-07:</b>					
1.	Pochampad	1x9	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Ltd. (APGENCO)/Andhra Pradesh	Jan.-08 (Ex-works supply)	Completed in January, 2009

1	2	3	4	6	6
2.	Koilsagar Stage 2	2x7.5	IVRCL Infrastructure and Projects Ltd./Andhra Pradesh	Oct.-08 (Ex-works supply)	Completed in September, 2009.
3.	Koilsagar Stage 1	2x7.5	IVRCL Infrastructure and Projects Ltd./Andhra Pradesh	June-08 (Ex-works supply)	Completed in February, 2009.
4.	Nagarjunsagar	2x25	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Ltd. (APGENCO)/Andhra Pradesh	July-08 (Ex-works supply)	Work in progress. Rescheduled by Customer. BHEL Bhopal scope of supply is expected to be completed by June, 2010.
5.	Kalwakurthy Stage 3	5x30	Gammon India Ltd./Andhra Pradesh	Aug.-10	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.
6.	Parbati State 3	4x130	NHPC Ltd./Himachal Pradesh	Feb.-10	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.
7.	UHL	3x33.33	Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board/Himachal Pradesh	Aug.-10	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.

**2007-08:**

1.	Pulinchintala	4x30	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation Ltd. (APGENCO)/Andhra Pradesh	Feb.-10	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.
2.	Shrinagar	4x8.25	Alakananda Hydro Power Company Ltd. (AHPCL)/ Uttarakhand	Jan.-11	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.
3.	Maheshwar	10x40	Shree Maheshwar Hydrel Power Corporation Ltd. (SMHPCL)/Madhya Pradesh	Mar.-11	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.
4.	Teesta Low dam	4x40	NHPC Ltd./West Bengal	May-10	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.
5.	Nimoo Bazgo	3x15	NHPC Ltd./Jammu and Kashmir	Oct.-10	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.
6.	Chuttak	4x11	NHPC Ltd./Jammu and Kashmir	June-11	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.

1	2	3	4	6	6
7.	Tapovan Vishnugad	4x130	NTPC Ltd./Uttarakhand	Dec.-11	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.
<b>2008-09:</b>					
1.	Rampur	6x68.67	Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd./ Himachal Pradesh	Mar.-12	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.
2.	Nanchien, Vietnam	2x100	Namchien Hydro Power Jt. St. Co., Vietnam	Sep.-11	Work in progress. Expected to be completed as per schedule.

[English]

**Pending Cases**

1172. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to start two shifts in some of the courts with a view to decreasing the number of pending litigations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) timeframe by which this programme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Unutilised Railway Land**

1173. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

SHRI P. KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the vacant land area available with the Railways as on date;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways have identified

1.12 lakh acres of unused railway land for commercial purposes;

(c) if so, the names of the sites identified for the purpose;

(d) whether Railways have decided to develop the land through public-private partnership (PPP) model; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (e) Railways have about 1.13 lakh acres of vacant land. This includes land earmarked for Railway's own developmental works such as doubling, gauge conversion, yard remodelling and traffic facility works, setting up of factories, DFCCIL project and narrow strip of land required for servicing of Railway track. Vacant land not required for railway's immediate future operational needs is put to alternative usage including commercial development. Railways have identified 139 sites measuring approx 4336 acres of railway land, which is not required for immediate future operational use. Out of these 133 sites measuring 3744 acres have been entrusted for commercial development to Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA), an authority set up by an act of Parliament to undertake commercial development of vacant railway land.

For commercial development, RLDA follows lease

premium models under which Railway land is leased for development on payment of lease premium to be paid by the developer either upfront or spread over a period of time and further development of land is done by developer through his own funds. Details of sites entrusted to RLDA for commercial utilisation as under-

Adilabad, Aurangabad, Ajmer (2 sites), Amritsar (2 sites), Badli (Delhi), Ballyghat, Bangalore City, Bansdrone Station, Bareilly City, Belgharia, sites between Central Station and M.G. Road, between Shyambazar and Sovabazar and between Tollygunj Station and Rabindra Sarabor, Bhavnagar (7 sites), Bhilai (3 sites), site between Bidhannagar-DumDum, Bokaro (2 sites), Borabanda, Budge-Budge, Budhlada, Central Station (07 sites), Chandigarh (2 sites), Chandni Chowk station, Chennai, Clutterbuckganj, Delhi (3 sites), Gaya, Guntakal (2 sites), Guwahati (13 sites), Gwalior (2 sites), Kanpur (2 sites), Hrishahar, Hingoli, Hyderabad (3 sites), Jamnagar, Jodhpur, Kanchrapara, Karimganj, Katra, Lucknow (3 sites), Maninagar (2 sites), MTP (Chennai), Mudkhed, Mumbai, Nagapatinam, Naktala Station, New Alipurduar, New Cooch-behar, New Garia Station, New Jalpaiguri (5 sites), Pattukoti, Raipur (2 sites), Rajkot (10 sites), Raxaul, Salem, Secunderabad (6 sites), Shahamatganj, Shyambazar (03 sites), Siliguri (6 sites), Tatanagar, Thane, Tollygunjstation, Vijaywada, Villipuram, Visakhapatnam (2 sites), Washim.

#### Diversion of Railway Coaches

1174. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, recently two of the 43 new 12 coaches rakes for Western Railways were diverted to Central Railways;

(b) if so, whether this is an ongoing process of adjustment between two railways as claimed by Central Railways; and

(c) the impact of such acts on the efficiency of the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Need based transfer/adjustment of rakes between Central and Western Railway is an on going process for optimum/efficient use of EMU coaches.

[Translation]

#### Government Counsels/Public Prosecutors

1175. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI:

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

(a) the number of the Government counsels/Public Prosecutors in various courts in the country, State-wise including Maharashtra;

(b) the number of women counsels/ public prosecutors among them;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of women counsels/ public prosecutors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Rail Linkage for Wayanad District

1176. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to enhance the rail linkage of Wayanad district in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) The

planning of the Railway network is done railway-wise keeping in view the prescribed policies and requirement of traffic. District-wise plans are not made.

#### Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts

1177. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) is adopting a three pronged strategy including capacity development, design enhancement and aggressive marketing to boost exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other steps being considered for improving handicrafts exports further?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) has reported that the Common Facility Centres at Saharanpur and Jodhpur as well as survey of potential crafts from export point of view are being undertaken for capacity development and design enhancement. In regard to aggressive marketing with the view to boost exports, the Council undertakes participation in exhibitions/fairs abroad and Brand Image Promotion Campaigns for Indian Handicrafts in established as well as potential markets abroad.

(c) The other steps being taken for improving handicrafts exports further include: participation in Fairs/Exhibitions abroad; organizing Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair twice a year, organizing Thematic exhibition, development of innovative value added products through Product Development Programmes, Organizing programmes for packaging and export procedure, organization of buyer-sellers meet and brand image promotion of Indian Handicrafts abroad etc.

#### Setting up of LNG Terminals

1178. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:  
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:  
SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up more Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminals in various parts of the country including Kerala;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the present status thereof:

(c) whether the Government had received any proposal from the State Government of Tamil Nadu to set up one LNG terminal in Chennai; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) LNG terminals are not set up by the Government, the same are set up by the entities. Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL) is setting up an LNG terminal at Kochi in Kerala. Work on the Project has commenced. Dabhol LNG terminal of Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Ltd. RGPPL) has been mechanically completed and the same is expected to be commissioned in the first quarter of 2010 after completion of dredging works. In addition, LNG terminals are planned by IOC and ONGC at Ennore, Tamil Nadu and Mangalore, Karnataka respectively, subject to long-term LNG tie-up.

#### Import of Sub-standard Urea

1179. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a cargo of Urea imported by the Indian Potash Limited on behalf of the Government through Pipavav port in Gujarat has been found to be sub-standard;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the disputed cargo was earlier rejected by the Pakistan and later diverted to India from Karachi through forged shipping documents;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has ordered the vessel to be detained and quality check to be conducted by an independent team of officials; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) No, Madam. Samples of urea cargo in vessel MV Saint Peter imported through Indian Potash Limited (IPL) were drawn by the Central Fertilizer Quality Control and Training Institute (CFQC and TI), Faridabad during discharge operation of the vessel at Pipavav port which were found to be as per the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO) specifications.

(c) and (d) On the basis of complaint of urea being substandard and rejected by the Pakistan, an independent inspection team of the Government officials was deputed for further investigation. The team has observed that the pre arrival notification of security submitted by the Master of the vessel to the authorities at Pipavav port contains last 10 ports of call, and also shows that vessel was anchored at Gawader port in Pakistan from 22nd August 2009 to 16th September 2009. The case is still under examination in the Department.

(e) and (f) The vessel had completed discharge at Pipavav port and sailed out before the complaint was received. A team consisting of one officer each from Department of Fertilizers and CFQC and TI (Mumbai), Department of Agriculture and Cooperation was deputed to further investigate the matter. The team took samples from the urea discharged by MV Saint Peter and stored at Pipavav port. The analysis of second sample done in CFQC and TI, Mumbai also conformed to the FCO

specifications. However, the laboratory report indicates that the sample does not conform to the particle size specifications provided in the Contract. Against the contractual requirement of 90% (80% under FCO) the particle size retained on 1 mm IS sieve is reported 84.15%. The supplier is liable to pay penalty for deficiency in particle size as per the contractual provisions.

[Translation]

#### Legal Assistance to Senior Citizens

1180. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide legal assistance to senior citizens, the dependent family members of para military forces and the persons affected by terrorism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the latest status of the said proposal; and

(d) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. The proposal is to amend Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 so as to include Senior Citizens whose income is upto one lakh twenty thousand rupees per annum, dependent family members of Defence Forces personnel and personnel of such other Armed Force as the Central Government may specify by notification, who died in action and victims of terrorist/extremist violence and riots. Details of the proposal are being worked out.

#### Expenditure on Social Welfare by Oil PSUs

1181. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:  
SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

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



(a) whether undertakings and agencies under administrative control of the Ministry have used any funds under social commitments;

(b) if so, the funds spent during the last three years and the current year undertaking-wise;

(c) whether these funds were spent properly; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The funds spent on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities

during the last three years and the current year (upto September, 2009) by major oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) All the CSR activities are identified after following due procedure which involves local community as well.

(d) In order to make CSR projects are part of overall functioning of the oil PSUs, the Government has issued a directive to all oil PSUs that they would spend at least 2% of the net profit of the previous year on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities and the allocation so made will not be less than the allocation on CSR activities for the previous year.

#### Statement

*Expenditure on social welfare activities by major oil Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) during the last three years and the current year*

(Rupees in lakh)

Oil PSUs	Expenditure			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto September, 2009)
Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)	3253.00	6427.00	1931.00	1209.00
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)	825.14	665.58	679.74	414.39
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	612.00	736.00	1293.00	700.00
Gas Authority of India Limited (ONGC)	1131.64	1666.07	3073.69	1174.09
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)	3546.40	4318.30	5594.30	1236.30
Oil India Limited (OIL)	1713.02	1844.56	2233.30	1194.49
Engineers India Limited (EIL)	2.10	1.80	46.92	633.30
Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL)	309.06	349.84	406.41	233.83

[English]

**Computerised Railway Reservation Centre**

1182. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for opening of computerized Railway Reservation Centre;

(b) the details of the representations received from various sources for opening of computerized Railway Reservation Centres during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) the reaction of the Railways thereto; and

(d) the names of such stations which have been provided with Computerized Reservation Centre during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) As per existing policy, computerized reservation facilities are generally provided at locations where the assessed potential is about 100 transactions per day. At places where assessed potential is less than 100 transactions per day, this facility is provided along with the Unreserved Ticketing System. Computer Reservation System is also provided at selected post offices.

(b) 852 representations were received during the last three years for opening computerized reservation centres.

Year	Request Received
2006-07	54
2007-08	259
2008-09	213
2009-10	326

(c) Sanction has been given for opening of computerized reservation office at 485 locations.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

**Statement**

Year	Commissioned
2006-07	93
2007-08	273
2008-09	210
2009-10	49

(State-wise list is not being maintained.)

*List of Passenger Reservation System (PRS)  
Commissioned during 01/04/2006 and 22/11/2009*

Sl. No.	Location	Railway	Date of Commission
1	2	3	4
1.	Barajamda	SER	6/4/2006
2.	Seraikela	SER	13/4/2006
3.	Rajpipla	WR	15/4/2006
4.	Mandi Govindgarh	NR	19/4/2006
5.	Dornakal	SCR	24/4/2006
6.	Annavaram	SCR	26/4/2006
7.	Vikarabad	SCR	28/4/2006
8.	Bandikui	NWR	1/5/2006
9.	Latehar	ECR	2/5/2006
10.	Gooty	SCR	4/5/2006
11.	Dhone	SCR	4/5/2006

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
12.	Howbagh	SECR	7/5/2006	36.	Ghanapur	SCR	30/11/2006
13.	Shaktinagar	ECR	8/5/2006	37.	Karnataka Legislators Home	SWR	15/12/2006
14.	Kuvempunagar	SWR	18/5/2006	38.	Garhwa Road	ECR	18/12/2006
15.	Mallroad Shimla	NR	8/6/2006	39.	Anaparthi	SCR	21/12/2006
16.	Banaras Hindu University	NR	13/6/2006	40.	Dwarapudi	SCR	21/12/2006
17.	Jogbani	NFR	30/7/2006	41.	Elamanchili	SCR	21/12/2006
18.	Tawang	NFR	4/8/2006	42.	Pithapuram	SCR	21/12/2006
19.	Karaikal	SR	6/8/2006	43.	Singarayakonda	SCR	22/12/2006
20.	Bharwari	NCR	15/8/2006	44.	Tadipatri	SCR	24/12/2006
21.	Binnaguri (DEF)	NFR	26/8/2006	45.	Koduru	SCR	25/12/2006
22.	Lingampalli	SCR	30/8/2006	46.	Nadikude	SCR	27/12/2006
23.	Mahaboobabad	SCR	31/8/2006	47.	Piduguralla	SCR	27/12/2006
24.	Rajampet	SCR	15/9/2006	48.	Giddalur	SCR	28/12/2006
25.	Mohali Railway Station	NR	27/9/2006	49.	Markapur Road	SCR	28/12/2006
26.	Keonjhar	ECOR	1/10/2006	50.	Baraut	NR	28/12/2006
27.	Kulithurai	SR	13/10/2006	51.	Markapur Road	SCR	28/12/2006
28.	Tehri Garhwal	NR	2/11/2006	52.	Mudkhed	SCR	30/12/2006
29.	Lahaul Spiti Keylong	NR	3/11/2006	53.	Mantralayam Road	SCR	31/12/2006
30.	Hazaribagh Road	ECR	4/11/2006	54.	Sattenpalli	SCR	8/1/2007
31.	Reasi (DEF)	NR	6/11/2006	55.	Morappur	SR	10/1/2007
32.	Mahuva	WR	8/11/2006	56.	Hari Nagar	ECR	12/1/2007
33.	Bellampalli	SCR	15/11/2006	57.	Bagha	ECR	12/1/2007
34.	Uttarkashi	NR	24/11/2006	58.	Nagarsol	SCR	17/1/2007
35.	Anjer	WR	26/11/2006	59.	Chittaranjan	ER	18/1/2007

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
60.	Gohana	NR	18/1/2007	84.	Mangam	NFR	15/3/2007
61.	Parvathipuram	ECOR	19/1/2007	85.	Singtam	NFR	15/3/2007
62.	Boudh	ECOR	21/1/2007	86.	Naliya	WR	17/3/2007
63.	IIT/Delhi	NR	1/2/2007	87.	Thanabihpur	ECR	20/3/2007
64.	Mandi Dabwali	NWR	8/2/2007	88.	Nabarangapur	ECOR	23/3/2007
65.	Tamkhui Road	NER	10/2/2007	89.	Nagrota	NR	26/3/2007
66.	Collectorate Compound Chhapra	NER	10/2/2007	90.	Machilipatnam	SCR	26/3/2007
67.	Multai	CR	10/2/2007	91.	Kulti	ER	28/3/2007
68.	Kanker	SECR	12/2/2007	92.	Guskara	ER	28/3/2007
69.	Basni	NWR	13/2/2007	93.	Puthur	SR	31/3/2007
70.	Parasia	CR	14/2/2007	94.	Cris Office/DSJ Station	NR	1/4/2007
71.	Getore Jagatpura	NWR	16/2/2007	95.	Vijayanagar	WR	19/4/2007
72.	Titwala	CR	17/2/2007	96.	Nepanagar	CR	27/4/2007
73.	Jangipur	ER	18/2/2007	97.	Khamangaon	CR	28/4/2007
74.	Dhuliyān Ganga	ER	18/2/2007	98.	Jangaon	SCR	28/4/2007
75.	Ceeri/Pilani	NWR	20/2/2007	99.	Khagraghat	ER	5/5/2007
76.	Narkhed	CR	20/2/2007	100.	Wankaner	WR	12/5/2007
77.	Kaptainganj	NER	20/2/2007	101.	Phaphund	NCR	14/5/2007
78.	Lalgola	ER	26/2/2007	102.	Indian Railway Institute of Transport Management	NR	19/5/2007
79.	Attari Railway Station	NR	26/2/2007	103.	Debagarh	ECOR	22/5/2007
80.	Roing	NFR	28/2/2007	104.	Nayagarh	ECOR	25/5/2007
81.	Adilabad	SCR	8/3/2007	105.	Phulbani	ECOR	29/5/2007
82.	Dholi	ECR	15/3/2007	106.	Tiruvanmiyur Railway STN	SR	7/7/2007
83.	Gyalshing	NFR	15/3/2007	107.	Bhilai Power House	SECR	17/17/2007

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
108.	INS Angre	WR	20/7/2007	133.	Basar	SCR	28/7/2007
109.	Pakala	SCR	23/7/2007	134.	Tilda	SECR	2/8/2007
110.	Shankarpalli	SCR	23/7/2007	135.	Ramanathapuram	SR	12/8/2007
111.	Aler	SCR	24/7/2007	136.	Nandura	CR	14/8/2007
112.	Bhongir	SCR	24/7/2007	137.	Pachora	CR	15/8/2007
113.	Jammikunta	SCR	24/7/2007	138.	Tandur	SCR	30/8/2007
114.	Chittapur	SCR	24/7/2007	139.	Sirpur Kagaznagar	SCR	30/8/2007
115.	Peddapalli	SCR	24/7/2007	140.	Seram	SCR	30/8/2007
116.	Kesamudram	SCR	25/7/2007	141.	Akividu	SCR	31/8/2007
117.	Vejendla	SCR	25/7/2007	142.	Kovvur	SCR	31/8/2007
118.	Madhira	SCR	25/7/2007	143.	Sakri	ECR	31/8/2007
119.	Udgir	SCR	25/7/2007	144.	Indi Road	SWR	31/8/2007
120.	Latur Road	SCR	25/7/2007	145.	Mansi	ECR	31/8/2007
121.	Jadcherla	SCR	26/7/2007	146.	Thanabihpur	ECR	31/8/2007
122.	Cumbum	SCR	26/7/2007	147.	Tura	NFR	31/8/2007
123.	Gadwal	SCR	26/7/2007	148.	Washim	SCR	3/9/2007
124.	Vinukonda	SCR	26/7/2007	149.	Srikalahasti	SCR	14/9/2007
125.	Purna	SCR	27/7/2007	150.	Vyara	WR	19/9/2007
126.	Partur	SCR	27/7/2007	151.	Ahwa	WR	20/9/2007
127.	Nidubrolu	SCR	27/7/2007	152.	Amgaon	SECR	21/9/2007
128.	Selu	SCR	27/7/2007	153.	Tirora	SECR	21/9/2007
129.	Dharmabad	SCR	28/7/2007	154.	Jayanagar	ECR	24/9/2007
130.	Kamareddi	SCR	28/7/2007	155.	Jajpur Town	ECOR	27/9/2007
131.	Shadnagar	SCR	28/7/2007	156.	Majhulia	ECR	4/10/2007
132.	Umri	SCR	28/7/2007	157.	Malad (Mumbai)	WR	6/10/2007

1	2	3	4
158.	Dahisar, Mumbai (PO)	WR	6/10/2007
159.	Jhajjar	NR	7/10/2007
160.	Gadarwara	WCR	8/10/2007
161.	Bhimavaram Jn	SCR	9/10/2007
162.	Along (DEF)	NFR	10/10/2007
163.	Jamai Osmania	SCR	15/10/2007
164.	Arts College	SCR	15/10/2007
165.	Vidyanagar	SCR	15/10/2007
166.	Chandanagar	SCR	15/10/2007
167.	High Tech City	SCR	15/10/2007
168.	James Street	SCR	15/10/2007
169.	Khairatabad	SCR	15/10/2007
170.	Lakdikapool	SCR	15/10/2007
171.	Nature Cure Hospital	SCR	15/10/2007
172.	Necklace Road	SCR	15/10/2007
173.	Sanjeevalah Park	SCR	15/10/2007
174.	Sitaphal Mandi	SCR	15/10/2007
175.	Dharmund (DEF)	NR	15/10/2007
176.	Greater Noida	NR	16/10/2007
177.	Suratgarh Cantt	NWR	22/10/2007
178.	Ambaji	NWR	24/10/2007
179.	Lemakhong (Manipur)	NFR	27/10/2007
180.	BEG Centre/Roorkee	NR	31/10/2007
181.	Bijapur City (Ibrahimpur Halt)	SWR	31/10/2007

1	2	3	4
182.	Amalner	WR	2/11/2007
183.	Kavinagar/Ghaziabad (PO)	NR	7/11/2007
184.	Bibinagar	SCR	15/11/2007
185.	Narsaraopet	SCR	15/11/2007
186.	Nekkonda	SCR	16/11/2007
187.	Miryalaguda	SCR	16/11/2007
188.	Garla	SCR	16/11/2007
189.	Venkatagiri	SCR	17/11/2007
190.	Ravindrakhani	SCR	17/11/2007
191.	Hingoli Deccan	SCR	17/11/2007
192.	Madhuranagar	SCR	17/11/2007
193.	Soro	SER	1/12/2007
194.	Contai Road	SER	2/12/2007
195.	Chakulia	SER	7/12/2007
196.	Dalsinghsarai	ECR	15/12/2007
197.	Laksar	NR	27/12/2007
198.	Giddarbaha	NR	27/12/2007
199.	Garhmukteshwar	NR	27/12/2007
200.	Gangapur	CR	28/12/2007
201.	Dudhani	CR	28/12/2007
202.	Achalpur	CR	28/12/2007
203.	Saraimir	NER	1/1/2008
204.	Junnardeo	CR	4/1/2008
205.	Raiwala (Defence)	NR	6/1/2008

1	2	3	4
206.	Shahpur Patoree	ECR	9/1/2008
207.	Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon	NR	10/1/2008
208.	Gorakhnath (PO)	NER	10/1/2008
209.	Rajkharsawan	SER	10/1/2008
210.	Simri Bakhtiarpur	ECR	11/1/2008
211.	Bareilly Cantt	NR	16/1/2008
212.	Tiptur	SWR	16/1/2008
213.	Harihar	SWR	17/1/2008
214.	Ranibennur	SWR	17/1/2008
215.	Barbil	SER	20/1/2008
216.	Pushkar (PO)	NWR	21/1/2008
217.	Greater Noida Alpha (PO)	NR	24/1/2008
218.	Kharsia	SECR	26/1/2008
219.	Panchkula	NR	29/1/2008
220.	Deoghar	ER	31/1/2008
221.	Chandrakona Road	SER	31/1/2008
222.	Mangaldoi	NFR	1/2/2008
223.	Indirapuram/Shipra Sun City (PO)	NR	4/2/2008
224.	Lucknow Cantt (DEF)	NR	7/2/2008
225.	CAR Nicobar	ER	7/2/2008
226.	Chikmagalur	SWR	11/2/2008
227.	Jowai	NFR	11/2/2008
228.	Nagaon	NFR	11/2/2008

1	2	3	4
229.	Morigaon	NFR	11/2/2008
230.	Bhandak	CR	11/2/2008
231.	Jeur	CR	13/2/2008
232.	Kazipet Town	SCR	14/2/2008
233.	Raver	CR	18/2/2008
234.	Kharga Military Complex	NR	19/2/2008
235.	Chandimandir (Defence)	NR	20/2/2008
236.	Navanagar (PO)	SWR	20/2/2008
237.	Doda	NR	20/2/2008
238.	Sanjan	WR	21/2/2008
239.	Mankapur	NER	21/2/2008
240.	Poonch	NR	21/2/2008
241.	Bhilad	WR	22/2/2008
242.	Karepalli	SCR	25/2/2008
243.	Challekere Rly. Stn.	SWR	27/2/2008
244.	Chitradurga	SWR	27/2/2008
245.	Kaptainganj	NER	28/2/2008
246.	Shridham	WCR	28/2/2008
247.	Uslapur	SECR	29/2/2008
248.	Bharatnagar	SCR	29/2/2008
249.	Fatehnagar Bridge	SCR	29/2/2008
250.	Hafeezpet	SCR	29/2/2008
251.	Bangalore East	SWR	29/2/2008
252.	Borabanda	SCR	29/2/2008

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
253.	Falaknuma	SCR	29/2/2008	276.	Kondapuram	SCR	18/3/2008
254.	Bharatpur	WCR	5/3/2008	277.	Rayanapadu	SCR	18/3/2008
255.	Sakti	SECR	6/3/2008	278.	Pedana	SCR	18/3/2008
256.	Marwar Jn.	NWR	7/3/2008	279.	Kondapalli Rly. Stn.	SCR	18/3/2008
257.	Sirohi Road	NWR	7/3/2008	280.	Reengus	NWR	18/3/2008
258.	Sojat Road	NWR	7/3/2008	281.	Charkhi Dadri	NWR	18/3/2008
259.	Udvada	WR	7/3/2008	282.	Akaltara	SECR	19/3/2008
260.	Rambagh (Srinagar)	NR	7/3/2008	283.	Ratangarh	NWR	19/3/2008
261.	Kuppam	SWR	8/3/2008	284.	Chilkalapudi	SCR	19/3/2008
262.	Kengeri	SWR	8/3/2008	285.	Bhagat Ki Kothi	NWR	19/3/2008
263.	Hindupur	SWR	10/3/2008	286.	Kinwat	SCR	19/3/2008
264.	Sri Satyasai Prashanthi Nilayam (SSPN)	SWR	10/3/2008	287.	Singareni Collieries	SCR	19/3/2008
265.	Kolar	SWR	11/3/2008	288.	Merta Road	NWR	20/3/2008
266.	Phulera	NWR	11/3/2008	289.	Bikkavolu	SCR	20/3/2008
267.	Taregana	ECR	11/3/2008	290.	Bhokar	SCR	20/3/2008
268.	Dharmapuri	SWR	12/3/2008	291.	Nalwar	SCR	20/3/2008
269.	Whitefield (Bangalore)	SWR	13/3/2008	292.	Pennada Agraharam	SCR	20/3/2008
270.	Getore Jagatpura	NWR	13/3/2008	293.	Zahirabad	SCR	21/3/2008
271.	Sadulpur	NWR	14/3/2008	294.	Vemuru	SCR	22/3/2008
272.	Churu	NWR	15/3/2008	295.	Pallikona	SCR	22/3/2008
273.	Mandi Dabwali	NWR	17/3/2008	296.	Attili	SCR	22/3/2008
274.	Akot	SCR	17/3/2008	297.	Rotegaon	SCR	23/3/2008
275.	Kaikaluru	SCR	18/3/2008	298.	Majuli	NFR	23/3/2008



1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
299.	Viravasaram	SCR	23/3/2008	323.	Malleswaram	SWR	27/3/2008
300.	Undi	SCR	23/3/2008	324.	Duggirala	SCR	28/3/2008
301.	Gollaprolu	SCR	24/3/2008	325.	Mangalagiri	SCR	28/3/2008
302.	Chinnaravuru	SCR	24/3/2008	326.	Tsunduru	SCR	28/3/2008
303.	Pullampet	SCR	24/3/2008	327.	Betamcherla	SCR	28/3/2008
304.	Gudlavalleru	SCR	24/3/2008	328.	Peddavatlapudi	SCR	28/3/2008
305.	Mandavalli	SCR	24/3/2008	329.	Ramannapet	SCR	28/3/2008
306.	Lasur	SCR	24/3/2008	330.	Nandalur	SCR	28/3/2008
307.	Khairthal	NWR	24/3/2008	331.	Bitragunta	SCR	28/3/2008
308.	Lunglei	NFR	24/3/2008	332.	Bomdila	NFR	28/3/2008
309.	DLF Gurgaon	NR	25/3/2008	333.	Ved Vigyan Mahavidyapeet (Kanakpura Road)	SWR	28/3/2008
310.	Lalgarh	NWR	25/3/2008	334.	Muddanuru	SCR	28/3/2008
311.	Vendodu	SCR	25/3/2008	335.	Stuartpuram	SCR	29/3/2008
312.	Phirangipuram	SCR	25/3/2008	336.	Ulavapadu	SCR	29/3/2008
313.	Gangakher	SCR	25/3/2008	337.	Kampu Ki Kothi	NCR	29/3/2008
314.	Chityal	SCR	25/3/2008	338.	Macherla	SCR	29/3/2008
315.	Obulavaripalli	SCR	25/3/2008	339.	Warora	CR	30/3/2008
316.	Manvath Road	SCR	26/3/2008	340.	Narayanpet Road	SCR	30/3/2008
317.	Rangapuram	SCR	26/3/2008	341.	Kottavalasa	ECOR	30/3/2008
318.	Degana	NWR	26/3/2008	342.	Siripuram	SCR	30/3/2008
319.	Peddakurapadu	SCR	26/3/2008	343.	Narsipatnam Road	SCR	30/3/2008
320.	Koppal	SWR	27/3/2008	344.	Rakhamines	SER	30/3/2008
321.	Vishnupuram	SCR	27/3/2008	345.	Chagallu	SCR	30/3/2008
322.	Appikatta	SCR	27/3/2008				

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
346.	Krishna	SCR	30/3/2008	370.	Jodhpur Cantt.	NWR	3/4/2008
347.	Chinnaganjam	SCR	30/3/2008	371.	Kumardubi	ER	4/4/2008
348.	Bhalki	SCR	30/3/2008	372.	Monoharpur	SER	7/4/2008
349.	Ghatkesar	SCR	30/3/2008	373.	Ramganj Mandi	WCR	9/4/2008
350.	Kamalnagar	SCR	31/3/2008	374.	Mandibamora	WCR	9/4/2008
351.	Vetapalem	SCR	31/3/2008	375.	Navapur	WR	13/4/2008
352.	Gannavaram	SCR	31/3/2008	376.	Jhalda	SER	21/4/2008
353.	Chebrolu	SCR	31/3/2008	377.	Nim Ka Thana	NWR	22/4/2008
354.	Donakonda	SCR	31/3/2008	378.	Lohardaga	SER	22/4/2008
355.	Nawabpalem	SCR	31/3/2008	379.	Garbeta	SER	24/4/2008
356.	Ammanabrolu	SCR	31/3/2008	380.	Joychandipahar	SER	24/4/2008
357.	Telaprolu	SCR	31/3/2008	381.	Rana Pratapnagar	NWR	2/5/2008
358.	Tanguturu	SCR	31/3/2008	382.	Sihora Road	WCR	3/5/2008
359.	Bhimadolu	SCR	31/3/2008	383.	Vikramgarh A Lot	WCR	5/5/2008
360.	Parvatipuram Road	ECOR	31/3/2008	384.	Kuchaman City	NWR	12/5/2008
361.	Rayalacheruvu	SCR	31/3/2008	385.	Girimaidan	SER	16/5/2008
362.	Kirichedu	SCR	31/3/2008	386.	Dungarpur	NWR	21/5/2008
363.	Nuzvid	SCR	31/3/2008	387.	Shri Ganapathi Sachidanandaswamy Ashram	SWR	26/5/2008
364.	Kalluru	SCR	31/3/2008	388.	Sundergarh	SER	30/5/2008
365.	Rajnagar	ECR	31/3/2008	389.	Katol	CR	30/5/2008
366.	Kamalapuram	SCR	31/3/2008	390.	Una (Gujarat)	WR	30/5/2008
367.	Pulla	SCR	1/4/2008	391.	Tori	ECR	12/6/2008
368.	Nawandgi	SCR	1/4/2008				
369.	Malkhaid Road	SCR	1/4/2008				

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
392.	Balichak	SER	14/6/2008	415.	Bhaga	SER	27/8/2008
393.	Majri Jn.	CR	27/6/2008	416.	Mango	SER	29/8/2008
394.	Chandur	CR	28/6/2008	417.	Dhrangadhara	WR	29/8/2008
395.	Raghopur	ECR	2/7/2008	418.	Khurja	NCR	2/9/2008
396.	Oras	CR	3/7/2008	419.	Vaniyambadi	SR	4/9/2008
397.	Wani	CR	4/7/2008	420.	Madras High Court	SR	8/9/2008
398.	Munirabad	SWR	4/7/2008	421.	CMBT, Koyembedu	SR	8/9/2008
399.	Ramgarh Cantt.	SER	5/7/2008	422.	Hilsa	ECR	11/9/2008
400.	Barabhum	SER	14/7/2008	423.	Harnaut	ECR	11/9/2008
401.	Kosli	NWR	14/7/2008	424.	Sriperambadur (PO)	SR	12/9/2008
402.	Kareli	WCR	18/7/2008	425.	Karanja	CR	15/9/2008
403.	Supaul	ECR	21/7/2008	426.	Kodaikanal Road	SR	15/9/2008
404.	Uruli	CR	21/7/2008	427.	Niphad	CR	18/9/2008
405.	Bhattiprolu	SCR	25/7/2008	428.	Lasalgaon	CR	18/9/2008
406.	KIIT University (Kalinga Institute of Industrial	ECOR	25/7/2008	429.	Mahendergarh	NWR	19/9/2008
407.	Ghorasahan	ECR	30/7/2008	430.	Kajra	ER	20/9/2008
408.	Churachandpur	NFR	31/7/2008	431.	Jamner	CR	23/9/2008
409.	Japala	ECR	31/7/2008	432.	Malkangiri	ECOR	24/9/2008
410.	Sardarshahar	NWR	5/8/2008	433.	Ramnagar	NER	24/9/2008
411.	Hindaun City	WCR	5/8/2008	434.	Baheri	NER	25/9/2008
412.	Khajoli	ECR	6/8/2008	435.	Bachravan	NR	26/9/2008
413.	Botad	WR	6/8/2008	436.	Gola Gokaran Nath	NER	27/9/2008
414.	Badalpur	CR	11/8/2008	437.	Palachuri	CR	29/9/2008

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
438.	Iklehra	CR	29/9/2008	462.	Ranchi Highcourt	SER	24/10/2008
439.	Barsi Town	CR	30/9/2008	463.	Bareilly City	NER	24/10/2008
440.	Bordhai	CR	30/9/2008	464.	Tulsipur	NER	25/10/2008
441.	Amlai	SECR	1/10/2008	465.	Mailani	NER	26/10/2008
442.	Pen	CR	2/10/2008	466.	Ujhani	NER	26/10/2008
443.	Shohratgarh	NER	3/10/2008	467.	Arvi	CR	30/10/2008
444.	Mandrak	NCR	5/10/2008	468.	Barhni	NER	30/10/2008
445.	Valivade	CR	8/10/2008	469.	Ramanagaram	SWR	31/10/2008
446.	Nanjangud Town	SWR	8/10/2008	470.	Ganj Dundwara	NER	31/10/2008
447.	Sirkazhi	SR	10/10/2008	471.	Khatima	NER	1/11/2008
448.	Hatikangale	CR	11/10/2008	472.	Tahsil Fatehpur	NER	2/11/2008
449.	Somnath Temple Complex	WR	16/10/2008	473.	Colonelganj	NER	3/11/2008
450.	Bhatpar Rani	NER	18/10/2008	474.	Nasirabad	NWR	7/11/2008
451.	Rasra	NER	18/10/2008	475.	Basmat	SCR	10/11/2008
452.	Duraundha	NER	20/10/2008	476.	Payagpur	NER	14/11/2008
453.	Bhatni	NER	20/10/2008	477.	Hathras City	NER	15/11/2008
454.	Hirdagarh	CR	20/10/2008	478.	Nanpara Jn.	NER	17/11/2008
455.	Dakor	WR	21/10/2008	479.	Risia	NER	17/11/2008
456.	Siswa Bazar	NER	22/10/2008	480.	Babhnan	NER	18/11/2008
457.	Puranpur	NER	22/10/2008	481.	Bijainagar	WR	18/11/2008
458.	Bhojipura	NER	23/10/2008	482.	Chikjajur	SWR	18/11/2008
459.	Hathua	NER	23/10/2008	483.	Mancheswar	ECOR	18/11/2008
460.	Khardaha	ER	23/10/2008	484.	Shohratgarh	NER	20/11/2008
461.	Khadda	NER	24/10/2008	485.	Khusropur	ECR	20/11/2008

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
486.	Biswan	NER	20/11/2008	509.	Mohamadabad	NER	28/12/2008
487.	Khadda	NER	21/11/2008	510.	Bhawani Mandi	WCR	29/12/2008
488.	Ekma	NER	21/11/2008	511.	Kanhagaon	CR	30/12/2008
489.	Mairwa	NER	21/11/2008	512.	Gevra Road	SECR	8/1/2009
490.	Refiganj W.	ECR	27/11/2008	513.	Saltlake (Calcutta)	ER	8/1/2009
491.	Lanka	NFR	28/11/2008	514.	Murtijapur	CR	9/1/2009
492.	Khanapur	SWR	29/11/2008	515.	Sakoti Tanda	NR	10/1/2009
493.	Gokak Road	SWR	29/11/2008	516.	Castle Rock	SWR	10/1/2009
494.	Pachchapur	SWR	30/11/2008	517.	Karhagola Road	ECR	13/1/2009
495.	Seohara	NR	2/12/2008	518.	Jaora	WR	15/1/2009
496.	Gajraula Jn.	NR	2/12/2008	519.	Shujalpur	WR	16/1/2009
497.	Rayadurg	SWR	2/12/2008	520.	Mayakonda	SWR	21/1/2009
498.	Jaunpur City	NR	3/12/2008	521.	Kamtaul	ECR	23/1/2009
499.	Taloja Panchand	CR	5/12/2008	522.	Byadgi	SWR	24/1/2009
500.	Rupsa	SER	11/12/2008	523.	Kundgol	SWR	24/1/2009
501.	Basta	SER	11/12/2008	524.	Gondal	WR	26/1/2009
502.	Sanvordem Curchorem	SWR	12/12/2008	525.	Chikballapur	SWR	26/1/2009
503.	Rampura Phul	NR	15/12/2008	526.	Bhanapur	SWR	27/1/2009
504.	Puntamba	CR	17/12/2008	527.	Nalhati	ER	29/1/2009
505.	Yeola	CR	17/12/2008	528.	Murarai	ER	29/1/2009
506.	Padegaon	CR	18/12/2008	529.	Rajrappa (P.O.)	SER	29/1/2009
507.	Rahuri	CR	19/12/2008	530.	Dodballapur	SWR	29/1/2009
508.	Nidamanuru	SCR	24/12/2008	531.	Virpur	WR	29/1/2009

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
532.	Khurdirambose Pusa Road	ECR	30/1/2009	554.	Mahemadabad	WR	3/3/2009
533.	Karpoorigram	ECR	31/1/2009	555.	Miyagam Karjan	WR	4/3/2009
534.	Aam Aadmi P.O., Sompeta	ECOR	31/1/2009	556.	Kim	WR	4/3/2009
535.	Yalvigi	SWR	31/1/2009	557.	Simdega (P.O.)	SER	4/3/2009
536.	Penukonda	SWR	31/1/2009	558.	Bitm (P.O.)	SER	4/3/2009
537.	Raybag	SWR	31/1/2009	559.	Viramgam	WR	14/3/2009
538.	Gudgeri	SWR	6/2/2009	560.	Patan	WR	14/3/2009
539.	Mettur Dam Rly. Stn.	SR	11/2/2009	561.	Bardoli	WR	18/3/2009
540.	Malot	NR	12/2/2009	562.	Nirakarpur	ECOR	19/3/2009
541.	Daroji	SWR	13/2/2009	563.	Chatrapur	ECOR	20/3/2009
542.	Kudachi	SWR	14/2/2009	564.	Sakleshwar	SWR	23/3/2009
543.	Baikuntpur Road	SECR	15/2/2009	565.	Subramanya Road	SWR	26/3/2009
544.	Nurpur Road Station	NR	15/2/2009	566.	Srinivasapura	SWR	26/3/2009
545.	Chanda Fort	SECR	16/2/2009	567.	Palej	WR	27/3/2009
546.	Oorgaum	SWR	17/2/2009	568.	Amalsad	WR	28/3/2009
547.	Champion	SWR	18/2/2009	569.	Naila	SECR	28/3/2009
548.	Katras	ECR	23/2/2009	570.	Samkhiyali	WR	30/3/2009
549.	Krishnarajapuram	SWR	28/2/2009	571.	Sanchi	WCR	30/3/2009
550.	MEG Centre Bangalore	SWR	28/2/2009	572.	Nileshwar	SR	30/3/2009
551.	Than	WR	1/3/2009	573.	Obedullaganj	WCR	30/3/2009
552.	Khambhaliya	WR	3/3/2009	574.	Dhrangadhra	WR	30/3/2009
553.	Malur	SWR	3/3/2009	575.	Banapura	WCR	31/3/2009
				576.	Unjha	WR	31/3/2009
				577.	Gandhinagar Capital	WR	1/4/2009

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
578.	Chhanera	WCR	2/4/2009	600.	Ambawadi Vistar P.O.	WR	30/6/2009
579.	Sidpur	WR	2/4/2009	601.	Balod	SECR	9/7/2009
580.	Pokhrayan	NCR	3/4/2009	602.	Nagbhir	SECR	12/7/2009
581.	Khunti (P.O.)	SER	4/4/2009	603.	Mulmarora	SECR	12/7/2009
582.	Gondal (P.O.)	WR	4/5/2009	604.	Belha	SECR	13/7/2009
583.	Bijuri	SECR	12/5/2009	605.	Ramtek	SECR	13/7/2009
584.	Patchur	SWR	13/5/2009	606.	Kargiroad	SECR	13/7/2009
585.	Belpahar	SECR	18/5/2009	607.	Timarni	WCR	15/7/2009
586.	Gangavathi	SWR	22/5/2009	608.	Khirkiya	WCR	15/7/2009
587.	Sirsi Twon (Head P.O.)	SWR	26/5/2009	609.	Shivani	SWR	16/7/2009
588.	Yellapur	SWR	26/5/2009	610.	Baraduar	SECR	18/7/2009
589.	Dandeli	SWR	27/5/2009	611.	Kote (Shimoga)	SWR	20/7/2009
590.	Ranchi (GPO) Upper	SER	30/5/2009	612.	Kollur (P.O.)	SWR	20/7/2009
591.	Gujarat Legislative Assembly	WR	3/6/2009	613.	Gundardehi	SECR	22/7/2009
592.	Gauribidanur	SWR	4/6/2009	614.	Khodri	SECR	22/7/2009
593.	Bankhed	WCR	5/6/2009	615.	Rajim	SECR	23/7/2009
594.	Darul Uloom Deoband	NR	6/6/2009	616.	Hathbandh	SECR	29/7/2009
595.	Ugarkhurd	SWR	19/6/2009	617.	Sringeri (P.O.)	SWR	29/7/2009
596.	Mhow Mil Station	WR	19/6/2009	618.	Ruthiyai	WCR	31/7/2009
597.	Alirajpur	WR	21/6/2009	619.	Madha	CR	11/8/2009
598.	Sanand P.O.	WR	26/6/2009	620.	Mahol	CR	19/8/2009
599.	Tanda Urmar	NR	28/6/2009	621.	Ram devra	NWR	23/8/2009
				622.	Luni	NWR	2/9/2009

1	2	3	4
623.	Gauri Bazar	NER	8/9/2009
624.	Dipatoli Cantt.	SER	11/9/2009
625.	Metiabruz Area	SER	20/9/2009

**Abbreviations Used:**

1. ER : Eastern Railway
2. ECR : East Central Railway
3. ECOR : East Coast Railway
4. CR : Central Railway
5. NR : Northern Railway
6. NWR : North Western Railway
7. NER : North Eastern Railway
8. NCR : North Central Railway
9. NFR : Northeast Frontier Railway
10. SR : South Railway
11. SWR : South Western Railway
12. SER : South Eastern Railway
13. SECR : South East Central Railway
14. SCR : South Central Railway
15. WCR : West Central Railway
16. WR : Western Railway
17. P.O. : Post Office
18. STN. : Station
19. DEF : Defence

**Taxes on Jet Fuel**

1183. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL  
KHATGAONKAR:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether members of Federation of Indian Airlines have expressed their concern over the issue of high taxes on Jet Fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on this request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) has expressed their concern over the issue of high taxes on Jet Fuel and requested to notify Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) as a "Declared Good".

(c) The Government has taken various steps as under:

- (1) Custom duty on import of ATF has been abolished.
- (2) The State Governments have been persuaded to reduce the sales tax on ATF. Government of Andhra Pradesh and, in certain cases, Government of Rajasthan have reduced the sales tax on ATF to 4%. Government of Maharashtra has also reduced sales tax on ATF from 25% to 4% for flights originating from airports other than Pune and Mumbai.
- (3) The Oil companies have started announcing the ATF prices on a fortnightly basis rather than monthly basis.

**Diversification Plans of ONGC**

1184. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:



(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) plans to diversify its operations in the field of nuclear energy generation, in addition to gas based power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ONGC has firmed up any collaboration in this respect to make use of the expertise available through such tie ups;

(d) if so, whether the Government has allowed entry of public sector players in the nuclear generation space which had been hitherto banned for outsiders; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) No, Madam. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) does not have plans for diversifying its operations in the field of nuclear energy generation.

(b) and (c) Does not arise, in view of reply against (a) above.

(d) and (e) Public Sector Companies can partner with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), a Government Company of the Department of Atomic Energy permitted to set up and operate nuclear power plants under the provisions of the Atomic Energy Act 1964. Discussions in this regard, at the company level have been initiated between NPCIL and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

#### Tax Exemption to FPI

1185. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether new food processing units for perishables items have 100 per cent tax exemptions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in spite of that the progress aimed at has not been achieved by this sector; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and main hurdles being faced by the Industry?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. 100 percent tax exemption for first five assessment years beginning with the initial assessment year is available under section 80-1B(11A) of Income Tax Act, 1961 to undertakings deriving profit from the business of processing, preserving and packaging of fruits or vegetables and new units in the business of processing, preservation and packaging of meat or meat products or poultry or marine or dairy products. Under sub-section (11A) of section 80-1B of the Income-tax Act, 1961 a deduction from profits upto specified amounts is allowed in the case of an undertaking deriving profit from the business of processing, preservation and packaging of fruits or vegetables or from the integrated business of handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains subject to specified conditions, if such undertaking begins to operate such business on or after the 1st day of April, 2001. With a view to preserving perishable food items like milk, poultry and meat, the Finance (No. 2) Act 2009 has amended sub-section (11A) of section 80-1B with effect from 1.4.2010 to also provide tax holiday in respect of the business of processing, preserving and packaging of meat and meat products and poultry, marine and dairy products for units which begin to operate such business on or after 1st April, 2009. The amount of deduction in a case of an undertaking deriving profit from the business of processing, preservation and packaging of fruits or vegetables or meat and meat products and poultry or marine or dairy products or from the integrated business of handling, storage and transportation of food grains, is hundred per cent of the profits and gains derived from such undertaking for five assessment years beginning with the initial assessment year and thereafter, twenty-five per cent (or thirty per cent where the

assessee is a company) of the profits and gains derived from the operation of such business in a manner that the total period of deduction does not exceed ten consecutive assessment years and subject to fulfillment of the condition that it begins to operate such business on or after the 1st day of April, 2001.

(c) and (d) There has been substantial increase in rate of growth of the food processing industry from 7% in 2003-04 to 13.14% in 2006-07 and the increase in total investment in food processing sector to 40,000 crores in 2006-07 which has contributed to reduction of wastages and better value addition. Main hurdles being faced by the industry are certain provisions in Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities, inadequate R&D etc. The loss due to wastages could be reduced by promoting the development of food processing industries, strengthening of post-harvest infrastructure and filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening HRD, Technology Development etc.

#### Navigation System at Airports

1186. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of airports in the country having digitalized Performance Based Navigation (PBN) systems;
- (b) the number of airports in the country having the Geo Augmented Global Satellite Navigation (GAGSN) technology; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to cover the remaining major airports by the advanced Navigation systems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Performance Based Navigation (PBN) arrival and departure procedures have been implemented at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Ahmedabad till date.

(b) and (c) Final Operational Phase (FOP) of GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation (GAGAN) is under implementation and is expected to be operationalized by June, 2013. This technology is not airport based but it is space based. Once the GAGAN system is operational, it will be available for use at all airports in the country.

#### Anti-adulterant in Kerosene

1187. SHRI C. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether anti-adulterant in kerosene has the threat of cancer;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) With effect from 01 Jan., 2009 no marker is used in kerosene. As a precautionary measure relating to possible health hazard and also from toxicological point of view with regard to usage of marker in kerosene a specific requirement is kept in the tenders which specifies that the Marker should be occupationally and toxicologically safe. Vendors must provide Material Safety Data Sheets. It has further been decided by the Oil Marketing Companies to get the expert opinion and toxicological study done on the technically qualified markers at the national institutes, namely Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC), Lucknow or National Institute for Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad.

#### Use of Jute Bags

1188. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:  
SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to dilute the reservation norms for compulsory use of jute bags by 25 per cent;

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

(c) whether the Government is aware of the impact of diluting reservation norms on the jute growers and industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal with the Government to dilute the reservation norms for compulsory use of jute bags by 25 per cent.

(c) and (d) The reservation for Jute Packaging Material for packaging of foodgrains under the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 leads to consumption of around 58% of the jute produced in the country. By bringing into effect the provision of JPM Act the Government provides relief to 37 lakh workers employed in Jute Mills and ancillary units as well as support the livelihood of around 40 lakh farm families Besides, it helps to protect the environment because jute is a natural, biodegradable and reusable fibre. The dilution, if any, is affected in the packaging norms only after consultation with all the stakeholders to avoid disruption of foodgrain procurement in the country.

[Translation]

#### Introduction of New Trains

1189. SHRI BALKRISHNA KHANDERAO SHUKLA:  
SHRI KHILADI LAL BAIRWA:  
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:  
SHRI M.B. RAJESH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new trains announced in Railway Budget 2009-10;

(b) whether these trains have been introduced as per announcement;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of new trains proposed to be introduced under Western Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Of the 78 pairs of new trains announced in Railway Budget 2009-10, for introduction, 22 pairs have been introduced as per details given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(d) The trains announced in the Railway Budget are likely to be introduced during the course of financial year.

(e) 9 pairs of new trains announced in the Railway Budget 2009-10 serve Western Railway. Of these 3 pairs have been introduced till date as per enclosed Statement-II.

#### Statement-I

##### A. Trains Introduced:

Sl. No.	Train No.	From	To	Nature	Frequency
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	4705/4706	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	Sadulpur	Express	Tri-weekly

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	8627/8628	Ranchi	Howrah	Intercity	6 days a week
3.	3187/3188	Sealdah	Rampurhat	Express	6 days a week
4.	2259/2260	Sealdah	New Delhi	Duronto	Bi-weekly
5.	2269/2270	Chennai	New Delhi	Duronto	Bi-weekly
6.	3421/3422	New Farakka	Azimganj	Nabadwip Dham Express	Daily
7.	2197/2198	Gwalior	Bhopal	Intercity Express	5 days a week
8.	6605/6606	Mangalore	Thiruvantapuram	Express	Bi-Weekly
9.	New train	Dharmanagar	Agartala	Fast Passenger	Daily
10.	2261/2262	Howrah	Mumbai	Duronto (AC)	Bi-weekly
11.	2263/2264	Nizamuddin	Pune	Duronto (AC)	Bi-weekly
12.	2377/2378	New Jalpaiguri	Sealdah	Superfast	Tri-weekly
13.	5721/5722	New Jalpaiguri	Digha	Express	Weekly
14.	1103/1104	Jhansi	Chhindwara	Express	Bi-weekly
15.	9655/9656	Ajmer	Bhopal	Express	Daily
16.	5765/5766	Alipurduar	New Jalpaiguri	Express Intercity	Daily
17.	5743/5744	Guwahati	New Cooch Behar- Alipurduar	Express Intercity	Daily
18.	9005/9006	Veraval	Mumbai	Link Service	Daily
19.	2169/2170	Pune	Solapur	Superfast	Daily
20.	2289/2290	Nagpur	Mumbai	Duronto	Tri-weekly
21.	9065/9066	Mumbai	Jodhpur	Express	Weekly
22.	2133/2134	Mumbai	Karwar	Superfast	Tri-weekly
<b>B. Trains not yet introduced</b>					
1.	2285/2286	Nizamuddin	Secunderabad	Duronto	Bi-weekly

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	2749/2750	Vishakhapatnam	Mumbai	Superfast	Bi-weekly
3.	5643/5644	Kamakhya	Puri	Express	Weekly
4.	5903/5904	Dibrugarh Town	Chandigarh	Express	Weekly
5.	2365/2366	Ranchi	Patna	Jan Shatabadi Express	Daily
6.		Jamalpur	Gaya	Passenger	Daily
7.		Jhajha	Patna	MEMU	Daily
8.	2283/2284	Ernakulam	Delhi (Nizamuddin)	Duronoto	Weekly
9.	4003/4004	Delhi	Farakka	Express	Bi-weekly
10.	2493/2494	Hazrat Nizamuddin	Bangalore	Rajdhani Express	Ti-weekly
11.	2235/2236	New Delhi	Guwahati	Rajdhani Express	Weekly
12.	2033/2034	Kanpur	New Delhi	Shatabdi Express	6 days a week
13.	0215/0216	Ernakulam	Madgaon	Express	Weekly
14.	2267/2268	Mumbai	Ahmedabad	Duronoto (AC)	Tri-weekly
15.	2937/2938	Gandhidham	Howrah	Superfast	Weekly
16.	2997/2998	Hapa	Tirunelveli Jn.	Superfast	Bi-weekly
17.		Rewari	Phulera	Passenger	Daily
18.	2265/2266	New Delhi	Jammu Tawi	Duronto	Tri-weekly
19.	6227/6228	Shimoga	Bangalore	Intercity Express	Daily
20.	7303/7304	Mysore	Yesvantpur	Express	Daily
21.	6535/6536	Bangalore	Solapur	Superfast	Tri-weekly
22.	6503/6504	Lucknow	Bangalore	Superfast	Weekly
23.	2777/2778	Bangalore	Kochuveli	Superfast	Weekly
24.		Shoranur	Nilambur Road	Passenger	Daily

1	2	3	4	5	6
25.	2167/2168	Mumbai	Varanasi	Superfast	Daily
26.	2247/2248	Mumbai	Delhi	Yuva train	Weekly
27.	2193/2194	Bhopal	Pratapgarh	Superfast	Weekly
28.	8207/8208	Durg	Jaipur	Express	Weekly
29.	1265/1266	Jabalpur	Ambikapur	Express	Tri-weekly
30.	2745/2746	Puri	Mumbai	Express	Weekly
31.	2743/2744	Puri	Surat	Express	Weekly
32.	8105/8106	Bhubaneswar	Rourkela	Express	Daily
33.	2281/2282	Bhubaneswar	Delhi	Duronto	Weekly
34.	8107/8108	Koraput	Rourkela	Express	Daily
35.	2495/2496	Kolkata	Bikaner	Express	Weekly
36.	2485/2486	Sriganga Nagar	Nanded	Superfast	Weekly
37.	2489/2490	Mumbai	Bikaner	Superfast	Bi-weekly
38.	2787/2788	Bilaspur	Tirunelveli Jn. (Thiruvananthapuram)	Superfast	Weekly
39.	2793/2794	Madurai	Chennai	Express	Bi-weekly
40.		Coimbatore	Shoranpur	Passenger	Daily
41.	2789/2790	Kanyakumari	Rameshwaram	Express	Tri-weekly
42.	2275/2276	New Delhi	Allahabad	Duronto	Tri-weekly
43.		Mathura	Kasganj	Passenger	Daily
44.	2237/2238	Varanaasi	Jammu Tawi	Superfast	Daily
45.	2271/2272	New Delhi	Lucknow	Duronto	Tri-weekly
46.	2179/2180	Agra	Lucknow Junction	Intercity	Daily
47.	2541/2542	Gorakhpur	Mumbai	Superfast	Daily
48.	2195/2196	Agra	Ajmer	Intercity Superfast	Daily

1	2	3	4	5	6
49.	2249/2250	Delhi	Kolkata	Yuva train	Weekly
50.	2273/2274	Howrah	Delhi	Duronto	Bi-weekly
51.	2277/2278	Kolkata	Amritsar	Duronto	Bi-weekly
52.	2847/2848	Howrah	Bangalore	Superfast	Weekly
53.	2523/2524	New Jalpaiguri	Delhi	Express	Bi-weekly
54.	2369/2370	Howrah	Haridwar	Superfast	5 days a week
55.	5763/5764	Balurghat	New Jalpaiguri	Express	Daily
56.	2865/2866	Purulia	Howrah	Express	Bi-weekly

**Statement-II**

**A. Train introduced:**

Sl. No.	Train No.	From	To	Type	Frequency
1.	9005A/9006A	Veraval	Mumbai	Link Service	Daily
2	9065/9066	Bandra (T)	Jodhpur	Express	Weekly
3.	9655/9656	Ajmer	Bhopal	By Integration of 9655/9656 Ratlam- Ajmer Express and 9303/9304 Ratlam- Bhopal Express	Daily

**B. Trains not yet introduced:**

1.	2937/2938	Gandhidham	Howrah	Superfast	Weekly
2.	2267/2268	Mumbai	Ahmedabad	AC non stop	Tri-weekly
3.	2997/2998	Hapa	Tirunelveli	Express	Bi-weekly
4.	2743/2744	Puri	Surat	Express	Weekly
5.	2247/2248	Bandra (T)	Nizamuddin	Yuva Express	Weekly
6.	2489/2490	Dadra	Bikaner	Superfast	Bi-weekly

### Growth of Petrochemicals Sector

1190. SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the growth rate of petrochemicals sector has been much less than the target fixed for the purpose;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government recently to check fluctuations in the prices of petrochemicals, overcome global recession and promote this industry; and
- (d) the extent to which these steps are being effective?

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

(a) The growth rate of the petrochemical sector is less than the target fixed.

(b) The details are as follows:—

Products	Projected Demand (as per 11th Plan) 2008-09 (KT)	Projected Growth rate (As per XI Plan)	Actual consumption (KT)	Actual growth rate
Synthetic Fibre	2977	10.5%	2213	3%
Polymers	6135	8%	5695	6.5%
Elastomers	438	10.2%	389	2.3%
Synthetic Detergent Intermediate	540	5.4%	510	5.8%

(c) and (d) Government does not control the prices of petrochemicals, as the petrochemical industry operates in a decontrolled environment. However, Government of

India, through a stimulus package to overcome the economic slowdown and to give a fillip to domestic demand, reduced the excise duty to 8%. Petrochemical products were also benefited by this initiative of Government. This has begun to show results by way of increasing trend in production.

### Stoppage for Indore-Jodhpur Train at Aalot

1191. SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal for providing a stoppage for Indore-Jodhpur train at Aalot station;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal to provide the stoppage of 2465/2466 Jodhpur-Indore Ranthambhore Express at Vikramgarh Alot station.

### Regulatory Authority for Price Fixation of Fertilizers

1192. SHRI RAMKISHUN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up any regulatory authority for price fixation, distribution and to check blackmarketing of chemicals fertilizers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No decision has been taken to constitute a regulatory authority in fertilizer industry for price fixation distribution and to check blackmarketing of chemical fertilizers.



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

[English]

**Powerloom Service Centres**

1193. SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:  
SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up powerloom service centres in the country;

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

(c) the details of the services rendered by these service centers during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Government has set up 44 Powerloom Service Centres throughout the country to improve the condition of the decentralized Powerloom Sector. State-wise details of all the powerloom services centres are as follows:

Sl. No.	State	No. of Powerloom Service Centres	Locations
1.	Maharashtra	6	Ichalkaranji, Madhavnagar Solapur, Bhiwandi (2), Maiegaon
2.	Tamil Nadu	8	Karur, Komorapalayam, Palladam, Salem, Rajapalayam, Somanur, Thiruchengode, Erode
3.	Gujarat	6	Ahmedabad, Dholka, Pandesara, Sanchin, Surat, Umargaon
4.	Karnataka	4	Bangalore, Doddaballapur, Gadag-Betagiri, Belgaum
5.	Andhra Pradesh	2	Hyderabad, Nagari
6.	Kerala	1	Kannur
7.	Uttar Pradesh	5	Gorakhpur, Kanpur, Maunath-Bhanjan, Meerut, Tanda
8.	Madhya Pradesh	3	Indore, Jabalpur, Burhanpur
9.	Rajasthan	2	Bhilwara, Kishangarh
10.	Punjab	2	Ludhiana, Amritsar
11.	Haryana	1	Panipat
12.	West Bengal	1	Ranaghat
13.	Orissa	1	Cuttuck
14.	Bihar	1	Bhagalpur
15.	Assam	1	Guwahati

(c) The state-wise details of the services rendered by these centres for the last three years, i.e.

year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Statement.

**Statement**

State	No. of persons trained			Design Development			Sample Tested/ Consultancy services			Seminars and other programmes/meetings			Powerloom Weavers covered under Group Insurance Scheme		
	2006- 07	2007- 08	2008- 09	2006- 07	2007- 08	2008- 09	2006- 07	2007- 08	2008- 09	2006- 07	2007- 08	2008- 09	2006- 07	2007- 08	2008- 09
Maharashtra	—	2743	3175	78	267	335	207	16442	16661	152	169	132	—	20369	15989
Tamil Nadu	—	878	1489	60	1366	1402	214	39529	31237	112	122	109	—	15313	23035
Gujarat	—	2153	2869	18	1510	1570	106	11011	10955	125	112	127	—	34673	20097
Karnataka	—	916	621	—	373	170	—	2739	1703	68	74	68	—	6836	19519
Andhra Pradesh	—	298	110	98	129	143	128	254	154	45	34	40	—	7464	9518
Kerala	—	47	109	60	85	92	28	142	153	10	11	19	—	673	1011
Uttar Pradesh	—	507	728	61	156	350	260	1626	1517	99	102	99	—	3136	3898
Madhya Pradesh	—	462	1061	60	135	237	162	3106	3042	70	48	106	—	5023	3200
Rajasthan	—	941	629	72	117	95	160	2994	3057	58	43	45	—	2623	2686
Punjab	—	204	1109	90	133	109	244	857	643	51	40	37	—	1275	1423
Haryana	—	57	34	—	1	—	—	2488	1514	4	14	28	—	1201	1300
West Bengal	—	174	364	66	75	87	89	197	283	39	36	29	—	712	935
Orissa	—	293	471	66	75	75	100	114	122	16	17	7	—	263	274
Bihar	—	276	234	46	72	74	50	202	195	34	22	19	—	1138	1527
Assam	—	79	89	—	—	—	—	92	77	7	16	27	—	38	51
<b>Total</b>	—	10028	13092	775	4494	4739	1748	81793	71313	890	860	892	—	100737	104463

### Incentive to Fertilizer Units

1194. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fertilizer units in each State especially in Orissa;

(b) whether any incentive is being given to these units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The details of major fertilizer units in each state are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) No, Madam. The fertilizer companies receive payment of subsidy on the quantities of fertilizers supplied in various states as per subsidy policy of Department of Fertilizers.

(c) Question does not arise.

### Statement

*State-wise and Sector-wise no. of major Fertilizers units operating in the country*

Sl. No.	Name of States	Name of the Units
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. Kakinada-I (Urea)
		Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. Kakinada-II (Urea)
		Coromandal Fertilizer Ltd. Kakinada (DAP, Complexes)
		Coromandal Fertilizer Ltd. Vizag (Complexes)

1	2	3
2.	Assam	Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. Namrup-III (Urea)
		Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizers Corporation Ltd. Namrup-II (Urea)
3.	Goa	Zuari Industries Ltd. Goa (Urea, DAP and Complexes)
4.	Gujarat	Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Ltd. Bharuch (Urea, Complexes)
		Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. Vadodara (Urea, DAP and Complexes)
		Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. - Sikka-I (DAP and Complexes)
		Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. - Sikka-II (DAP and Complexes)
		Hindalco Industries Ltd. Dahej (DAP)
		Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative Ltd.-Kandla (DAP and Complexes)
		Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative Ltd.-Kalol (Urea)
		Krishak Bharati Co-operative Ltd.-Hazira (Urea)
5.	Haryana	National Fertilizers Ltd. Panipat (Urea)
6.	Karnataka	Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. Manglore (Urea, DAP and Complexes)

1	2	3
7.	Kerala	Fertilizer and Chemicals and Travancore Ltd. Udyogamandal (Complexes)  Fertilizer and Chemicals and Travancore Ltd. Cochin (Complexes)
8.	Madhya Pradesh	National Fertilizers Ltd. Vijaipur-I (Urea)  National Fertilizers Ltd. Vijaipur-II (Urea)
9.	Maharashtra	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. Trombay (Complexes)  Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. Trombay-IV (Complexes)  Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. Thal (Urea)  Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. Trombay-V (Urea)  Deepak Fertilizers and Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. - Talaja (Complexes)
10.	Orissa	Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-operative Ltd. Paradeep (DAP, Complexes)  Paradeep Phosphate Ltd. Paradeep (DAP, Complexes)
11.	Punjab	National Fertilizers Ltd. - Nangal-II (Urea)  National Fertilizers Ltd. (Bhatinda) (Urea)
12.	Rajasthan	Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. Gadepan-I (Urea)

1	2	3
		Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. Gadepan-II (Urea)  Shriram Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd. Kota (Urea)
13.	Tamil Nadu	Madras Fertilizer Ltd. Chennai (Urea)  Coromandal Fertilizers Ltd. - Ennore (Complexes)  Southern Petrochemical Inds. Corpn. Ltd. - Tuticorin (Complexes)
14.	Uttar Pradesh	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. Phulpur-I (Urea)  Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. Phulpur-II (Urea)  Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. Aonla-I (Urea)  Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. Aonla-II (Urea)  Indo-Gulf Fertilizer Jagdishpur (Urea)  Tata Chemicals Ltd. Babrala (Urea)  Kribhco Shyam Fertilizers Ltd. Shahjahanpur (Urea)
15.	West Bengal	Tata Chemicals Ltd. Babrala (DAP and Complexes)

#### Appointment of Judges

1195. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to implement a scheme whereby trial courts and high courts would be operating in three shifts ending 12 midnight;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the State Governments, Bar Associations and both the subordinate and higher judiciary been taken on board the efficacy of such a proposal;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to appoint on contract 15,700 new judges;
- (e) if so, the Government evolved a criterion for these proposed contract appointments;
- (f) the criterion for the appointment of these judges on contract;
- (g) the specific measures that the Government proposes to take under its National Integration Policy to transform Government Departments from a compulsive to a responsible and reluctant litigant;
- (h) whether the Government commissioned any study on the impact of fast track courts on the justice delivery system; and
- (i) if not, should it not be done before radical measures are implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (g) Government organized a "National Consultation for strengthening the judiciary towards reducing pendency and delays" on 24th-25th October, 2009 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. In the National Consultation, it was, inter-alia resolved that efforts would be made by all concerned to reduce the time taken for disposal of cases from 15 years to 3 years and to work together to implement the various measures including formation of a National Arrears Grid required to ensure provision of expeditious, quality and inclusive justice. Three shifts system in courts, creation of 15,000 judge positions, appointment of retired judges on contractual basis, framing

a National Litigation Policy etc. were among the various measures to be implemented. These are under consideration of the Government.

(h) and (i) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India is monitoring the functioning of Fast Tract courts through a case titled as 'Brij Mohan Lal Vs Union of India and Others'.

#### Financial Assistance to NGOs

1196. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of applications/ representations received by the Government from Non-Governmental Organizations and Charitable Institutions for obtaining financial grants for the welfare of minority communities during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the details of amount sanctioned to the NGOs/ charitable institutions during the said period, institution-wise, State-wise;
- (c) the number of applications pending with Government at present and reasons therefor; and
- (d) any mechanism evolved by the Government to ensure that the grants given to the NGO's are utilized for the desired purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) The information is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The information are available on the website of this Ministry: [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).

(c) Proposals are received throughout the year and proposals, complete in all respects, are considered for sanction depending on availability of funds.

(d) As part of the monitoring mechanism, the

grantee institutes are open to inspection by the officers of Central Government/State Government/Union Territory, apart from putting the information on website, producing Utilization Certificate before second instalment is released, and sending required information periodically to the Government

**Statement**

*Ministry of Minority Affairs*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Number of applications received from NGO's under "Free Coaching and allied Scheme for the candidates belonging to minority-communities" during the last three years, State-wise		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	3	8
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
4.	Assam	—	22	1
5.	Bihar	—	—	3
6.	Chandigarh	—	1	1
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	4	1
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
9.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—
10.	Delhi	5	13	4
11.	Goa	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Gujarat	—	—	2
13.	Haryana	—	4	3
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	2	2
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—
16.	Jharkhand	1	—	1
17.	Karnataka	—	18	21
18.	Kerala	—	2	6
19.	Madhya Pradesh	—	6	6
20.	Maharashtra	—	7	9
21.	Manipur	2	20	5
22.	Meghalaya	—	—	1
23.	Mizoram	—	1	1
24.	Nagaland	—	—	1
25.	Orissa	—	6	17
26.	Punjab	—	2	1
27.	Rajasthan	6	25	12
28.	Sikkim	—	—	—
29.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—
30.	Tripura	—	1	1
31.	Uttar Pradesh	—	23	58
32.	Uttarakhand	1	—	—
33.	West Bengal	—	6	2
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
35.	Puducherry	—	—	—
Total		15	166	167

**Merger of Waltair Division with  
South Central Railway**

1197. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, for the merger of Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway with South Central Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) Demand has been received from the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The proposal has been examined for operational feasibility in the light of the criterion laid down by the Railway Reforms Committee and Advisors' Committee set up for the purpose, and it has not been found feasible.

[Translation]

**New Rail Lines**

1198. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:  
SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:  
SHRI KHILADI LAL BAIRWA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of survey conducted for laying new Railway lines in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of proposals for new rail lines in Railway Budget 2009-10;

(c) the time by which the said new rail lines are likely to be completed and started; and

(d) the date of railway network in the country as on data, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The State-wise details of surveys for new lines conducted during the last three years are as under:—

Sl. No.	State	Number of survey completed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8
2.	Assam and North Eastern Region	9
3.	Bihar	15
4.	Gujarat	7
5.	Haryana	2
6.	Himachal Pradesh	2
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	2
8.	Jharkhand	4
9.	Karnataka	5
10.	Kerala	1
11.	Madhya Pradesh	5
12.	Maharashtra	5
13.	Orissa	2
14.	Punjab	4
15.	Rajasthan	10
16.	Tamil Nadu	17
17.	Uttar Pradesh	10
18.	Uttarakhand	3
19.	West Bengal	18
Total		129

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

(b) and (c) No new railway line project has been included in the Railway Budget 2009-10.

(d) The route Km. as on 01.04.2009 is given below:—

Sl. No.	State	Route kilometerage
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5184.85
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.26
3.	Assam	2283.71
4.	Bihar	3514.90
5.	Chhattisgarh	1185.76
6.	Delhi	182.48
7.	Goa	69.00
8.	Gujarat	5328.26
9.	Haryana	1553.05
10.	Himachal Pradesh	285.01
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	238.77
12.	Jharkhand	1967.98
13.	Karnataka	3006.86
14.	Kerala	1050.20
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4949.08
16.	Maharashtra	5601.71
17.	Manipur	1.35

	2	3
18. Meghalaya		0.00
19. Mizoram		1.50
20. Nagaland		12.85
21. Orissa		2385.41
22. Punjab		2133.41
23. Rajasthan		5854.48
24. Sikkim		0.00
25. Tamil Nadu		4106.85
26. Tripura		151.40
27. Uttar Pradesh		8702.75
28. Uttarakhand		344.91
29. West Bengal		3890.29
<b>Union Territory</b>		
1. Chandigarh		15.70
2. Puducherry		11.10
<b>Total</b>		<b>64014.88</b>

#### Expansion of Airstrips

1199. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started the expansion work of airstrips on various tourist spots of the country;

(b) if so, the status of the expansion of these airstrips;

(c) the number of such places where land has not been transferred for expansion of airstrips;



(d) the scheme of the construction of airstrip Mandu tourist spot of Madhya Pradesh which has been included in world heritage list; and

(e) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Development/expansion of airports is a continuous process taking into account the commercial viability, traffic potential/demands, commitment of airlines to operate through the specific airports etc. However, Airports Authority of India (AAI) have planned/taken up development/modernisation works for 35 non-Metro airports namely Agra, Agartala, Agatti, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Aurangabad, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Coimbatore, Dehradun, Dimapur, Goa, Guwahati, Indore, Imphal, Jammu, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Nagpur, Patna, Port Blair, Pune, Rajkot, Raipur, Ranchi, Trivandrum, Trichy, Udaipur, Vishakhapatnam, Varanasi and Vadodara. In addition, AAI is also upgrading 13 more airports in the country namely Akola, Belgaum, Calicut, Cooch Behar, Dibrugarh, Gondia, Hubli, Kullu, Mysore, Rajahmundry, Srinagar, Surat and Vijaywada.

(c) AAI has raised demand for land at many airports from the respective State Governments/UTs. It is yet to receive land at Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Indore, Barapani and Dibrugarh etc.

(d) and (e) At present, no such proposal is under consideration.

[English]

#### Benzene Mixed Petrol

1200. SHRI P. LINGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether percentage of benzene mixed in normal petrol is as high as 5 per cent;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted know the effect of benzene in the air;

(c) whether number of cases of cancer are being detected in urban areas in view of the presence of high percentage of benzene in the air;

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

(e) whether in most of the countries benzene is mixed within a limit;

(f) if so, whether the Government proposes to reduce the percentage of benzene being mixed in the normal petrol; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Petrol is produced in the Refinery from crude oil, which contains various hydrocarbons including benzene. However, benzene is not separately blended with petrol.

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

(e) No country mixes benzene in petrol. Limit of benzene in different grades of petrol is at par with most of the developed countries.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Rail Line for Mundeswaridham-Mohania-Arrah, Bihar

1201. SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to lay Mundeswaridham- Mohania-Arrah rail line in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith expenditure is likely to be incurred thereon; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) New line from Ara to Bhabua Road was included in Budget 2008-09. The line from Bhabua Road to Mundeshwaridham has also been approved as a part of this project. The target for completion has not yet been fixed and would depend upon availability of resources.

[English]

#### Janata Meal

1202. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have finalized the modalities for easy availability of Janata Meal in trains and on railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the modalities are likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The existing licensees and departmental catering units of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) are providing Janata Meals in trains and on platforms. Because of greater emphasis on supply of Janata Meals to passengers, the sale of such meals has increased to more than one lakhs a day in last five months.

#### Restatements of Law

1203. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

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

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has constituted a Committee of judges to bring out an authoritative series of restatements of law on 100 topics

to remove ambiguities surrounding legal principles and their applicability;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed for submitting the recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Madam. The Chief Justice of India, as the ex-officio President of the Indian Law Institute, has constituted a Restatement of Law Project Committee, which has just begun its work.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[Translation]

#### Unmanned Level Crossings

1204. SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO:  
SHRI P. KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unmanned level crossings in the country, division-wise;

(b) whether any request for manning of unmanned level crossing at Vikhrana in Shidheda taluka of Dhule has been received by the Railways; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) There is no unmanned level crossing gate at Vikhrana in taluka Shidheda district Dhule.

(c) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*The numbers of unmanned level crossings, excluding 'D' class cattle crossings and canal crossings, in the country, division-wise are as under*

Railway	Division	No. of Unmanned LC
1	2	3
Central Railway	Mumbai	21
	Bhusawal	127
	Nagpur	66
	Pune	61
	Solapur	60
Eastern Railway	Asansol	90
	Malda	109
	Howrah	100
	Sialdah	90
East Central Railway	Mugalsarai	50
	Sonpur	124
	Danapur	71
	Samastipur	534
	Dhanbad	40
East Coast Railway	Khurda Road	255
	Sambhalpur	281
	Waltair	194
Northern Railway	Ferozpur	629
	Umbala	212
	Delhi	288
	Muradabad	318

1	2	3
	Lucknow	309
North Central Railway	Allahabad	130
	Agra	48
	Jhansi	339
Northeast Railway	Varanasi	563
	Izzatnagar	543
	Lucknow City	518
Northeast Frontier Railway	Katihar	448
	Alipurduar	141
	Rangia	336
	Lumding	136
	Tinsukia	107
Norther Western Railway	Ajmer	385
	Bikaner	159
	Jaipur	246
	Jodhpur	586
Southern Railway	Chennai	58
	Salem	144
	Palghat	38
	Trivandrum	129
	Tiruchirapalli	399
	Madurai	426
South Central Railway	Secundrabad	140
	Vijayawada	199

1	2	3
	Guntakal	284
	Guntur	234
	Hyderabad	124
	Nanded	196
South Eastern Railway	Adra	319
	Chakardharpur	218
	Kharagpur	299
	Ranchi	170
Southeast Central Railway	Bilaspur	114
	Raipur	76
	Nagpur	525
South Western Railway	Banglore	179
	Hubli	215
	Mysore	414
Western Railway	Mumbai	115
	Badodhara	762
	Ratlam	146
	Ahmdabad	636
	Rajkot	271
	Bhavnagar	726
West Central Railway	Jabalpur	50
	Bhopal	150
	Kota	101
	<b>Total</b>	<b>16571</b>

[English]

**East Coast Railway**

1205. SHRI BIBHU PRASAD TARAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by East and South Coast Railway for the year 2008-09 and their cumulative income for the last three years; and

(b) the details of amount spent on passenger amenities and infrastructure development on East and South Coast Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There is no Railway Zone by the name of South Coast Railway. Earnings of East Coast Railway and South Eastern Railway for the year 2008-09 and also for preceding two years is as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	East Coast Railway	South Eastern Railway
2006-07	4424.76	4561.94
2007-08	5457.37	5444.37
2008-09	6638.21	6737.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>16520.34</b>	<b>16743.62</b>

(b) The amount spent on Passenger amenities on East Coast Railway and South Eastern Railway during 2008-09 is Rs. 29.24 crore and Rs. 21.51 crore respectively. Further, amount spent on account of Works Expenditure (Infrastructure development) on East Coast Railway and South Eastern Railway during 2008-09 is Rs. 1444.81 crore and Rs. 1492.76 crore respectively.

[Translation]

**Profit Earned by ONGC**

1206. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has earned profit in the first two quarters of the year 2009-2010;

(b) if so, the profit earned during the first two quarters ending on 30 September, 2009 and the average rate at which oil was sold by the ONGC during this period; and

(c) the price at which ONGC sold gas and oil during the first two quarters of the year 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has earned profit of Rs. 4,848 crore and Rs. 5,090 crore in the first and second quarter respectively during the year 2009-2010. Average post-discount crude oil price during the period (April-September, 2009) realized by ONGC was US\$ 57.33 per barrel.

(c) ONGC supplies Administered Price Mechanism (APM) natural gas to Gas Authority of India Limited based on APM price, which is Rs. 1920 per Thousand Standard Cubic Metre (for North East) and Rs. 3200 per Thousand Standard Cubic Metre (other than North (East) for calorific value of 10,000 Kilo Calorie per Standard Cubic Meter. Average post-discount crude oil price during April-September, 2008 realized was US\$ 57.77 per barrel.

#### Scholarship to students by IOC Ltd.

1207. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation Limited provides scholarship to the students for higher education every year;

(b) if so, the criteria followed for providing the scholarship;

(c) the number of students provided academic scholarship by the Corporation in the year 2009; and

(d) the amount of funds spent in the said scholarship this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) awards scholarships to 450 meritorious students every year on merit-cum-means basis, to nurture and support talent among deserving students belonging to poor families having gross joint annual income of less than Rs. 1 lakh. 250 scholarships are awarded to students pursuing 10+ course/IT, and 200 scholarships for students pursuing Engineering (100), MBBS (40) and MBA (60).

Only students pursuing full time courses in the above mentioned streams and studying in schools/colleges/Institution/Universities recognized by MCI/AICTE/State Education Boards/State Government/ICSC/CBSE/Central Government/Association of Indian universities, are eligible to apply. The percentage of marks obtained in the qualifying examination making the students eligible to seek admission in the respective first year of these courses are considered for selection. The minimum eligibility criteria for selection of scholar for general candidate is 65% of marks obtained in the qualifying exam in each case, with relaxation 60% of marks for SC/ST/OBC and girl candidates, and 50% of marks for Physically Handicapped Candidates. 50% of the scholarships are reserved for SC/ST/OBC students and 25% of the Scholarship in each category/sub category is earmarked for girl students and 10% for Physically challenged students.

(c) During the year 2009, 450 number of students were provided academic scholarships.

(d) Approximately of Rs. 292 lakhs would be spent by IOC towards these scholarships during the year 2009.

[English]

#### Hijack of Rajdhani Train

1208. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Guwahati Rajdhani train was hijacked by Maoists recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action taken against the culprits; and
- (d) the steps being taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, on 27.10.2009 at about 14:35 hours armed people obstructed train No. 2443(A) Up (Bhubneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express) at Banstala Passenger Halt at KM No. 146/15-17 between Sardhia and Jhargram Railway Stations in Kharagpur-Tata Nagar section and forced the driver to leave the train. They also pelted stones and broke windows of the coaches. As a result, some passengers sustained injuries. Railways requested Ministry of Home Affairs for release of the train. The train was finally released at 22:10 hours with police escort after detention of 7.35 hours.

(c) A police case has been registered. The matter has been referred to Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary investigation.

(d) Policing on Railways is the duty of the State Police through Government Railway Police. However, to provide better security to the traveling passengers in trains

and passenger areas, the RPF Act, 1957 and the Railways Act, 1989 have been amended in the year 2003 to enable the Railways, through the Railway Protection Force, to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The concerned State Governments have been requested to take effective steps to control such incidents and regular coordination is maintained with the State Governments.

[Translation]

#### Sale of Iron Scraps

1209. SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the public undertaking-wise details of iron scrap sold during the last three years indicating its quantity, grade and the value;
- (b) whether the said scrap was sold through auction, tender or departmental decisions; and
- (c) the details of the companies to which scrap worth more than Rs. 1 (one) crore was sold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (c) The public undertaking wise details of iron scrap sold and method of sale are given below:—

#### Name of PSUs – Sponge Iron India Limited

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (in thousand MT)	Grade	Value (Rs.)	Method of sale
1.	2006-07	0.352	MS Skulls	37,69,855	Open tender
2.	2007-08	0.036	MS Skulls	3,43,950	Open tender
3.	2008-09	0.007	Scrap boiler pipes	1,57,500	Departmental decision
4.	April-October, 09	Nil	Nil	Nil	—

**Name of PSUs – KIOCL**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (in thousand MT)	Grade	Value (Rs.)	Method of sale
1.	2006-07	1.467	Assorted	1,37,80,938	By e-auction through MSTC
2.	2007-08	1.056	Assorted	1,76,28,199	By e-auction through MSTC
3.	2008-09	1.329	Assorted	2,23,63,342	By e-auction through MSTC
4.	April-October, 09	0.768	Assorted	1,12,71,500	By e-auction through MSTC

**Name of PSUs – RINL (VSP)**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (in thousand MT)	Grade	Value (in crore)	Method of sale
1.	2006-07	24.4	Pig casting jam, pig casting muck/fines pig iron runner scrap	34.0	Based on list price
2.	2007-08	22.7		38.8	Based on list price
3.	2008-09	23.0		45.7	Based on list price
4.	April-October, 09	12.7		17.4	Based on list price

*Note:*– The scrap materials are sold based on past lifting performance of customers on fixed monthly price basis.

**Name of PSUs – MSTC**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (in thousand MT)	Grade	Value (Rs. in crore)	Method of sale
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	2006-07	112	Shredded scrap	150.00	High sea sale
2.	2007-08	350	Shredded scrap	511.00	High sea sale

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	2008-09	466	Shredded scrap HMS 1 and 2	956.00	High sea sale
4.	April-October, 09	39	Shredded scrap HMS 1 and 2	50-0	High sea sale

*Note:*— MSTC is not a manufacturing company and, therefore, does not generate any scrap. However, MSTC imports iron and steel scrap for industrial use by its customers on back to back basis. Scrap so imported is sold on high sea sale basis. Sometime MSTC acts as a facilitator (financier) for import of iron and steel scrap by some of the customers.

**Name of PSU – Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (in thousand MT)	Grade	Value	Method of sale
1.	2006-07	0.082	Assorted M.S. scrap	Rs. 10.7 lakh	Through E-auction

**Name of PSU – NMDC Limited.**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (in thousand MT)	Grade	Value (Rs. in lakh)	Method of sale
1.	2006-07	2.484	Mild Steel MN steel and HEM scrap	295.55	e-auction
2.	2007-08	2.2494	Mild Steel MN steel and HEM scrap	347.57	e-auction
3.	April-October, 09	2.348	Mild Steel MN steel and Scrap	366.76	e-auction

**Name of the PSU – OMDC of Bird Group**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (in thousand MT)	Grade	Value (Rs. in lakh)	Method of sale
1.	2008-09	0.075	Iron-scrap	17.59	e-auction



**Name of PSU – M/s. BSLC of Bird Group**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (in thousand MT)	Grade	Value (Rs. in lakh)	Method of sale
1.	2006-07	0.0179	Iron scrap	2.91	e-auction

**Bhilai Steel Plant**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (in thousand MT)	Grade	Value (Rs. in lakh)	Method of sale
1.	2006-07	75038	BFIS*	42.23	Open Tender
		1210	Cast Iron Skull	1.70	Auction
	Total	76248		43.93	
2.	2007-08	31221	BFIS*	24.95	Open Tender
		828	BSIM** and Cast iron Skull	1.97	Auction
	Total	32049		26.92	
3.	2008-09	34429	BFIS*	37.98	Open Tender
		56384	BSIM, Iron Scrap, Cast Iron Skull	124.15	Auction
	Total	90813		162.13	
4.	2009-10 (April-October, 09)	1362	BFIS*	1.28	Open Tender
		58060	BSIM Iron Scrap, Cast Iron Skull	97.86	Auction
	Total	59422		99.14	

\*BFIS: Iron Scrap from Blast Furnace Slag Dump

\*\*BSIM: Bottom Stool Scrap with Ingot Mould scrap

**Bokaro Steel Plant**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Grade	Value (Rs. in crore)	Method of sale
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	2006-07	9501	Mixed Iron Scrap	14.12	Auction

1	2	3	4	5	6
		670		0.93	Fixed Price
	Total	10171		15.05	
2.	2007-08	12548	Mixed Iron Scrap	21.63	Auction
3.	2008-09	5048	Mixed Iron Scrap	10.34	Auction
4.	2009-10 (April-October '09)	Nil	Mixed Iron Scrap	Nil	Auction

**Durgapur Steel Plant**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Grade	Value (Rs. in crores)	Method of sale
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	2006-07	5401	Mixed Grade	7.84	Auction
		6839		8.63	Sale Notice
		21180		8.69	Tender
	Total	33420		25.16	
2.	2007-08	7464	Mixed Grade	13.05	Auction
		8099		12.13	Sale Notice
		23515		9.65	Tender
	Total	39078		34.83	
3.	2008-09	7894	Mixed Grade	18.56	Auction
		10087		18.46	Sale Notice
		26410		10.84	Tender
	Total	44391		47.86	
4	2009-10 (Apr.-Oct.'09)	7266	Mixed Grade	11.84	Auction
		3952		5.75	Sale Notice
		11310		4.75	Tender
	Total	22528		22.34	

**Rourkela Steel Plant:**

Rourkela Steel Plant has not sold any iron scrap during last 3 years from 2006-07 to 2009-10 (Apr.-Oct.'09).

**IISCO Steel Plant**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Grade	Value (Rs. in crores)	Method of sale
1.	2006-07	16098	Mixed Iron Scrap	20.60	71% Auction and 29% Fixed Price
2.	2007-08	11569	Mixed Iron Scrap	15.33	Auction
3.	2008-09	21245	Mixed Iron Scrap	29.84	Auction
4.	2009-10 (Apr.-Sep. '09)	17017	Mixed Iron Scrap	14.12	Auction

**Alloy Steel Plants**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Grade	Value (Rs. in crores)	Method of sale
1.	2006-07	4508	Used CI Casting	6.02	Auction
2.	2007-08	3763	Used CI Casting	5.89	Auction
3.	2008-09	2106	Used CI Casting	5.66	Auction
4.	2009-10 (Apr.-Sep.'09)	3014	Used CI Casting	4.49	Auction

**Salem Steel Plant**

Salem Steel Plant has not sold any iron scrap during last 3 years from 2006-07 to 2009-10 (Apr.-Sep.'09)

**Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant**

Sl. No.	Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Grade	Value (Rs. in crores)	Method of sale
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	2006-07	5154	Mixed Iron Steel	7.87	Auction
2.	2007-08	4372	Mixed Iron Steel	8.84	Auction

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	2008-09	5585	Mixed Iron Steel	13.23	Auction
4.	2009-10 (Apr.-Sep.'09)	2814	Mixed Iron Steel	8.43	Auction

Details of the companies to which scrap worth more than Rs. 1 (one crore) was sold are given below:—

**A. MSTC:**

Sl.No.	Company
1.	Ispat Industries, Navi Mumbai.
2.	Essar Steel Limited, Kurla, Mumbai
3.	Shah Alloys Ltd., Ahmedabad
4.	Sesa International Ltd., Kolkata
5.	R.I. Steels and Energy Ltd., Aurangabad
6.	Marmagoa Steels Ltd. Kolkata
7.	Dankani Steels Ltd. Kolkata

**B. NMDC Limited**

Sl.No.	Company
1.	M/s Raza Steels, Raipur
2.	M/s Pooja Enterprises, Bhilai

**C. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)**

Sl.No.	Company
1	2
1.	M/s Shivam Smelters Pvt. Ltd.
2.	M/s Siddhartha Enterprises

1	2
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3. M/s A.S.L. Marketing (P) Ltd.
4. M/s Agarwal Foundries
5. M/s Vinayaka Steels Ltd.
6. M/s Devashree Ispat (P) Ltd.
7. M/s Binjusaria Metal Box Company Pvt. Ltd.
8. M/s Sampath Vinayak Steels Pvt. Ltd.
9. M/s Sri Ram Textiles Private Ltd.
10. M/s A.S. Steel Traders (VSP) Pvt. Ltd.
11. M/s Binjusaria Ispat Pvt. Ltd.
12. Ms Agarwal Foundries Private Limited
13. M/s Narayani Steel Pvt. Ltd.

**D. Various Plants under SAIL**

**BHILAI STEEL PLANT**

Sl.No.	Name of Party
1	2
1.	A.M.R. Associates, Light Industrial Area, Bhilai
2.	MBL Infrastructures Ltd., Light Industrial Area Bhilai
3.	Agrasen Rerollers Pvt. Ltd. Raipur

1	2	1	2
4.	Agrawal Structure Mills Pvt. Ltd., Raipur	28.	Nandan Steels and Power Ltd., Raipur
5.	Akash Ispat Pvt. Ltd., Raipur	29.	N.N. Ispat Pvt. Ltd., Bhilai
6.	Amarnath Ispat Pvt. Ltd., Raipur	30.	Ramesh Steel Industries Unit II, Raipur
7.	Ashok Ispat Udyog, Raipur	31.	S.S. Moulder Pvt. Ltd., Bhilai, Durg
8.	Balajee Commercial Company, Raipur	32.	Sanjay Traders, Bhilai
9.	Balajee Loha Pvt. Ltd., Raipur	33.	Shree Mahalaxmi Structures Pvt. Ltd., Raipur
10.	Balajee Structural (India) Pvt. Ltd., Raipur	34.	Shri Bajrang Metalics and Powers Ltd., Raipur
11.	Bhawai Metals (P) Ltd., Raipur	35.	Shri Bajrang Power and Ispat Ltd., Borjhara
12.	Bhawani Moulders P. Ltd., Raipur	36.	Shri Jai Baba Casting Pvt. Ltd., Hathkhoj
13.	Bhilai Coal and Coke, Unit II, Bhilai	37.	Shri Jai Baba Steel Pvt. Ltd., Bhilai
14.	Bhilai Foundry Feeders, Bhilai	38.	Shri Jai Baba Trading Co., Hathkhoj
15.	Chhattisgarh Steel Casting Pvt. Ltd., Bhilai	39.	Shri Metacast Pvt. Ltd. Hathkhoj
16.	Corporate Ispat Alloys Ltd., Rajnandgaon	40.	Simplex Casting Ltd., Raipur
17.	Cosmos Casting (India) Ltd., Raipur	41.	Sunil Steels, Raipur
18.	Godawari Power and Ispat Ltd., Raipur	42.	Supreme Enterprises, Bhilai
19.	Jayaswal NECO Inds. Ltd. (Scrap Divn.)	43.	Vaswani Industries Ltd., Raipur
20.	Jayaswal NECO Inds. Ltd. CCD, Rajnandgaon	<b>DURGAPUR STEEL PLANT</b>	
21.	Jorawar Engg. and Foundry Forge Pvt. Ltd., Raipur	Sl.No.	Name of Party
22.	Jupiter Coal Company, Unit II, Bhilai	1	2
23.	Kanchan Sales, Bhilai	1.	Adhunik Corporation Limited, Kolkata, West Bengal
24.	Kwality Foundry Industries, Raipur	2.	C.P. Re-Rollers Limited, Durgapur West Bengal
25.	Mahamaya Steel Industries, Raipur	3.	Mahaluxmi Rolling Mills, Kolkata, West Bengal
26.	Mahendra Sponge and Power Pvt. Ltd., Raipur		
27.	Maruti Ferrous Pvt. Ltd., Raipur		

1	2
4.	Shakambhari Overseas Traders Pvt. Ltd., Durgapur, West Bengal
5.	Sova Electrocasting Ltd., Durgapur, West Bengal
6.	Shri Ramrupai Balaji Steel Ltd., Kolkata, West Bengal
7.	Goyal Ispat Udyog, Howrah, West Bengal
8.	Haldia Steels Ltd., Kolkata, West Bengal
9.	Jai Prabhuji Iron and Steel Pvt. Ltd., Dhanbad, Jharkhand
10.	Kumardhubi Steel (P) Ltd. Dhanbad, Jharkhand
11.	Multi-serve Rolls Ltd., Kolkata, West Bengal
12.	Mahendra Steel Traders (P) Ltd., Kolkata, West Bengal
13.	Binny Steel Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, West Bengal
14.	Indian Wire and Steel Products, Kolkata, West Bengal
15.	Kirshna Udyog, Howrah, West Bengal
16.	Shree Shiv Sai Steel Industries, Kamrup, Assam
17.	Shree Mahalaxmi Vinimay Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, West Bengal
18.	Sidhi Vinayak Metal and Salt Co. Pvt. Ltd., Burdwan, West Bengal
19.	AIC Steel Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, West Bengal
20.	Durgapur Iron and Steel Company Pvt. Ltd., Durgapur, West Bengal.
21.	Vijit International Pvt. Ltd. Kolkata, West Bengal
22.	MMU Metaliks Udyog Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata, West Bengal

## BOKARO STEEL PLANT

Sl.No.	Name of Party
1	2
1.	Bhuania Associates (P) Ltd., PO Chitrapur, Distt. Hazaribagh
2.	India Industrial Enterprises, Chas, Bokaro
3.	Mahadeo Steel (P) Ltd., Chas, Bokaro
4.	Basuki Steel Pvt. Ltd., Chas, Bokaro
5.	M/s Khagendra Ispat, Chas 13, Bokaro
6.	Savita Alloys Pvt. Ltd., Bokaro Steel City
7.	Sidhi Vinayak Metal and Salt Pvt. Ltd., Purulia Road Chas, Bokaro
8.	Vikromatic Steel (P) Ltd., Baijnathpur, B. Deoghar
9.	Vinayak Metals and Chemicals, Chas, Bokaro
10.	Arth Steel (India) P. Ltd., Bokaro Steel City

## IISCO Steel Plant

Sl.No.	Name of Party
1.	Burnpur Iron Foundry, Asansol
2.	OM Enterprise, Kolkata
3.	Mitra Traders, Burnpur
4.	MJR Steel, Kolkata
5.	B.D. Casting, Kolkata
6.	Shree Laxmi Ind. Corp., Kolkata

## ALLOY STEEL PLANT

Sl.No.	Name of Party
1.	Jay Balaji Sponge Ltd., Kolkata
2.	Shakambari Overseas Trading Pvt. Ltd., Durgapur
3.	Calcutta Export Co., Kolkata
4.	MJ Scrap Pvt. Ltd., Howrah
5.	Manoj Metal Udyog, Kolkata
6.	AIC Steel Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata
7.	Adhunik Corporation Ltd., Kolkata

## VISVESVARAYA IRON AND STEEL PLANT

Sl.No.	Name of Party
1.	SB Reshellers Ltd., Kolhapur
2.	Bhuwarka Casting and Forging P. Ltd., Bangalore
3.	Kalyani Carpenters, Gingera
4.	HKT Mining Pvt. Ltd.
5.	Jain Enterprises, Bhilai
6.	Prateek Alloys P. Ltd., Goa

**Rack Points at Railway Stations**

1210. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI P. BALRAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of rack points for transportation of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, zone-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Railways to meet the requirement in this regard particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No. Madam. Loading of has increased by 4.46 per cent during April to October, 2009 as compared to last year and is also more than the proportionate target for the year 2009-10.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**On-going/Pending North Eastern Railway Project**

1211. YOGI ADITYA NATH:

SHRI KAMAL KISHOR "COMMANDO":

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing/pending railway projects in North-Eastern Railway;

(b) whether the Railways have received any proposal for laying of a new railway lines under the N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are 5 new lines, 6 gauge conversions and 12 doubling projects ongoing in North-Eastern Railway.

(b) Record of each and every demand received is not maintained. No such proposal has been received from State Government in the recent past.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

**Ban on Criminals for Contesting Poll**

1212. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has made a proposal which was backed by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission to ban persons facing serious criminal and corruption charges from contesting poll; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) Yes Madam, the Election Commission of India had forwarded a set of 22 proposals on Electoral Reforms in July, 2004 which *inter alia* included the proposal on criminalization in politics backed by the Second Administrative Reforms Commission to ban persons facing serious criminal and corruption charges from contesting poll.

While the said proposals of the Election Commission of India on electoral reforms were under consideration of the Department Related Parliamentary Stranding Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice, the Chief Election Commissioner wrote to the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice on the 27th October, 2006 about the danger of certain persons becoming Members of the august House of Parliament and State Legislatures, suggesting amendments in the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to disqualify and persons accused of an offence punishable by imprisonment for five years or more, from contesting elections even when trial is pending, provided charges have been framed against him by a competent court. The Committee in its Eighteenth Report on the subject *inter alia* disagreed with the aforesaid proposal as it is a major departure from the law of the land that a person is not guilty until he is convicted by the highest court of the land. The Committee, however, recommended that proclaimed absconders under section 82 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 be disqualified from contesting polls. The recommendation of the Committee has been examined in this Department. Thereafter, the matter was further examined in consultation with the concerned Ministries and it has been decided not to pursue the matter at this juncture.

### Train Service between Bangalore and Mangalore

1213. SHRI ADAGOORU H. VISHWANATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Day Train Service between Bangalore and Mangalore introduced recently is only a tri-weekly train;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is heavy demand to run this train as a daily train;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) 6515/6516 Yesvantpur-Mangalore Express has been introduced from 31-08-2009 as tri-weekly service.

(c) to (e) Yes, Madam. There is a demand to run this train as a daily service. However, due to shortage of resources, it is not possible to convert this as a daily service at present.

[Translation]

### Printed Card Ticket System

1214. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the old Printed Card Ticket (PCT) system still exists in various Railways Stations inspite of adoption of the high technology by Indian Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the failure of Self Printing Ticket Machines (SPTM) used for unreserved tickets;

(d) whether the Railways propose to restart the use of these machines; and



- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The system of Printed Card Tickets exists over those locations where the facility of computerized Unreserved Ticketing System is yet to be commissioned and also for emergency purpose during any failure of computerized Unreserved Ticketing System.

(c) Self Printing Ticket Machines (SPTMs) were stand alone machines and, therefore, and not provide the facility of automated accounting and reporting. With the improvement in technology, Railways have moved towards the Unreserved Ticketing System which is a superior system.

- (d) No, Madam.

- (e) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Air-Conditioned Suburban Rail Service**

1215. SHRI PURNMASI RAM:  
SHRI P. VISWANATHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce Air-conditioned (AC) trains on suburban routes;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether there is also a proposal to introduce Maharaja Express;

(e) if so, the details of facilities are likely to be provided on it; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The outcome of the feasibility study being conducted by the Railways is awaited and no target for introduction of the above services has been fixed.

(d) to (f) The Indian Railways in association with Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporations Ltd. have planned to introduce a Luxury Tourist Train named 'Maharajas Express' with a pre-defined Pan India itinerary offering package tours, during early 2010.

#### **Kota Airport**

1216. SHRI IJYARAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any concrete plans for making Kota, Rajasthan airport operational for commercial air traffic; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Kota airport is an operational airport suitable for operation by general aviation aircraft. However, to make the airport suitable for operation by ATR types of aircraft for commercial operation, assistance of State Government of Rajasthan has been sought for removing encroachments within Airports Authority of India (AAI), any other encroachments that need to be removed to facilitate runway extension work and ensuring that no construction activity takes place in the vicinity of the airfield without a valid No Objection Certificate (NOC) from AAI.

[Translation]

#### **Sampark Kranti Train**

1217. SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to run Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranti train on daily basis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the said proposal the reasons therefor?

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

[English]

### Cold Storage Facilities

1218. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI:  
SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

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

- (a) whether lack of adequate cold storage facilities is resulting in loss of upto 30 per cent of the farm products in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the cold storage facilities and to improve the capacity utilisation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (e) As per the Report of Task Force constituted by Ministry of Agriculture on Development of Cold Chain in India, the wastage of horticulture produces ranges from 30-40%, occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities, multi layered marketing channel etc.

In order to increase level of processing and to promote food processing industries to exploit both the domestic and international market potential for processed food products, Vision 2015 Document has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), which envisages tripling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. An integrated strategy for promotion of agribusiness-Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector has also been approved by the Government.

To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities and backward linkages in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan. to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public/private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore. The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure, establishing value addition with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and processing for horticulture including organic produce, marine, dairy, poultry, etc. Other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide financial assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes.

As per the information available with Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), Ministry of Agriculture, total number of cold storages in the country as on 31.12.2008 was 5386 having total capacity of 23.66 million MT. State-wise and capacity-wise details are given in the Statement.

**Statement***Sector-wise distribution of cold storages as on 31/12/2008*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Private Sector		Co-operative Sector		Public Sector		Total Capacity in MTs	
		No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity	No.	Capacity
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands (UT)	01	170	00	00	01	40	02	210
2.	Andhra Pradesh	265	860907	11	11598	10	3451	286	875956
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	5000	00	00	00	00	01	5000
4.	Assam	19	85948	01	1000	04	1120	24	88068
5.	Bihar	242	1362429	18	77200	00	00	260	1439629
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	05	11216	01	1000	00	00	06	12216
7.	Chhattisgarh	63	286136	01	29	01	41	65	286206
8.	Delhi	76	103250	02	5201	16	17680	94	126131
9.	Gujarat	351	1075148	21	30669	05	6437	377	1112254
10.	Goa	29	7705	00	00	00	00	29	7705
11.	Haryana	233	377319	04	3403	06	11399	243	392121
12.	Himachal Pradesh	09	12896	02	767	07	6195	18	19858
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	15	40689	03	2134	01	46	19	42869
14.	Jharkhand	37	142733	08	27415	00	00	45	170148
15.	Kerala	170	54360	06	1080	11	1690	187	57130
16.	Karnataka	126	405393	18	6689	17	9594	161	421676
17.	Lakshadweep (UT)	00	00	00	00	01	15	01	15
18.	Maharashtra	373	525126	55	25346	32	13724	460	564196



**Handicraft Marketing Services Centre**

1220. SHRIMATI DARSHANA JARDOSH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up more centres in Surat to help to craftsmen living in Southern Gujarat who earn their livelihood through various handicrafts and arts;

(b) the number of handicraft marketing services centres set-up in Gujarat;

(c) the number of such centres set up in other States, State-wise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, two Handicraft and Marketing Services Centres set up at Bhuj and Ahmedabad caters to the need to artisans of the State of Gujarat.

(c) and (d) The number of Handicraft Marketing and Service Extension Centres and Carpet Weaving Training-cum-Service Centres set-up in the State of Gujarat and in other State of the country to cater the need of artisans is given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

Sl. No.	State	No. of HC Marketing Centre	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	2	Gauripur, Jorhat
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4	Hyderabad, Tirupati, Vijaywada and Warrangal
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	Itanagar
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	Port Blair
5.	Bihar	2	Madhubani, Patna
6.	Chhattisgarh	1	Jagdalpur
7.	Chandigarh	—	—
8.	Delhi	—	—
9.	Goa	1	Pannaji
10.	Gujarat	2	Bhuj, Ahmedabd
11.	Haryana	1	Rewari
12.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Kullu
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	Anantnag, Baramulla, Leh (Laddakh), Srinagar, Udhampur, Jammu

1	2	3	4
14.	Jharkhand	2	Deoghar, Ranchi
15.	Karnataka	3	Mangalore, Dhardwad, Mysore
16.	Kerala	2	Trichur, Trivandrum
17.	Madhya Pradesh	3	Gwalior, Indore, Bhopal
18.	Maharashtra	3	Nagpur, Kolhapur, Aurangabad
19.	Meghalaya	1	Shillong
20.	Manipur	1	Imphal
21.	Mizoram	1	Aizwal
22.	Nagaland	1	Kohima
23.	Orissa	2	Sambalpur, Bhubaneshwar
24.	Punjab	1	Hoshiarpur
25.	Puducherry	1	Puducherry
26.	Rajasthan	3	Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur
27.	Sikkim	1	Gangtok
28.	Tamil Nadu	3	Nagarcoil, Salem, Chennai
29.	Tripura	1	Agartala
30.	Uttarakhand	2	Dehradun, Almorha
31.	Uttar Pradesh	7	Agra, Saharanpur, Barabanki, Varanasi (2), Bareilly, Allahabad
32.	West Bengal	2	Burdwan, Siliguri
Total		62	

[English]

**Foreign Equity in Indian Carriers**

1221. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to allow foreign airlines pick up to 49 percent equity in Indian Carriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government plans to sell Government stake in the national carrier or induct a foreign partner for Air India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Import and Supply of Urea

1222. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to allow private players to import and supply urea;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government also plans to shift the import of urea etc. under Open General Licence;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which the Government will ensure that farmers do not pay a higher price for the imported urea?

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

(a) There is no such proposal in the Department of Fertilizers.

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

(c) There is no such proposal in the Department of Fertilizers.

(d) and (e) In view of above, question does not arise.

#### Financial Assistance for IFFCO Project

1223. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing financial assistance to the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) project in Kodavaluru, Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the present status of the said project and the time by which financial and other assistance are like to be given for the said project?

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

(a) to (c) No, Madam. The Government has not received any proposal to provide financial assistance to IFFCO project in Kodavaluru, Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

#### Warehouses on Vacant Railways Land

1224. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to construct warehouses on the vacant railway land;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Railways is likely to announce a comprehensive policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Railways do not construct warehouses and as such there is no proposal for construction of warehouses on vacant railway land. However, in the year 2003 Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Railways for developing rail-side warehousing complexes at 22 identified locations.

[English]

### Helicopter Operations

1225. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the infrastructure requirements for helicopter operations in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to import helicopters for commercial operations;

(c) whether civilian air routes have been chalked out for the purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the certification and licensing procedures for construction of helipads;

(f) whether there is a tariff regulating authority for commercial operations of helicopters;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) if not, whether the commercial operators are free to charge any fare to cover cost of operations and make profit; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) The infrastructure requirement for helicopter operations like heliports, helipads and temporary landing areas are contained in Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) Section 4, Series B Part II and III issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

(b) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) has ordered 3 light single engine helicopters and a proposal for purchase of 07 medium twin engine helicopters has been appraised by the Public Investment Board.

(c) and (d) Separate corridors for helicopter operations at Delhi and Mumbai have been drawn by Airports Authority of India.

(e) Heliports used for schedule Air Transport are licensed as per licensing procedures for aerodromes while operational authorisation is issued by DGCA to helipads, if it fulfills the specified safety requirements.

(f) to (i) No, Madam. The tariff in respect of air transport services is based on market forces of demand and supply.

[Translation]

### Subsidy on Gas Connections to BPL Families

1226. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide subsidy on LPG gas connections to the people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be commenced; and

(d) the number of BPL families likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Government is examining the possibility of extending one time financial assistance to cover the security deposit for one LPG cylinder and one Pressure Regulator to BPL families for converting from kerosene to LPG usage. The scheme is still in a conceptual stage.

[English]

### Bids for Gas and Oil Blocks in Iraq

1227. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:



(a) whether the Government propose to explore the possibility of bidding for gas and oil blocks in Iraq;

(b) if so, whether any talks have been held with the oil companies in Iraq to bid jointly for the blocks in Iraq;

(c) if so, the result of the talks held and the names and numbers of blocks agree upon to be explored and the quantity of oil and gas expected to be achieved as a result thereof; and

(d) the terms of the agreement entered into with the oil companies in Iraq, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) :

(a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is looking into the possibility of bidding for oil and gas fields in Iraq. Preliminary discussions are being held with qualified oil companies for joint bidding in Iraq. Oil India Limited (OIL) is also exploring the possibility of participation in exploration and production in Iraq.

(c) and (d) Not applicable in view of (a) and (b) above.

#### New Gas Pipeline Projects of GAIL

1228. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned five new projects of gas pipeline to Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) to be laid in next three years;

(b) if so, the details of these projects alongwith the amount involved and the time of completion;

(c) whether sufficient amount of gas is available to GAIL for these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) and (b) GAIL (India) Ltd. has been issued authorizations for five trunk natural gas pipeline projects, with details as below:—

Pipeline Project	Capacity (in mmscmd)	Length (in km.)	Status/Completion By Year	Total Expected expenditure Rs. (crore) approx
1	2	3	4	5
Dadri-Bawana-Nangal Pipeline	31	610	Phase-I April, 2010 (Upto Bawana)	541
			Phase-II October, 2010 (Bawana to Nangal)	1816
Chainsa-Gurgaon-Jhajjar-Hissar Pipeline	35	310	Phase-I January, 2010 (Upto Chaisana)	572
			Phase-II 2011 (Jhajjar Upto Hissar)	261

1	2	3	4	5
Jagdishpur-Haldia Pipeline	32	876	Phase-I March, 2012 Haldia-Phulpur and Spurlines	6164
			Phase-II January, 2013 Compressor station at Haldia and Spurlines	910
Dabhol-Bangaluru Pipeline	16	730	Phase-I March, 2012 (Dhabhol-Gokak-Bangaluru and Spur lines	4058
			Phase-II December, 2012 Spurlines	486
Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Mangalore/Bangaluru	16	840	Phase-I March, 2012 Kochi-Alwaye and spur lines	268
			Phase-II December, 2012 Alwaye-Bangaluru-Kanjirkkod-Mangalore and spurlines	2765

(c) and (d) Gas availability for these projects, is expected from the following sources:—

Pipeline Project	Probable Sources of Gas
1	2
Dadri-Bawana-Nangal Pipeline	KG-D6; PLL's RLNG Tranche A and RLNG from other sources at PLL Dahej

1	2
Chainsa-Gurgaon-Jhajjar-Hissar Pipeline	KG-D6; PLL's RLNG Tranche A and RLNG from other sources at PLL Dahej
Jagdishpur-Haldia Pipeline	KG-D6; ONGC's Mahanadi gas and RLNG from other sources at PLL Dahej

1	2
Dabhol-Bangaluru Pipeline	KG-D6 and RLNG from Dabhol
Kochi-Kanjirkkod-	RLNG from PLL Kochi

### Modernisation of Plastic Technology Institutes

1229. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to upgrade and modernize the existing plastic technology institutes and to open more such institutes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to set up Plastic Technology Upgradation Fund (PTUF); and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) an autonomous institute under the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals is implementing a project titled 'Capacity Building of CIPET centres for development in Thrust areas' with soft loan assistance of US \$ 12.30 million from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC). The project objectives include augmentation of existing training and technical service facilities at various CIPET centres in the country.

The Government has opened three new CIPET centres at Aurangabad (Maharashtra), Panipat (Haryana) and Jaipur (Rajasthan) on the need and request of the respective State Government agreeing to bear the counterpart funding. Government has also sanctioned

Rs. 70.00 crores for CIPET New Schemes under the various Plan Schemes during XI Five Year Plan to upgrade and modernize in line with the Industry needs.

(c) and (d) No, Madam.

### Oil Exploration Policy

1230. SHRI HARISH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy for awarding oil exploration blocks in reserved areas or environmentally protected areas;

(b) whether there is any blocks which has been awarded in reserved areas on land or off shore in the country;

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

(d) the status of oil exploration in desert National Park in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The exploration blocks for oil and gas are offered under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) based on 'in principle' clearances from relevant Ministries including Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF). Operators are also required to obtain environmental clearances from MOEF and other statutory clearances before commencement of any activity in the awarded blocks.

(b) and (c) In some of the awarded blocks under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, the block area partly falls in the reserved areas or environmentally protected areas. Therefore, environmental clearances have not been granted in these blocks for carrying out exploration activities. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) No exploration activities have been carried out in desert National Park in Rajasthan.

**Statement**

**List of blocks awarded under Production Sharing  
Contract (PSC) regime partly falling in  
reserved area**

Sl. No.	Block name	State/area	Operator
1.	GK-OS/5	Gujarat-Kutch Offshore	RIL
2.	SR-OSN-97/1	Saurashtra Offshore	RIL
3.	GK-ON/4	Gujarat	FOCUS Energy
4.	RJ-ONN- 2003/1	Rajasthan	ENI
5.	RJ-ONN- 2003/2	Rajasthan	FOCUS Energy

**Book-a-Taxi Service Scheme**

1231. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways plan to launch 'Book-a-Taxi' Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said service is likely to be started;

(c) whether the Railways propose to extend this service throughout the country in near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, have launched Car Rental services in 2007.

(c) and (d) This service is available in 21 cities across the country through online booking facility given on [www.irctc.co.in](http://www.irctc.co.in) and [www.railtourismindia.com](http://www.railtourismindia.com). IRCTC has planned to extend this service to other important cities also in due course.

[Translation]

**Prices of Chemical Fertilizers**

1232. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government takes economic condition of small and medium farmers also into account while determining the price of chemical fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the criteria/parameters to be adopted in determining the prices of such commodities;

(c) whether the farmers are not being provided with chemical fertilizers by the Government at the price fixed for farmers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide economic benefits to the farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The prices of the chemical fertilizers in the country is same for all farmers including the small and marginal farmers. The price of the subsidized fertilizers has been kept constant since February, 2002 rather has been reduced for complex fertilizers with effect from 18th June, 2008, for the benefit of the farmers. The price today is much lower than its delivered cost at the farmgate level. The difference between the notified selling price of the fertilizers and the normative delivered cost of subsidized fertilizers at farmgate level is paid to manufacturers/importers as subsidy by the Government.

(c) and (d) The chemical fertilizers under the subsidy regime are made available to the farmers at the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) fixed by the Government for the farmers.

(e) In context of chemical fertilizers, to provide economic benefits to the farmers in the country, the price of the fertilizers under the subsidy regime has been kept constant from February, 2002 onwards, inspite of sharp increase in the delivered cost of the fertilizers during the period. Moreover, fertilizer subsidy is being provided by Government for economic benefit of the farmers.

[English]

### Railway Accident Relief Cranes

1233. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway Accident Relief Cranes of different specifications which are operational and presently available with the Railways, zone-wise;

(b) the percentage of imported cranes among them;

(c) whether there is any shortage of these cranes with the Railways; and

(d) the steps that are being proposed to make up this shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) 51.7% (46 imported cranes out of a total of 89 Accident Relief cranes).

(c) and (d) No, Madam. The beats of the existing Accident Relief Cranes are prescribed in a manner to cover all sections of the railway network, except certain isolated, low traffic density sections, where alternate means of re-railing equipment have been provided.

Moreover, Jamalpur Workshop/Eastern Railway is manufacturing Broad Gauge Accident Relief Cranes to meet the requirement arising out of further gauge conversions, new lines, etc.

### Statement

#### Zone-wise Statement of Railway Accident Relief Cranes of different specifications operational and presently available with the Railways

Railway	140 T Crane (BG)	120 T Crane (BG)	65 T Crane (BG)	35 T Crane (MG)
Central Railway	5	—	—	—
Eastern Railway	5	—	—	—
Northern Railway	8	—	—	—
North Eastern Railway	1	—	—	4
Northeast Frontier	4	—	—	3
Southern Railway	3	—	—	3
South Central Railway	5	—	—	1
South Eastern Railway	4	1	—	—
Western Railway	4	—	—	3
East Central Railway	5	—	—	3
East Coast Railway	4	3	—	—
North Railway Central	2	—	1	—
North Western Railway	3	1	—	3
South East Central Railway	2	—	—	—
South Western Railway	2	—	—	—
West Central Railway	4	—	1	—
Konkan Railway	1	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>20</b>

### Financial Assistance to FACT

1234. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the details of the financial assistance sanctioned to revamp Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT), Kerala during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) has been granted plan loan during 2006-07 to 2009-10 for taking up renovation and modernization activities as under:

Plan Loan sanctioned	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2006-07	30.00
2007-08	15.00
2008-09	13.00
2009-10	34.00

Further, the Government has also granted the non-plan aid of Rs. 200.00 crore in 2008 to FACT to continue its business operations.

### Electrical Multiple Unit at Kollam

1235. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 7 crores was earmarked in the Rail Budget 2007-08 for inspection and stabling facilities for main Line Electrical Multiple units at Kollam;

(b) if so, the status thereof alongwith the amount utilized so far; and

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

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

(b) Earth work and raft foundation completed. Out of 170 MT of steel fabrication for superstructure, 132 MT (Metric Ton) has been fabricated and brought to site. Rs. 3.35 crore have been utilized so far.

(c) The project is targeted to be completed by June, 2010.

### Construction of Airport at Sriperumbudur

1236. SHRI P. VISWANATHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any feasibility study has been carried out by the Government to construct a new greenfield airport near Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the exact location, estimated project cost; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Madam. However, the nearest airport Chennai is at a distance of 30 km (approximately).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

### Rail Line from Bhadrachalam to Ranchi

1237. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway propose to lay a railway line from Bhadrachalam to Ranchi via Deogarh and Keonjhar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal at present.

[English]

#### Maharatna Status to ONGC

1238. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade the status of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation from Navaratna to Maharatna company;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (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 Maharatna status is likely to be provided to ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) to (e) Introduction of the Maharatna category for Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is under consideration of the Government. ONGC is one of the Navratna companies eligible to be considered for grant of Maharatna status. No time frame can be indicated for grant of Maharatna status to ONGC.

#### Introduction of NELP

1239. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to introduce the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) VIII;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to evolve a more transparent and competitive framework for oil and gas exploration which attracts more investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) was launched on 9.4.2009. 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) were offered under NELP-VIII. Bids were opened on 12.10.2009. 76 bids have been received for 36 blocks.

(c) In order to attract more investment in oil and gas exploration, transparent and simplified competitive Bid Evaluation Criteria (BEC) have been adopted under NELP-VIII, which were made public before bidding. According to preliminary estimates, the committed investment in NELP-VIII is about US\$1.34 billion, which is more than the committed investment of US\$1.22 billion in NELP-VII.

#### Conversion of Gas into Petroleum Products

1240. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a joint venture company is being formed by Reliance India Limited and Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) to convert gas into petroleum products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the broad parameters for the joint venture company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### Bedsheets and Blankets Provided in AC Coaches

1241. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Northern Railways have decided to

discard the old bed sheets and blankets on overnight train journeys due to persistent complaint from passengers travelling by AC compartments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of old linens that will be discarded and the expenditure likely to be incurred on procuring the new ones in lieu thereof; and

(d) the annual expenditure at present on washing the lines and the number of contracts to be entered in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Old bed sheets and blankets are discarded based on condition and codal life. This is a continuous process. During the year 2009-10 (upto October, 2009), about 2 lakh bed sheets and 5000 blankets have been discarded on Northern Railway on the basis of their codal life and the condition.

(c) Discarding/condemnation of linen on the basis of condition of bedroll items is an on-going process.

(d) The annual expenditure on washing of lines is Rs. 10 crores approximately. However, the number of contracts to be awarded depends upon the requirement due to expiry or termination of the existing contracts.

#### Production of Chemical Fertilizers and Insecticides

1242. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of various chemical fertilizers and insecticides have increased during the last three years and the current year;

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

(c) whether the banned insecticides are also being produced/sold in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the Government in the matter;

(f) whether the various chemical fertilizers and insecticides are being exported to various countries; and

(g) if so, the quantum of these fertilizers and insecticides exported during each of the last three years and the current year, country-wise?

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

(a) and (b) The details of production of major chemical fertilizers and Insecticides during the last 3 years and the current year is given below.

Name of the Product	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (April 09-Oct. 2009)
A. Chemical Fertilizers				(Lakh MT)
(i) Urea	203.08	198.58	199.22	120.28
(ii) DAP	48.52	42.11	29.93	29.08
(iii) Complexes	74.64	58.49	68.48	44.17
B. Insecticides				45900 upto Sept.'09 (thousand MT)

(c) No, Madam. There are no banned pesticides which are being produced/sold in the country.

(d) In view of above question does not arise.

(e) To enforce various provisions of Insecticide Act, 1968, there are functionaries like Insecticide Inspectors,



Insecticide Analysts, Licensing Offices and Appellate Authorities.

(f) and (g) Yes, Madam. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

**A. Chemical Fertilizers**

*Quantum of fertilizers exported out of India during 2006-07*

Company	Country	Product	Quantity (MT)
MMTC	NEPAL	UREA	14766.00
GSFC	NEPAL	DAP	10000.00
PPL	NEPAL	NP 20:20:0	26268.00
PPL	NEPAL	DAP	4789.00
RCF	UAE	S:15:15:15	60.00
RCF	OMAN	S:15:15:15	400.00

*Quantum of fertilizers exported out of India during 2007-08*

Company	Country	Product	Quantity (MT)
1	2	3	4
RCF	OMAN	NPK	200.00
RCF	OMAN	NPK	80.00
PPL	NEPAL	NPK	4920.015
RCF	OMAN	NPK	200.00
RCF	SHARJAH	NPK	100.00
GSFC	NEPAL	AS	2490.00
PPL	NEPAL	NPK	2500.00
PPL	NEPAL	NPK	2500.00

1	2	3	4
PPL	NEPAL	NPK	2500.00
PPL	NEPAL	NPK	4958.055
PPL	NEPAL	NPK	4909.060
PPL	NEPAL	NPK	4973.03
GSFC	NEPAL	AS	1575.250
GSFC	NEPAL	AS	942.750
GSFC	NEPAL	AS	2484.00
Total			50832.160

*Quantum of fertilizers exported out of India during 2008-09*

Company	Country	Product	Quantity (MT)
1	2	3	4
Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	SHARJAH	NPK	300.00
Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd.	OMAN	NPK	604.00
Rama Phosphate Ltd., Mumbai	Sri Lanka	Granulated Single Super Phosphate	3002.00
MMTC	NEPAL	UREA	2500.00
FACT	OMAM	Ammonium Sulphate	400.00
FACT	SRI LANKA	Ammonium Sulphate	50.00

1	2	3	4
GNFC	TANZANIA	CAN	3176.40
GSFC	SEZ, Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritius, UAE Nepal, Vietnam	AS	25680.30

*Quantum of fertilizers exported out of India  
during 2009-10*

Company	Country	Product	Quantity (MT)
MMTC	NEPAL	UREA	15000.00
FACT	OMAN	Ammonium Sulphate	125.00
IFFCO	NEPAL	NP 20:20:0	5000.00
RCF	OMAN	NPK	288.00
GSFC	SEZ, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Mauritius, UAE, Nepal, Vietnam	AS	14684.10

**B. Insecticides**

As per data from DGCI AND S, Kolkatta, 27513.52 MT and 25488.71 MT of insecticides were exported by India during 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively. Country-wise details are given in the enclosed Annexure.

**Annexure**

*Country-wise export of insecticides and pesticides  
during 2006-2007*

Country	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1	2	3
Algeria	4.12	15.06

1	2	3
Argentina	1565.08	4684.58
Australia	1365.80	2756.78
Bangladesh PR	193.82	341.47
Belgium	464.32	1040.39
Benin	334.00	445.28
Brazil	1224.15	3676.86
Burkina Faso	32.00	47.08
Cambodia	4.00	7.97
Cameroon	28.60	29.96
Canada	6.40	36.17
Chile	95.28	188.12
China P RP	307.13	1518.40
Colombia	220.70	314.26
Costa Rica	445.06	543.08
Cote D' Ivoire	2.00	6.15
Cuba	34.00	44.34
Djibouti	15.02	47.56
Dominic REP	13.10	28.81
Ecuador	93.70	302.49
Egypt A RP	1087.90	1346.35
Eritrea	8.00	30.31
Ethiopia	18.02	57.20
France	840.40	2178.92
Germany	68.02	118.48
Ghana	155.64	226.92

1	2	3	1	2	3
Greece	11.00	31.10	Mozambique	499.89	1022.38
Guatemala	142.50	378.14	Myanmar	264.23	293.61
Guinea	11.20	15.71	Nepal	549.45	597.76
Honduras	7.10	24.64	Netherland	876.86	2683.83
Hong Kong	17.00	99.32	New Zealand	144.02	228.28
Hungary	10.15	43.58	Nicaragua	50.20	87.30
Iceland	16.00	30.17	Nigeria	2357.50	3261.26
Indonesia	287.90	893.86	Oman	54.85	120.80
Iran	192.15	521.83	Pakistan IR	6.03	20.73
Iraq	15.00	22.00	Panama Republic	5.62	16.04
Israel	10.80	46.05	Paraguay	299.20	772.66
Italy	44.40	264.28	Peru	54.53	182.61
Japan	509.50	2371.63	Philippines	326.39	553.50
Jordan	94.31	283.70	Poland	33.00	75.02
Kenya	125.96	200.66	Russia	111.76	362.05
Korea RP	270.84	1098.76	Saudi Arab	339.26	639.55
Lebanon	11.00	20.62	Senegal	17.51	62.63
Libya	14.93	141.75	Singapore	524.69	606.26
Madagascar	31.20	56.17	South Africa	437.12	910.67
Malaysia	356.73	902.17	Spain	112.38	426.14
Maldives	1.57	4.56	Sri Lanka DSR	26.00	54.19
Mali	22.50	41.56	Sudan	170.54	330.34
Mauritius	3.15	8.91	Switzerland	1638.00	1581.98
Mexico	902.49	2667.62	Syria	107.75	474.72
Morocco	102.49	194.58	Taiwan	259.14	397.37

1	2	3	1	2	3
Tanzania REP	20.40	30.24	Algeria	8.00	11.94
Thailand	1366.16	3585.46	Argentina	2216.23	5972.40
Togo	6.88	23.11	Australia	535.61	1293.27
Tunisia	60.29	150.40	Azerbaijan	0.70	1.75
Turkey	596.37	1244.82	Bangladesh PR	743.24	1162.65
Turkmenistan	10.40	25.82	Belgium	536.24	1488.09
U Arab Emts	188.82	366.39	Belize	3.00	8.69
U.K.	483.91	1111.31	Benin	235.50	320.12
U.S.A.	2122.46	13970.39	Bolivia	28.00	45.25
Uganda	111.47	146.48	Brazil	1478.16	4522.77
Ukraine	15.00	20.68	Bulgaria	0.30	1.39
Uruguay	152.63	352.64	Burkina Faso	0.23	0.36
Uzbekistan	22.86	73.02	Cameroon	117.35	230.89
Venezuela	65.30	93.55	Chile	96.94	132.78
Vietnam Soc Rep	1126.96	3649.78	China P RP	696.00	2672.62
Yemen Republic	32.15	57.05	Colombia	266.80	516.29
Zambia	20.65	51.69	Costa Rica	163.00	164.87
Zimbabwe	6.80	12.08	Cote D' Ivoire	21.20	74.39
Total	27513.52	71122.91	Cyprus	0.40	0.73
<i>Country-wise export of insecticides and pesticides during 2007-2008</i>			Djibouti	29.08	81.58
Country	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)	Dominic REP	24.80	36.54
1	2	3	Ecuador	89.56	256.91
Afghanistan TIS	9.52	20.49	Egypt A RP	761.13	950.12
			Eritrea	19.40	71.35
			France	885.77	5476.31

1	2	3	1	2	3
Gambia	80.00	160.26	Myanmar	20.99	57.46
Georgia	5.00	18.21	Nepal	709.55	781.55
Germany	488.39	2286.18	Netherland	856.48	2492.65
Ghana	115.61	173.27	New Zealand	18.22	75.10
Greece	92.85	115.02	Nicaragua	67.80	139.53
Guatemala	126.63	305.38	Nigeria	1564.85	1956.51
Guinea	49.06	50.28	Oman	17.43	26.28
Indonesia	311.17	896.19	Pakistan IR	236.70	501.86
Iran	503.20	1186.79	Panama Republic	14.30	51.03
Iraq	19.50	22.09	Paraguay	248.80	668.92
Israel	32.97	146.18	Peru	67.20	191.33
Italy	8.03	56.37	Philippines	305.79	472.45
Japan	378.63	2310.37	Poland	21.11	43.28
Jordan	140.73	380.92	Romania	17.04	36.47
Kenya	277.91	416.07	Russia	207.70	581.56
Korea DP RP	0.30	1.94	Saudi Arab	364.84	469.92
Korea RP	143.70	639.43	Singapore	126.52	230.22
Lebanon	29.68	66.06	South Africa	408.83	1448.22
Madagascar	26.50	39.68	Spain	89.93	269.32
Malaysia	465.21	909.05	Sri Lanka DSR	39.65	65.57
Maldives	0.65	2.03	Sudan	40.50	85.20
Mauritius	4.95	10.62	Switzerland	301.45	290.11
Mexico	943.52	2597.80	Syria	24.14	122.03
Morocco	45.50	81.06	Taiwan	84.23	189.88
Mozambique	474.62	830.74	Tajikistan	18.50	22.36

1	2	3
Tanzania REP	17.50	17.52
Thailand	896.51	3181.56
Trinidad	7.85	17.27
Tunisia	13.23	44.82
Turkey	627.40	1312.16
U. Arab Emrts	502.95	998.24
U.K.	406.22	1025.13
U.S.A.	1053.89	5133.48
Uganda	226.68	312.10
Ukraine	44.00	64.63
Uruguay	551.36	1209.24
Uzbekistan	31.00	77.43
Venezuela	428.25	515.40
Vietnam Soc. Rep.	1076.27	3343.56
Yemen Republic	2.65	13.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>25488.71</b>	<b>67751.23</b>

#### Discharge of Effluents by NTC Mills

1243. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of textile mills including mills under the National Textile Corporation (NTC) discharging effluents resulting in poisoning of groundwater, agriculture lands and affecting people's health;

(b) if so, the details of such textile mills, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that effective effluent treatment plants are installed by these textile mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Ministry of Textiles is not monitoring the discharge of effluents by any textile mill. As far as National Textile Corporation (NTC) is concerned, out of 21 working mills, 19 mills are spinning units producing yarn. Only 2 mills are having weaving activities but both the mills are not having Dye house. None of NTC mills is therefore discharging any effluents containing harmful poisonous chemicals.

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

(c) This Ministry encourages under its various schemes, such as Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) and Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP), to install effluent treatment plants. The benefits under TUFS and SITP launched by Government of India are also available for equipment for common effluent treatment plant. NTC is also setting up 3 Composite Greenfield mills-one each in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat where provision of Effective Effluent Treatment plants has already been made.

[Translation]

#### Exhibitions and Fairs

1244. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exhibitions and fairs of handlooms and handicrafts organized in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the details thereof, place-wise and date-wise; and

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms and Handicrafts provide financial assistance to the State Governments and other eligible handloom organisations for organising fairs and exhibitions in the country. State-wise number of exhibitions and fairs organized in the handlooms and handicrafts sectors and the expenditure made thereon in the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II.

**Statement-I***State-wise Events and Expenditure during the last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Year 2006-07		Year 2007-08		Year 2008-09	
		No. of events	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakh)	No. of events	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakh)	No. of events	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>General States</b>							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38	106.00	38	120.00	41	123.00
2.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Chhattisgarh	02	04.00	03	03.00	07	17.00
4.	Delhi	02	04.00	08	16.00	—	—
5.	Gujarat	—	—	01	19.00	09	24.25
6.	Haryana	08	16.00	08	16.00	02	02.00
7.	Himachal Pradesh	13	30.00	10	08.00	13	24.00
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Karnataka	02	06.50	17	35.00	16	68.00
11.	Kerala	02	06.00	—	—	03	01.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	08	47.00	04	25.91	09	05.00
13.	Maharashtra	10	74.80	12	109.86	16	130.85
14.	Orissa	21	68.80	22	64.80	24	69.00
15.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Rajasthan	11	50.75	05	27.00	03	02.00
17.	Tamil Nadu	25	70.07	25	64.00	30	66.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Uttar Pradesh	23	80.44	30	60.00	33	98.90
19.	Uttarakhand	05	10.00	06	11.00	08	15.00
20.	West Bengal	14	37.00	15	29.00	15	35.00
21.	NHDC, Lucknow	06	54.87	09	120.66	12	187.44
22.	ACASH, New Delhi	04	22.99	05	54.57	07	—
<b>NE Region</b>							
1.	Assam	53	237.46	36	177.78	44	207.99
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	03	06.00	02	04.00
3.	Manipur	02	20.00	02	04.00	09	30.00
4.	Mizoram	12	24.00	06	10.00	10	18.00
5.	Meghalaya	05	10.00	04	16.00	06	12.00
6.	Nagaland	20	39.00	21	79.00	34	204.85
7.	Sikkim	02	04.00	02	04.00	02	04.00
8.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	04	08.00
Total		288	1023.68	292	1080.58	349	1357.78

**Statement-II**

*State-wise Events and Expenditure during the last three years*

Sl. No.	State	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
		No. of Events	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. in lakh)	No. of Events	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. in lakh)	No. of Events	Expenditure Incurred (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52	180.68	57	175.23	62	333.42



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	6.90	—	—	—	—
4.	Assam	49	168.15	63	164.08	23	450.44
5.	Bihar	9	20.64	14	28.67	9	38.61
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	3	39.14	2	9.75	5	27.08
8.	Delhi	32	185.25	36	162.38	17	262.79
9.	Goa	2	8.06	4	18.87	—	8.37
10.	Gujarat	36	71.73	67	120.62	87	196.21
11.	Haryana	35	69.95	19	35.42	7	52.58
12.	Himachal Pradesh	22	66.59	23	53.24	10	120.97
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	18	29.93	6	27.73	20	50.70
14.	Jharkhand	6	23.40	9	52.78	4	27.97
15.	Karnataka	13	59.87	19	74.77	19	155.13
16.	Kerala	8	25.67	12	50.62	11	29.56
17.	Madhya Pradesh	10	29.51	26	187.89	18	133.37
18.	Maharashtra	11	75.39	11	95.65	4	73.74
19.	Manipur	10	58.48	45	71.18	14	117.31
20.	Meghalaya	1	5.75	13	3.14	—	6.75
21.	Mizoram	—	—	12	4.04	5	47.85
22.	Nagaland	3	12.60	23	26.37	14	69.95
23.	Orissa	43	75.17	41	130.20	20	134.40
24.	Punjab	11	15.41	5	6.90	3	9.03
25.	Puducherry	1	11.48	2	16.56	4	31.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	Rajasthan	14	105.85	25	73.26	14	264.63
27.	Sikkim	—	—	5	6.75	5	6.38
28.	Tamil Nadu	11	66.43	13	43.79	26	110.81
29.	Tripura	11	15.18	—	24.03	8	5.76
30.	Uttar Pradesh	120	339.92	158	894.90	86	523.69
31.	Uttarakhand	14	38.08	5	39.40	3	45.71
32.	West Bengal	20	36.11	16	40.39	6	64.63
Total		570	1831.32	731	2638.61	504	3399.44

Place-wise and date-wise records of Exhibitions/Fairs organized during the last three years is not maintained.

[English]

#### Ticketless Travelling

1245. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers booked for travelling on others ticket and without ticket in trains during the last six months; and

(b) the steps taken by the Railways to check the ticketless travelling in trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The number of passengers booked for travelling on others' tickets and without tickets during the last six months (May, 09 to October, 2009) were 19076 and 45.93 lakhs respectively.

(b) Regular and surprise checks are conducted in association with Railway Magistrates and the Police against ticketless travelling. These checks are intensified during peak rush/festival periods. The persons so apprehended for ticketless/irregular travel are taken up under the

provisions of the Railways Act. Campaigns are also launched through various media to educate the public about the consequences of travelling without tickets. To deter ticketless/irregular travel, the minimum penalty has also been enhanced from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 250/- with effect from 01.07.2004.

#### Setting up of Kisan Sewa Kendras

1246. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Kisan Sewa Kendras set up in rural and urban areas of various States including Gujarat, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) whether some of the Kisan Sewa Kendras (KSKs) have been set up in urban areas, while the project was exclusively for rural areas; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Madam. Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd. (KRIBHCO) has set up 60 Kisan Sewa Kendras in three states, i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab. The location wise list is annexed as Statement. There is no Kisan Sewa Kendra of KRIBHCO in the State of Gujarat. No other PSU/Co-operative under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers has any Kisan Sewa Kendras.

(b) and (c) Some of the Kisan Sewa Kendras have been set up by KRIBHCO in Semi-urban areas. These Kisan Sewa Kendras are located at/near to Grain Market premises, where the farmers of the nearby villages visit frequently for selling their farm produce and procurement of all types of agro inputs and other articles of daily needs. Such locations happen to be semi-urban areas.

**Statement**

*Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited*

*Address of the Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra*

**A Uttar Pradesh**

(Name of Area Office)

Sl.No.	Name of KBSK
1	2

**AA Area Office Meerut**

1.	1 Hapur	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near S.B.I. Hapur Distt. Ghaziabad (U.P.)
2.	2 Gulauthi	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Opp. Police Station Milan Cinema Road Gulauthi Distt. Bulandshahr (U.P.)
3.	3 Jhangirabad	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near Nai Mandi Jhangirabad Distt. Bulandshahr (U.P.)

1	2	
4.	4 Bulandshahr	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near Nai Mandi Anoop Shahar Road Distt. Bulandshahr (U.P.)
5.	5 Syana	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Garh Bulandshahr Road, Near Ram Vihar Colony Syana Distt. Bulandshahr (U.P.)
6.	6 Shahpur	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Malda Bagh, Shahpur Distt. Muzaffar Nagar (U.P.)
7.	7 Bhopa	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near Montessori School Morana Road, Bhopa Distt. Muzaffarnagar (U.P.)
8.	8 Rampur Maniharan	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra C/O Ram Shyam Rice Mill Rampur Maniharan Distt. Saharanpur (U.P.)

**AB Area Office Moradabad**

9.	9 Joya	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Joya Amroha Road (Distt. J.P. Nagar)
10.	10 Kanth	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near Bus Stand Kanth Distt. Moradabad (U.P.)
11.	11 Pagamberpur	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Amroha-Kanth Road, Near Prathma Bank, Paigamberpur Distt. Moradabad (U.P.)
12.	12 Bilari	Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Sahabad Chauraha, Bilari Distt. Moradabad (U.P.)

1	2	1	2
13.	13 Sambhal Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Musaffar Khana Near Mandi Samiti Hasanpur Road, Sambhal Distt. Moradabad (U.P.)	20.	20 Mainpuri Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra C/o Sh. Ganga Ram, Opp. PCF Godown Jyoti Road, Distt. Mainpuri (U.P.)
14.	14 Thana Mainathore Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Moradabad-Sambhal Road Near Prathma Bank Block- Kundarki Thana Mainathore (Distt. Moradabad)	21.	21 Raya Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Sadabad Road, New Cinema Ghar Distt. Mathura (U.P.)
<b>AC Area Office Agra</b>		22.	22 Shikohabad Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Etah Road, Bye-pass Chauraha, Shikohabad Distt Firozbad (U.P.)
15.	15 Mathura Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Shonak Road, Near Mandi Samithi, Radhika Vihar Marg, Near PCF Godown Mathura (U.P.)	23.	23 Pardam Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near Police Chowki, Pardam Distt. Firozabad (U.P.)
16.	16 Aligarh Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near Dhanipur Mandi G.T. Road Distt. Aligarh (U.P.)	24.	24 Sasni Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Vijaygarh Road Kotwali Chauraha, Sasni Distt. Hatras (U.P.)
17.	17 Jalesar Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near New Thesil, Katra Chowk Agra Road, Jalesar Distt. Etah (U.P.)	25.	25 Sikandra Rao Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Sikandra Rao (Distt. Aligarh)
		<b>AD Area Office Shahjahanpur</b>	
18.	18 Etah Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Opp. Khemka Petrol Pump Distt Etah (U.P.)	26.	26 Ramkot Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Kisan Sewa Sahakari Samiti Ramkot Distt. Sitapur (U.P.)
19.	19 Bewar Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra G.T. Road, Near Distt. Coop. Bank Compound, Bewar Distt. Mainpuri (U.P.)	27.	27 Puranpur Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Madho Tanda Road, Near Railway Crossing Puranpur Distt. Pilibhit (U.P.)

1	2	1	2
28.	28 Lakhimpur Kheri Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Mahewganj Distt. Lakhimpur Kheri (U.P.)	36.	36 Farenda Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Anand Nagar, Farenda Distt. Maharaj Ganj (U.P.)
29.	29 Gola Gokarnath Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Aliganj Road P.O. Gola Gokarnath Distt. Lakhimpur Kheri (U.P.)	<b>B Haryana (Area Office Karnal)</b>	
<b>AE Area Office Varanasi</b>		<b>BA Name of KBSK</b>	
30.	30 Sandeela Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra C/O Shri Raj Kumar Gupta Unnab Road, Sandeela Distt Hardoi (U.P.)	37.	1 Kurukeshtra Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near Grain Market, Bye Pass Road Distt Kurukeshtra (Haryana)
31.	31 Chakiya Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra C/O Krey Vikray Sahakari Samiti Chakia Distt. Chandauli (U.P.)	38.	2 Ismailabad Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Ambala Kaithal Road Ismilabad Distt. Kurukeshtra (Haryana)
<b>AF Area Office Kanpur</b>		39.	3 Indri Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near New Grain Market Indri Distt. Karnal (Haryana)
32.	32 Jaswant Nagar Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Agra Road, Jaswant Nagar Distt. Etawah (U.P.)	40.	4 Gharaunda Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra GT Road, Near Petrol Pump Gharounda Distt. Karnal (Haryana)
<b>AG Area Office Gorakhpur</b>		41.	5 Jagadhari Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Aggarsen Chowk, Jhota Road Jagadhari, Distt. Yamuna Nagar (Haryana)
33.	33 Deoria Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Barahaj Road Distt. Deoria (U.P.)	<b>BB Area Office Faridabad</b>	
34.	34 Chauri Chaura Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Deoria-Gorakhpur Highway, Near Police Station Chauri Chaura (Distt. Gorakhpur)	42.	6 Hodal Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Main Market Road Near Police Station Hodal Distt. Faridabad (Haryana)
35.	35 Gauri Bazar Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Gram Post Dev Gaon Gauri Bazar Distt. Deoria (U.P.)		

1	2	1	2
43.	7 Palwal Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Mail Godown Road, Near Mathura Road Palwal Distt. Sonapat (Haryana)	51.	2 S.P. Lodhi Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near BDO Office Sultanpur Lodhi Distt. Kapurthala (Punjab)
44.	8 Gohana Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Baroda Road Market Gohana Distt. Sonapat (Haryana)	52.	3 Banga Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Phagwara Road Banga-144505 Distt. Jalandhar (Punjab)
45.	9 Rewari Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Shop No. 1, New Grain Mkt. Distt. Rewari (Haryana)	53.	4 Amritsar Near Distt. Industries Office Mehta Road Amritsar-143005 (Punjab)
<b>BC Area Office Hissar</b>		<b>CB Area Office Ludhiana</b>	
46.	10 Adampur Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Anaj Mandi Campus Adampur Distt. Hissar (Haryana)	54.	5 Moga Shop No.21, New Grain Mkt. G.T. Road, Moga-142001 Distt. Moga (Punjab)
47.	11 Meham Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Hissar Rohtak Road Meham Distt. Rohtak (Haryana)	55.	6 Mullanpur Dakha Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Near Johal Market Mullanpur Dakha-141102 Distt. Ludhiana (Punjab)
48.	12 Fatehbad Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra No. 75, Grain Market Campus Distt Fatehbad (Haryana)	56.	7 Patiala Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Shop No. 105 Grain Market Patiala (Punjab)
49.	13 Sirsa Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra New Anaj Mandi Distt Sirsa (Haryana)	57.	8 Sangrur Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra No. B-5/495 Basti Gobindpura Near Vishkarma School Grain Market Distt. Sangrur-148001 (Punjab)
<b>C Punjab</b>			
<b>CA Area Office Jalandhar</b>			
50.	1 Hoshiarpur Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra Shop No.4 New Grain Market Phagwara Road Distt Hoshiarpur-146001 (Punjab)	58.	9 Bhatinda Krishak Bharati Sewa Kendra 53/2 Near Grain Market Bhatinda-151001 Distt. Ferozepur (Punjab)



(c) A Court case is pending in the High Court of Bombay in respect of the ship River Princess. The Government of Goa are required to take necessary action to break/dispose of the said ship by following the orders of the High Court as well as the procedure approved by the Supreme Court of India.

[Translation]

### Freight Capacity of Railway Wagons

1249. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the design, the Railway wagons having four axles are permitted to carry 20.132 metric tone of iron-ore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways are increasing its freight capacity in violation of the rules;

(d) whether permission has been given to carry 2.4 metric tone of excess load in the same wagons on most of the old railway tracks without changing the design of the wagon; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. BOY and BOBSN wagons are optimally designed for carrying 70.89 metric tonne and 61.2 metric tonne iron ore respectively.

(c) and (d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

### Production of Fuel from Algae

1250. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:  
SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation is planning to produce fuel from algae in collaboration with US firm;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to start fuel production and encourage farmers to cultivate algae?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a Florida, USA based specialist algae company, M/s Petroalgae, which has developed superior algal strains and also a technology for extraction of oils. This collaboration shall be effective in two phases:-

(1) In the first phase, the algal strains supplied by M/s Petroalgae shall be grown in Indian conditions and their growth parameters will be monitored in the laboratory.

(2) Thereafter, the chosen algal strains will be scaled up at Research and Development Center of IOC. This phase will establish the preliminary cost economics and commercial viability.

Commercialization of algae of successful in preliminary stages will take about 5 to 7 years.

[Translation]

### Modernization of Signalling System

1251. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on the project namely modernization of signal and telecommunication system between Gaziabad-Kanpur is going on for a long time;

(b) if so, the status of the project and the reasons for the delay in execution of automatic signalling system; and



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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Contract for the "Modernization of Signal and Telecommunication system between Ghaziabad-Kanpur," was awarded in September, 2005 and physical work commenced in July, 2006.

(b) and (c) Automatic signaling system in approximately 160 kms and station interlocking at 11 stations have been completed. During the course of execution of project, additional work of 3rd line between Ghaziabad-Aligarh, Panki-Bhaupur and yard remodeling of 4 important stations have come up. The resolution of certain issues related to integration of these works with the modernization project took some time. However, the work is progressing and the project is likely to be completed by June, 2011.

[English]

#### Rail Link in Sikkim

1252. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to connect Sevoke, Sikkim with rail link;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total length of this new rail line alongwith cost involved therein; and
- (d) the time by which the work on this new line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) New line from Sivok to Rangpo has been taken up. Rangpo is a township in Sikkim on the border of West Bengal and Sikkim.

(c) and (d) The length of the line is 52.7 km. with an anticipated cost of Rs. 1339 crore. The Final Location Survey has already been taken up. The work has been

entrusted for execution to M/s IRCON, a PSU under Ministry of Railways.

#### Setting up of Kisan Sewa Kendras

1253. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the Kisan Sewa Kendras (KSKs) set up by various Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) across the country till date, State-wise;
- (b) whether some of the KSKs have been set up in urban areas while the project was exclusively for rural areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action plan prepared by the Oil companies to set up such more Kendras in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) As on 1.10.2009, 2672 Kisan Sewa Kendras (KSKs) of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), 1334 Hamara Pumps of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and 785 Rural Retail Outlets of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have been set up across the country. The state-wise details of such retail outlets (RO) are available with Director (Marketing) of public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs).

(b) and (c) KSKs/Hamara Pumps/Rural Retail Outlets are low cost retail outlets developed by public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) to cater to rural/agricultural market in order to reach diesel, other petroleum products and non-fuel products at Kisan's doorstep. The objective of such ROs is to cater to rural/agricultural market and hence, such outlets are not set up in Urban areas.

- (d) During the current year, IOC plans to setup 376

KSKs, HPCL plans to set up 650 Hamara Pumps and BPCL plans to set up 200 rural retail outlets.

[Translation]

#### Increase in Demand of Pilots

1254. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the need for pilots in the near future in the wake of rapid growth of aviation industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken being taken in order to meet the demand of the pilots in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of pilots. The requirement of trained pilots is a dynamic phenomenon depending on airline operations and type of aircraft used.

(c) In order to have desired quality and number of pilots over a long period, the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) has been modernised through upgradation of Infrastructure and providing funds for additional trainer aircraft to increase its annual capacity from forty to hundred cadets. A world-class flying training institute at Gondia in Maharashtra has been set up with capacity to train 110 candidates annually which include 10 candidates for Commercial Helicopter Pilot Licence training. Other flying clubs are also supported by Government by providing trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Aero-Club of India. Further, Helicopter Licence holders have also been allowed to convert their helicopter licence to Commercial Pilot Licence (aeroplane) by doing 100 hours conversion flying.

#### Stampede at Faridabad Railway Station

1255. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several people were injured due to a stampede caused by fire at Faridabad Railway Station recently;

(b) if so, the details of the casualties alongwith the outcome of an enquiry committee, if constituted, in light of this incident; and

(c) the measures adopted by the Railways to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No such incident took place of Faridabad Station recently.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The following steps are being taken to prevent the fire incidents.

1. Action is being taken under the provisions of the Railways Act against unauthorised hawkers and vendors using sigris and stoves and also the passengers who carry gs cylinders, explosive materials, crackers other inflammable and prohibited items.
2. Coordination meetings with GRP, civil authorities and commercial department are held to avoid any such incident.

#### Corruption in IRCTC

1256. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to start catering services through the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) after abolishing the system of contractors/Licences in catering services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the vigilance Mechanism has detected

cases of alleged corruption and irregularities in IRCTC during each of the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the action taken against the delinquent officials thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Catering activities on Indian Railways have been entrusted to Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) which is providing these services either departmentally or through licensees.

(c) to (e) In 2006, 55 checks, in 2007, 59 checks, in 2008, 39 checks and in 2009 (till November), 28 checks have been conducted by IRCTC Vigilance Department. Delinquent officials identified have been taken up under Disciplinary Rules and in case of licensees suitable fines have been imposed.

#### **Sale of Gas by GAIL**

1257. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:  
DR. MONAZIR HASSAN:

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

(a) the annual average quantum of gas being sold by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) in the country;

(b) whether besides original price any kind of tax/cess are also charged by the GAIL from the consumers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) Around 81.0 million standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd) natural gas is presently being sold in the country by GAIL (India) Ltd.

(b) and (c) Besides basic price, other components, like royalty on APM gas, service tax on transportation charge, VAT/LST on delivered gas price and entry tax (as applicable in the concerned State) are charged from customers.

#### **Halt at Malihabad, Haidargarh Railway Station**

1258. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request to provide halt to train number 4307/4308 at Malihabad and Haidargarh railway station in district Barabanki in UP; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. There is request for stoppage of 4307/4308 Prayag-Bareilly Express at Malihabad. The request has been examined but not found feasible. 4307/4308 Prayag – Bareilly Express does not pass through Haidargarh Station.

[English]

#### **Revival of HFCL**

1259. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is actively considering to revive Durgapur, West Bengal unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also considering to produce Ammonia and Urea from this unit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to allocate the Gas recently found in adjoining Birbhum district for the use of this fertilizer plant?

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

(a) to (e) The Government has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of HFCL and FCIL including the Durgapur Unit of HFCL subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the country. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units of FCIL/ HFCL and to Make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendations regarding the suitable financing option. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government. The Government is considering to revive the brown field project of Durgapur Unit of HFCL to produce Ammonia and Urea. As Regard availability of gas, the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) has accorded highest priority for allocation of natural gas to the closed fertilizer units as and when they are ready to utilize the gas.

#### **Rail Project in Backward and Rural Areas**

1260. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to initiate Rail Projects in backward and rural areas on priority basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) 109 new line projects are in progress in various parts of the country which, on completion, will add about 11000 Km. of broad gauge lines to the network. Most of these lines are on

socio-economic considerations for development of backward, remote, hilly and underdeveloped areas.

(c) The projects are in various stage of execution. The completion of ongoing projects will depend upon availability of resources. No fixed timeframe can be offered at this juncture.

#### **Human Resource Management System**

1261. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to bring out a scheme for human resource management system;

(b) if so, the details thereof with anticipated advantages; and

(c) the cost of the scheme and the period by which it is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) to (c) Several IT systems covering different aspects of human resource management have already been operationalised in the Indian Railways, namely Payroll and inter-related modules (PRIME), Integrated Personnel and Accounting Systems (IPAS) and Personnel Management Information Systems (PMIS).

Feasibility for implementing a comprehensive IT based ERP system for Human Resource Management is under study.

[Translation]

#### **Black-marketing of Railway Tickets**

1262. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway tickets are black-marketed through a large network of agents in festival seasons every year;

(b) if so, whether the Railways propose to review

the measures taken by them, as the existing steps have not been able to curb black-marketing of Railway tickets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Some cases of illegal sale of tickets do come to notice.

(b) and (c) Review of preventive measures is a continuous on-going process. Regular checks are conducted in and around railway reservation offices to curb the illegal activities of touts and other anti-social elements. This surveillance is stepped up during festival seasons. Touts so apprehended are taken up under the provisions of law. During the current year 2009-10 (upto October, 09), 1483 touts were apprehended and prosecuted. In addition, the travelling public is educated through various media to desist from procuring tickets from unauthorized persons. In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of reserved accommodation in trains, new trains and special trains are run and the carrying capacity of the existing trains augmented. To facilitate easier booking of accommodation, reservation can now be done through internet, e-ticketing, post offices, petrol pumps, etc.

[English]

#### **Amendment in CPC**

1263. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Law Commission of India has recently asked the Government to hold a meeting of all stake-holders and suggest a way out of the impasse over the amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which amendments are likely to be expected?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Laying of Gas Pipeline by GAIL**

1264. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) have entered into an agreement for laying pipeline for distribution of LPG in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on this project and the benefits likely to be accrued therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) have not entered into any agreement for laying pipeline for distribution of LPG in Kerala. As such, the question of incurring any expenditure on the said project does not arise. However, an MoU has been signed between GAIL and KSIDC on September 14, 2009 for cooperation in developing usage of eco-friendly fuels, especially Natural Gas and development of natural gas and city gas distribution infrastructure in Kerala.

#### **Unauthorised Sale and Possession of Bio-Diesel**

1265. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has asked the State Governments to ensure that unauthorized sale and storing of bio-diesel in the market is checked and eliminated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways and the Brihan Mumbai Transport Undertaking have floated tenders for the purchase of bio-diesel;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the lack of clarity on Government policy over bio-diesel has put a number of bio-diesel units in the country in total confusion;

(f) whether bio-diesel making units could not get clearance certificate from the Fire Brigade/authorities as bio-diesel finds no mention in the fire brigade fuel storage safety manual; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. In terms of the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005, all the State Governments/Union Territories have been advised to take suitable action in order to curb unauthorized marketing of bio-diesel for use as transportation fuel.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Railways and the Brihan Mumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking have reported that they have floated tenders for the procurement of 50,000 KL and 3,300 KL of bio-diesel respectively.

(e) This Ministry has formulated Bio-diesel Purchase Policy to lend support to the activities for blending of bio-diesel in diesel and marketing of such blended fuel. As per Bio-diesel Purchase Policy, w.e.f. 01.01.2006, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) shall purchase bio-diesel (B100), through its selected twenty purchase centres, which meet the fuel quality standard prescribed in the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specification at a price declared by OMCs periodically.

(f) and (g) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has reported that they are not aware about the difficulties being faced by bio-diesel making units in getting clearance certificate from Fire Brigade Authorities.

[Translation]

### National Judicial Council

1266. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute National Judicial Council to look into the complaints against judges and the courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said Council is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Government is considering bringing in a comprehensive Bill on Judges standard and accountability.

[English]

### Scrappage Scheme for Vehicle Owners

1267. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL  
KHATGAONKAR:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has requested the Union Government to introduce Scrappage Scheme for all types of vehicle owners on the lines of European countries;

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

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has submitted a proposal for

modernization of vehicle fleet with a view to give impetus to growth of the automotive sector and to bring down the environmental pollution, improve road safety etc. The scheme is aimed at providing incentive to the vehicle owners on purchase of new vehicle. The matter has been considered in the Department and a group of officers under the chairmanship of Director (Auto), Department of Heavy Industry associating NATRIP and the Ministry of Finance has been constituted to discuss threadbare the need and scope of having an incentive based scheme for replacement of old vehicles specifically in the Indian context and suggest specific contours for such a scheme.

#### Prices of Patented Drugs

1268. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

- (a) whether the prices of patented drugs imported are controlled in the country;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the prices of such drugs are monitored; and
- (d) if so, the details of the authority monitoring the prices of such drugs indicating the list of products, medicines and their prices, therapeutic group and names of the companies?

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

(a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) the prices of 74 bulk drugs, specified in the first Scheduled, and the formulations containing any of these scheduled drugs are controlled. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)/Government fix or revise prices of Scheduled drugs/formulations as per the provisions of the DPCO, 1995. No one can sell

any Scheduled drug/formulation at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government.

(c) and (d) There is no separate provision in the DPCO, 95 for monitoring the prices of patented drugs imported into country. In respect of drugs which are not covered under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 i.e. non-scheduled drugs, NPPA as part of its price monitoring activity, regularly examines the movement in their prices. The monthly reports of ORG IMS and the information furnished by individual manufacturers are utilized for the purpose of monitoring prices of non-scheduled formulations. Wherever a price increase beyond 10% per annum is noticed, the specific manufacturers are asked to bring down the price voluntarily failing which, subject to prescribed conditions, action is initiated under paragraph 10(b) of the DPCO, 1995 for fixing the price of the formulation in public interest. This is an ongoing process.

Based on the monitoring of prices of non-Scheduled formulation, NPPA has fixed prices in case of 27 formulation packs under Para 10(b) and companies have reduced price voluntarily in case of 64 formulation packs. Thus in all, prices of 91 packs of non-Scheduled drugs were got reduced as a result of the intervention of NPPA since inception.

#### Renewal of Rail Tracks

1269. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the cost of laying one kilometre rail line in the country as compared to other neighbouring countries;
- (b) the length of the old rail line identified for immediate track renewal in the country, State-wise and zone-wise;
- (c) the total funds likely to be incurred thereon and the allocation made during 2009-10 for the purpose; and
- (d) the time by which the renewal of said rail lines is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The cost of construction of new line depends on terrain, geological features, standard of formation and track, cost of labour and material etc. It varies from place to place. The cost of construction of new rail line in India is about Rs. 5 to 6 crore per km in the non-hilly areas. The data for other countries is not maintained.

(b) Track Renewal is an ongoing activity. As soon as a stretch of track becomes due for renewal, action is taken to get its renewal sanctioned. There is no old rail line, which is identified for immediate renewal as immediate renewal is necessitated only in case of accidents or natural calamities. 3500 km. of Complete Track Renewal (CTR Unit) have been identified for Track Renewal for the year 2009-10. Information about Track Renewal is not compiled State-wise but Railway-wise. Railway-wise figures are as under:-

Railway	Target
1	2
Central	234.5
Eastern	133
East Central	200
East Coast	25
Northern	725
North Central	229.5
North Eastern	159.5
Northeast Frontier	117
North Western	161
Southern	195
South Central	320
South Eastern	203.5

1	2
South East Central	70.5
South Western	177.5
Western	320
West Central	287.5

(c) Allocation of Rs. 5135 crore (Gross) has been made for the year 2009-10.

(d) On an average, a Track Renewal work is completed in two to two and half years time. Track Renewal is a continuous activity being taken up every year.

[Translation]

#### Sports Quota in Railways

1270. SHRIMATI YASHODHARA RAJE SCINDIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/guidelines for reservation in appointment from sports quota for various sports in Railways;

(b) the details of the appointments made in each category in Railways against sports quota during the last three years;

(c) whether the Railways propose to increase the sports quota posts; and

(d) if so, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) A quota of a maximum of 1181 posts per year (560 in Group 'C' and 621 in Group 'D' categories) has been kept for appointment for sportspersons from various sports in Railways.

(b) During the last three years, category-wise total intake is as follows:—



Group "C" 839

Group "D" 839

(c) and (d) At present, there is no such proposal.

#### **New Train from Vadodara to New Delhi**

1271. SHRI BALKRISHNA KHANDERAO SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new train from Vadodara to New Delhi is likely to be introduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

[English]

#### **Introduction of Low Cost Air Conditioned Trains**

1272. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways proposed to introduce low cost air conditioned trains in the Rajdhani category;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly in South Central Railway; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Electrification of Ujjain-Indore Rail Line**

1273. SHRI PREMCHAND GUDDU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the doubling and electrification of rail line between Ujjain and Indore is lying pending for many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways have fixed any time frame to complete this work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The doubling with electrification of Ujjain-Indore is not a sanctioned project.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Violation of DGCA Orders**

1274. SHRI RAMKISHUN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the private airlines companies have violated DGCA orders by levying surcharges and tax etc. on air fares under various heads;

(b) if so, the details of such companies against which action has been taken so far; and

(c) the details of the nature of action taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Profit Margin on Sale of Medicines**

1275. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pharmaceutical companies give sufficient margins to the wholesale dealers and also to the

chemists resulting in the consumers have to pay the heavy prices for the medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has fixed/proposed to fix any limit on the profit margin which is to be retained by the wholesale and retail pharmaceutical dealers;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the time by which this limit is likely to be implemented; and

(e) the extent to which the cost of the medicines is likely to be decreased in the wake of implementation of this time limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (e) The 74 bulk drugs specified in the First Schedule of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of the DPCO, 95. NPPA fixes the prices of Scheduled formulations taking into account a margin of 8% for the wholesaler and 16% to the retailer. No one can sell the Scheduled medicines at a price higher than the price fixed by NPPA/Government.

Prices of non-Scheduled formulations are fixed by the manufacturers themselves keeping in view the various factors like cost of production, marketing/selling expenses, R&D expenses, trade commission, market competition, product innovation, product quality etc. The Government takes corrective measures where the public interest is found to be adversely affected. It has been noticed by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) that some companies provide high trade margins to the wholesalers and retailers in respect of branded-generics and generic-generic medicines of certain non-Scheduled formulations. However, this segment forms a small portion of total pharma market in the country.

The Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006

proposes to streamline the system of trade margins by capping the trade margins. At present it is under consideration of Group of Ministers (GOM).

[Translation]

#### Halt of Express Trains at Kopergaon Station

1276. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have proposed to provide all express trains alongwith Sampark Kranti Express (2929), Pune-Gorakhpur Express (1037) and Yashvantpur-Bangalore- Hazrat Nizamuddin Trains a halt at Kopergaon station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal to provide stoppage of additional trains at Kopergaon station, as this has not been found to be feasible.

[English]

#### Prices of Iron Ore

1277. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: SHRI BHISMA SHANKAR ALIAS KUSHAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption of iron ore in the country;

(b) whether the pricing policy of iron ore for long-term contracts and in spot markets needs a re-look;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to control the prices of iron ore in view of its limited availability; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) As per estimates of Ministry of Steel, about 87 million tonnes of iron ore was consumed in the country during 2008-09, out of production of about 227.64 million tonnes\*.

(b) and (c) Iron ore is in de-regulated sector and Government has no role to play in fixing the iron-ore prices either in long term contracts or in spot market. It is the market demand and supply situation which determines iron ore prices.

(d) and (e) Presently, no proposal regarding controlling the prices of iron ore is under consideration in Ministry of Steel.

\*Source: IBM, Ministry of Mines.

#### Setting up of Regional Greenfield Airports

1278. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy has been formulated for setting up of Regional Greenfield Airports across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal of the Andhra Pradesh Government pending with the Ministry for setting up of 8 Regional Greenfield Airports in various parts of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Keeping in view the enormous growth in air passengers, which has put pressure on air infrastructure, Government had pronounced a policy for greenfield airports on national

basis in April, 2008 to encourage infusion of greater investment in airport sector.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. On the request of Government of Andhra Pradesh (GoAP), Airports Authority of India (AAI) has carried out the feasibility study of the possible sites for the development of 8 Regional Airports by GoAP at Nellore (Nellore District), Ongole (Prakasam District), Ramagundam (Karimnagar District), Kothagudem (Khamam District), Kurnool (Kurnool District), Tadepalligudem (West Godavari District-existing World War-II air strip), Nizamabad (Nizamabad District) and Bobbili (Vizianagaram District). AAI has submitted the report to GoAP for taking further necessary action.

[Translation]

#### Low Level Facilities at Delhi and Mumbai Airport

1279. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a study conducted by Airports Authority of India a fact has come to light that the consumer satisfaction level at Delhi and Mumbai airports are much below the international standards;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to improve the facilities provided in these airports during the last three years; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in order to bring these services provided in airports at par with international standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has not conducted any Consumer Satisfaction Survey at Delhi and Mumbai Airports. However, as per Operation, Management and Development Agreement executed between AAI and Joint

Venture Companies (JVCs) i.e. M/s. Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (DIAL) and M/s. Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd. (MIAL), the JVCs have to at all times make best endeavours to ensure improvement of the airport and the target rating after the completion of stage 2 shall be 3.75, on the scale of 5. The Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi and Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai had achieved average Airport Service Quality rating of 4.24 and 4.05 respectively on the scale of 0-85, for the quarter 3 (July-September) of year 2009.

(c) and (d) M/s. DIAL has undertaken series of initiatives at India Gandhi International Airport, Delhi to improve the satisfaction level of the customers such as creation of lounge at Terminal 1A, built a new Domestic Departure Terminal (T1D) which is about 35,000 sq. metres and 72 check-in counters with an in-line baggage facility, 15 security channels, 15 bus boarding gates, a new VIP entry gate, etc. Similarly, M/s. MIAL has refurbished all terminals at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai and have improved upon the facilities for an enhanced quality experience for passengers.

[English]

#### **New Train from Tiruppur to Chennai -**

1280. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have considered to introduce a new train from Tiruppur to Chennai; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Minorities under BPL Category**

1281. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to carry out any survey for identifying the minorities including Muslims living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in each State including Madhya Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the schemes formulated for improving the economic condition of the minorities including Muslims;
- (d) the amount allocated under these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the details of the plan for proper implementation and monitoring of these schemes?

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

- (b) Does not arise.

(c) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC), a Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, provides loans through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) at concessional rates for self employment/income generating activities to persons belonging to the minority community living below double the poverty line, under its various schemes viz. Term Loan, Micro Financing, Mahila Samridhi Yojana, Vocational Training and Marketing Assistance etc.

The scheme of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) being implemented by the Government aims, inter-alia, at improving the selected socio-economic and basic amenities parameters in the Minority Concentration Districts (MCDs) during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period. The Government is also implementing coaching/scholarship schemes for students belonging to minority communities which aim to equip them for higher education and securing jobs.

(d) The scheme-wise and State-wise details of amount sanctioned under the scheme MSDP and coaching/scholarship schemes for the last three years and current year are available on the Ministry's web-site viz. [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).

Government of India has released the following central equity contribution to NMDFC for implementation of its schemes:—

Year	Central Equity Contribution
2006-07	Rs. 18.29 crore
2007-08	Rs. 70.00 crore
2008-09	Rs. 75.00 crore
2009-10	Rs/ 125.00 crore

(e) The physical and financial targets for the National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation scheme are laid down through memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Government and NMDFC and the progress of achievements are monitored through quarterly review meetings. An Over-sight Committee at the Central level and at the State level including the District Level committee set up for implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the welfare of minorities monitors the progress of MSDP scheme. In respect of Coaching and Scholarship Scheme, which are monitored by the Centre and the State Governments, schemes envisage carrying out specific studies to assess their impact.

[English]

#### Survey for Laying Rail Line

1282. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have carried out any survey for laying a new rail line between Gazol to Ghugaina under North Frontier Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount sanctioned for this project; and

(c) the time by which the work on this line is likely to be started and completed?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The survey for new line from Gunjaria to Gazole was completed in 2008-09. The cost of 107 km long line was assessed as Rs. 562 crore with rate of return of (-) 7.29%. The project is, however, not sanctioned.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Training to Cabin Crew and Pilots

1283. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bureau of Civil Aviation Security impart training to Cabin Crew and Pilots on handling emergency situations;

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

(c) the number of Cabin Crew and Pilots of various airlines participated in such programmes against their strength during 2008-09 and 2009-10 so far, airline-wise; and

(d) the details of drills and briefing programmes organised by various airlines during 2008-09 and 2009-10 so far, airline-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) does not impart training to Cabin/Flight Crew in handling emergency situations. However, BCAS has directed all airlines organize training on various aspects of security at their respective authorized centres.

(c) and (d) Details are given in the Statement enclosed.

### Statement

*Details of Training Conducted by Airlines for Cabin Crew/Pilots during the year 2008-09 and 2009-10*

Sl. No.	Name of Airlines	For the Year 2008-09		For the Year 2009-10 Till Nov. 20th, 2009	
		Total Courses	Total Cabin Crew/Pilot Trained	Total Courses	Total Cabin Crew/Pilot Trained
1.	Air India	17	509	45	1439
2.	Spice Jet	08	114	07	121
3.	Jet Airways	39	875	118	2770
4.	Indigo	14	257	08	138
5.	Kingfisher Airlines	54	1065	73	1367
6.	Go Air	01	18	10	140
Grand Total		133	2838	261	5975

### Transportation of Relief Material

1284. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to transport relief material booked by various agencies to flood affected districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra free of charge; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Instructions have been issued for transportation of relief material,

free of charge, when booked by various agencies from any station to flood affected districts of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Such relief material should be consigned to the Relief Commissioner/District Magistrate of the flood affected district and should be distributed under the supervision of the authorities of the State Government. These instructions are valid from 06.10.2009 to 04.12.2009.

### Adoption of Austerity Measures

1285. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:  
SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE:

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

(a) whether the Government has urged the Public Sector Undertakings to adopt austerity measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the PSUs in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) Government have extended instructions issued by Department of Expenditure O.M. dated 7.09.2009 on "Expenditure Management – Economy Measures and Rationalization of Expenditure" to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) mutatis mutandis. Chief Executives of the CPSEs have been made responsible for ensuring the compliance of these measures. A compliance report of the measures is required to be placed on quarterly basis before the Board of Directors. The compliance report is also required to be submitted to the administrative Ministry/ Department concerned.

### Train Protection Warning System

1286. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) which has been installed in certain sections have yielded positive results;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time frame within which it is likely to be installed on South-Western Railway and other Rail systems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Pilot project of Train Protection Warning System (TPWS) on Chennai Central-Gummidipundi section on Southern Railway has been in use since May '08 on sub-urban trains. The performance is satisfactory. Some minor issues are under rectification.

(c) Second pilot project of TPWS for electric loco hauled trains is under installation on Northern/North Central Railway on nominated locomotives.

There is no proposal, at present, to install this system on South Western Railway and other Railways.

#### **Employment to Oustees of Railway Projects**

1287. SHRI NILESH NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of applications for employment to oustees of railway projects pending with the Railways particularly in Konkan Railway in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

[Translation]

#### **Introduction of High Speed Trains in Mumbai**

1288. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Government of Maharashtra to run high speed trains between Mumbai-Nagpur and Mumbai- Pune;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways have received any such proposals from other State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Ministry of Railways has not received any proposal to run high speed train between Mumbai-Nagpur and Mumbai-Pune. However, a proposal from Government of Maharashtra has been received to conduct tech-economic/pre-feasibility study for high speed trains between Mumbai-Pune-Aurangabad-Nasik and Ahmedabad-Mumbai. Ministry of Railways is undertaking a pre-feasibility study of Mumbai-Pune-Ahmedabad corridor.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Similar proposals to conduct the pre-feasibility study have been received from State Governments to Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Kerala, Karnataka, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu on being asked by Ministry of Railways.

Out of the various corridors suggested by State Governments, following six corridors have been selected for the pre-feasibility study:—

(i) Delhi-Chandigarh-Amritsar (450 km. approx.)

(ii) Pune-Mumbai-Ahmedabad (650 km. approx.)

- (iii) Hyderabad-Dornakal-Vijaywada-Chennai (664 km. approx.)
- (iv) Chennai-Bangalore-Coimbatore-Ernakulam (649 km. approx.)
- (v) Howrah-Haldia (135 km. approx.)
- (vi) Delhi-Agra-Lucknow-Varansi-Patna (991 km. approx.)

(e) The high speed corridors being highly capital intensive, the construction can be planned after completing detailed feasibility study.

[English]

#### **New Central Hospital at Patna**

1289. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to setup a new Central Railway Hospital at Patna;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether such hospitals are also proposed to be setup in six newly formed Railway zones in the country?

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

(b) Central Hospital at Patna is under construction. Superstructure has been completed and Outdoor Patient Department, Dental, Physiotherapy, Ultra-sonography, Eye and Pathology facilities have been commissioned.

(c) The existing Divisional Hospitals at Jaipur (North Western Railway), Jabalpur (West Central Railway), Allahabad (North Central Railway), Bhubaneswar (East Coast Railway), Hubli (South Western Railway) and Bilaspur (South-East Central Railway) have been upgraded and are now functioning as Central Hospitals of the new

Railway Zones. Moreover, extra budget has been sanctioned for extension of the existing hospital building or for construction of new building and upgrading the services by enhancing the number of beds, procurement of high-tech equipments and deploying more man power.

#### **Spinning Wool Project**

1290. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to start Spinning Wool Project in Joint Venture across the country including the State of Gujarat; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Madam.

- (b) Does not arise

[Translation]

#### **Survey for Gauge Conversion**

1291. SHRI KHILADI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of rail lines included in the Rail Budget 2009-10 for conducting survey for gauge conversion;
- (b) the details of norms prescribed for approval of said gauge conversion works after completion of survey; and
- (c) the time schedule fixed for completion of said gauge conversion works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are three surveys for gauge conversion included in the Railway Budget 2009-10.



(b) The criteria prescribed under 'project uniguage' for taking up gauge conversion works is:—

- To take up conversion of lines to develop alternative BG routes obviating the need for doubling existing BG lines on these routes.
  - To establish new BG links between stations connected by other BG lines.
  - To establish BG connection to ports, industrial centers and locations having potential for growth.
  - To take up conversion of lines required on strategic considerations.
  - To minimize transshipment and to improve wagon turn around by avoiding delays at transshipment points.
- (c) Does not arise as the works are not sanctioned.

#### **RUB at Utran in Surat**

1292. SHRIMATI DARSHANA JARDOSH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rail under bridge in Utran (Surat) under Western Railway is in dilapidated condition;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the said RUB has been closed for traffic movement;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which this RUB is likely to be opened for traffic?

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

(c) to (e) No, Madam. In fact, there is an RUB No. 453 of 3.05m span near UTRAN which is having vertical

clearance of 4.00m. Its Brick masonry sub-structure gets scratched when heavy and wide vehicle passes through. The face of the Brick masonry is protected by Rail barricades to protect it from damage. The bridge is open for movement of light vehicles.

[English]

#### **Black-marketing of Kerosene**

1293. SHRI B. MAHTAB:

SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of diversion of PDS kerosene into black market;
- (b) if so, the number of cases detected of such black-marketing during the year 2008-09, State-wise;
- (c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government is going to introduce smart card system for kerosene and LPG;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether some States have opposed this move; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) and (b) The possibility of black marketing of Kerosene (SKO) by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to the huge price difference between kerosene and petrol and diesel. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that 21 cases of black-marketing of kerosene oil by wholesale dealers have come to notice in 2008-09. State-wise details of cases of black-Marketing and action taken thereon are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs.

(c) to (e) In order to check the black marketing of Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene, the Central Government have made provisions in the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Order, 1993, issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, according to which the dealers cannot sell PDS kerosene at a price higher than the price fixed by the Government or OMCs and that the PDS kerosene dealers should prominently display stock-cum-price board at the place of business including the place of store at a conspicuous place. State Governments are empowered to take action against those indulging in black-marketing and other irregularities.

In addition to the above, with the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers and to check leakage in supply of PDS kerosene and domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) this Ministry has taken in principle decision to issue bio-metric Smart Cards to users of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG customers beginning with some large cities. The pilot project on Smart Card has initially been proposed to be launched in Pune in Maharashtra. Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and Bangaluru in Karnataka. Modalities for launch of the scheme are being worked out by the OMCs. Depending upon the success of the pilot project, the scheme will be extended out to other parts of the country.

(f) No States/UTs are against the introduction of Smart Card for distribution of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG.

(g) Does not arise, in view of reply to part (f) above.

#### **Competition Commission of India**

1294. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether since the establishment of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), the Monopolies and Restricted Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has stopped functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the cases pending with the MRTPC stand transferred to the CCI;

(d) if so, the numbers thereof; and

(e) whether the CCI proposes to merge all the staff which were working with the MRTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has stopped functioning with effect from 14.10.2009 with the promulgation of Competition (Amendment) Ordinance, 2009.

(c) No, Madam. As per the provisions of the Act, pending cases before the MRTPC stand transferred to Competition Appellate Tribunal and National Commission constituted under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The staff of MRTPC is assisting the Competition Appellate Tribunal in disposal of cases transferred to it from MRTPC.

#### **Profit to Steel Companies**

1295. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profit of the Government owned steel companies have reduced during 2008-09;

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

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

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

(b) The details of Profit Before Tax (PBT) and Profit After Tax (PAT) in respect of Government owned

steel companies namely Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) for the years 2007-08 and 2008-09 are indicated hereunder:—

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Company	Profits	2007-08	2008-09
SAIL	PBT	11469	9404
	PAT	7537	6175
RINL	PBT	2995	2027
	PAT	1943	1336

The reduction in profit is primarily due to increase in costs of raw materials, decrease in sales volume and sudden fall in selling price from the middle of the year, due to an unprecedented global meltdown which affected the steel industry.

(c) These companies have taken strategic steps to offset falling profits, such as increase in the production and sales of value added products, better product-mix, improved techno-economic parameters, optimization in procurement, continuous emphasis on cost reduction and prudent fund management.

#### Corporate Social Responsibility of PSUs

1296. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure incurred by various Public Sector Undertakings during the last three years on corporate social responsibility head; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to encourage the PSUs to spend more funds towards meeting their corporate social responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV) : (a) and (b) The Government has issued guidelines dated 29th November, 1994 on social obligations of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs). The Memorandum of Association (MOA) of CPSEs state the objectives including social objectives, for which they have been set up. CPSEs generally undertake certain amount of non-commercial responsibilities, which are incorporated in the MOA in furtherance of their commercial objectives.

Individual CPSEs identify and implement social responsibilities keeping in view their financial ability to sustain such activities, operating environment and provisions in MOA/statute.

In addition to MOA, concerned administrative Ministries/Departments may assign social responsibilities to CPSEs under their administrative jurisdiction.

The Boards of CPSEs have flexibility in identification and implementation of social responsibilities. They may also avail the help of State Governments, District Administration and People's Representatives, wherever necessary.

#### Sachar Committee Report

1297. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has compiled any data for ascertaining the progress of Sachar Committee Report implementation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHED) : (a) and (b) The decision of the Government on the follow-up action on the major recommendations of the Sachar Committee and the Ministry-wise status of implementation is as under:—

- (i) All public sector banks have been directed to open more branches in districts having a substantial minority population. In 2007-08, 523 branches were opened in such districts. In 2008-09, 537 new branches were opened. (Department of Financial Services).
- (ii) RBI revised its Master Circular on 5th July, 2007 on priority sector lending for improving credit facilities to minority communities. Rs. 82864 crore were provided to minorities under priority sector lending during 2008-09. (Department of Financial Services).
- (iii) District Consultative Committees (DCCs) of lead bank have been directed to regularly monitor disposal and rejection of loan applications for minorities. (Department of Financial Services).
- (iv) A multi-pronged strategy to address the educational backwardness of the Muslim community, as brought out by the Sachar Committee, has been adopted. (Ministry of Human Resource Development):
- (a) The madarsa modernization programme has been revised to make it more attractive by providing better salary to teachers, increased assistance for books, teaching aids and computers, and introduction of vocational subjects, etc. This scheme, now known as Quality Improvement in Madarsa Education, has been launched with allocation of Rs. 325 crores during Eleventh Five Year Plan.
- (b) A new centrally sponsored scheme of financial assistance for Infrastructure Development of Privately Managed Elementary/Secondary/Senior Secondary schools set up for minorities has been launched with allocation of Rs.125 crores for the Eleventh Five Year Plan.
- (c) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has prepared text books for all classes in the light of the National Curriculum Framework-2005.
- (d) Thirteen universities have been provided Rs. 40 lakh each for starting centres for studying social exclusion and inclusive policy for minorities and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- (e) Under the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme (KGBV), criteria of educational backward blocks has been revised with effect from 1st April, 2008 to cover blocks with less than 30% rural female literacy and in urban areas with less than national average of female literacy (53.67%: Census 2001).
- (f) Universalization of access to quality education at secondary stage called Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RSMA) has been approved with focus on educationally backward minorities.
- (g) Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) are envisaged in the revised schemes.
- (h) Provision of more girls' hostels in colleges and universities in minority concentration districts/blocks is proposed under the existing University Grants Commission scheme.
- (v) An expert group constituted to study and recommend the structure and functions of an Equal Opportunity Commission submitted its report on 13th March, 2008. This has been processed, along with the report of the expert

- group on diversity index. (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (vi) A National Data Bank, to compile data on the various socio-economic and basic amenities parameters for socio-religious communities, has been set up the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- (vii) An autonomous Assessment and Monitoring Authority (AMA), to analyse data collected for taking appropriate and corrective policy decisions, has been set up in the Planning Commission.
- (viii) A training module has been developed by the Indian Institute of Public Administration, for sensitization of Government officials. The module has been sent to the Central/State Training Institutes for implementation. Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) has prepared a module for sensitization of organised civil services and it has been incorporated in their training programmes. (Department of Personnel and Training).
- (ix) Under Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT), additional central assistance of Rs. 1602.20 crore has been sanctioned for 69 towns having substantial minority population, out of which Rs. 659.37 crore was released in 2008-09. (Ministry of Urban Development).
- (x) A Bill has been passed by the Parliament for providing social security to workers in the unorganised sector, which, inter-alia, includes home based workers. (Ministry of Labour and Employment).
- (xi) A High Level Committee, set up to review the Delimitation Act, has considered the concerns expressed in the Sachar Committee report and submitted its report. (Ministry of Home Affairs).
- (xii) Guidelines on Communal Harmony have been issued. (Ministry of Home Affairs).
- (xiii) Dissemination of information regarding health and family welfare schemes is being undertaken in regional languages in minority concentration areas. (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare).
- (xiv) State Governments and Union Territory Administrations have been advised by Department of Personnel and Training for posting of Muslim police personnel in thanas and Muslim health personnel and teachers in Muslim concentration areas.
- (xv) State Governments have been advised by Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Urban Development, to improve representation of minorities in local bodies.
- (xvi) The recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Wakfs have been received. These have been processed as per approved modalities. (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (xvii) The Government has accorded 'in principle' approval for restructuring of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation. (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (xviii) An inter-ministerial Task Force constituted to devise an appropriate strategy and action plan for developing 338 identified towns, having substantial minority population, rapidly in a holistic manner submitted its report on 8th November, 2007. The concerned Ministries/ Departments have been advised to give priority in the implementation of their schemes in 338 towns. (Ministry of Minority Affairs).

- (xix) Three scholarship schemes for minority communities viz., Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means were launched and 6.89 lakh scholarships were awarded to students belonging to minority communities in 2008-09. (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (xx) The corpus of Maulana Azad Education Foundation, which stood at Rs. 100 crores, was doubled to Rs. 200 crores in December, 2006. The corpus was increased by Rs. 50 crores in 2007-08 and by Rs. 60 crore in 2008-09. A budget provision of Rs. 115 crore has been made in 2009-10. It has been further increased by Rs. 115 crore during 2009-10 and now stands at Rs. 425.00 crores. (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (xxi) A revised Coaching and Allied scheme was launched and 5522 candidates belonging to minority communities were provided assistance in 2008-09. (Ministry of Minority Affairs).
- (xxii) A multi-sectoral development programme was launched in identified minority concentration districts in 2008-09. Plans of 74 minority concentration districts in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Bihar, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttarakhand, Mizoram have been approved and Rs. 577.80 crores released upto 31st October, 2009. (Ministry of Minority Affairs).

**Financial Assistance to Handloom Cooperatives**

1298. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government to handloom and handicraft cooperatives during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the details of contribution made by various States in the field of textiles, State-wise and head-wise during the said period;

(c) the various schemes being run by the Government for the improvement of Textile Sector as a whole countrywide;

(d) whether the textiles Ministry has approached National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently for funding of some projects being implemented in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI) : (a) to (c) Government of India has been implementing Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Diversified Handloom Development Scheme for the development of the handloom sector and welfare of the handloom weavers of the country. Under Integrated Handloom Development Scheme, Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme only, the funds are routed through the State Governments while under Handloom Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Diversified Handloom Development Scheme, funds are released directly to the implementing agency and not through State Governments. Under the Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, entire 100% is borne by the Government of India whereas State Government has to bear component-wise percentage share under the Integrated Handloom Development Scheme. Exact data of funds provided by the State Government is not maintained by this office. Details of funds released to various State Governments, year-wise under the first two schemes are given in the Statement attached.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*State-wise releases made during the year 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (as on 31.10.09)  
under different Handloom Plan and Non-Plan Schemes*

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	State/UTs	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.19	24.32	14.54	9.29
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.33	1.58	3.23	0.62
3.	Assam	6.16	9.28	11.62	3.29
4.	Bihar	0.06	0.90	1.06	0.02
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.25	1.54	0.78	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.12	0.49	0.37	0.75
7.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
8.	Gujarat	4.90	1.95	2.09	0.63
9.	Haryana	0.37	5.61	0.37	0.16
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.30	0.94	3.22	2.01
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.88	0.06	1.43	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	0.23	1.69	2.87	0.15
13.	Karnataka	9.66	11.94	8.84	1.68
14.	Kerala	6.74	14.72	10.16	2.30
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.43	2.32	2.37	0.48
16.	Maharashtra	3.25	1.32	2.05	0.95
17.	Manipur	2.83	7.01	3.21	0.35
18.	Meghalaya	1.03	1.00	0.61	1.59
19.	Mizoram	0.13	0.51	0.34	0.00
20.	Nagaland	12.59	4.70	6.8	5.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Orissa	19.06	9.93	14.41	3.27
22.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
23.	Punjab	0.20	0.05	0.04	0.00
24.	Rajasthan	2.41	0.90	8.61	0.37
25.	Sikkim	0.02	0.04	0.4	0.00
26.	Tamil Nadu	31.29	37.27	48.82	39.53
27.	Tripura	0.05	1.60	1.37	0.41
28.	Uttar Pradesh	9.74	3.71	13.67	1.86
29.	Uttarakhand	0.65	1.05	2.03	0.33
30.	West Bengal	5.01	6.58	8.83	3.31
Total		133.88	153.01	174.14	78.35

### Foreign Investment in FPI

1299. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:  
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

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

(a) whether several foreign investment proposals have been approved for setting up of food processing units in the country during the last three years including in Himachal Pradesh;

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

(c) whether the Government is encouraging foreign investment at the cost of the domestic investment/food processors; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the domestic food processors and investors?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) The details of the food processing units sanctioned and set up

by foreign entrepreneurs in the country during last three years, State-wise (including that of Himachal Pradesh) and details of the amount of FDI inflows as on 9.7.2009 are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) complements and supplements domestic investment. FDI brings in, apart from capital, state-of-art technology and best managerial practices, thereby providing better access to the domestic industry to foreign technology and integration into the global market. The extant policy permits FDI under the automatic route in most sectors/activities, including Food Processing Industries. However, proposals requiring prior Government approval are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), an inter-Ministerial recommendatory body, which takes into account the policy and sectoral guidelines for FDI. The FIPB also examines whether the proposal would jeopardize an existing joint venture or technology transfer/trade mark agreement if any, in the same field in India. There is no definitive indication about the adverse impact of FDI on the small food processing units and no data is available centrally regarding effect of FDI on the domestic industry.



**Statement**

*Year-wise FDI inflow reported by RBI, Regional offices (with State covered) from April, 2006 to September, 2009 for  
Food Processing Industries*

		(Amount in million)										
Sl. No.	Regional Offices of RBI	States Covered	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		Cumulative Total (from April, 2006 to September, 2009)	
			Apr.-Mar.	Apr.-Mar.	Apr.-Mar.	Apr.-Mar.	Apr.-Mar.	Apr.-Sep.	Rs.	US\$		
			Rs.	US\$	Rs.	US\$	Rs.	US\$	Rs.	US\$	Rs.	US\$
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	420.29	8.70	420.29	8.70
2.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	315.62	6.85	227.23	5.72	79.11	1.78	7.22	0.15	629.18	14.50
3.	Bangalore	Karnataka	667.32	14.87	566.66	14.02	1,838.49	43.35	14.87	0.31	3,087.34	72.54
4.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	12.61	0.27	7.85	0.19	0.22	0.01	78.89	1.65	99.57	2.12
5.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.01
6.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	131.29	2.88	175.12	4.36	1,136.01	24.37	740.09	15.35	2,182.51	46.96
7.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Puducherry	7.85	0.17	0.00	0.00	450.02	10.68	0.00	0.00	457.87	10.86
8.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	4.11	0.10	4.79	0.10	5.89	0.12	14.79	0.32
9.	New Delhi	Delhi, part of UP and Haryana	911.98	19.75	1,683.64	42.71	325.54	7.58	4,247.56	87.78	7,168.72	157.82
10.	Panaji	Goa	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.01
11.	Region Not Indicated		2,361.73	53.44	81.03	1.99	718.47	14.77	85.48	1.76	3,246.72	71.95
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>4,408.60</b>	<b>98.24</b>	<b>2,745.65</b>	<b>69.08</b>	<b>4,553.04</b>	<b>102.64</b>	<b>5,600.28</b>	<b>115.82</b>	<b>17,307.57</b>	<b>385.78</b>

As per the FDI-Data base, RBI's Regional Office Chandigarh (covering the region/States: Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh) has not received any inflow in the Food Processing Sector for the period April 2006 to September 2009.

[Translation]

**Utilization of Funds under Social Responsibility**

1300. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Sector Undertakings and each of their subsidiaries and other agencies have utilized any funds under the social responsibility;

(b) if so, the funds allocated to them during each of the last three years and the current year, undertaking-wise;

(c) the amount spent by them on the various activities during the said period, undertaking-wise, head-wise and location-wise;

(d) whether the funds have been utilized properly for the purpose; and

(e) if not, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Drug Innovation**

1301. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote drug innovation;

(b) whether the Government proposes to clarify the scope of the section 3(d) of the Indian Patents Act;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA):

(a) The Government has taken several steps to promote drug innovation. Following the creation of the new Deptt. in July, 2008 various proposals have been formulated and forwarded to the Planning Commission for their examination and 'in principle' approval. These programmes are at different stages of approval and implementation. The Department is working in consultation with various Government Departments and organizations including the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Health and Family welfare for building up basic support systems to create the enabling environment for R&D initiatives by creating the required infrastructure as well as mechanisms and linkages to facilitate R&D. Six new National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) are being set up to create the appropriate development of human resources for Pharma R&D.

Different Pharmaceutical companies are involved in drug discovery and formulation research alongwith Government Departments/Institutions like Department of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology, ICMR, AYUSH etc. Drug discovery and development is a continuous and long drawn process involving 10-12 years of time aiming at manufacturing safe, potent and affordable drugs. Innovation in drug development is one of the focused areas of CSIR. Through effort under XI Five Year Plan and Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) modalities under New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMILTI), CSIR is pursuing well focused projects. The diseases that are being focused in various research initiatives include: arthritis, asthma, cancer, cholera, diabetes, HIV infection, hepatic disorders, kala azar, lymphatic filariasis, malaria, psoriasis, sepsis, staphylococcus infection and tuberculosis.

The Indian Pharmaceutical Industry has geared up for Research and Development of New drugs. There are about 58 companies in the pharmaceutical sector having R&D centres approved by DSIR u/s. 35 (2AB) of the Income Tax Act, out of which about 15 companies are carrying out Research and Development in new drugs and have built up requisite R&D infrastructure and expertise. The therapeutic areas in which these companies have

developed lead molecules are malaria, urology, metabolic disorders, cardiovascular indications, cancer, diabetes, dyslipidemia, obesity, inflammation and pain, staphylococcal infections, respiratory infections, skin infections, anti-migraine, anti-TB and anti-psoriasis.

Thus the Government is exploring various avenues to facilitate research and build up basic support systems for promoting R&D.

(b) to (d) Deptt. of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) has informed that they have no proposal to amend the Patent Act including Section 3(d).

[Translation]

#### Amendment in Judges Enquiry Act, 1968

1302. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Judges Enquiry Act, 1968;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the new legislation is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) The Government is considering bringing in a comprehensive Bill on Judges standard and accountability.

[English]

#### Report of Law Commission

1303. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has submitted its 33rd report to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the report in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) Law Commission of India has submitted its 33rd report on "Section 44, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898". The said report has been laid in the Lok Sabha on 12.03.1970. The Commission analyzed the comments received and concluded not to recommend the insertion of section 44A in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

#### Safety Regulations of DGCA

1304. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether safety regulations of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) do not conform to international standards at Vadodara Airport;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures Government has taken or proposes to take to upgrade the safety regulations up to the international standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) Safety regulations issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for all airports including Vadodara Airport are based on International Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS) issued by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) for International Air Transport Services. The DGCA has also issued Civil Aviation Requirements for civil flight operations, which are consistent with standards laid down by ICAO.

[Translation]

**Hike in Salaries of the Employees  
of PSUs**

1305. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in taking a decision regarding salary hike of the employees of two public sector companies—Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; 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 STEEL (SHRI A. PRATHAP): (a) to (c) Government approval for revision of payscales in the case of executive employees of Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and in the case of Executives and non-unionized Supervisors of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) have already been accepted.

The wage revision of non-executive employees of SAIL and RINL is being undertaken by the respective Managements under a national level bipartite forum called National Joint Committee for the Steel Industry (NJCS). Negotiations for settling the issue are at an advanced stage.

[English]

**Funds for Airport Revamp Plan**

1306. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:  
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:  
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:  
SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to

state:

(a) whether airport revamp plan has hit a serious financial roadblock;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has cleared the request of Airport Authority of India (AAI) for issuing tax free bonds to raise the money;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the alternative arrangements made by Airport Authority of India (AAI) to raise funds for development work of Airports?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) AAI proposes to raise resources through long term commercial borrowings.

**Supply of LPG Cylinders to Unauthorized  
Persons**

1307. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA:  
SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have received complaints regarding supplying of LPG cylinders to unauthorized persons on regular basis who are not consumers of those agencies;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints received during the last six months in various States, particularly from Vadodara in Gujarat; and

(c) the action taken by the OMCs thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) to (c). During last six months, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have detected 174 cases of diversion of LPG by their LPG distributors in the country including 3 in the State of Gujarat. However, no case has been reported in Vadodara. Action against the erring distributors was taken as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/ Distributorship Agreement.

In order to stop blackmarketing/diversion of domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in diversion/blackmarketing of LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated. The sales officers of OMCs also carry out random checks on their own. If the complaint is established or any irregularity detected, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor (s) in accordance with the provisions of the MDG. MDG provides for following action against the distributor:—

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to taken action against blackmarketing/diversion of domestic LPG. Similarly, the weights and Measures Departments of the State/UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found blackmarketing/diversion of LPG cylinders.

[Translation]

#### Upgradation of Barabanki Railway Station

1308. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to provide more facilities at Barabanki Railway Station, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to upgrade it as a model station; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Barabanki is an 'A' category station where all minimum essential passenger amenities have been provided. Augmentation of passenger amenities at station commensurate with increase in passenger traffic is a continuous process and is undertaken subject to availability of funds and other relative priorities.

(c) and (d) The station has already been selected as a Model Station. Passenger amenities like waiting room with bathing facility, cloak room, enquiry and computer based announcement, public address system, refreshment room, water coolers, Standardised Signages, Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS) etc., have already been provided.

Further, the works planned for completion by March, 2010 are Interactive Voice Response System, Train Indication Board, National Train Enquiry System and Modular catering stalls.

[English]

#### Tax Free Bonds

1309. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to raise up to

Rs. 9,170 crore from the market through tax-free bonds in the current financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes Madam. The targetted amount of Rs. 9,170 crore would be raised through various financial instruments including tax free bonds. The Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), a Public sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, has been mandated to raise market borrowings to the tune of Rs. 9,170 crore in the current financial year to mainly finance acquisition of rolling stock. A part of the borrowing is expected to be raised through issue of tax free bonds by IRFC. Issue of notifications to authorize IRFC to issue the tax free bonds is under process in the Ministry of Finance.

#### Gauge Conversion

1310. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of metre gauge railway lines in the country, zone-wise;

(b) the total length of railway lines converted into broad gauge as on date;

(c) whether any time frame has been fixed by the Railways for conversion of all metre gauge lines into broad gauge lines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) The total length of metre gauge railway network (route kilometres) in the country as on 31.3.2009 is given below:—

Sl. No.	Name of State	Route Kilometres
1	2	3
1.	Central	0

1	2	3
2.	Eastern	0
3.	East Central	490
4.	East Coast	0
5.	Northern	11
6.	North Central	47
7.	North Eastern	1428
8.	Northeast Frontier	1390
9.	North Western	1849
10.	Southern	1269
11.	South Central	361
12.	South Eastern	0
13.	S.E. Central	0
14.	South Western	97
15.	Western	1531
16.	West Central	0
Total		8473

(b) to (d) Since 1.4.1992, 15401 kilometres of metre gauge/narrow gauge lines have been converted into broad gauge upto 31.3.2009. No time frame has been fixed for completion of all the metre gauge lines into broad gauge. This will depend upon availability of resources.

[Translation]

#### Welfare Schemes for Minorities

1311. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:  
DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI:

SHRI K.P. DHANAPALAN:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various schemes under implementation for the welfare of minorities;

(b) the amount sanctioned for implementation of these schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether any initiative has been taken by the Government to assess implementation of various welfare schemes, 15 points programme and recommendations of Sachar Committee by various ministries/departments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) The following schemes are implemented by the Ministry for the welfare of minorities:—

- (1) Pre-matric scholarship scheme
- (2) Post-matric scholarship scheme
- (3) Merit-cum-means based scholarship scheme
- (4) Fee Coaching and Allied scheme

(5) Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) for minority concentration districts.

The scheme-wise and State-wise details of amount sanctioned for the last three years and current year are available on the Ministry's web-site viz. [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).

(c) and (d) The progress of implementation of the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities which includes the three scholarship schemes and coaching and allied scheme of the Ministry is reviewed

by the Government on half-yearly basis. The implementation of the decisions of Government on the follow-up action on the recommendations of the decisions of Government on the follow-up action on the recommendations of the Sachar committee including the multi-sectoral development programmes for 90 identified minority concentration district is also reviewed regularly. The details of the progress of implementation of the New 15 Point Programme and the Sachar Committee are in the web-site of the Ministry of [www.minorityaffairs.gov.in](http://www.minorityaffairs.gov.in).

[English]

#### Investments by Indian Oil

1312. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether Indian Oil is planning to invest around Rs. 4,000 crore in laying pipelines to reduce the costs it incurs in transporting its products by rail and road;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the pipeline plan is in addition to the projects worth Rs. 4,000 crore already under implementation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the time by which this project is likely to be completed and the total areas likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) Yes, Madam. The anticipated investment by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in Petroleum pipelines projects would be approx. Rs. 4650 crore subject to approval by the IOC Board.

(b) The likely value of the planned petroleum pipeline projects is given below:—

1. Crude oil pipeline projects : Rs. 3168 crore  
 2. Product pipeline projects : Rs. 1482 crore  
 Total : Rs. 4650 crore

(c) and (d) The pipeline plan is in addition to the projects which are already under implementation. At present, IOCL is implementing pipeline projects with an

investment of Rs. 4207 crore as per the details given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) The projects are expected to take 30 to 36 months from the date of investment approval by the Board. The projects are expected to cover the State of Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi and Haryana.

### Statement

The details of pipeline projects of IOCL which are under implementation are as under:

S. No.	Name of the Project	Size/Length/ Capacity	Date of approval	Scheduled date of completion/ Expected Date of completion	Approved cost (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Dadri-Panipat RLNG Spur Pipeline	30"/132km/ 10 MMSCMD	June 2005	January 2009	350.00
2.	Chennai-Bangalore Product Pipeline	14/12"/290km/ 1.45 MMTPA	July 2007	June 2010/ December 2009	273.00
3.	Bijwasan-Panipat Naphtha Pipeline	10"/112km/ 0.8 MMTPA	January 2008	July 2009/ December 2009	79.00
4.	Mathura-Bharatpur Spur Pipeline	8"/22.209km/ 177 kl/hr	October 2007	October 2009/ January 2010	23.00
5.	Branch Line to Hazira from KDPL	12"/94km	January 2008	January 2010/ January 2010	97.00
6.	Tikrikalan Hookup with MJPL	14"/2x4km	March 2008	March 2010/ March 2010	59.00
7.	Augmentation of CTMPL	1.8 MMTPA to 2.3 MMTPA	February 2009	February 2011/ February 2011	46.00
8.	Introduction of Rajasthan Crude in IOCL's Pipelines (MPPL AND SMPL)	—	January 2009	January 2010/ January 2010	30.00



1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Branch Pipeline from KSPL, Viramgam to Kandla	16"/217km and 22"/14 km	28.2.2009	30 months after MoE&F clearance/ August 2011	349.00
10.	Additional Tanks at Vadinar	5x85000 kl	28.2.2009	30 months after Statutory clearance/ August 2011	267.00
11.	2nd SPM and connected crude oil pipeline for Paradip Refinery	—	28.2.2009	March 2012 (Commissioning of Refinery/ March 2011	662.00
12.	Kolkata ATF Pipeline	8"/28km/ 0.2 MMTPA	6.5.2009	18 months after receipt of RoW/ March 2011	45.00
13.	Transfer Pipeline from North oil jetty to PHBPL Paradip	36/28" 10km	29.5.2009	18 months after investment Approval/ November 2011	81.00
14.	Paradip-New Sambalpur-Raipur-Ranchi Pipeline	18/14/12/10" 1108 km	31.8.2009	36 months after PNGRB authorization/ September 2012	1793.00
15.	Augmentation of CBPL (Pumping cum delivery facilities at Chittoor)	1.45 MMTPA to 2.45 MMTPA	31.08.2009	August 2011/ August 2011	53.00
Total					Rs. 4207 crore

\*Completion may go beyond December 2009.

[Translation]

### Job in Railways

1313. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have formulated any

scheme to provide job in the Railways and give priority in allotment of refreshment stalls at the stations to a member of the family to be affected by the railway line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Employment in Group 'D' posts only has been considered in exceptional cases for a member of the family displaced by land acquisition wherein large area, house or substantial livelihood has been taken away.

As regards priority in allotment of refreshment stalls at the stations, as per the catering policy, in "A", "B" and "C" category of stations, reservation of 4% has been earmarked for freedom fighters; women, including war widows and widows of railway employees; and persons who have been dislocated or displaced due to their land having been taken over by the railway for its own use. In the allotment of catering/vending units at "D", "E" and "F" category stations, 0.99% units have been earmarked for persons who are dislocated or displaced, due to their land having been taken over by the Railways for its own use.

[English]

#### Setting up of Ultra Mega Steel Projects

1314. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a large number of representations for setting up of Ultra Mega Steel Plants on the concept of Ultra Mega Power Plants;

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

(c) whether some foreign and private sector companies have evinced interest for setting up of steel factories in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP) : (a) Yes, Madam. Representations from Hon'ble Shri C. Ramchandriah, MP, Rajya Sabha and Shri Dhram Pal Sabharwal, MP, Rajya Sabha as well as some of the steel companies have been received in the Ministry of Steel regarding Ultra Mega Steel Project.

(b) The issue of Mega Steel Projects was discussed in Inter Ministerial Group meeting on 25.08.2009 and it was decided by the Committee that, the views of all the concerned in the steel sector and association should be obtained. Some of the steel companies have submitted their views on the proposal and comments from others are awaited.

(c) and (d) The details of foreign and major private sector companies intending to set up integrated steel plants in the country are given below:—

(in Million tonnes per annum)

Sl. No.	Company	Project/State	Present capacity	Total proposed capacity
1	2	3	4	5
i.	POSCO India Pvt. Ltd.	Jagatsinghpur, Orissa	—	12.00
ii.	Arcelor Mittal Ltd.	Keonjhar, Orissa	—	12.00
		Jharkhand	—	12.00
iii.	Tata Steel Ltd.	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand	6.8	10.0

1	2	3	4	5
		Kalinganagar, Orissa	—	6.0
		Bastar, Chhattisgarh	—	5.5
		Saraikela, Jharkhand	—	12.0
iv.	Essar Steel Ltd.	Hazira, Gujarat	4.6	8.5
		Paradeep, Orissa	—	6.0
		Dantewada, Chhattisgarh	—	3.0
		Chaibasa, Jharkhand	—	3.0
v.	JSW Steel Ltd.	Vijayanagar, Karnataka	3.8	10.0
		Salem, Tamil Nadu	1.0	—
		Salboni, West Bengal	—	10.0
		Nimidih, Jharkhand	—	10.0
vi.	Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	Raigarh, Chhattisgarh	3.0	6.0
		Angul, Orissa	—	12.5
		Patratu, Jharkhand	—	8.0
vii.	Ispat Industries Ltd.	Dolvi, Maharashtra	3.0	5.4
		Jharkhand	—	2.8
		Karnataka	—	2.8

(e) According to the New Industrial Policy announced in July, 1991, steel industry has been de-licensed and removed from the list of industries reserved for the public sector subject to certain locational restrictions. No industrial licence is, therefore, required for setting up steel plants under the Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 and the entrepreneurs are free to set up such plants anywhere in the country except in the restricted locations based on their commercial judgement. The Government in such a market set-up has the role of a facilitator only-it provides the overall policy environment to

promote industry growth. However, keeping in view the importance of their implementation of major steel projects in the country, an Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted in the Ministry of Steel, to monitor and coordinate major steel investment in the country. The Inter Ministerial Group functions under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) with members from various Central Ministries/Departments, such as Railways, Road Transport and Highways, Shipping, Industrial Policy and Promotion, Mines, Environment and Forest and the concerned State Governments.

### Damage to Delhi Airport

1315. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL

KHATGAONKAR:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether new structure at the Delhi Airport was badly damaged due to heavy downpour in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which damage caused to the airport infrastructure and sufferings of the passengers thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to upgrade the facilities at the IGI airport, Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) A small area of the roof was affected with no damage to the supporting roof structure of the departure Terminal 1D or the airport infrastructure. Some of the roof sheeting were blown off due to very high velocities winds, leading to water leakages through the affected areas. Normal passengers operations were affected for about 1.5 hours owing to poor visibility conditions at the runway. All the flights, though delayed, took off subsequently.

Basic essential steps were taken immediately. Thereafter, further measures were put in Place as a precaution, to ensure that the affected sheets were firmly anchored. The roof sheeting was set right overnight by M/s. Delhi International Airport Pvt. Ltd., ensuring normal operations next day. A complete review of the roofing system has been undertaken.

(c) to (e) The new domestic departure terminal (TID)

about 35,000 sq. mt. is double the size of existing terminal with 72 check-in counters and an in-line baggage facility, 15 security channels, 15 bus boarding gates, a wide variety of food and beverages and retail opportunities, a children's play area, child care room and many other initiatives to improve the passenger travel experience at the Domestic Terminal.

The measures taken at Terminal 1C (Domestic Arrival Terminal) are as under:—

Interiors have been upgraded to give a 'grand entry' experience; column and wall cladding and false ceiling works completed; all toilets renovated and dedicated disabled toilets with electrically opening doors installed: significant re-grading and re-profiling of service roads to minimize flooding of TIC from surrounding land.

The measures taken at International Terminal-T2:

Increased number of check-in counters from 78 to 100 with additional CUTE facilities; Implemented in-line X-ray Baggage screening system with reduced operating charges to airlines; renovation works for nine (9) passenger boarding bridges with renovated flooring, granite cladding, new ceilings and new air conditioning units; constructed new Car and Taxi Staging areas: Upgraded Visitors Lounge to include 2 new F&B facilities with hot and cold cooked food.

[Translation]

### T.V. Channel by Indian Railways

1316. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to start its own T.V. Channel;

(b) if so, the details and the purpose thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Payment of Royalty

1317. SHRI BALKRISHNA KHANDERAO SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any royalty on gas and oil is due to Gujarat State; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the time by which these dues are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA):

(a) and (b) Royalty is paid by Licensee of oil and gas fields to State Government of Gujarat as and when due, as per terms of Oilfield (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 (ORDA), Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules and various notifications issued under the Act. However, payment of additional royalty in respect of pre-New Exploration Licensing Policy (pre-NELP) Production Sharing Contracts relating to small sized discovered fields under first and second rounds of awards in the State of Gujarat is paid from Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) funds after reconciliation of royalty amounts from the concerned Licensees.

[English]

### Public Amenities at Railway Stations

1318. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many platforms/waiting halls across the country don't have any toilets and urinals, for the passengers;

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

(c) whether the Railways are aware that the existing toilets and urinals at various Waiting Halls/Railway Stations

and even in running trains are found in unusable conditions; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to provide clean and hygienic urinals and toilets at Railway Stations/platforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Railway stations including waiting halls/rooms and platforms have been provided with urinals and latrines as per norms.

(c) and (d) Urinals/latrines at railway stations (including platforms/waiting hall) are kept in good and usable condition. To prevent misuse, latrines at railway station are kept in lock and key under the custody of Station Master on duty.

Coach toilets are intensively cleaned and disinfected during maintenance in the Depots. Limited mechanised cleaning attention to coaches and toilets is given to identified trains at nominated "Clean Train Station" during the scheduled stoppage. Besides, on Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) scheme is also envisaged for important long distance trains, where frequent cleaning and hygiene attention is provided in coach toilets along with doorways, aisles and passenger compartments during the run of the trains.

[Translation]

### Construction of New Airport at Mumbai

1319. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to construct another international airport in Mumbai and to modernize the medium airports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

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

Madam. Government of India has granted "in-principle" approval, for an International Airport at Navi, Mumbai, which is at planning stage. Airports Authority of India is modernizing 35 Non-Metro airports in India. Development works completed at various non-metro airports are as follows: Vizag (Andhra Pradesh) — construction of new integrated terminal building with a cost of Rs. 94.94 crores. Guwahati (Assam) — extension of runway at cost of Rs. 48 crores; Mangalore (Karnataka) — construction of new integrated terminal building at cost of Rs. 147.01 crores; Agati (Lakshadweep) — construction of new integrated terminal building with a cost of Rs. 5.39 crores; Raipur (Madhya Pradesh) — construction of new apron at a cost of Rs. 68.5 crores; Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh) — construction of new apron at a cost of Rs. 12.57 crores; Aurangabad (Maharashtra) — construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 99.70 crores; Nagpur (Maharashtra) — construction of new international arrival hall and expansion of existing terminal building at a cost of Rs. 79.00 crores; Amritsar (Punjab) — extension of runway, expansion of apron and terminal building, construction of new terminal building at a cost of Rs. 250.67 crores; Jaipur (Rajasthan) — construction of new international terminal complex at a cost of Rs. 94.87 crores; Udaipur (Rajasthan) — construction of new terminal building complex and new apron at a cost of Rs. 91.99 crores; Madurai (Tamil Nadu) — extension of new apron at cost of 3.26 crores; Trichy (Tamil Nadu) — construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 74.70 crores; Agartala (Tripura) — expansion of apron, strengthening of existing runway and construction of technical block at a cost of Rs. 58.61 crores; Agra (Uttar Pradesh) — renovation of terminal building at a cost of Rs. 0.45 crores; Dehradun (Uttarakand) — construction of new terminal building, apron and strengthening and extension of runway at a cost of Rs. 84.01 crores.

Development works scheduled to be completed in Financial Year 2009-10 at various non-metro airports are as under:—

Portblair (Andaman and Nicobar Island) — extension and strengthening of apron at cost of Rs. 28 crores;

(Raipur (Chhattisgarh) — construction of new terminal building at a cost of Rs. 129.65 crores; Ahmedabad (Gujarat) — construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 291 crores; Ranchi (Jharkhand) — construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 137.79 crores; Trivandrum (Kerala) — construction of new international terminal building at a cost of Rs. 245.57 crores; Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) — construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 125.88 crores; Indore (Madhya Pradesh) — construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 113.61 crores; Pune (Maharashtra)—extension and modification of terminal building at a cost of Rs. 96.30 crores; Imphal (Manipur) — extension of apron at a cost of Rs. 13.85 crores; Dimapur (Nagaland) — extension of apron and construction of link Taxiway at cost of Rs. 12.66 crores. Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu) — expansion and modification of existing terminal building, construction of part parallel taxi way and extension of apron at a cost of Rs. 119.51 crores; Madurai (Tamil Nadu) — construction of new integrated terminal building at a cost of Rs. 128.76 crores; Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) — construction of new international terminal building and new apron expansion of existing apron at a cost of Rs. 54.24 crores; Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) — construction of new integrated terminal building including aerobridge and extension of apron at a cost of Rs. 112.31 crores. Chandigarh (Union Territory) — construction of new terminal building at a cost of Rs. 77.97 crores; Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh) — construction of terminal building at a cost of Rs. 75.32 crores.

[English]

#### **Begumpet Airport**

1320. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal submitted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh for developing a dedicated airport express rail link from the existing Begumpet Airport to the new International Airport in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any policy decision in developing such dedicated airport express rail links across the major international airports of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) An Express Rail Link was proposed between the old Begumpet Airport to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad to offer fast, safe and convenient approach to the passengers. In this regard, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) had prepared a Detailed Project Report. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has examined the proposal of Express Rail Link in detail and found it financially not viable and hence, not considered, since it provides connectivity only for airport bound passengers from a few parts of the city. Government of Andhra Pradesh have, therefore, felt that a circular high speed rail along the Outer Ring Road where in the right of way is already available with the necessary radial connectivity to the city centre and to the airport could be of more convenience, for the time being, to public living in different part of the city.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Upgradation of Signalling System/ Railway Station**

1321. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway have any proposal to upgrade the stations and the signalling system falling on Aklakhi-Balurghat section;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the amount sanctioned for this project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Madam, There is a proposal for upgrading one station on this section.

(b) Buniadpur station and its signaling system, falling on Aklakhi-Balurghat section, is being upgraded at an anticipated cost of Rs. 2.79 Crores.

(c) The work is nearing completion and station is expected to be commissioned as upgraded on receipt of sanction from Commissioner of Railway Safety.

#### **Introduction of Additional Checks on Aircraft**

1322. SHRI ABDUL RAHMAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional checks have been introduced on aircraft and engines as the aircraft reaches near its date of discard/phase out;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the number of flights of such aircraft are progressively curtailed as a precaution when nearer to phase out date;

(d) if not, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Maintenance and inspection checks on aircraft are carried out in accordance with manufacturers maintenance programme, approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). This programmes takes cognizance of ageing of aircraft also.

(c) No flights are curtailed as long as the aircraft is airworthy and maintained as per the manufacturer's maintenance programme.

(d) and (e) do not arise.

[Translation]

### Registration of Marriages

1323. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring any legislation to make registration of marriages compulsory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether people of all religions are proposed to be brought under this law;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which this legislation came into force?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (e) The Supreme Court in its judgment dated 14.2.2006 in the case of Shrimati Seema Vs Ashwani Kumar, AIR 2006 S.C. 1158, has directed that marriages of all persons who are citizens of India belonging to various religion should be made compulsorily registrable in their respective States. The matter is being carefully examined in its full ramifications.

[English]

### Garib Rath from Ahmedabad to Haridwar

1324. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to run Garib Rath from Ahmedabad to Haridwar via Palanpur, New Delhi on daily basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Private Investment in PCPIRs

1325. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to boost private investment in setting up of Petroleum, Chemical and Petro-chemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs)

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to increase the per capital consumption of plastic and synthetic fibre in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : (a) and (b) Yes, The Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) policy is expected to boost investments. Till date, PCPIRs to be set up in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Gujarat have been approved by the Government of India. These PCPIRs are expected to create infrastructure worth Rs. 39,744 Crore covering Roads, Rail, Air links, Ports, Telecom, Power, Water Treatment, Sewerage, Effluent Treatment and Green Buffers, etc. The industrial investments in these regions is expected to be to the tune of Rs. 4,86,180 crore broadly covering the Chemical, Petrochemical, Fertilizer, Ancillary and Housing Sectors.

(c) and (d) Government of India's National Policy on Petrochemicals and Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region Policy aim at increasing the sustained growth of the Petrochemicals Industry. Recently,



Government of India through its stimulus package to overcome the economic slowdown and to give a fillip to domestic demand, reduced the excise duty to 8% on all items including plastics and synthetic fibre. Petrochemicals products were also benefited by this initiative of the Government. This will also increase the per capita consumption of plastic and synthetic fibre due to increased domestic demand.

#### On Board House Keeping Services

1326. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce 'on board house keeping services';
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the number of trains in which the system has been presently introduced; and
- (c) the steps taken to introduce this service in all the trains in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Yes, Madam. To improve upon the standards of cleanliness and hygiene in coaches on Indian Railway, On Board Housekeeping Services (OBHS) scheme has been envisaged in all Rajdhani/Shatabdi/Duronto and important long distance Mail/Express trains for frequent cleaning of toilets, doorways, aisles and passenger compartments during the run of the trains.

(b) The scheme has so far been introduced in 110 pairs of trains on Indian Railways.

(c) Another 280 pairs of trains have been identified for introduction of this scheme.

[Translation]

#### Accident of Trackmen

1327. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways have taken notice of the

incident at Ghaziabad- Sahibabad rail line where some railway trackmen on duty were run over by the train;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) any mechanism being evolved by the Railways to prevent such occurrence in future?

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

(b) On 7.11.2009, Trackmen of Gang No. 3 and 2A were deputed to work on 4th line between Ghaziabad-Sahibabad. Shri Ramesh Chand, JE-II/P.Way/Ghaziabad was coming from Ghaziabad on Push Trolley on 3rd main line and as he noticed trains on 3rd main line and also 2nd main line, he off-loaded his push trolley and started walking on 4th line side. As he noticed train on 4th line also, he started running in the direction of train and shouted to attract the attention of Trackmen working on 4th line to warn them to get out of track. Some Trackmen could not listen and respond due to sound of trains passing on the adjacent line No. 2 and 3. Thus, four Trackmen were run over by train No. 2056 (DDN-New Delhi Jan Shatabdi Express). While trying to save the Trackmen on 4th line, Shri Ramesh Chand, JE also got hit by the train No. 2056. All the five died on spot.

(c) Regular safety instructions for carrying out the works have been reiterated to ensure safety on the works spots. Routine inspections are also being carried out constantly by various field officials to ensure compliance of these instructions.

Detailed instructions already exist in Indian Railway Permanent Way Manual on precautions while working on track. However, the following instructions have been reiterated to sensitize field staff:—

- (i) Trackmen should always use the cess the commuting purposes and walk in the opposite direction of traffic.
- (ii) They should always wear the luminescent vest (safety jacket).

- (iii) While working in yards, they should not go too near a standing train as it may move at any moment.
- (iv) While patrolling or working on multiple lines, the Trackmen should not walk on adjacent track in face of approaching train on any time.
- (v) Relevant provisions of Indian Railway Permanent May Manual should be brought to the notice of the staff working near the track.

[English]

#### Law Commission

1328. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:  
DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to broad base the Law Commission by including senior advocates as well as members from Bar Councils to get valuable inputs and suggestions from the legal fraternity; and

(b) if so, the steps the Ministry are taking to make the Law Commission more broad base?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) No, Madam. There is no separate proposal to include senior Advocates as well as members from Bar councils as Members in the Law Commission. However, as per para 3(C) of the Department of Legal Affairs Order dated 10.11.2009 notifying the terms and conditions for the appointment of Chairman/Members of the Law Commission of India, the jurist/legal expert are also eligible for such appointment.

(b) Doesn't arise.

#### Expert Committee on Financing

1329. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:  
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:  
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL  
KHATGAONKAR:

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert Committee on financing has been constituted in the Railways recently;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the said Committee;

(c) the main recommendations made by the Committee; and

(d) the reaction of the railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) and (b) Yes Madam, Ministry of Railways has constituted an Expert Committee for developing business models and innovative funding through Public- Private Partnership (PPP) instruments. The main objectives of the Expert Committee inter alia are (i) developing business models and innovative funding through PPP instruments in respect of railway projects including Dedicated Freight Corridor, multi-modal logistics parks, locomotive and rail coach factories, would class stations, multi-functional complexes, medical/nursing colleges, etc., (ii) developing business models and strategies for commercial utilization of railway land and air-space, (iii) developing innovative funding mechanism in respect of economically unviable yet socially desirable projects etc.

(c) and (d) The first set of recommendations of the Expert Committee has been received. These recommendations inter alia relate to setting up of multi-functional complexes across Indian Railways by bringing in appropriate Private Equity, development of world class stations over Indian Railways through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode, and setting up of locomotive and rail coach factories through Joint Venture/Private Equity models. Recommendations of the Expert Committee have been accepted and action for the implementation of the same has been initiated.

### Acquisition of Aircraft on Lease

1330. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the aircraft obtained by Air India on lease did not prove to be airworthy thereby resulting in huge loss while terminating the lease agreements;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been ordered in the matter; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and the action taken against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Madam. There has been no incident of lease termination in the recent past. However, the wet-lease agreements with M/s Caribjet were prematurely terminated in 1996 due to non-compliance of DGCA requirements.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam. Appropriate action was taken.

### Special Charter Trains

1331. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy/guidelines for chartering special trains;

(b) whether the Railways have earmarked the circuits where such chartered trains shall operate;

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

(d) the annual revenue earned by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) by running such trains during last three years and the current year; and

(e) the details of revenue sharing agreement between IRCTC and the Indian Railways in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) Chartering special trains is permitted on payment of prescribed charge

to railways, subject to availability of rake and operational feasibility.

(b) and (c) No, Madam. The circuits depend upon the demand for chartering trains.

(d) The annual revenue of IRCTC from chartering of trains during the last three years and the current year is as under:—

Year	Revenue (Rs. in crores)
2006-07	7.49
2007-08	2.33
2008-09	4.45
2009-10	1.55 (upto October, 09)

(e) There is no revenue sharing agreement between Indian Railways and IRCTC in respect of chartering of trains.

### Schemes for Food Processing Industries

1332. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:  
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

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

(a) the details of schemes in operation for Food Processing Industries for storage and processing of fruits and vegetables in the country; and

(b) the funds allocated and released by the Government under these schemes during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has been implementing various schemes for promotion and development of food processing industries in the country. Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, MFPI extends financial

assistance to food processing units including fruit and vegetable processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general area or @ 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, A&N Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. In addition, under the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern and Himalayan States, higher levels of assistance @ 50% upto Rs. 4.00 crore for setting up and Rs. 1.00 crore for Upgradation of fruit and vegetables processing is available.

To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public/private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in

the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore. The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure, establishing value addition with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and processing for horticulture including organic produce, marine, dairy, poultry, etc. Other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide financial assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes.

The schemes of MFPI are project specific and not state specific. The details indicating number of units approved and funds released by Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries are given in the Statement attached.

#### Statement

*State-wise number of project approved and financial assistance provided during the years 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10 (As on 13.11.09)	
	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released	No.	Amount released
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	47	966.353	43	947.49	48	908.999	28	581.86
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	1	17.67	0	0
Assam	19	964.400	12	442.17	17	176.79	2	22.315

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bihar	6	38.165	5	83.915	2	42.3	1	25.00
Chandigarh	1	4.339	6	138.08	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	9	119.890	0	0	10	163.725	4	54.455
Delhi	28	524.601	0	0	7	160.65	2	50.00
Goa	0	0	1	17.00	1	24.57	1	24.26
Gujarat	21	615.857	32	544.06	39	714.81	4	37.36
Haryana	31	684.210	19	418.72	23	349.415	34	553.34
Himachal Pradesh	12	210.465	12	325.09	5	152.745	9	224.52
Jammu and Kashmir	8	69.900	9	109.855	3	22.05	6	54.741
Jharkhand	4	52.110	2	9.09	0	0	3	44.09
Karnataka	39	614.290	34	529.62	35	629.895	17	251.375
Kerala	36	674.140	47	876.8	32	545.37	16	281.185
Madhya Pradesh	23	339.998	10	172.32	14	201.87	11	152.655
Maharashtra	118	2174.380	95	1696.805	121	1802.633	85	1216.895
Manipur	4	76.655	3	61.74	3	45.51	4	79.825
Meghalaya	2	21.850	1	8.19	2	159.57	1	13.86
Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11.00
Nagaland	2	155.585	1	27.485	4	178.205	0	0
Orissa	13	114.048	6	129.41	2	38.68	4	56.72
Puducherry	2	16.300	2	31.3	0	0	0	0
Punjab	26	519.539	32	481.45	61	841.36	12	143.055
Rajasthan	33	506.160	35	566.075	44	551.975	18	227.827
Sikkim	1	0.150	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	52	745.127	53	951.79	36	594.355	31	471.140
Tripura	1	0	2	39.98	1	13.86	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	56	840.948	63	1123.425	43	875.475	18	308.320

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Uttarakhand	17	437.392	9	339.78	6	163.15	4	23.550
West Bengal	47	963.430	35	653.56	19	390.135	4	77.226
Total	658	12481.128	569	10725.2	579	9765.767	320	4986.574

[Translation]

#### Removal of Jhuggis from Railway Land

1333. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have allocated funds for removal of the Jhuggis from the Railway land and rehabilitation of the people living therein;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated to each zone; and

(c) the number of persons formerly living in the Jhuggis on the Railway land for whose rehabilitation funds have been allocated and disbursed as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Resettlement and rehabilitation (R&R) of evicted persons, who had encroached upon railway land generally is to be done by the respective State Governments. However, in the following cases Railways have shared the cost of R&R.

In Mumbai, for area under Mumbai Urban Transport Project (MUTP), Railways have executed an agreement with the State Government of Maharashtra for sharing the overall project cost equally which, alongwith augmentation of Railway Infrastructure, also includes the cost of R&R of the Project Affected Persons. Under this scheme, in MUTP Phase-I, 15297 project affected households have been rehabilitated by the State Government of Maharashtra at a cost of Rs. 410.57 crore, which was equally shared by the State Government of Maharashtra and the Ministry of Railways.

In the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Railways have

agreed to bear part cost of relocation of pre-1998 enroachers located on Railway land in 'Safety Zone' and on land required for execution of sanctioned projects, as per the Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy of the Delhi Government, which has the approval of the Ministry of Urban Development. An amount of Rs. 11.25 crore has been deposited by the Ministry of Railways with the Delhi Government in respect of rehabilitation of 4359 jhuggis.

At present, there is no proposal for eviction of any jhuggi-dwellers from the railway land.

[English]

#### Assessment of Present Reservation System

1334. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made any assessment on the impact of computerized and internet ticketing system on the performance of railway tickets printing press;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any significant loss of job/reduction in recruitment due to adoption of this system; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, cadre strength-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : (a) no, Madam. No such assessment has been made. However, with the computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) and Unreserved Ticket System (UTS), the card ticket printing activities will be reduced and therefore, these shall be gradually phased out after achieving 100% computerized ticketing.

(b) The demand for printing of card ticket for the year 06-07 to 08-09 have been decreasing. These were 134 in 2006-07, 119 in 2007-08, and 95 in 2008-09 crores respectively.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Expansion/Modernisation of Steel Plants

1335. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make investments for the expansion and modernization of the steel plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of investments/expenditure likely to be made, plant-wise;

(d) the production capacity of each plant likely to be enhanced as a result thereof, plant-wise;

(e) the sources from which the funds are likely to be mobilised for the purpose; and

(f) the time by which the said expansion/modernization of steel plants is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) have undertaken modernization and expansion projects for the integrated steel plants located at Bhilai, Bokaro, Rourkela, Durgapur, IISCO, Salem and Visakhapatnam. No investment by the Government is envisaged in these expansion plans of the steel plants.

(c) and (d) The details of the existing as well as the enhanced production capacity after implementation of the expansion plans and the likely investment are as follows:—

Project	Installed Capacity-Hot Metal MTPA	After Modernization and Expansion MTPA	Investment likely to be made (Rs. in crores)
Modernization and Expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant	4.08	7.5	17,266
Modernization and Expansion of Rourkela Steel Plant	2.0	4.5	11,812
Modernization and Expansion of Bokaro Steel Plant	4.59	5.77	6,325
Modernization and Expansion of IISCO Steel Plant	0.85	2.91	14,443
Modernization and Expansion of Durgapur Steel Plant	2.09	2.45	2,875
Modernization and Expansion of Salem Steel Plant	0.18 (Saleable Steel)	0.34	1,902
Visakhapatnam Steel Plant	3.0 (Liquid Steel)	6.3	12,228

\*(MTPA) Million Tonnes per Annum

(e) RINL proposes to meet the investment on expansion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) from internal accruals and loans. The expenditure on the expansion plans of the steel plants at Bhilai, Rourkela, Bokaro, Durgapur, IISCO and Salem will be met by SAIL by mobilization of funds by combination of internal resources, additional placement of equity capital and borrowings on stand along basis.

(f) The expansion plan of VSP is scheduled to be completed by December, 2011. The current phase of expansion plan of all other plants of SAIL is planned to be completed by 2012-1013.

[Translation]

#### Abolition of Capital Punishment

1336. SHRI BHUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:  
SHRI S. SEMMALAI:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to do away with capital punishment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Setting up of Plastic Parks

1337. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up 'plastic parks' in various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to set up such parks under the public-private partnership; and

(d) if so, the manner in which this is likely to be helpful for the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals through Plastics Export Promotion Counsel, conducted a feasibility study for setting up of dedicated plastics parks to promote cluster approach in the area of development of plastic application and plastics recycling. Stake holder consultation with State Governments and industry associations have been completed as part of the process for finalization of a suitable scheme.

(d) Plastic parks intend to promote systematic development of downstream industries in the plastics sector by creating synergies for infrastructure development, technology support, product development, quality management and market development.

#### Luxury train in West Bengal

1338. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to introduce the luxury train with Public-Private Partnership in West Bengal, particularly in North Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds sanctioned for the purpose; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Issue of Fertilizer Bonds

1339. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued fertilizer bonds during 2008-09 and in the current year;



(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the terms and conditions of such bonds and the funds collected?

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

: (a) and (b) During the year 2008-09, the fertilizer industry have been allotted following fertilizer bonds:—

Year	Tranche	Date of Notification	Coupon rate	Amount
2008-09	I	10-12-2008	7%	10000
2008-09	II	24-12-2008	6.20%	4000
2008-09	III	29-1-2009	6.65%	6000
Total				20000

Government has not issued Fertilizer Bonds during the current year 2009-10.

(c) The terms and conditions of the bonds can be seen at Statement-I to III.

#### **Statement-I**

*The terms and conditions of issue of '7.00 per cent Fertilizer Companies' Government of India Special Bonds 2022', (hereinafter briefly described as "Special Bonds") for an aggregate amount of Rs. 10,000 crore (nominal) on December 10, 2008*

#### **1. Eligibility for making subscription to the Special Bonds and limits of subscription.**

The companies as referred to in the Annex I hereto shall be eligible to subscribe to the Special Bonds and their subscription to the Special Bonds shall be limited to the extent of the amount. No other person including any bank, company, corporation or any other body, except the companies as referred to in the aforesaid Annexure, shall be eligible to subscribe to the Special Bonds.

#### **2. Price**

The Special Bonds shall be issued on application at par for the amounts as per the application made by the eligible companies. The Special Bonds will be issued for a minimum amount of Rs. 10,000 (Nomial) and in multiples of Rs. 10,000 thereafter.

#### **3. Application**

The Special Bonds shall be issued on application as per proforma in Annexure-II, from the eligible companies.

#### **4. Form of Security**

The Special Bonds will be issued in the form of stock i.e. 'Stock Certificates' or by credit to Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account maintained by a Subsidiary General Ledger account holder.

#### **5. Commencement of tenure and date of repayment**

The tenure of Special Bonds will commence from December, 10, 2008. Interest on the Special Bonds will accrue from the date of commencement of tenure. The Special Bonds will be repaid at par on December 10, 2022 at Public Debt Office Reserve of India, Mumbai.

#### **6. Interest**

The Special Bonds will bear interest at the rate of 7.00 per cent per annum. Interest will be reckoned from the date of commencement of tenure of the Special Bonds and will be payable half yearly on June 10 and December 10 till maturity of the Special Bonds.

Interest on the Special Bonds will be payable at Public Debt Office, Reserve Bank of India, Fort, Mumbai. Interest will be paid after rounding off the amount of interest to the nearest rupee.

#### **7. Transferability**

(i) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of the notification, the Special Bonds can be renewed, sub-divided, consolidated, converted and trans-

ferred by the holder in accordance with the provisions of the Government Securities Act, 2006 and Government Securities Regulations, 2007 framed thereunder.

- (ii) Notwithstanding what is stated in paragraph 1 hereinabove, there will be no restriction on the transfer of the Special Bonds by the subscribers in favour of any other person including banks, corporation or any other body and the transferee of such security would also be entitled to hold and transfer the same in such manner.

#### 8. Statutory Provisions

With respect to any such matter which has not been provided under this Notification, the Special Bonds shall be governed by the Government Securities Act, 2006 and Government Securities Regulations, 2007 framed thereunder.

#### 9. Applicability of Tax Law

The value of the investment in the Special Bonds and the interest payable thereon will be governed by the provisions of tax laws at applicable from time to time.

#### 10. Eligibility of Bonds

The investment in Special Bonds by the banks and insurance companies will not be reckoned as an eligible investment in Government securities for their statutory requirements. However, such investment by the insurance companies will be eligible to be reckoned as investment under "other Approved Securities" category as defined under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) Regulations, 2000. Further, the investment by the Provident Funds, Gratuity Funds, Superannuation Funds, etc. in the Special Bonds will be treated as an eligible investment under the administrative order of the Ministry of Finance.

#### 11. Eligibility for Repo

The Special Bonds will be transferable and eligible

for market ready forward transactions (Repo).

#### Statement-II

*The terms and conditions of issue of '6.20 per cent Fertilizer Companies' Government of India Special Bonds 2022', (hereinafter briefly described as "Special Bonds") for an aggregate amount of Rs. 4,000 crore (nominal) on December 24, 2008*

#### 1. Eligibility for making subscription to the Special Bonds and limits of subscription.

The companies as referred to in the Annex I hereto shall be eligible to subscribe to the Special Bonds and their subscription to the Special Bonds shall be limited to the extent of the amount. No other person including any bank, company, corporation or any other body, except the companies as referred to in the aforesaid Annex, shall be eligible to subscribe to the Special Bonds.

#### 2. Price

The Special Bonds shall be issued on application at par for the amounts as per the application made by the eligible companies. The Special Bonds will be issued for a minimum amount of Rs. 4,000 (Nominal) and in multiples of Rs. 4,000 thereafter.

#### 3. Application

The Special Bonds shall be issued on application as per proforma, from the eligible companies.

#### 4. Form of Security

The Special Bonds will be issued in the form of stock i.e. 'Stock Certificates' or by credit to Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account maintained by a Subsidiary General Ledger account holder.

#### 5. Commencement of tenure and date of repayment

The tenure of Special Bonds will commence from December, 24, 2008. Interest on the Special Bonds will accrue from the date of commencement of tenure. The Special Bonds will be repaid at par on

December 24, 2022 at Public Debt Office Reserve of India, Mumbai.

#### 6. Interest

The Special Bonds will bear interest at the rate of 6.20 per cent per annum. Interest will be reckoned from the date of commencement of tenure of the Special Bonds and will be payable half yearly on June 24 and December 24 till maturity of the Special Bonds.

Interest on the Special Bonds will be payable at Public Debt Office, Reserve Bank of India, Fort, Mumbai. Interest will be paid after rounding off the amount of interest to the nearest rupee.

#### 7. Transferability

- (i) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of the notification, the Special Bonds can be renewed, sub-divided, consolidated, converted and transferred by the holder in accordance with the provisions of the Government Securities Act, 2006 and Government Securities Regulations, 2007 framed thereunder.
- (ii) Notwithstanding what is stated in paragraph 1 hereinabove, there will be no restriction on the transfer of the Special Bonds by the subscribers in favour of any other person including banks, corporation or any other body and the transferee of such security would also be entitled to hold and transfer the same in such manner.

#### 8. Statutory Provisions

With respect to any such matter which has not been provided under this Notification, the Special Bonds shall be governed by the Government Securities Act, 2006 and Government Securities Regulations, 2007 framed thereunder.

#### 9. Applicability of Tax Law

The value of the investment in the Special Bonds and the interest payable thereon will be governed by

the provisions of tax laws at applicable from time to time.

#### 10. Eligibility of Bonds

The investment in Special Bonds by the banks and insurance companies will not be reckoned as an eligible investment in Government securities for their statutory requirements. However, such investment by the insurance companies will be eligible to be reckoned as investment under "other Approved Securities" category as defined under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) Regulations, 2000. Further, the investment by the Provident Funds, Gratuity Funds, Superannuation Funds, etc. in the Special Bonds will be treated as an eligible investment under the administrative order of the Ministry of Finance.

#### 11. Eligibility for Repo

The Special Bonds will be transferable and eligible for market ready forward transactions (Repo).

#### **Statement-III**

*The terms and conditions of issue of '6.65 per cent Fertilizer Companies' Government of India Special Bonds 2022', (hereinafter briefly described as "Special Bonds") for an aggregate amount of Rs. 6,000 crore (nominal) on January 29, 2009*

#### 1. Eligibility for making subscription to the Special Bonds and limits of subscription.

The companies shall be eligible to subscribe to the Special Bonds and their subscription to the Special Bonds shall be limited to the extent of the amount allocated to fertiliser company. No other person including any bank, company, corporation or any other body, except the fertiliser company to whom the special bonds are issued shall be eligible to subscribe to the Special Bonds.

#### 2. Price

The Special Bonds shall be issued on application at

par for the amounts as per the application made by the eligible companies. The Special Bonds will be issued for a minimum amount of Rs. 10,000 (Nominal) and in multiples of Rs. 10,000 thereafter.

### 3. Application

The Special Bonds shall be issued on application as per proforma in Annexure-II, from the eligible companies.

### 4. Form of Security

The Special Bonds will be issued in the form of stock i.e. 'Stock Certificates' or by credit to Constituent Subsidiary General Ledger account maintained by a Subsidiary General Ledger account holder.

### 5. Commencement of tenure and date of repayment

The tenure of Special Bonds will commence from January, 29, 2009. Interest on the Special Bonds will accrue from the date of commencement of tenure. The Special Bonds will be repaid at par on January 29, 2023 at Public Debt Office Reserve of India, Mumbai.

### 6. Interest

The Special Bonds will bear interest at the rate of 6.65 per cent per annum. Interest will be reckoned from the date of commencement of tenure of the Special Bonds and will be payable half yearly on July 29 and January 29 till maturity of the Special Bonds.

Interest on the Special Bonds will be payable at Public Debt Office, Reserve Bank of India, Fort, Mumbai. Interest will be paid after rounding off the amount of interest to the nearest rupee.

### 7. Transferability

- (i) Subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of the notification, the Special Bonds can be renewed, sub-divided, consolidated, converted and transferred by the holder in accordance with the provisions of the Government Securities Act,

2006 and Government Securities Regulations, 2007 framed thereunder.

- (ii) Notwithstanding what is stated in paragraph 1 hereinabove, there will be no restriction on the transfer of the Special Bonds by the subscribers in favour of any other person including banks, corporation or any other body and the transferee of such security would also be entitled to hold and transfer the same in such manner.

### 8. Statutory Provisions

With respect to any such matter which has not been provided under this Notification, the Special Bonds shall be governed by the Government Securities Act, 2006 and Government Securities Regulations, 2007 framed thereunder.

### 9. Applicability of Tax Law

The value of the investment in the Special Bonds and the interest payable thereon will be governed by the provisions of tax laws at applicable from time to time.

### 10. Eligibility of Bonds

The investment in Special Bonds by the banks and insurance companies will not be reckoned as an eligible investment in Government securities for their statutory requirements. However, such investment by the insurance companies will be eligible to be reckoned as investment under "other Approved Securities" category as defined under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) Regulations, 2000. Further, the investment by the Provident Funds, Gratuity Funds, Superannuation Funds, etc. in the Special Bonds will be treated as an eligible investment under the administrative order of the Ministry of Finance.

### 11. Eligibility for Repo

The Special Bonds will be transferable and eligible for market ready forward transactions (Repo).

[Translation]

### Setting up of New Plant by NMDC

1340. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation has decided to set up a new plant to increase the production of iron ore in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the expansion project for increasing the mining of iron ore by National Mineral Development Corporation during 2008-09;

(c) whether NMDC with the collaboration of Railways proposes to invest in laying railway line to the iron ore mines/plants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) Yes, Madam. NMDC has proposed to set up two new mines alongwith required OCSL (Ore crushing screening and loading plant).

(b) NMDC had taken up following expansion projects for increasing the capacity of the existing iron ore mines during 2008-09:—

- |       |   |   |  |
|-------|---|---|--|
| (i)   | Bailadila Iron Ore Project, Deposit No. 5   | : | 6 to 10 Million Tonne per Annum (MTPA) |
| (ii)  | Bailadila Iron Ore Project, Deposit No. 14  | : | 3.2 to 5 MTPA                          |
| (iii) | Bailadila Iron Ore Project, Deposit No. 11C | : | 5 to 7 MTPA                            |
| (iv)  | Donimalai Iron ore Project                  | : | 4 to 7 MTPA                            |

Further, following new iron ore projects were taken up by NMDC:—

- (i) Developing Bailadila Iron Ore Project-11/B Iron ore mine of 7 MTPA Capacity at Kirandul in the State of Chhattisgarh. Project is likely to be commissioned in 2010.

- (ii) Developing Kumaraswamy iron ore mine of 7 MTPA Capacity in the State of Karnataka. Project is likely to be commissioned in 2012.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. NMDC has a 15% equity participation in Krishnapatnam Railway Company. This line connects Obulavaripalle to Krishnapatnam. NMDC has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SAIL and Railways for development of Railway Line between Jagdalpur to Rowghat.

### Gauge Conversion between Khamgaon and Jalna Rail Line

1341. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion work between Khamgaon-Jalna railway line under Nanded Railway Division has been delayed due to scarcity of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to provide sufficient funds for the project;

(d) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed; and

(e) the time by which trains are likely to be run on this railway line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There is no direct railway line between Khamgaon and Jalna. Both these stations are on different broad gauge routes.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

### Reopening of Petrol/Diesel Pumps

1342. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil companies have closed their certain petrol-diesel pumps during the last three years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to reopen them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) 610 retail outlets (RO) of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), 327 RO of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and 285 RO of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) were closed during the last three years, due to various reasons such as:—

- (i) Action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).
- (ii) Suspension/Cancellation of Explosive License/ NOC.
- (iii) Partnership disputes, Financial Problems of the dealers, Death of Signatory (Pending reconstitution), etc.
- (iv) Lease problems/eviction suits.
- (v) Termination/Resignation (Pending appointment of new dealer).
- (vi) Court cases/Stay.
- (vii) Locations becoming unviable due to low sales potential.

The State-wise details of these ROs are available with Director (Marketing) of public sector of marketing companies (OMCs).

(c) In case of land disputes/closure/diversion of road, etc., action is taken to resume the operation of the outlets by resiting the facilities to other location. In the cases of disputes in partners, efforts are made to resolve the dispute and reconstitute the dealership. Regarding ROs which are closed under the provision of MDG, resumption of operations depend on the nature of irregularities/malpractices detected at such ROs.

#### Construction of New Runways at Major Airports

1343. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop around 300 air-strips, lying idle in the country to decongest major airports and to lay new runways at major airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating those which are proposed to be developed in Karnataka;

(c) whether the Government has permitted development of private air-strips in the country to help smoother air operations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the enormous growth in air passengers which has put pressure on air infrastructure, Government had pronounced a policy for greenfield airports to April, 2008 which also envisaged the matter relating to setting up of private airstrips in the country. In addition the State Governments are also being encouraged to develop the unused airstrips which belong to them.

#### Permission to Fly Abroad

1344. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:  
SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private airlines possessing the required number of aircraft have represented to the Government that they be permitted to fly abroad;

(b) if so, the names of the private airlines who

have sought the permission of the Government to fly abroad; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) As per the present Government policy, an Indian air transport undertaking is eligible to apply for operation of international scheduled air transport services provided it is in possession of:—

- (i) a valid permit for operation of scheduled air transport services;
- (ii) a minimum of five years' experience of continuous operation of domestic scheduled air transport services; and
- (iii) at least twenty aircraft in its fleet.

[Translation]

**Committee for PSUs**

1345. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:  
SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:

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

(a) whether a committee has been constituted to make recommendations regarding sick industrial units of Public Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has invited suggestion from various other committees in this regard during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has implemented those recommendations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government constituted the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in December, 2004 inter alia for revival/restructuring of sick and loss making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

(c) and (d) Concerned administrative Ministries/ Departments prepare enterprise specific revival package after consultation with all stakeholders for consideration of BRPSE.

(e) and (f) The Board has given its recommendations in respect of 58 cases of CPSEs. Based on the recommendations of the BRPSE Government has approved revival of 36 CPSEs envisaging cash assistance of Rs. 2921 crores and non cash assistance of Rs. 12332 crores and closure of two CPSEs. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Assistance to CPSEs whose proposal have been approved by Government based on the recommendations of the BRPSE*

Sl.No.	Name of the CPSE	Assistance (Rs. in crores)		
		Cash#	Non-Cash @	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	4.28	73.30	77.58
2.	NTC including its subsidiaries	39.23	—	39.23

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bridge and Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	60.00	42.92	102.92
4.	BBJ Construction Co. Ltd.	—	54.61	54.61
5.	HMT Bearings Ltd.	7.40	43.97	51.37
6.	Praga Tools Ltd.	5.00	209.71	214.71
7.	Braithwaite and Company Ltd.	4.00	280.21	284.21
8.	British India Corporation Ltd.	47.35	—	47.35
9.	Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.	73.60	280.00	353.60
10.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.	102.00	1116.30	1218.30
11.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	184.29	1267.95	1452.24
12.	Richardson and Cruddas Ltd.	—	—	—
13.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	137.59	267.57	405.16
14.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	250.00	NA	250.00
15.	Fertilizers and Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.	—	670.37	670.37
16.	Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	—	—	—
17.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	—	267.29	267.29
18.	Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.	—	104.64	104.64
19.	Central Electronics Ltd.	—	16.28	16.28
20.	Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.	—*	—*	—*
21.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd.	3.37\$	153.15	156.52\$
22.	Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	207.19	233.41	440.60
23.	HMT Machine Tools Ltd.	723.00	157.80	880.80
24.	MECON Ltd.	93.00**	23.08	116.08
25.	Andrew Yule and Co. Ltd.	—&	457.14	457.14
26.	Hindustan Cooper Ltd.	—	612.94	612.94
27.	Bharat Heavy Plate Vessels Ltd.	—	—	—\$\$
28.	State Forms Corporation of India Ltd.	21.21	124.42	145.63
29.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	—	479.16	479.16
30.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	—	1018.45	1018.45&&



1	2	3	4	5
31.	NEPA Ltd.	—	—	—@@
32.	Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Ltd.	52.79~	258.73~	311.52~
33.	Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd.	857.05	3222.46	4079.51
34.	National Projects Constructions Corporation Ltd.	—	219.43***	219.43***
35.	Instrumentation Ltd.	48.36	549.36	597.72\$\$\$
36.	Hindustan Prefab Ltd.	—	128.00	128.00
Total		2920.71*	12332.65*	15253.36*

# Cash Assistance may involve budgetary support through equity/loan/grants.

@ Non-cash Assistance may involve waiver of interest, penal interest, Government of India loan, Guarantee fee, conversion of loan into equity/debentures etc.

& The issue of infusion of funds by Government of India or by Joint Venture or a Strategic Partner will be sorted out by M/o of Finance and the M/o Heavy Industries.

\* The revival plan approved by the Government inter alia envisage non-cash assistance of Rs. 2470.77 crores and waiver of service charges of Rs. 14 crores per annum from 2004-05 from Coal India Ltd.

\$ In additional ONGC and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited would extend cash support to the extent of Rs. 150 crores and Rs. 20 crores respectively.

\*\* Excludes continuation of 50% interest subsidy not exceeding Rs. 6.50 crores per annum on Voluntary Retirement Scheme loans.

\$\$ Cabinet approved "In principle" the takeover of Bharat Heavy Plate Vessels Ltd. by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited with the direction that the valuation of Bharat Heavy Plate Vessels Ltd. be carried out prudently on the basis of established principles and if the takeover is not found feasible, the matter be brought back before the Cabinet.

&& Parliament had approved the Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (Disinvestment of Ownership) Bill 2007 for changing the public sector Enterprises Character of the company Disinvestment after cleaning the balancesheet.

@@ Proposal to revive NEPA Ltd. through Joint Venture route in the private sector and a Bill seeking Parliamentary approval for induction of such Joint Venture has been introduced in Parliament.

\*\*\* In addition Government had also approved the conversion of cumulative interest due and accrued on Government of India loan as on the date of conversion into equity and further written down to 10% of value.

\$\$\$ Interest free mobilization advance of Rs. 30 crores from Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited for technological up-gradation and diversification which would be repaid through supplies to be made to Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited against their orders. Interest free advance of Rs. 25 crores from Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited to Instrumentation Ltd. at the beginning of each year for the next three years from 2008-09 which will be adjusted against supplies to Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in the same year.

~ Includes Rs. 2.30 crores cash assistance and Rs. 5.00 crores non-cash assistance in addition to waiver of interest on Government of India loan of Rs. 4.18 crores (2.51+1.67) on account of reliefs and concessions to Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. for financial restructuring of Bharat Wagon and Engineering Company Ltd. for corresponding changes in books of accounts of these two companies.

In addition, Government have approved the closure of two CPSEs, namely, Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited.

### Internet in Shatabdi Express

1346. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have assessed the outcome of the trials under way in Mumbai-Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express and Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi express for the provision of internet connectivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to provide internet facility in other trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Trials for Internet connectivity in Mumbai Ahmedabad Shatabdi Express have been Conducted. Trials in Chennai-Mysore Shatabdi Express are on.

(c) and (d) No, Madam.

### Disinvestment of PSUs

1347. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has identified some public sector units for disinvestment;

(b) if so, the details of such units identified for the purpose; and

(c) the reasons for disinvestment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), NMDC Ltd. and Manganese Ore (India) Limited (MOIL) have been identified for possible disinvestment.

(c) The Disinvestment Policy of the Government was announced through President's Address to the Joint

Session of the Parliament on the 4th June, 2009 and reads as "our fellow citizens have every right to own part of the shares of public sector companies while the Government retains majority shareholding and control. Government will develop a roadmap for listing and people-ownership of public sector undertakings while ensuring that Government's equity does not fall below 51%. The policy has been reaffirmed by the Minister of Finance in his Budget speech on the 6th July, 2009.

### Super Fast Train from Bhildi to Abu Road

1348. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce super fast passenger train, from Bhildi to Abu Road via Palanpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

### Hindustan Photo Film

1349. SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance to Hindustan Photo Film (HPF) Ooty, Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to consider the increase in the pay structure of the workers working in HPF, Ooty;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has received any representation from some trainee workers of HPF, Ooty to make them regularized; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) The financial assistance provided to Hindustan Photo Film (HPF) during the last 10 years by the Government is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Plan	Non-Plan	VRS/VSS (Grant/Non-Plan Loan)	Total
2000-01	2.00	20.27	24.73	47.00
2001-02	—	16.09	49.96	66.05
2002-03	1.50	27.75	08.98	38.23
2003-04	—	—	—	—
2004-05	—	14.66	—	14.66
2005-06	3.30	23.11	—	26.41
2006-07	3.00	19.04	—	22.04
2007-08	3.00	09.94	17.30	30.24
2008-09	2.00	19.34	06.93	28.27
2009-10 (Upto Nov.)	2.00	04.05	—	06.05

(c) and (d) Not at present.

(e) and (f) Yes. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has given a judgement in favour of HPF for termination of the trainee workers and based on that this Department has asked HPF

to discontinue the services of trainee workers with immediate effect.

12.00 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 11 of the Delimitation Act, 2002:—
  - (i) O.N. 142(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 39 dated 15th February, 2007 in relating to the State of Haryana.
  - (ii) O.N. 143(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 50 dated 2nd July, 2007 in relating to the State of Meghalaya.
  - (iii) O.N. 144(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 32 dated 15th December, 2006 in relating to the State of Orissa.
  - (iv) O.N. 145(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 33 dated 12th December, 2006 in relating to the State of Gujarat.
  - (v) O.N. 146(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation

- Commission's Order No. 28 dated 4th September, 2006 in relating to the State of Sikkim.
- (vi) O.N. 147(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 8 dated 12th May, 2005 in relating to the State of Tripura.
- (vii) O.N. 148(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 35 dated 28th December, 2006 in relating to the State of Uttarakhand.
- (viii) O.N. 149(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 46 dated 31st May, 2007 in relating to the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (ix) O.N. 153(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 49 dated 2nd July, 2007 read with Order No. 56 dated 26th March, 2008 in relating to the State of Karnataka.
- (x) O.N. 154(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 54 dated 17th August, 2007 in relating to the State of Bihar.
- (xi) O.N. 155(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd October, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 18 dated 15th February, 2006 in relating to the State of West Bengal.
- (xii) O.N. 156(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th October, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 10 dated 27th May, 2005 in relating to the State of Mizoram.
- (xiii) O.N. 157(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order Nos. 34 and 41 dated 18th December, 2006 and 30th March, 2007 respectively in relating to the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xiv) O.N. 170(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th November, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 9 dated 31st May, 2005 in relating to the State of Kerala.
- (xv) O.N. 171(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st November, 2008, making certain corrections in the Delimitation Commission's Order No. 46 dated 31st May, 2007 in relating to the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT- 841/15/09]
- (2) A copy of the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1219(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2009 under sub-section (3) of Section 28 of the Representation of People Act, 1950.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT- 842/15/09]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi

[Shri Praful Patel]

and English versions) under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934:—

- (i) The Aircraft (12th Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 690(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 2009, alongwith an explanatory note.
- (ii) The Aircraft (14th Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 745(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2009 alongwith an explanatory note.
- (iii) The Aircraft (11th Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 686(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 2009 alongwith an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 843/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 63 of the Competition Act, 2002:—
  - (i) The Competition Commission of India (General) Amendment Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. L-3(2)/Regin-Gen.(Amdt)/2009-10/CCI in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2009.
  - (ii) The Competition Commission of India (Lesser Penalty) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. L-3(4)/Reg-L.P./2009-10/CCI in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2009.
  - (iii) The Competition Commission of India (Determination of Cost of Production) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification

No. L-3(5)/Reg-Cost/2009-10/CCI in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2009.

- (iv) The Competition Commission of India (Director General) Recruitment Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R.563(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2009 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R.614(E) dated the 28th August, 2009.
- (v) The Competition Commission of India (Salary, Allowances and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Second Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R.613(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2009.
- (vi) The Competition Commission of India (Salary, Allowances and other Conditions of Service of the Secretary and officers and other employees of the Commission and the number of such offices and other employees) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R.670(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 844/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 620(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 2009 making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 448(E) dated 28th June, 2007 issued under section 28A of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 845/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and

English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2006-2007.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 846/15/09]

- (3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited for the years 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of respective accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 847/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
  - (ii) Annual Report of the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-

2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 848/15/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 849/15/09]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Welfare Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 850/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006:—
- (i) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Technical Standards and

[Shri Jitin Prasada]

Specifications including Safety Standards for City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Amendment Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 750(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th October, 2009.

(ii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand Natural Gas Pipelines) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 769(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2009.

(iii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Procedure for development of Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 323(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2009.

(iv) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Amendment Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 295(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2009.

(v) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Access Code for Common Carrier or Contract Carrier Natural Gas Pipelines) Amendment Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 274(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2009.

(vi) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Guiding Principles for Declaring or Authorizing Natural Gas Pipeline as Common Carrier or Contract Carrier) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification

No. G.S.R. 273(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 851/15/09]

(2) A copy of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Amendment Order, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 655(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2009 under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT- 852/15/09]

12.02 hrs.

## PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

[English]

### 1st to 3rd Reports

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English Versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2009-10):—

(1) First Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixtieth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Irregular Award of Construction Work relating to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of Higher Education) and the University Grants Commission.

(2) Second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Seventy-third Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Management of Foodgrains relating to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution).

(3) Third Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the

Committee contained in their Seventy-seventh Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha on Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (APDRP) relating to the Ministry of Power.

12.04 hrs.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

12.02½ hrs.

### STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

[English]

#### 214th to 217th Reports

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (Belgaum) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:—

- (1) 214th Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendation/observations contained in the 207th Report on Demands for Grant 2008-09 (Demand no. 58) of the Department of Higher Education;
- (2) 215th Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendation/observations contained in the 208th Report on Demands for Grants 2008-09 (Demand no. 105) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports;
- (3) 216th Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendation/observations contained in the 209th Report on Demands for Grants 2008-09 (Demand no. 104) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development; and
- (4) 217th Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendation/observations contained in the 206th Report on Demands for Grants 2008-09 (Demand no. 57) of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : With your permission Madam, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 30th of November, 2009 will consist of:—

1. Consideration and passing of the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2009 — to replace an Ordinance.
2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2009 and consideration and passing of the Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009.
3. Consideration and passing of the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2009, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Madam Speaker, following subjects may be included in the agenda for the next week:—

1. Need to install one G.I. handpump in the districts of Bihar reeling under severe drought and where the water level has gone below 100 feet.
2. Need to provide D.A.P. fertilizers to farmers at fair price through cooperative stores of NAFED under Ministry of Agriculture to make up the shortage of D.A.P. fertilizers for Rabi crops in Bihar.

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani): Madam Speaker, following subjects may be included in the agenda for the next week.



[Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav]

Hon'ble Finance Minister has publicly given the Statement that austerity should be observed by reducing in Government expenditure. Concrete steps need to be taken for it:—

1. Minimum and maximum income limit should be fixed and the difference may be kept between one and ten.
2. Laws should be enacted to stop the overexpenses on Government functions.
3. Consideration of putting a cap on the expenditure by improving the current system of income tax.

MADAM SPEAKER: You have read this topic, this is enough.

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Consider the proposal to deposit the amount of savings in National Reconstruction Deposits Scheme for a period of twenty years.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Khagaria): Madam Speaker, following subjects may be included into the next week List of Business:—

1. Katyayani Mandir situated in Chouthan block under Khagaria district of Bihar be declared a tourist place.
2. Construction of the building of Navodaya Vidyalaya under Khagaria district of Bihar after acquiring the land in Khagaria.

12.06 hrs.

MOTION RE: SEVENTH REPORT OF  
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND  
MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN

KUMAR BANSAL) : Madam, I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 25th November, 2009."

MADAM SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 25th November, 2009."

*The motion was adopted.*

12.07 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND  
TENTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009\*

(Amendment of Article 243D)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND  
MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI) :  
Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further  
to amend the Constitution of India.

MADAM SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to  
amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. C.P. JOSHI : I introduce the Bill.

12.08 hrs.

NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2009\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND

\*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated.

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (DR. C.P. JOSHI):  
Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.

MADAM SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005."

*The motion was adopted.*

DR. C.P. JOSHI : I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Madam Speaker, I want to say something about it....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Now 'Zero Hour' matters.

[Translation]

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL (Jhanjharpur): Madam Speaker, I need your protection. Two days have gone by since the report of Liberhann Commission was laid on the Table of the House, but Hon'ble Members have not been provided its copy till date....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Kaushalendra Kumar – Not present.

– Shri Lal Krishna Advani

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Madam, today is 26th November and it was appropriate that you remembered the horrific incident which took place one year earlier and tributes were paid to those martyred in it and tributes were also paid to the securitymen who fought

bravely and the resolution of the country was expressed on behalf of the House that we would not compromise on terrorism, rather we would rest only after overcoming it.

Whenever such tragedy strikes one aspect, which we tend to forget, is that providing relief and rehabilitation to victims of such tragedy, whether individuals or families, becomes a lengthy process. I can recall that in the year 2006, there were multiple attacks on local trains in Mumbai and more than 1,000 persons were affected. My one colleague who was the former Member of Lok Sabha, Shri Kirit Somaya and various NGO's were involved in providing rehabilitation and relief to those persons. But one year has gone by and they could get little assistance. I was called there and a meeting of affected persons was organized and I talked to each and every individual and I also met the persons in hospitals. Then, Prime Minister had to intervene, and Human Rights Commission was approached and they were given some relief only after two years. Today, I can tell you about those involved in this work. In the incident of 26 November, a total of 164 persons were killed and 239 persons were seriously injured. Announcement were made by State Governments, Central Government and PMO regarding the assistance to be given. I want to tell this House that the total number of eligible persons who should get the assistance, is 403 and out of them only 118 persons got the compensation and received cheques....(Interruptions) I don't want any comment on it. I know that there are several difficulties in it. When I asked those involved in this I came to know that there are 12 different agencies in this work whose coordinated efforts would benefit the people. 8 out of these 12 agencies are of the State Government and four belong to the Central Government. Agencies of the Central Government include PMO, Home Ministry, Railways and Railway Complex Tribunal. Thus, there are enough agencies, which can assist on contacting. As a result, there are 64 such persons who are eligible to get job in Railways, but only 32 persons could get the offers till now and the rest could not get them. 24 persons were declared seriously injured and bullets are still trapped in their bodies and some of them have been

[Shri L.K. Advani]

operated upon while some others await operation. There are many such things which are lacking.

I want to give one suggestion. At this time, leader of the House is sitting and this work should be done totally by Ministry of Home Affairs. Ministry of Home Affairs should do the complete work of coordination. The departments of the Centre should also coordinate and the departments of the State too should give necessary directions. Such situation should not arise in which the widow of the deceased have to come to Delhi and say that she could not get such and such thing. Therefore, this situation should be chanted completed. Therefore, alongwith the resolution adopted in the House this morning another resolution should be added that the victims of this incident should get appropriate assistance from the Centre and the States, as soon as possible. For this, If necessary, Ministry of Home Affairs should make one call. An officer on special duty should be deployed in it. It is my request that those who pursue such cases should take into account those who got assistance, those who didn't and if not, why.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Madam, the Leader of the House should reply to it.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Do not make it a precedent. Shri Ananth Kumar, please take your seat. I am on my legs. As the Leader of the Opposition was speaking, I came from my room only to listen to him. But do not make it a precedent that every 'Zero Hour' reference is to be responded. I have come here only to listen to him and not to listen to you.  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: You need not. But, it is a 'Zero Hour' reference....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Today is a very solemn day. He has spoken on something very serious.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Do not make it a political issue....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi to speak.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): Thank you Madam Speaker for allowing me to speak.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): If it is not the failure of the Government, then what else it is....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let 'Zero-Hour' to continue.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: When they can say something, they never speak. Whether the Speaker speaks or whether the Leader of the Opposition speaks, you will have to say something. Please do not have this practice....  
(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Pranab ji, I respect you. But you are responsible to the House. You are responsible to the country. It is your duty. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: I understand, all these matters have been said only in this context.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : He should assure the House. He should assure the country....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): When the Leader of the Opposition was speaking, no one interrupted him from our side. Now that the Leader of the House is on his legs, these people are interrupting him. What kind of conversion is this....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Only the speech of Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[English]

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI : Thank you Madam Speaker for allowing me to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : We want your protection.... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : This is 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : He should not be so partisan. For the last one year, compensation has not been paid.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : I cannot respond instantaneously on 'Zero Hour' matter. This has never been done. We cannot do it. I listened to the Leader of the Opposition. I came here only to listen to him because the Leader of the Opposition was speaking....(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Leader of the House is saying something. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

\*Not recorded.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : But it has not been the practice that the Leader of the House will always respond to 'Zero Hour' matter. It is not possible....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : It is not a 'Zero Hour' response. Today is a very very poignant day. For the last one year, no compensation has been given. ...(Interruptions) They have got a duty to the entire country. ...(Interruptions)\*

MADAM SPEAKER : All this will not go on record. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you standing, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad East): It is our duty to acknowledge the sentiments of the families of those who have saved the entire country and it is necessary to do so....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : You are making politics of it. You made politics on earlier occasions and you were paid back in your own coin. You are making politics on 26/11, and you will again be paid back in your coin. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. When I am

\*Not recorded.

on my legs, please be seated. Today, it is a very sad day. We started the day paying tributes and a resolution was passed unanimously in the House. Subsequently, the Leader of the Opposition presented his views. Today, it is such a solemn-day that I feel this is not necessary to discuss it in Question Hour and I cannot force him to answer it. The Leader of the House has said that he has come here especially to listen to the views of the Leader of the Opposition and he listened to him and he has noted down whatever points have been made by the Leader of Opposition and he has also made an assurance. I feel that keeping in mind the solemnity of the day, proceedings of the House should be carried out, it is my request.

[English]

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: Madam Speaker, today I would like to bring to the notice of the Union Government the inhuman conditions prevailing in the hostels meant for girls belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs across the country. There are no basic amenities provided in these hostels. Not even drinking water facility is available in many of these hostels. These conditions are prevailing in these hostels across the country. As very few bathrooms and toilets are available in these hostels, often these poor girls are forced to get up in the early hours to stand in queues to be able to use the toilets and bathrooms. Andhra Pradesh is a very progressive State and is considered to be much better when compared to many other States. In Andhra Pradesh, over 6.5 lakh girls are staying in hostels belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs. If we are to provide at least one bathroom and one toilet per ten girls in all these hostels in Andhra Pradesh alone, we would need to construct over 40,000 bathrooms and toilets. The number of bathrooms and toilets available now there is only 20,000. Obviously, State Governments across the country do not have enough funds to take up this work and complete it on a war-footing. It is estimated that in Andhra Pradesh alone over 63 per cent of the girls living in these hostels are suffering from various diseases because of lack of proper facilities of drinking water, toilets and bathrooms. If this is the condition prevailing in girls hostels, one can imagine what the state of boys' hostels would be. These girls' hostels are really in a pathetic and inhuman condition across the country.

I hope the Central Government takes up this matter urgently. If you make a case study of the State of Andhra Pradesh and assess the requirement of toilets, while the Government estimates show that the requirement of toilets in SC hostels in the State is 19,898, only 8,800 are available now; and only 9,700 bathrooms are available now against a requirement of 19,855. In hostels belonging to STs, against an estimated requirement of toilets of 11,959, only 5670 are available; and while the requirement of bathrooms is 10,000, only 4900 are available.

Similar situation is prevailing for OBC hostels also. There is a vast disparity between the requirement and the provision which the Government is giving now.

Madam Speaker, I would like to urge upon the Government through you to take up this matter quite seriously and come to the rescue of the State Governments to provide enough funds through the Social Justice Ministry or whichever Ministry it is. It should see the sufferings of the girls living in the pathetic conditions in the hostels and provide basic living conditions for these hostels so that we could proudly say that our country is the first country to have a woman as the President, travelling in Sukhoi war plane. We have great respect — we have a woman as the President and a woman as the Speaker of the House. Madam, you may kindly use your good office and instruct the Government to take it up on a war-footing and provide enough facilities to the hostels. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram) : I associate with the issue that is raised by him.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar) : Madam, we make a demand that the Central Government's team should immediately go to West Bengal; the situation has worsened. Yesterday also, indiscriminate firing has taken place. ...*(Interruptions)* It has never happened earlier. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MADAM SPEAKER : Let us have order in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the deaths being caused by Japanese Encephalitis in various parts of the country especially in Gorakhpur BRD Medical College of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please continue to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please let the hon'ble Member speak.

...(Interruptions)

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Madam, from 1978-79 till date more than ten thousand people and innocent children have fallen prey to this disease....(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Please sit down. Why do you not sit down? Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the Matters Under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over slips at the Table of the House within twenty minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which slips have been received at the Table within the stipulated time; the rest will be treated as lapsed.

Hon. Members are requested to send their slips to the Table.

...(Interruptions)

12.29 hrs.

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

- (i) **Need to translate the works of Sree Narayana Guru, the revered saint and poet of Kerala into the languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution**

[English]

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki) : Sir, Sree Narayana Guru, the versatile poet, philosopher, seer and reformer born in Kerala was a saint and a poet of high order. Great souls none other than Mahatama Gandhi and Ravindra Nath Tagore visited his 'Ashram' and they revealed how inspiring was the meeting with him. Even his advices spontaneously transformed itself into subtle poetry. Verses like "One Caste One religion and One God for man" are reverberated in the hearts of millions which resulted in the reformation of Kerala. His poetry has the potential to eradicate untouchability, caste and religion based hostility. Kerala stand as a shining example of 100% literacy, social harmony, thanks to his poetry. The works of Sree Narayana Guru have not yet been translated into the languages given in the Eight Schedule to the Constitution of India. It is high time that poetic works of Sree Narayana Guru are translated into all Indian languages so as to benefit the entire population of the country.

- (ii) **Need to declare Giripar region of Sirmaur district in Himachal Pradesh as a tribal area**

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Sir, the representatives of people of Himachal Pradesh and the local people of the State have been making a demand to declare Giripar (Jaunsar Babar) area of district Sirmaur in Shimla Parliamentary Constituency of Himachal Pradesh as a tribal area for many years, but it has not been declared a tribal area so far.

\*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri Virender Kashyap]

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that certain parts of the said area lie in Uttarakhand State. The Government of India has declared the Giripar area lying in Uttarakhand as a tribal area, while the area which is lying in Himachal Pradesh has not been declared as a tribal area despite having similar social, educational, political and economical condition. As a result, there is anger as well as resentment among the common citizens there since the youth belonging to the area are neither getting any employment opportunities nor the economic development of the area is taking place. This is merely a disparity. Therefore, I urge the Government of India to declare Giripar (Jaunsar Babar) as a tribal area with immediate effect in order to ensure its all-round development.

**(iii) Need to convert Ahmedabad – Khedbrahma metre gauge railway line into broadgauge and extend the railway line upto Abu Road Station**

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN (Sabarkantha): Sir, in my Constituency Sabarkantha, (Gujarat) there is a very old and popular railway line which is known as Ahmedabad-Khedrabhma railway. Earlier, it was known as A.P. railway i.e. Ahmedabad Prantiya railway. This railway line covers most of the remote areas of Sabarkantha district like the tribal belt of Prantiya, Himmat Nagar, Idar and Khedbrahma.

'Shakti Mata' Ambaji temple is situated in Ambaji. Being a 'Shakti Peeth' this temple is very much popular. There is a large number of tribal people and backward castes in Sabarkantha and Banaskantha districts. Khedbrahma is quite near Abu (Rajasthan). The people of the said area often commute to this sacred place for religious, commercial and social purposes. Lakhs of pilgrims visit Ambaji temple from all over India throughout the year.

Therefore, I urge the Government to convert Ahmedabad-Khedbrahma meter gauge railway line into broadgauge railway line and extend it from Khedbrahma upto Abu road station. Thus it will connect Sabarkantha

to New Delhi and it will turnout to be very beneficial for the people residing in Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and in tribal belts of Rajasthan. It will also reduce the time of journey.

**(iv) Need to provide financial help to farmers whose crops have been damaged due to bad weather conditions in Maharashtra**

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL (Jalna): Sir, recently unseasonal strong winds and rains have wreaked havoc in Maharashtra as a result the people of Maharashtra suffered heavy losses especially the farmers are forced to bear the brunt of losses.

As result of the earlier drought, farmers did not get much yield and whatever little crops they could grow got spoiled due to the rains. Farmers cultivated the khariff crops with the help of loans, it is also on the verge of ruin due to this weather crisis.

Thousands of houses have been destroyed, thousands of animals have died, crops especially those of Cotton, Mausambi, Pulses, Onion, Mangoes suffered huge losses.

I urge the Government to provide comprehensive financial assistance to the farmers.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Now, the House shall take up discussion under Rule 193, regarding rise in prices of essential commodities. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh.

Nothing else will now go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Ranjan ji, please start your speech. Yogi ji, Zero Hour is over now. It will be now taken up in the evening. Please take your seat. Zero Hour

\*Not recorded.

will be taken up in the evening. Yogi ji, please take your seat. Discussion under Rule 193 has commenced.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : Discussion on price-rise has started. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER : Please take your seats now. Let us continue with the Discussion under Rule 193 on price-rise.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Madam, they do not want a discussion on price-rise.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Basu Deb Acharia ji, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: We have to have a discussion on price-rise.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1330 hours.

12.32 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty Minutes past Thirteen of the Clock.*

13.34 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Thirty Four Minutes past thirteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI in the Chair]

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Rise in prices of Essential Commodities

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH (Munger): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to initiate the debate on the most burning issue before the nation. Honestly speaking, price-rise is the most burning issue before this country. Today about 85 crores of people are affected by it. How we arrived at a figure of 85 crore people? The Ministry of Rural Development has constituted N.G. Saxena Committee. This Committee stated that ten crore families are living below the poverty line. If a family consists of five Members then it comes upto fifty crore people and 35 crore people belong to middle class, in this way 85 crore people are affected by the price-rise. This Government was in power five year earlier also. It is not that prices soared today or within six-months or in a year. It is not the outcome of the present time. The UPA Government was in power during the last five years i.e. from 2004 to 2009.

If we go through the proceedings of the 14th Lok Sabha from the year 2004, we can see that discussions on price-rise were held all the time. Every time the reply given by the Government and the claims made by the Government is that soon price-rise will be curbed by them or the price-rise is being controlled. The then Minister of Agriculture is still the incumbent but the price-rise is crossing all the limited every day. I allege that the Government has no intention to check the price-rise. The focus of the present Congress Government is only on growth. A saying which is popular in our Bihar apty describes their line of thinking: even through they are as poor as the church mouse, they are blowing their own trumpets in public. Today, poverty is on the rise in the country. Prices are on the rise, unemployment is on the rise and the Government is bent upon maintaining the growth rate. This is the intention of this Government. This Government does not have any concern about price-rise. I feel that that the price-rise is the outcome of the policies of the Congress Government.



[Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh *alias* Lalan Singh]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to present before you the data regarding price-rise from the year 1974 till date. It can be seen that whenever Government led by Congress came to power, prices sky-rocketed. As a result, inflation increased. I have also got the figures corresponding to the period of NDA Government led by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. During the period between April, 1971 and May, 1975, the average rate of inflation was 15 per cent and the maximum rate was 34.7 per cent. Similarly from the year 1977 to 1979 the maximum rate of inflation was 10 per cent from January 1979 to 1980, maximum percentage of inflation was 11.7 and the average rate was 9 per cent. From October, 1980 to 1984 average rate of inflation was 11 per cent. Similarly from October, 1984 to December, 1989, average rate was 8 per cent and the maximum was 10 per cent. From December, 1989 to 1990 average rate was 8 per cent while maximum was 12.5 per cent. Subsequently in 1990-91 the rate of inflation was 14 per cent while the maximum was 16 per cent. In the year 2004-2009, the rate was 10.4 per cent. In May, 2004 while NDA Government was in power, the rate of inflation was 5 per cent. Congress and the price-rise go together. Today Congress Party and price-rise are synonymous for each other but the entire country is bearing the brunt. When the Government gives reply in this regard they will say that soon they are going to rein in the price-rise.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the UNO has a Food Programme. According to them, more than 50 per cent people in the villages and 38 per cent people in cities are the victims of malnutrition. What is this Government doing? There is a separate issue of people living below the poverty line. NDA Government formed under the leadership of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee had taken the decision to carry out a door to door survey to find out the number of people living below the poverty line. We cannot alleviate poverty till the time we conduct an actual assessment of the number of people living below poverty line. The Government decided to conduct a door-to-door survey. The survey was conducted. The Planning Commission, under the Central Government finalised that only such number of persons are living below

poverty line. What does it mean? The door-to-door survey was conducted and the number of BPL people would be accepted as determined by you? You would say that we providing foodgrain on the basis of number of BPL people as provided by the Planning Commission. Poverty is being alleviated on papers only, on the basis of manipulating figures only, but the reality is that you do not want to control poverty. You have no such intention even.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, prior to UPA, NDA was in power. When the UPA came to power at that time in a Food Programme Report of UNO it was shown that 27.5 per cent people were suffering from malnutrition. Today, the figure has risen to 50 per cent and 38 per cent. This figure is given by you and it is a reflection of your performance during five year period of governance. The Government had been in power for full five years. It had been engaged in import and export only. We remember, in a reply in 2007, the hon. Minister himself had said about this import of wheat. What did happen in this import of wheat? The whole country was discussing it. The media reported that import had taken place, and the tender was invited. The tender was invited in January, but the same was cancelled. The tender was invited again and wheat was purchased at Rs. 1650% per kilogram. This question was asked by me during the 14th Lok Sabha. On that day the proceedings of the House could not be continued, hence, the Government could not respond. I asked in the House about the number of companies, people and countries who gave their quotation and the facts that surfaced showed that when the tenders were invited in January, you did not procure at Rs. 1100, Rs. 1200 and Rs. 1600. However, that is a different issue. The import and export game has been going on. It is always there. During the last Session when a discussion on drought had taken place here it was said that there was sufficient stock of foodgrains. Recently, I read a Statement by the Finance Minister in a newspaper. He said that rice would have to be imported. I am unable to understand that the stock and everything is available with us yet why we are taking recourse to import and export to check inflation. It is better, the Minister should clarify the status so that the country can see that this Government

is busy in import and export only and it has no intention to control inflation. The Government is committed to increase the growth rate and to maintain it, the inflation will be allowed to rise to the maximum. It does not matter as to what extent the people of this country suffer due to this inflation.

I would like to tell you, and it is not a figure published in some newspapers, that when I asked the cook, who works in my home about the rates of household items, he replied that no vegetable was available in the market at a rate lesser than Rs. 20 to 25 per kilo. Potato is Rs. 24 per kilo, Tomato is Rs. 40 per kilo, Onion is Rs. 27-28 per kilo. The unpacked flour is Rs. 17-18 a kg. and the branded flour is being sold at a rate of Rs. 20-22 per kg. Not to talk of mustard oil and pulses. As far as pulses are concerned, we accept that there is a short production of about two million tonnes. Hence, the gap between the demand and supply may lead to increase in the rates. We can accept that. But this time the production of sugar is 15 lakh tonnes. You have a stock of 8 lakh tonnes of the last year. We have seen the Statement of the Chairman, Indian Sugar Mill Association. He is going to import 1.5 lakh tonnes. One lakh tonne of sugar has already been imported. You have a stock of 24 lakh tonnes of sugar. So much sugar is available, yet see what is the market rate of sugar?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I challenge the Government, go to any village, to a roadside shop and ask for sugar. You will get it as much as you want but it will be at a rate of Rs. 40/- a kilo. If sugar is available in the country and even in a small grocery shop 50-100 kg. of sugar is easily available then there is no scarcity of sugar. But this sugar was sold at Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 per kg. Last year, and this year it is being sold at Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 per kg. Why sugar is being sold at this rate when there is no gap in the demand and supply. The Government is continuously saying that this is the impact of the global economic slowdown. You must be having the record of the whole Hon. Minister. if you analyse the rates of wheat all over the world, the market rates of wheat have come down by 3.7 per cent. Where is the impact of the economic slowdown? The rate

of wheat in this country has increased from 3 to 32 per cent. This is your calculation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell you about the figure that I read in a newspaper. I have already told that from October, 2008 to September, 2009 the production of wheat was 15 million tonnes. I have read this Statement of the Minister of State, Department of Food. There is a buffer stock of 17 million tonnes of wheat and 13 million tonnes of rice. In August, the stock was 52.5 million tonnes which is more than 30 per cent of the last year's stock. As I have already told your import of pulses is unavoidable as there is shortage of two million tonnes. We can understand that. This is the actual situation in the country, and where is the crisis of foodgrains in the country? If we agree with you, and accept the figures being quoted by you then also all these figures indicate that there is no shortage of foodgrains. And when there is no gap in demand and supply, why rates are galloping in the market? Why are you troubling the people of this country?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has decided not to export foodgrains. This is a good thing. There is a shortage of foodgrains, inflation is there in the country, you will not export the foodgrains. But the figures indicate that there has been 25 per cent increase in the processed foodgrains. The import of fruits and vegetables has witnessed an increase of 128 per cent. As I have already said all this is a mere game of import and export. You are importing and telling the country and the House that a ban has been imposed on export of foodgrains.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, apart from all these things the most important one is the wholesale and consumer price index. If you keep these two things together, you will find a vast difference between them. As per your wholesale index if price of a commodity is ten rupees per kilogram, the same commodity is being sold in the market at the rate of forty rupees per kilogram. In this entire episode, the situation is in a State of major disorder. Therefore, the price-rise is the biggest problem now-a-days in the country. The Government ought to have the concern and the intention to curb price-rise, it doesn't appear with this that

[Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh]

Government is not working with the said intention. On the other hand, Government is engaged in enhancing the growth rate. The price-rise situations prevailing in the year, 2004, when the NDA Government went out of power, increased immediately once your Government came into power. We are dependent on agricultural production. Our country is based on agriculture and our economy is also based on the agriculture. How much money are you spending on agricultural produce. I have seen the budget and had also listened to the reply given by the hon. Minister of Finance. At that time also we had raised the question that you have earmarked only one per cent of the budget for agriculture. Minister of Finance had replied to that question saying that it was not one per cent but if we taken into account the amount given to other departments, then it comes to 25, 26 per cent.

You are giving subsidies. Which farmer is getting the subsidy, subsidies are usurped by the middle men. The subsidy on fertilizers is different one and a prevent and control the price-rise and to bring changes in your policy so that the common man of this country gets relief. I would like to conclude my speech very big scam. Seven-eight days ago, the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission went to Patna. When he attended a question-answer session there, hon. Member of Parliament Shri Uday Singh of Bhartiya Janata Party asked him why they were not giving the subsidy on fertilizers to the farmers directly, then in his reply he told that personally he was in a favour of such move, but as per the existing policy of the Government subsidy could not be given directly to the farmers. We have initiated it in Bihar. In many States, subsidy is being given directly to the farmers. That is a different question, but I would like to say that today farmers are not getting any subsidy. You are not focusing your attention on agriculture. Efforts are not being made to control the market which you should have done and you are saying that there is price-rise. I would like to say that it is beyond your control to check the price-rise.

Sir, I can say with authority that though you have completed the tenure of last five years but you failed to control the price-rise. You will also complete the another five year term of the present Lok Sabha, but you will not be able to control the price-rise, it will continue to increase and will keep sky rocketing. This is because your intention is not to curb the price-rise, instead you are focussing on industrial production. You are not following the policy of agricultural production. You are not making efforts to control the market. You want to maintain the growth rate and to increase it. This is the reason why 85 crore people of the country are affected by the price-rise. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to take the necessary and effective steps possible to.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Bahrapur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, just now Shri Rajiv Ranjan *alias* Lalan Singh raised the issue of price-rise in details and he had expressed apprehensions about some hotchpotch and scams. Thereafter we would like to have an open discussion on this issue in detail. [English] Sir, first of all, I beg to differ with the contention of the Member that our Agriculture Minister is playing hide and seek with the price-rise of our country. Just for reference, on 24.11.2009 the Minister has given a reply statement regarding the rise in prices of essential commodities. There, he has categorically and candidly admitted that some of the essential commodities are showing increasing trend. One year back, the price of rice per kilogram was Rs. 22; now up to 19.11.2009, the price has been found only at Rs. 22. In case of wheat, one year back, it was Rs. 13 per kilogram but now it is Rs. 15. However, in case of moong dal, one year back it was Rs. 47 per kilogram; now it is Rs. 82. Masoor dal, one year back was Rs. 47 per kilogram; now it is Rs. 82. In the case of mustard oil, one year back, the price of mustard oil was to the tune of Rs. 78 per litre; now it has been decreased to Rs. 66. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: You only should supply oil to our homes also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : The price of Vanaspati was at Rs. 60; now it has declined to Rs. 56.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: It seems that the Minister of Agriculture is sending supplies to you separately....(Interruptions) You please supply mustard oil at the rate of Rs. 67 to us also. We will buy it only from you....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Lalanji, you have spoken very well. Please sit down. Let him speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: But he is supposed to speak the truth, isn't he?

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I have referred the reply statement of the concerned Minister which is very authentic. During the Question Hour it was discussed. It is authentic information.

There is a mismatch; there is a discrepancy between Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index. In India, tracking of inflation is measured by WPI and sectional CPI. As per the International Monetary Fund's statistics, it has been revealed that 157 countries still follow Consumer Price Index. On the other hand, 24 countries of the world still pursue the Wholesale Price Index.

14.00 hrs.

Sir, we do not have any aggregate CPI. We have only sectional CPI at our disposal, such as CPI for industrial workers, CPI for agricultural labourers, CPI for urban non-manual workers and CPI for rural labourers.

14.01 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

On the other hand, Wholesale Price Index commodity basket has three most important components, namely, 1) primary articles; 2) fuel, power, light and lubricant; and 3) manufactured products with the respective weightage of 22.02 per cent, 14.23 per cent and 63.73 per cent.

Since the year 1942, India has been continuing with the standard of Wholesale Price Index. Wholesale Price Index is a comprehensive and economy wide coverage, and the weights in the commodity baskets are based on the value of the quantities traded in the domestic market. On the other hand, Consumer Price Index is consumer group specific. It is in the general level of prices of goods and services consumed by a group within a designated commodity basket. However, it is often debated that this kind of mismatch should be done away with. Only 30 commodities are available in India, which are common in terms of CPI, industrial workers and Wholesale Price Index. I must request the Government to consider the mismatch between WPI and CPI because it often creates various kinds of misgivings and controversies.

Sir, as we know that inflation is a rise in the general price of goods and services in an economy over a period of time. When the price level rises, what is the outcome? The outcome is that the value of the currency gets eroded and you have to pay much to buy a less amount of commodity. The purchasing power of money gets decreased, which results in a loss of real value in the internal medium exchange and the unit of account in the economy.

However, worldwide it is believed that inflation can have positive and negatives impacts in the economy of a country. The negative impact of inflation includes loss in stability and the real value of money and other monetary items over time. Uncertainties about future inflation may discourage further investment and savings. High inflation may lead to shortage of goods when consumers are

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

gripped by the apprehension that prices would be going higher and so he thinks it is better to store more and more commodities. It also leads to shortage of commodities.

The positive side is that it helps to mitigate economic recession and debt relief by reducing the real value of debt. What is the role of the Government?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the treasury benches haven't got any spices to add....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is OK. You please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Please wait for sometime, we will serve it well-cooked....(Interruptions) [English] It is the duty of the Government, it is incumbent upon the Government to control the price and regulate the value of currency and it is entrusted upon the monetary authorities of our country, the Central banks, to control the size of the money supply through the setting up of interest rates through open market operations and through the setting up of banking reserve requirements.

There are various kinds of inflation prevailing in the world. One is, demand — pull inflation which is caused by the increases in aggregate demand due to the increased private and public, I mean, Government spendings and it is constructive to a faster rate of economic growth since the excess demand and favourable market conditions will stimulate investment and expansion.

The second is cost-push inflation. It is called 'supply shock inflation'. It is caused by drops in aggregate supply. This may be due to natural disasters and other risks. And, third is built-in inflation. It is induced by adaptive expectations and it is often linked to price/wage spiral. It

involves workers trying to keep their wages up with prices above the rate of inflation and employers passing the higher labour cost on to their customers as higher prices leading to a vicious circle. Built-in inflation reflects the events in the past. So, it may safely be called a hangover inflation.

Presently, we are under the pressure of supply shock inflation. Nobody can deny here that 20 years ago— even I referred it during the NDA regime—what was the salary of an employee? Was the salary increased or not? If the salary has been increased, what does it mean by implication? It means that he got disposable fund to venture into the market to purchase more and to consume more. Everybody knows that this year, out of 36 Meteorological Divisions, 27 Meteorological Divisions have been affected by moderate to severe drought. The situation further compounded by flood in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. The Government does not hold any magic wand to restrain the prices of all commodities because prices of commodities depend upon the mechanism of supply and demand and the availability in the market. If it is not available, then it is incumbent upon the Government to import the commodities from anywhere in the world. So, I think if the Government goes to import any item for the food security of our people, for the sake of the country, it is most welcome.

The fact is that the Government has been maintaining the buffer stock. We should never provoke anybody to generate a fear psychosis among the common people. The opposition is ferreting out for political crop. But the real price of crop is determined by diverse factors. As far as the stock of rice in the central pool is concerned, it is now hovering around 153.49 lakh tonnes whereas the buffer norm is only 52 lakh tonnes. Is there any reason for generating apprehension among the common people? As far as wheat is concerned, we are maintaining very satisfactory level of stock which is over and above the buffer norm of our country. The buffer norm is now 110 lakh tonnes, but the actual stock is 284.57 lakh tonnes. Why is the opposition creating such a hue and cry in regard to foodgrains?

The Government is very much transparent in giving the details and in ascertaining the reasons as to why prices of some of the essential commodities have been increasing. Out of 17 essential commodities, only five essential commodities – namely, rice, wheat, pulse, sugar, potato and onion – are registering an ominous increase. I would simply refer that those Members should not serve the responsibility of the State Government in the House. It is the duty of the State Government to control the hoarding and to control the black marketing....(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on the record except the speech of Shri Adhir Chowdhury.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*English*]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: I must appreciate the initiative of the Bihar State Government which has given the diesel subsidy to the common farmer in compliance with the directive of the Central Government. I must appreciate the endeavour of the Bihar State Government. Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act 1955 and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

To enable the State Government and UT Administration to continue to take effective action for undertaking de-hoarding operation under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, it was decided to enable State Governments to impose restrictions like stock-holding limits, by keeping in abeyance some provisions of the Central order dated 15.2.2002 in respect of pulses, edible oil, edible oilseeds, rice, paddy, sugar etc. The commodities which had also been included in the above list have been removed with effect from 1.4.2009. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, just a minute. You will be surprised to know as to how many State Governments in the country have taken the punitive

measures against the hoarders? Gujarat has taken action in 18 cases, Tamil Nadu in 104, Orissa and Maharashtra in two cases each. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude. You have taken more time.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: But, Sir, in West Bengal it is a big zero. No de-hoarding operation and no prosecution has been there against blackmarketeers, no effective action has been taking place in West Bengal. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude. Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, procurement of rice has been denied in West Bengal. The common farmers are being deprived of selling their paddy to the FCI, to the food supply depots. The State Government of West Bengal does not extend the cooperative hand to the farmers. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Sir, [*Translation*] whatever is being said here is to incite us.

[*English*]

With these words, I am concluding my speech.

[*Translation*]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a very significant matter on which we are having a discussion today. First of all, I would like to talk about the motive, viewpoint and the policy of the Government regarding price-rise. Prices have been soaring in this country rapidly since the year 2006. In the year 2007 it was stated that prices were soaring due to international reasons. When this new Government was formed, we hoped that there would be a mention of price-rise in the Address of Her Excellency President but in the Address

[Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi]

nothing was said about the price-rise or about how to control it or its reasons or the policy of the Government in this regard. Then we thought that perhaps there would be mention about price-rise in budget speech as due to price-rise, all the figures in the budget, receipt of revenue and increase in expenditure and all are impacted by it but even in the budget speech, there wasn't a single word about price-rise or how to curb it. At that time so much frenzy was created about the fact that this Government had completed 100 days and in this period very major work had been accomplished. Our Human Resources Minister had made a number of announcements at that time, however as per the Asian Age newspaper dated 30th August:

[English]

"The first 100 days of the second UPA Government is an occasion that will go largely noticed in the country."

Why? It is further said—

"At the risk of jumping to hasty conclusions even, a few observations may be in order. First, while there is dissatisfaction with the Government's inability to control, food prices said to have increased 100 per cent in 100 days."

[Translation]

Within the period of 100 days, price-rise remained 100 per cent times. This is the record of such a Government who advises us daily about inflation, price-rise that they will curb it, I would like to enunciate before you what their policy, viewpoint is about price-rise. Financial express dated 15th September States.

[English]

"The food articles' inflation jumped to 15.4 per cent for the week ended September 5, up from 14.8 per cent in the previous week. In order to check soaring food prices, the Union Cabinet on Thursday asked the

States to regulate stocks of sugar, pulses, paddy, rice and edible oils that traders can keep till September, 2010. The Government had earlier empowered States to impose limits on sugar stock still January 8, 2010."

[Translation]

To add to this, he said that you can regulate the stock which you have to do till September, 2010. This means that Government was aware of the extent to which the inflation would rise in the year 2010.

[English]

The Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee said that the rise in inflation was expected, that is, he had the apprehension and expected that inflation would rise. He said:

"This is a trend we were expecting. We have also suggested that there would be some inflationary pressure, which is not unexpected."

[Translation]

i.e., he was expecting, he knew that inflation would rise. Then, on 25th September it is said that [English] annual inflation for food articles soared to 15.6 per cent in the week ended September 12, the highest in more than a decade, fuelled largely by 17 per cent price-rise in food articles.

Then, the *Economist* of the HDFC Banks says:

"Current surge in inflation in food prices has more to do with market expectations rather than the supply-demand gap."

[Translation]

Bank Officers also take park in future trading and provide money for all things. They say that share of market expectation which you are talking, is much more than the share of supply and demand gap in it. On September on behalf of the Governor of RBI it is again stated that:

[English]

"The Central Bank would not unwind its accommodative monetary policy before ensuring recovery."

Then, it is said :

"While supply shortages pushed up food prices by an annual 15.6 per cent .....

[Translation]

Someone is saying that the effect of supply side is not there while someone else is saying that the effect of supply side is there.

[English]

He says:

"In a recent uptick in prices for base metals and manufactured goods hinted at resurgent demand driven pressures that may compel RBI to accelerate efforts to tame inflation."

It says 'to begin efforts to tame inflation'. [Translation] Now, it is a compulsion to control inflation, efforts should be made for it, these are their policies, these are their characteristics and this is their intention. Then, on 2nd October, they say [English] that Inflation in food articles for the week under consideration was at an eleven year high of 16.2 per cent. The Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee told that it was causing some concern in the Government. It was causing only some concern in the Government. Something was heard about it. It was not the primary concern. The prices of food articles did not go up sharply in the last two severe droughts faced by the country. The newspaper is saying 'in 1987-88 and 2002-03, during these years, food price inflation was less than three to four per cent and even overall consumer price inflation remained low, insulating the poor from the impact of drought. [Translation] In the year 2002-03, whose Government was there, Government of NDA was there. At that time, there was a worst drought. [English] They say that, 'food price inflation was less than three to four per cent and the overall

inflation was also low, insulating the poor from the impact of the drought.' [Translation] Why were the poor not affected by the drought then? What is happening today, prices skyrocket even with the occurrence of partial drought or rainfall. Why was in not so then.

[English]

Then, they say in October:

"Pushed by higher food prices, wholesale price inflation is rising."

Then, they say:

"If that happens, inflation would be much more than five per cent as projected by the Reserve Bank of India which is facing the tough task of talking inflationary pressures and promoting growth. The Central Bank's monetary policy review is stated in October 27."

Then, the RBI Governor says:

"We will take into account a complete picture of the macro economic situation to decide the monetary policy in order to support the economic recovery and the issue of controlling inflation."

[Translation]

They were not going to do anything till 27 October. Then, they would make a policy and then it would be implemented. God knows as to when it would take place. Then, they were further stating that,

[English]

"I have told earlier also that there is an inflationary potentiality and inflation may go up."

[Translation]

Now, it is being said that this inflation would go up to 7 per cent till year 2010, which they intended to keep within five per cent. Figures of RBI, other banks and those



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of Government State this fact. I am very much worried about the manner in which it will be controlled and why they are not able to control it. Then, you further say that one institution 'NOMURA' which presents the figures, takes the figures and conduct the survey.

[English]

NOMURA says that inflation estimates is higher than the Central Bank's projection of around five per cent by end March, expects the Reserve Bank of India to revise its target in its policy review on 27th. Further, they State that it can upto 7 per cent. NOMURA revised its average inflation forecast for 2009-10 to three per cent from two per cent and for 2010-11 to seven per cent.

[Translation]

Now, you will have to fear the brunt of inflation for two more years, this is the policy of Government. Finance Minister says that come concern is there. It is a matter of small concern. Then, he says on the 27th, our review will take place, then everything with fall in place. 27 October has gone, next 27 November is coming. Can anyone tell, whether there are any signs of a fall in inflation. We are witnessing a rise in inflation.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Joshi Ji, Minister of Agriculture is sitting here, he is saying that no one can control inflation till the next crop.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Yes, I am talking of the year 2011. Then, the Minister of Finance said that [English] he wants inflation to be kept under control so that the common man is not affected. [Translation] Only by saying *Khulja Simsim*, let price-rise go away. Common man will not be affected. We are taking stock of it. We are trying to curb it. His speech of November 4 does not reflect his concern about price-rise. Not to talk of serious are least concern and say that inflation is not the primary concern. Regarding growth, RBI States they would try. Finance

Minister also says the same thing and Minister of Agriculture says that control of price-rise is not in their hands. They say that subject of crops comes under State Governments. I will tell you about the tricks being played in regard to consumer price.

Then, it is said that supply of foodgrains has come down. Hon'ble Ranjan Ji had stated that and I would like to ask that there is no such gap which could cause so much of price-rise. Finance Commission has stated about the gap in production of pulses in the year 2007-08 and I will tell you about the gap in demand and supply. They say that in the year 2007-08, the production of pulses will be 16.77 million tonne, in the year 2008-2009 it will be 17.51 million tonne, in the year 2009-2010 it will be 18.29 million tonne. They have projected the estimated production till year 2012. In the year 2007-2008, the gap in pulses is 2.44 million tonne and in the year 2008-2009, it is 3 million tonne. In the year 2009-2010, it is 3.28 million tonnes. The Planning Commission is saying in advance that there will be some gap. What you did? Why the production of pulses were not increased? There is a report of ASSOCHAM and now our friend is saying that the salary of people has increased, therefore, the consumption of pulses have increased and the report which has been given by ASSOCHAM, States that the per capita consumption of pulses in the year 1960 which was 27 kilogram, is now 11 kilogram. Production of pulses has not been increased. I can give the figures to the extent production has been increased but what did you do. What was its result? Result was that we are eating pulses. Pulses are major source of Protein in this country and poor people are its major consumer.

[English]

It is said that:

"Sizeable quantities are being imported from countries such as Canada, Australia, the US and Myanmar."

We are importing pulses from these countries.

"Canada and Australia are factoring in Indian demand in their production plans and have been successful in exploiting the situation to their advantage."

[*Translation*]

Who is being helped by the Government. The Government wants to import pulses by decreasing its production here from which countries you are importing pulses.

[*English*]

"Canada accounts for 40 per cent of total pulses imports while Myanmar accounts for 27 per cent and the USA about six per cent."

[*Translation*]

Those countries know that you are informing them about scarcity of pulses likely to be incurred in the country and inflation will not come down for a year. Production of pulses will decrease, here and those countries should be prepared to sell their stock to us. The Government must see its reasons and the level of production. The condition is very pitiable. What is the comparative position of productivity in our country and other countries. As regards paddy, per hectare production in Bangladesh is 3448 kg. as against 2915 kg. per hectare in India. Per hectare production of paddy in Egypt is 9135 kg. It is 6582 kg per hectare in Japan. Production of wheat in France is 7444 kg. per hectare, while it is 2770 kg. per hectare in India. What production you are talking about, what is the rate of production, whether we can work for increasing production? We get two to three crops every year. Our land is very fertile. In country like France there is only one crop every year, this is what they production. Even in England per hectare production is 8043 kg. Production of maize is 8813 kg. per hectare in France, 7779 kg. per hectare in Egypt, while it is only 1705 kg. per hectare in India. Look at the production of sugarcane. It is 119893 kg. per hectare in Egypt and 68049 kg. per hectare in India. Even in Colombia, total production is higher than ours at 94779 kg. per hectare. China's production is at par with ours. We are producing peanuts 794 kg. per hectare, while China produced 3000 kg. per hectare and Uganda at

700 kg. per hectare. Production of peanuts in our country and Uganda is at the same level. The Government is aware of the rate of production in other countries and low production rate in our country. This is not a new phenomenon. I have looked into the previous plans also, every time we get figures. Every time it is said that we are increasing productivity. What productivity we are increasing? I do not understand how the prices would be controlled. It seems that the Government's policy is designed as not to let the country self-reliant in the production of cereals. The policy is to create scarcity of cereals, so that their friends in the other countries, from where the country import, can make profit. The Government's helping those people by starving our fellow countrymen. You are transferring money of poor people of this country to America, Canada. It is reserve transfer of capital. Eighty crore, hundred crore people are being forced to buy costly articles and arrangement has been made to transfer most of the money of this country to other countries. I think the policy being adopted regarding foodgrains in the country is a very fatal policy.

I had told that the gap between demand and supply was very low. In 2007-08 the gap in cereals was only 0.79 million tonne. It increased to 3.23 million tonne in 2008-09 and 5.67 million tonne in 2009-2010 and the gap is highest in pulses, not in cereals. I want to know what is the policy regarding coarse cereals? Coarse cereal was an essential foodgrain for India. The Government allowed the production of coarse cereals decrease and do not pay attention towards it. But his coarse cereal is very useful in respect of calorie value, protein value, calcium value and nutritional value. Doctors and scientists are not asking where is millet, Raagi, Bajara, Jawar which are nutritious in very respect and require less water and are easy to produce. It takes a little longer time but it can be produced easily. It makes me surprised to see that farmers do not want to grow pulses. They say that they go less by growing pulses. I have Statements of farmers before me. Farmers say that even if its MSP is increased they would not benefit from it. Whatever little amount of pulses they produce, they get more money by selling them in Mandi, why should they produce more? The incentives given for increasing the

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production of pulses are not effective. This is what the report says and the Statements of farmers say. This is what Jaiprakash Sharma from Atrauli says and Ghosh Saheb from Nadia says and Nadia is the district which has been included in the pulse mission. Farmers say that they will not grow pulses. Whether you have gathered information as to why the production is declining? Why farmers are not going there? The pricing policy of the Government is wrong. The pricing policy in respect of cereals is wrong.

One interesting thing which I often feel is about GDP growth. If I borrow Rs. 10,000 from the Government. GDP increases and if I return back Rs. 10,000/- GDP increases again. If prices go up and production does not increase, GDP increases. So the Government wants to increase GDP through price-rise by creating scarcity and wants to show to the world that there is so much growth. What kind of fraud is this? Growing scarcity and increasing GDP—that has to be carefully analyzed. Thousands of crores of rupees are being manipulated in pulses and cereals. Every time it increases the GDP. Then the Government would say that the growth has increased.

Finance Minister is not present here, I want to ask him as to why he is increasing GDP by creating scarcity? He has made his point about sugar. I only want to say that there is no dearth of stock of sugar. Fault is with our distribution system. 65 per cent sugar is consumed by confectioners. Pepsicola, Campacola and big companies manufacturing sweets, chocolate and ice-creams and 35 per cent sugar is left for common man. Levy sugar is 10 per cent. Why the Government do not increase it to 25 per cent? When it was at 20 per cent, we were demanding that as to why it is not being increased to 25-30 per cent? We have told your officers time and again, what bungling is going on? Why this 65 per cent share is still with them. Then again you put a restriction that nobody can hold stock for more than 15 days. Are they nincompoops? They have cleared their surplus stocks in the market at high prices and then imported it from abroad. They have made import of raw sugar duty free. They should see as to how these are making impact on pricing policy?

Now, I want to say two things to the Government. Hunger is aggravating in this country. I have an article written by Kuldip Naiyer before me published on September, 5 in 'Tribune'. You can read it, I do not want to read it word by word but it is an eye-opening article about their policies. He writes that

[English]

"India has not yet realized that the growth rate does not reduce poverty and hunger; it aggravates both."

"The Manmohan Singh Government has not yet woken up to the fact that the model of industrial agriculture and globalized trade on food are responsible for the creation of hunger."

"Farmers have inevitably depended on debt for help, not realizing that the debt trap is also a hunger trap. Many suicides have taken place and many more would."

"...Junk and processed food is forced on the middle-class."

[Translation]

He was talking about the quantity of processed food being imported.

[English]

"Junk and processed food is forced on them through globalisation. The country is now the epicentre of the malnutrition of the poor who do not get enough. The malnutrition of rich is because their diets have been degraded with the Americanised food culture. Imports are no longer affordable and a model based on import dependency might be in the interest of the US Government but it is not in our interest."

[Translation]

I want to tell you that the Statement of US Food Secretary is very offending.

[English]

Food is a very important weapon in our kitty and it can be used to bargain."

[Translation]

If our country depends on imports for foodgrains then I would like to warn the Minister of Food that he is pledging the sovereignty of the country. The extent to which our self dependency regarding food grains decreases, the sovereignty of the country is pledged to that extent. It is a very dangerous game going on. I want to alert you on this. Jawaharlal Nehru was right when he said,—

"Everything can wait but agriculture cannot". Anything can be put on hold in this country, atom bomb, satellite, higher education and its expansion, big airports, can be put on hold but 'grains cannot, agriculture cannot. Hungry Hindustan cannot survive even for a single minute. All this huge infrastructures you are creating will be of no use, if there is nothing to eat. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, you and I have taken the oath of the Constitution. In its very Preamble, Constitution says that social, economic and political justice should be done to people of the country. Whether economic justice exists in this country? Whether price-rise is leading towards the economic justice or it deprives thousands and crores of people from economic justice. Whether we are complying to the fundamental right? The Right to live does not mean putting anyhow body and soul together but it means a healthy, sound and well educated person who has opportunities for employment and progress. Whether we are not depriving people of this right by increasing the prices of food grains and price-rise? Just now, figures relating to malnutrition have been put before us whether these figures are not compelling this country to think seriously on the miserable condition and economic policy especially agriculture policy? Thousands and lakhs of hungry people in this country are crying and then they become puppets in the hands of those who believe in violence. Are you not seeing this crisis in the offing? Will you say only—"Bhookh hai roti nahi tho kya hua, aajkal jer-e- Bahas hai Dilli mein ye mudda".

I request you please understand this issue with its seriousness and sincerity. We are ready to help, State Governments are ready to help, all parties are ready to help. Mulayam Singhji is ready to help, Basu Devji is ready to help. I do not think that any political party in the country will be hesitating to extend a helping hand to the Government in this crisis of price-rise. I want to request you for the country that-you get awakened, think, standup, with all your preparedness. Sharadji, you belong to a State that has its long cherished traditions. I say you in the name of those traditions get standup, prepared with full courage and say to the Government that these are wrong policies, change them. We expect that you will pressurize the Government to change those policies of globalization and agriculture commercialization and create awareness among the common farmers for following correct agriculture traditions of the country.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Mr. Deputy. Speaker, Sir, I will not go into figures now as Dr. Joshi and Shri Rajiv Ranjanji has already given the figures. We want to talk straightforward. I am sorry to say that Shri Sharad Pawarji, who is the Minister of Agriculture, has the reputation of a farmer leader in the country. If his name is referred anywhere then it is said he is leader of farmers. But what are the reasons that such an unprecedented price-rise is going on in the country? Who are getting affected mostly by this price-rise, this uncontrolled price-rise which is not having any control, how it would be checked? The Government have raided on hoarders and blackmarketees, how many persons have been put behind the bars? So, we want to say with regret that all the consumer goods are very expensive. Sugarcane is cheap but sugar is costly, what are the reasons for this?—Arahar of farmer is cheap but pulses are costly, potato is cheap but chipps are costly. What the Government has done in view of all these facts? What is the policy of the Government? I do not have complaint against anybody but the Minister of Agriculture. Farmers were seeing towards you with hope and expectation and say that our leader is Shri Sharadji, the Minister of Agriculture. But whatever

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farmer, produces, it goes in loss, consumers are facing difficulties as they consume grains produced farmer but on the other hand hoarders, profiteers, backmarketeers are filling their coffers. These people are becoming rich, thanks to the Government's policy. Who is responsible for this? When action will be taken against profiteers, hoarders and black marketeers? Who are these people?

I would like to say that those in the Government have no sympathy for the hungry people but they care a lot for such 100 families of the country who control one-fourth wealth of the country. It is a serious matter. This is the result of the policy adopted by this Government. I would like to reiterate that only these 100 families are holding the one-fourth wealth of the country. How long can they keep these farmers deprived? How long can they continue like this? I would like to remind them that Governments come and Governments go and no one can remain permanent on any post. The person who works in the interest of the common man is remembered for long in the capacity of the office he holds. No Minister, Chief Minister or home Minister can hold his office for ever. Today there is an opportunity before the Government because people who were not ready to discuss the farmers' issue are discussing it today. Even those who did not like to discuss the farmers' issue are today speaking in favour of the farmers. He has given some indication about various Ministries but I would not like to go into that. However, Shri Sharad Pawarji holds all the three Ministries. He has in his charge the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. He has all the coordination at his command. Then what is the reason for price-rise? There is no shortage of commodities in the market. Hon'ble Joshiji was mentioning it but there is no need for him to mention it. I go to the market, I will tell you. Every thing is available in the market, the buyer has to exercise his choice about what he wants to buy. Thus, things are not in short supply in the market. Despite that, there is so much price-rise. How rich do they want to make these 100 families? Today the poor are becoming poorer.

The number of the poor has risen dramatically. There is starvation. Many persons have committed suicide in Maharashtra. Though Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka were not treated such States where such incidents could take place. Most of the suicides have been committed by the farmers, as has been reported, in Maharashtra and Vidarbha. Arhar produced by the farmers is sold at cheap rates. A farmer keeps a reserve of his grains for six months till the next harvest, thinking this will be sufficient for his family. During these six months he meets his expenses regarding marriage ceremony, medicine and repayment of loan by selling these grains. Today the farmer sells his produce at cheap rates but has to purchase at higher rates to consume later on. The poor are becoming poorer and the rich are becoming richer. I remember that at the time of independence there were 22 families who were the most rich families in the country. I heard from old leaders that there were 22 families who owned enormous wealth. Today, their number has increased much. At that time multimillionaires and billionaires were regarded very rich people. Today, almost everybody is a millionaire. People having 20 acres of land have also become millionaires. This is not a big thing. Even farmers have become millionaires due to rising price of land. But earlier there were 20 or 22 industrial houses only and now their number has risen to 100. That is why I said that those 100 families own one-fourth wealth of the country. Which type of policy is being followed in the country? Whether such a policy will be implemented in democracy? What is the reason for this?

I would like to ask you to pay attention to it because you are holding the charge of three departments. An ordinance was issued for sugarcane. The Ordinance was issued without taking any consideration on the action to be taken against hoarders. Who has hoarded sugar? What is the condition of paddy? I may request you to find out the quantity of rice hoarded in Uttar Pradesh alone. In Uttar Pradesh there is not even a single rice mill where rice is not hoarded in sufficient quantity. The Government has fixed Rs. 1000 as minimum support price. But the farmers are forced to sell their produce at the rate of Rs. 800. I am talking about Uttar Pradesh. Many hon'ble Members from

Uttar Pradesh are aware of this. The farmers are helpless but rice is kept in sufficient quantity. The Government should find out as to how much rice has been hoarded in Uttar Pradesh and inform me through a letter.

As per the Government estimates vegetables and fruits worth 50 crore rupees are getting perished. The Government has no arrangement for their processing. There is no arrangement for preserving them. What is his reply to this condition? Fruits and vegetables are being thrown away and destroyed, but no one is ready to take it and there is no arrangement for storing them. A lot has been said about processing but nothing has been done in this regard. Public Distribution system has failed completely. The number of people living below the poverty line is increasing and middlemen are getting richer. Today, everything is done on telephone, which is called forward trading. Many persons earn billions of money on telephone itself. No one has to do anything. It is quite easy that the things are settled on telephone itself. I would not like to reiterate it that farmers do that want to produce pulses because they do not get remunerative price and their yield is also less. They yield of arhar, mung dal etc. is low and they will not get sufficient money.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask the Minister the reasons for low price of sugarcane and high price of sugar, low price of paddy and high price of rice, the low price of arhar and high price of pulses? He can draw a conclusion from it. I know that he may have some concern for farmers. I will not accuse him for not having any concern for them. We know that he is good and important Minister of agriculture but if he would provide concessions to farmers, the common people will also get goods at cheaper rates. In this regard I would like to say that the Government should fix the responsibility of their Ministers and officials. Both are responsible. How they are handling their Ministries, what are they doing to check price-rise and what the officials are doing? Both of these are responsible and if both are working together then why hoarders are getting benefited? What is the reason for blackmarketing. Until and unless responsibility of Ministers

and officers is not fixed, price-rise cannot be contained. I do not want to discuss other problems because other problems are the same.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, again and again I would like to reiterate that responsibility of the Ministers and officers should be fixed. They will be responsible. If common people face any problem then these Ministers and officers will be responsible for the same. The day when their responsibility will be fixed the public will feel great relief. I have stated earlier also that the forward trading is a major reason of price-rise. What measures or stringent action have been taken by the Government so far in order to check it? You will observe that the prices have soared so high that a poor man cannot even get a room constructed to live therein. The steel and cement have become so much costly that now it seems impossible for poor man to get a room constructed for himself. Now a days he can neither conveniently sleep nor he can live in rainy and winter days. It is becoming very difficult for him to construct even a room for himself. We want that a colony should be constructed. What are the difficulties in constructing one room dwelling unit for them. What are the difficulties being faced in constructing such houses....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, please conclude your speech.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would not speak a lot. The entire country is aware that our hon'ble Prime Minister is in economist. Is this what an economist means?

Everywhere in the country it is being claimed that the Prime Minister of our country is an economist. Does an economist soar the prices? One fourth of the entire wealth of India is in the hands of 100 families, whereas 15 crore people of the country, own 75 per cent of the wealth. Is this what the economists have done? You will feel bad that all such so called economists have put economy of country in the mess. You may as you wish check this fact any time. I am saying is after thinking a lot that all such so called economists have put the country in the mess.

15.00 hrs.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (Meerut): While we are painting a rosy picture then why the economy is ruined.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Yes that is true. You have said it in short. Sir, my opinion is same as one of yours to save the poor of the country. We are united on this issue. No one on the treasury bench may like price-rise in such way. You would not like that your Government is criticized and we also do not like that prices should soar to such an extent. Our first target is agriculture, labour and farmers and it is so because all the countries of the world, which have focussed on the agriculture, have made progress. I want to reiterate that America which has a history of 450 years was in a bad shape but due of large scale wheat production it was on the top of the world.

Sir, China also first of all focussed on agriculture. On the one hand, the prices are soaring and on the other the border is facing threat. What is that threat, what is being said by China. It is saying that we need not have a war with them. China would try to influence India's economy in such a way that it would be rendered weak itself. India would not be able to withstand a war against China. Please understand the threat present at the border. Carpets bulbs etc. of China are being sold here. Nobody uses Indian made bulbs on Diwali. Now nobody buys the carpets weaved in Bhadohi, Mirzapur and Shahjahanpur. These are the policies, which are making our country weak. This is not a small thing. China claims that all regions from Himachal to Arunachal Pradesh belongs to it. It will be very good if this issue is also discussed. It claims that the race in these places is same as theirs. Sometimes it even claims that people of these places need not any passport to China.

Sir, there are many threats, who will resolve them out? The farmer will resolve those threats. The sons of farmers will be a soldiers to fight in the battlefield and the farmers will provide foodgrains also. The 100 richest families and

their sons would not be able to safeguard the country. The farmers and their sons will safeguard the country and its borders. It is only farmer who will provide food grains as well as soldiers. Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastriji had said 'jai jawan jai kisan'. It was not a mere slogan. There was a belief that if the farmers would be strong, the country will be safe. If our farmers will be prosperous the youths will certainly be healthy. The country will be strong if its citizens are healthy. How can one be healthy in poverty, how can our country be strong? You know that all countries of the world which have progressed, are prosperous and have become super power, always give priorities to the agriculture. Here such policies were pursued that farmers were neglected and it has become difficult to survive because of sharp price-rise....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, please conclude now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would not like to speak a lot. I will finish after raising two points only. After all I have to give some suggestions also to check price-rise. My first suggestion is that first of all the hoarders and blackmarketeers who are directly or indirectly associated with some of us should be sent behind the bars. They are the hoarders, profiteers and blackmarketeers. You will have to show courage. If you have courage and will power the price-rise can be contained. Hon'ble Prime Minister is on tour these days. We will write to him and ask, Why has said that everything will be set right within six months or 100 days. Price-rise will be controlled within six months. My view is that price-rise cannot be curbed as it is a matter which is beyond your control but at least it can be contained. If you cannot bring down it may be controlled at least. Bring down the prices to the level that was prevailing on the day when your Government came into power and you took oath. Therefore, you should understand that if you cannot curb price-rise totally than you should at least cannot it. If high prices cannot be brought down it can be contained and status quo can be maintains. Hon. Agriculture Minister you may talk later on. I am saying so because perhaps you may

do it. If you will make sincere efforts with courage, will power and determination price-rise can be controlled and it will be a great work of yours.

The second point is, the last day you had said that you do not want to be involved into the matter of statistics and I had suggested that there is only one measure and I am repeating it time and again that there should be a policy of fixing price. But you told that you do not want to be involved in it. This is the policy of our Samajwadi Party. If ever 100 Members of my party get elected to the Lok Sabha, and we happen to form the Government, then we will show you how it is done. You could have done it. ...*(Interruptions)* Pt. Dindayal Upadhyaya and Lohiaji had similar views on many issues. Of course the friendship is still intact, but you are not changing your policies. We have only difference that you play politics in the name of religion. Religion is also important. We know that the people are god fearing but if you stop spreading hatred by not politicising religion then certainly we can come closer. We have said it several times, but you are not ready for this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, please conclude now, its enough.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would suggest that a price check policy should be implemented. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, on that day you said that you will not go into the statistics. Please concede. I am saying that our policy is the policy of price check. This means that profit of not more than 1½ times should be earned on the thing produced in factory and that produce of the farmers should not be costlier by 20 to 25 per cent to his subsequent crop. What has happened, which Government will do this? It will be testing your valour and will power. On that day you said, I do not want to indulge in these things. It was a petty thing. We did not expect so from you. I am suggesting this in this august House that you do not have any other option left. If you want to contain inflation then please note it down, a profit of not more than 1½ time should be earned on the products manufactured in factories. You please find out what is the

cost price of T.B. syringe and to how many patients it is administered. Today situation is this that the money is being made out of the blood of poor persons, and even from patients. Thing should not be sold by making a profit of more than 1½ per cent and second thing is that one produce of farmer should not be costlier by more than 20-25 per cent than the subsequent crop. We are also farmer, you are also farmer, but what would a poor farmer do if he has to buy more stock by paying more and more money, but you overlooked it? But now I think that you have heard it. You are paying some attention to the discussion, I do not think that some thing might be more important than this debate. If he musters some courage then we will support him....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH: Yadav the only way to contain inflation is to ascertain prices. Fix prices, and take strict action against those who sell the articles at higher prices, only then inflation can be controlled. If you want, you can call a meeting, we would suggest the ways through which you can contain inflation.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today whole of the country is worried about the inflation. Right from the parliament to the citizen of this country, whether they are farmers, or labourers, salaried persons, or journalists, I think that you yourself are also worried about this inflation, but unfortunate thing is that those who are the part of this Government, are not worried about the inflation. Sir, I want to bring it to your kind notice that our country have innumerable number of economists including our Prime Minister. A saying goes in rural parts that too many cooks spoil the broth. Where there are so many economists, where there are so much efficient people, there only disaster will happen. I think that there are many economists and precisely this is the reason why the Government could not arrive at a consensus. As some groups who are citizen of this country and also a part of this Government, want that inflation should go on while some people are good Samaritans. They might want that inflation should go downwards, but some people want that



[Shri Dara Singh Chauhan]

inflation should go up. These statements of Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture that inflation will further rise has given hoarders a green signal for hoarding....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When your turn comes, then you pour your heart.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: I admit that our Prime Minister is a well known economist of the country. I could not understand that despite being such a noted economist under which theory of economics he is justifying that inflation is in the national interest, whereas whole of the country is worried about inflation. People in the country are starving. But the great economist of the country is saying that it is in the national interest. I cannot understand this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is the misfortune of this country that country in which a single party or its constituent parties have ruled for not only one year, two years or four years but for 50 long years and the party which have ruled for maximum time in this country and its States, they call their friends from abroad and stay in the hut of a poor person, who is a victim of its wrong policies, as a result of which country is ruined and he is making fun of poor people by showing their 'chutney-roti' on T.V. What is misfortune of this country is this?

Sir, I want to bring it to your kind notice that the Government which is ruling at present is neither worried a bit about that nor they feel any pain for the poor farmers, labourers, youths of this country and because of which they have increased the rates of diesel and fares of railways without taking this House in confidence. This is also a big factor for rise in inflation. Here the Government feigns for economic downturn and pretends that because of economic downturn the inflation is rising in the country, but the inflationary pressure was heading southwards in most of the countries as a result of economic meltdown. But today the inflation in the country is depriving people from food.

This Government has turned its back towards it and it is not going to listen the plight of poor people anyway. Inflation in other countries of world have been contained, is slowing down. The reason behind this is that they have fixed prices keeping in view their poor people, but in India prices are fixed keeping in view the rich class, the hoarders not the poor, farmers or labourers whose black money is used by the Government at different point of times during elections. This is the reason that inflation is at its peak throughout the country.

15.16 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

The Statement of Prime Minister that inflation will not come down, and will rise further, has made the hoarders happy and they have been permitted to carry on their business. In the last ten years, the food articles which a common man was getting annually has been reduced by 34 kilograms, but the Government is not at all worried. I would like to submit that the people sitting in the Government have never seen poverty misery and helplessness. Today, what's happening is that at their instance the hoarders in the country are out to make the condition of farmer very miserable. Government is not concerned at all. This is the misfortune of our country that today everything is getting costlier. Today, prices of pulses are sky rocketing. People sitting in the Government are making excuses that production of pulse has declined by 12 per cent. Today, pulses price has increased by 95 to 99 per cent. Poor of this country are trapped in the vicious circle of poverty due to the conspiracy. This is the reason for increase in the inflation rate in the country and the current Government is unable to keep a check on it. India is land of poor and farmers. Today, many people in the country are not getting medicines. Poor people are unable to save their lives due to unaffordable rates of medicines. I would like to request you that when the budget was presented a hype was created about a change. Nowadays, this is the common talk in country that those who were in the power for longer period during 63 years of Independence are rich and those who were not, are poor

and helpless. Government is not concerned at all. I want to observed that hoarding is the main cause behind it. I just want to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Agriculture, I am not casting any aspersions. Inflation can be reined-in once action is taken against the hoarders who hock the people is Government and contribute black money during their elections. I got the opportunity to speak on behalf of Bahujan Samaj Party, and our party has a very clear vision that there should be a change in country. People should get bread, cloth and house. Poor should get the right to live with honour and dignity.

But our friends, in power have looted the country for so long that they are used to it. Today, Government of Uttar Pradesh is the Government of haves not. Today, it is due to Uttar Pradesh Government that Dara Singh Chauhan has got the opportunity to stand here who is not a rich person but a son of poor and this is only due to the Bahujan Saman Party....(Interruptions) Therefore, friends, I want to say that Bahujan Samaj Party....(Interruptions) The guidelines of the Central Government...(Interruptions) Today in Uttar Pradesh there are no hoarders. Therefore, I want to say that the number of deaths caused by hunger. ... (Interruptions) Wherever Congress of their supporting parties are in power, there are incidents of starvation deaths....(Interruptions) But the States where other parties are in power, specially in Uttar Pradesh where Bahujan Saman Party is in power, there are no incidents of starvation deaths.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want that the Central Government should have concern for this. Poor and helpless people, be it weavers, youths living in the country are facing the heat of inflation, are not getting bread, they should get bread. Our only demand is that inflation should be reined in.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to take part in the discussion under Rule 193 on rise in the prices of essential commodities initiated by Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi.

Sir, price-rise issue is always a burning issue. This issue was debated in the last Session also. As a Member of the Business Advisory Committee, I still remember that on the 30th of June, this issue was tabled for discussion and the discussion took place. Again in the next Session, we have brought it to the attention of Parliament for a discussion under Rule 193.

So many statistical indications either from the Government side or from the Opposition side have been tabled. But the ground reality is that there are people who are fighting with hunger. How are they going to be benefited? The prices of vegetables, edible oils, sugar, *dhals*, etc. are shooting up no doubt. How to control them? That is the major question.

Sir, we cannot deny up till today that starvation death still takes place if not in a State like West Bengal but in the country. In West Bengal – Amlasole and Belpahari – starvation death had taken place for hunger.

Sir, I have a few queries from the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Let me quote a few lines of the Economic Survey, which is the Government's own published document. Under Prices and Monetary Management, it has been categorically said:

"The fiscal year 2008-09 had been a very unusual year marketed by extremes in price movements."

It has been admitted that the price movements are creating problems. It further says:

"The question of appropriate index to track inflation assumes importance following the noticeable differences between the inflation measured by the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) versus the Sectional Price Indices, CPIs."

It has also been mentioned and I quote:

"The International Monetary Fund statistics reveal that 24 countries use WPI as the official measures to track inflation compared to 157 countries, which use CPI."

[Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay]

Sir, there are only 24 countries, which use WPI. I want to know from Sharadji, the hon. Minister that what is the harm if our country also goes for CPIs indices. Why are we still following the WPI when the world is moving towards Consumer Prices Indices and they are getting more benefits as far as the price-rise issue is concerned?

So, when in our Economic Survey we mentioned it, we naturally become interested in that, then why such decisions are still taken by the Government.

Now, what is the demand of the country after so many years of Independence? It is food. So, 'Right to Food' should be the criterion. 'Food for All' should be the slogan of the Government. I remember, when our great leader of the world Mrs. Indira Gandhi raised the slogan *Garibi Hatao*, the people of the whole country stood behind her. I had the opportunity to come in contact with her as the Youth Congress President of West Bengal in those days.

Here, Sir, I would also suggest you to raise the slogan 'Right to Food' or 'Food for All' because food security is to be assured, at least, up to the grass-root level of this country.

Mulayamji was very nicely saying that he would not enter into the statistical acronym. I fully agree with him. The Government of India has already issued a circular to all the State Governments to go for de-hoarding operation and to tackle the black marketers and hoarders in a tough way. But it is a matter of great regret and shame that that not a single de-hoarding operation has taken place in the State of West Bengal. I do not know how many States have followed this line. No exemplary punishment has been given to any black marketer.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, if he has any such information, whether all the States have acted on the circular issued by the Centre in this regard.

I represent Kolkata North Parliamentary constituency. It is one of the two constituencies in the city of Kolkata.

There is a huge market known as *Bara Bazar*. More or less, it is one of the biggest markets in Asian Sub-continent. I have seen the roles of the traders who normally control the retail markets of the country.

Why should the Government not make some interaction with the traders' organisations of the country to keep the prices at its normal level? Nobody has any idea or nobody has any guess that the price at which today it is being sold in the retail market will jump tomorrow to what rate. There is no control. Who is increasing the prices? Who is going to monitor these issues? What is the system now prevailing in the country? People are not aware. I can sell vegetable today at one price. I can sell sugar today at one price. I can sell sugar tomorrow at another price. Nobody is there to control it. So, the Enforcement Directorates of the State Governments controlled by the Home Ministry of the State Governments have to keep a vigil and they have to monitor all the markets and all the retail prices. It is the utmost necessity of the hour. If necessary, to keep the price-rise in control in such a manner, a new Ministry in the name of Ministry of Trade can be initiated. They will keep a vigil at the market inflation and also the price-rise which is going on everyday at every step in our daily life.

So, what we categorically mention is that if necessary, an all-Party meeting can be convened once in three months to take the opinion. No political Party should try to make any attempt to score upon the other on this particular issue. The poorest of the poor people, who have actually nowhere to go, nowhere to lodge their protest, sometimes wait for the outcome of the discussion on the floor of the House which is going to take place today.

I know, Sir, with your vast experience either as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra or as a Central Minister that you have always good feelings, proper feelings for the poor people of this country. So, I would feel that you very categorically say that the PDS system would be strengthened at every level at every stage. Ration shops are open there but regular supply of good quality of either rice or wheat, which is normally supplied through the PDS,

is not being delivered at all times. Some more items can be added for distribution through the PDS. Why can the number of items be increased for distribution through the PDS? Why it cannot be a policy of the Government? At least, we can mention a few names of the items, which can be distributed through the PDS system, for your consideration. I believe that if some pulses and edible oils along with a few other important articles can be brought under the PDS, then the people can be genuinely benefited. I think only debates and discussions cannot produce any result unless some policy decisions are announced very categorically or stern measures are taken from the Government of India for implementation of their policies and ideas which have to be penetrated up to the grass root level.

Sir, what I would rather request you is this. At the Central level, the Government of India is importing. The production of pulses has fallen down. Why not such type of pulses or all those items, which are being brought, can be sent to the State Government for distribution through the PDS? We believe that the monitoring system, vigilance, Central Government intervention, strong measures of the Government to take care of the dehoarding operations to tackle black marketers and hoarders in a very tough manner, are certainly going to be taken very firmly. Exemplary punishment is to be given by which not that just arrests are to be made because ultimately they are going out and taking bail from the police stations within 24 or 48 hours. People have no faith in the administration of the police officials because an unholy nexus always exists between a section of the corrupt police officials and corrupt business houses and corrupt people who control the whole system. There you will have to strike out.

Ministry of Agriculture at this moment is the most important Ministry in the whole of the Government. We believe that you would rise to the occasion. Justice to the poorest of the poor people should not be denied. They are looking towards us. *Garbi Hatao* may be a very old slogan. But this slogan still vibrates in our hearts. This slogan still sparks in our mind. We are still of the opinion that if we

have proper intention, if we have our imagination, if we have our foresightedness, if we have our managerial efficiency, then we certainly can achieve our goal. No job in this world is impossible.

I hope we as a second partner of the UPA Government intend to extend our full cooperation to the Government and stand beside you and whatever positive and pro-people stand you will take, we will always stand by you. It is this political party which is going to take over West Bengal very soon. You need not worry about that. Bengal will also be yours.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those hon. Member who want to lay their written speech on the Table of the House, can do so. It will be treated as a part of proceedings.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Mr. Chairman Sir, prices of food items or essential commodities are rising relentlessly. This UPA-II Government....(Interruptions) Sir, will you control them? Otherwise, I will not speak. They are here to create disturbance. What is this? Whenever I rise to speak, they will shout. ... (Interruptions) Have the people elected them to shout here?... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats, this is not good to disturb. Achariji you continue. This will not go on records in the proceedings of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I will not speak unless you control them. I have not interrupted them. What is this? Most uncivilized people have come here. ... (Interruptions) He is casting aspersions. He has said I am a — ... (Interruptions) He should withdraw it first, then I will speak.... (Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he should withdraw his words first. They should withdraw their words. ... (Interruptions) He should withdraw his words. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You first ask them to withdraw. How dare they are? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be quite and take your seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not appropriate to say like this.

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

[English]

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (Sreerampur) : How can you say it? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMEN MITRA (Diamond Harbour) : You are not ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this is not correct. [Translation] He doesn't know what to say in the House. ... (Interruptions) You people don't want to learn. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kalyan Banerjee Jee, this is not appropriate to interrupt during the speech of other hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you are speaking on a serious issue like inflation, you please address the Chair.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, they have said I am ... Unless they withdraw, I will not speak. ... (Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not appropriate to interrupt in between the speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever they say will not be included in proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): I request Shri Basu Deb Acharia to continue his speech. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, unless they withdraw their words, I will not speak. ... (Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir, you ask them to withdraw. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go into records. You please continue your speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please take your seat, the proceedings of the House don't run like this.

...(Interruptions)

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have not interrupted them. I was just listening to the speech of Shri Bandyopadhyay without any interruption. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : I am also listening. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, they should also show some respect to other Members. We expect it at least to the senior Members. I am in this House for many years. ... (Interruptions) I am here for 29 long years. ... (Interruptions) Please do not disturb me. ... (Interruptions) Sir, unless you control them I will not speak. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

If you don't control them, I will not continue my speech. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am trying to control them.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, in the last Session when I was to initiate the debate I could not speak because of their disturbances. ... (Interruptions) You know that the discussion was postponed. ... (Interruptions) I could not initiate, I could not start my speech because they created disturbances. They shouted; they did not allow a discussion on such an important issue, people's issue like rising prices of essential commodities. It was postponed to 6th July. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE : You are now wasting time. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The proceedings of the House cannot run like this. This interruptions is not fair.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMEN MITRA : What action you have taken? ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not appropriate to interrupt in between the speech. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay please control your Members.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, they are uncontrollable. Nobody can control them. ... (Interruptions) Sir, not only the reply of the hon. Minister but on other occasions, whenever the question of price-rise, food security, non-availability of food items were raised in the past, the only reply from the hon. Minister of Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System is that we have abundant stock of foodgrains which will for 33 months. He is also Minister of Agriculture. On Monday he will be replying as the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution System.

The Nobel laureate Prof. Amartya Sen said about the availability of food items that people die of hunger and starvation. They die not so much because of unavailability of food in the region, but because – that is the main thing – of their entitlement failure and their lack of ability to acquire food. Millions of victims died during Bengal famine in 1943, while there was no shortage of food.

Today, again, a similar scenario is being seen all over the area. When we are discussing about the rising prices, the prices are rising unabated and there is no control over the rising prices of almost all the essential commodities.

I will not go into the details of how much percentage the prices have increased by. The details were stated by the initiator of the debate, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh. So, I will not go into the details of the figures as some figures

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

were also given by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi. Why are the prices rising? Why has the Government failed to contain and control prices of essential commodities? The Governments always say that GDP is increasing and there is growth, even in spite of the global economic meltdown. Despite the economic recession, we will have 6.5 per cent growth in our country. On the one hand, there is growth and on the other hand, people are dying of starvation. The number of hungry people is increasing. ...*(Interruptions)* In one report...*(Interruptions)* Amlasole incident happened three years back and not today. ...*(Interruptions)* It was not due to starvation deaths...*(Interruptions)* Again, you do not know anything...*(Interruptions)* Sir, will you control? *[Translation]* Will you please control or should I stop speaking? Shall I seat? This is not appropriate to do running commentary. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : You speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You control them. Why can you not control them? ...*(Interruptions)* They are not at all serious about this issue, about people's issue. They have no concern for the people when we are discussing the people's issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is this appropriate to interrupt while seating?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Bengal is a part of India. Bengal is not outside India. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: When Mamata Jee

was alone in this House at that time these people didn't allow her to speak for a single day. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, you were not in the House — I was in the House — when one Member used to speak for hours together... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Basu Deb Acharia Jee's speech.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this is not appropriate to interrupt like this. Please listen.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Bengal is a part of India. Bengal is not outside India. Why are you allergetic to Bengal? ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: His speech is not being recorded.

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We will be there. You wait up to 2011. ...*(Interruptions)* We are discussing price-rise and not by-election, Shri Kalyan Banerjee. You will allow me to speak or not?...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair. Keep addressing to the Chair. Proceedings for control will continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

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\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not fair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silent please.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : In the last session, we discussed price-rise and drought situation in the country. Because of delayed monsoon and also climate change, its impact is also on our agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture have prepared a report on the impact of climate change on agriculture. So, the agricultural production will be adversely affected in future this year because of delayed monsoon. The main agricultural production comes from Kharif season. Last year we had the total food production of 232 million tonnes. This year, altogether Kharif and Rabi, it will not reach 200 million tonnes even. So, there will be a scarcity.

The Government of India have launched a programme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana of Rs. 25,000 crore. How much has been spent and how much has been allocated during the first three years of the Eleventh Five Year Plan? The total is Rs. 25,000 crore for five years. The total amount spent and the amount allocated for the current year 2009-10 altogether is Rs. 8,565 crores. In the next two years, how will the Government be able to achieve Rs. 25,000 crores? That means, if we fail to achieve financial targets, because physical targets depend on the financial targets because we will have to achieve four per cent growth in agricultural production, in food production, in rice production, in wheat production. This year we will need 82 million tonnes of wheat. What is the plan and programme to bridge the gap? There is no such plan and programme because money is not being made available

to implement the various schemes that have been launched during the first tenure of the United Progressive Alliance Government, the Government to which we, the Left Parties, extended our external support. Food Security Mission and the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana are inter-linked depending on each other. There are a number of Missions. The way the allocation is being made for the implementation of various Missions, various schemes, I doubt whether we will be able to achieve the growth which is urgently required to meet the demand of the people of our country, to meet the growing demand of our country in future. That aspect has to be seriously looked into.

Secondly, why are the prices rising? Mr. Chairman, Sir, you were Food Minister earlier and you also know about this. During the NDA regime, when Trinamool Congress was a part of that Government, they had done two things. ... (Interruptions) In 2001, the poor people of our country were divided into two categories and the Targeted Public Distribution System was introduced. Two different types of prices under Public Distribution System were also introduced. The criterion which was adopted to determine as to who are the people below poverty line was a faulty criterion. A substantial section of people who were genuinely poor were excluded from the BPL. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If Members from treasury bench will not cooperate, how the proceedings will run? Such type of behaviour from treasury bench is not good.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Ministry of Rural Development appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri N.C. Saxena which recommended that 50 per cent of the people are below the poverty line. And 77 per cent of the people, after sixty-two years of Independence, are to depend on only Rs. 20 per day. That means almost 80 per cent of the people of the country are poor. That is why in the National Common Minimum Programme of



[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

UPA-I, one of the important programmes was to strengthen the Public Distribution System. If the Public Distribution System is to be strengthened, it should be universalized.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How can I conclude? I have spoken only for three minutes because all time was consumed by these people. I am only giving suggestions and not saying anything else. I am not even going into figures.

[English]

Only two days back the Estimates Committee – the Chairman of the Estimates Committee belongs to the ruling party – has also recommended for universalisation of Public Distribution System. To provide 35 kilograms of food grains per month to all the families, how much food grains would be required? Ninety million tonnes. How much subsidy will be required? Rs. 1,20,000 crore. You are now giving Rs. 50,000 crore as food subsidy. That means you need Rs. 70,000 crore additional subsidy to provide to at least 85 per cent of the population food grains, pulses, edible oil at a subsidised price. You have the money. You need political will. If Rs. 4.5 lakh crore is the forgone revenue – the revenue that should have been deposited that has not been realised ...

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: If by providing tax holiday, thousands and thousands of crores of rupees are given away to the corporate houses ...*(Interruptions)* That means the Government has the money but needs political will. In order to save the people from hunger, malnutrition, the first thing that is required is to universalize the Public

Distribution System. Swaminathan Commission has also recommended that.

16.00 hrs.

The second thing is during the NDA regime, the Essential Commodities Act was amended; it diluted it. That has been referred by the Estimates Committee. What is its recommendation? I can refer to the recommendation of the Committee. It says:

"The Committee, therefore, recommends that a comprehensive review of the effect of above-mentioned notification, should be taken up immediately. Based on the review, a permanent notification withdrawing provisions of Central orders dated 15.2.2002, and 16.6.2002 should be issued so as to have effective action."

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Both these orders were issued during the NDA regime. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you do like this? You are wasting time by disrupting. Who are you to enforce discipline? Those who are not themselves disciplined cannot enforce discipline.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They indulge in artificial price-rise, by resorting to hoarding, etc. in violation of Essential Commodities Act of 1955. The Essential Commodities Act was diluted during the NDA regime in 2002, by issuing those two notifications; those notifications should be withdrawn forthwith; and the Essential Commodities Act should be made more and more stringent to check hoarding and to take stringent action against the hoarders and blackmarketeers.

We have been demanding — the Left Parties have been demanding — because of rising prices of essential commodities is not a recent occurrence. It started in 2005. I remember that the first debate was initiated by me, on this subject, to which Shri Chidambaram, as the Finance Minister replied. While replying, he assured the House that he would make the essential commodities available to the people of our country, and that too, at affordable prices. That assurance has not been implemented till now.

What is the problem today? We have been demanding in the House for the last several years, that future trading and forward trading should be withdrawn.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Because of our pressure — because the Government had to depend on our support for their survival — the future trading on one commodity, that is, wheat was withdrawn.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But subsequently, that was restored. What is happening? Because of future trading, the prices of essential commodities are rising.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your suggestions have come. Now, please conclude.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is the last point. Let me complete my last point. They have taken my time.

What is happening in the commodity market? Within two years how the net value in the commodity market has

increased enormously from Rs. 2.14 lakh to Rs. 14.65 lakh? Seven time increase is there in the net value of the commodity market. What is required today is to control and contain the prices so that the 85 per cent people of our country can get the essential commodities like rice, wheat, vegetables and sugar — sugar has crossed Rs. 40 — at a cheaper price. It is required that the Government should immediately withdraw future and forward trade.... (Interruptions) They do not understand all these things.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Achariajee, now please conclude your speech.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How can I conclude, these people are not allowing me to conclude?

[English]

I would conclude with a quotation from a poem.

"Toiling, boiling in the heat  
We produce the corn and wheat.  
Have we got no right to eat?  
Even while our harvests swell"

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now your speech is finished.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding.

[English]

"Wherefore are we forced to dwell  
In starvation's burning hell?  
Hunger burns us up and drives  
Coffin nails into the lives  
Of our mothers, children, wives  
How long can we live on air?"

(This is a question to the hon. Food Minister)

Driven by hunger and despair  
People rise and do and dare."

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

I demand that the Government should not be complacent and indifferent. The Government has no concern for the poorer people of our country. While replying to the debate the Minister should tell the House the measures that he will be taking to control and contain the prices so that the essential commodities, which are required daily, be made available to the millions and millions of people of our country at a cheaper rate so that the people can be saved from starvation.

[Translation]

\*SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH (East Champaran): After overlooking the serious question of countrywide price-rise for days, I congratulate for having a discussion on it today. The prices of essential commodities for the life of a common man has increased with such a speed which is a record till now since Independence. The increase in the prices of grocery, items vegetables, sweets, milk, butter of daily use have disturbed the household budget. After 20th day of the month, worries can be seen on the face of head of the family. People have to run the household by taking loan.

The prices of essential commodities may be going down as per official record, but in real terms, prices are going up. For example, take the prices of vegetables. Earlier the gourd which was available of Rs. five per kg. is not available for less than Rs. 20 per kg.

Cauliflower is not available of less than Rs. 40 to 50 per kg. in the market. Earlier on, it used to be available for Rs. 15-20 per kg. Brinjal which was available at Rs. 6-7 per kg. earlier is not less than Rs. 20 per kg. Capsicum is selling at Rs. 50 per kg.

The lady finger which usually was available at Rs. 15 per kg. is not available for less than Rs. 25 kg. The onion now sells at Rs. 20 per kg. Potato which used to be available at Rs. 8-10 per kg., is now available at

Rs. 20-30 per kg. Tomato is selling at Rs. 16 per kg. and bitter gourd is at Rs. 36-40 per kg.

Pulses have lost their task due to price-rise. Arhar dal is available at Rs. 85-90 per kg. The prices of all vegetables have gone up by almost 85%.

Even economist Rahul Bijoria concedes that prices of vegetables, fruits, milk, sugar and oil have gone up considerably during the last five months.

In the week ending September, 19 the inflation rate of food items increased upto 16.32%. During the corresponding period last years it was 8%, while general inflation rate was 12%. In the week ending September 19, the rate of inflation at Wholesale Price Index reached upto 0.83%. During the last week rate of inflation was 0.37%.

The Managing Director of Agricultural Business Service of ARPL, Vijay Sardana has said: "Present price-rise is due to hoarding and ineffective management of supply chain and the Government has no action plan for the future, it seems directionless in controlling the rate of inflation of food items." As per Government data, during this period the price of potato in wholesale market increased by 81.18%, while the prices of sugar has increased by 44.47%. In this way, during the period under review, prices of vegetables have also increased by 49.44%, while price of pulses have increased by 20.05%. Food articles were dearer in retail market. The price of potato remained at Rs. 20-35 per kg. and that of sugar at Rs. 35 per kg. Pulses became dearer by 20% while sugar by 17%. Fuels like furnace oil become 12% dearer and light diesel oil became dearer by 2%.

The Chief economist of Yes Bank, Shubhda Rao has said, "At this rate, it is expected that by March 2010, it would go up by more than 7%."

Inflation has started playing havoc once again on the people of the country already facing economic crisis. The prices of flour-pulse and sugar are already skyrocketing, now prices of turmeric and gold sliver have also caught speed. In January 2009, the price of turmeric was Rs. 4000 per quintal, which is now about Rs. 13,000 per quintal.

Hon. Shri Sharad Pawar has aggravated the pain of common man pertaining to inflation by saying that inflation is a very concerning issue and it cannot be checked in the coming few months. The Planning Commission has also shown its inability to check the price of foodgrains. While replying to the questions of correspondents on inflation in the conference of Economic Editors, the Vice Chairman of Planning Commission Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia has expressed his concerns in regard to inflation and said that "I am not hiding a single word. It is very difficult to check the prices of foodgrains. The Government is making all possible efforts to check the prices but we are not getting any easy solution for the same."

Now the people reeling under the inflation are much affected from the contradictory statements made by the person's, who are sitting in the Government. Even the Cabinet Ministers are not unanimous on the inflation. There is a lobby under the Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Agriculture; who are in the opinion that price-rise should be controlled by the market. While the lobby of hon. Shri Pranab Mukherjee is of the opinion that Government should take stern steps if the inflation breaches certain limit. Sir, how can we check the inflation when the Government is not unanimous on the same. At times, the statement made by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture has afflicted common people reeling under the inflation. Today, the inflation has touched such a height that a bagful of money is needed for a handful of vegetables. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture has indicated that price of rice is likely to be increased in the coming days. The Government blames the hoarders for price-rise. Is the demand and supply being controlled through hoarding? May be the wholesale price of any item has come down but the price of any item purchased on high rate will not be reduced until the same has been sold on high rates.

In the first week of October, the wholesale price of potato in Delhi was Rs. 12.50 per kg. but price of the same in south and east was Rs. 28 and 22 per kg. respectively. There is always a difference between the wholesale and retail prices but now-a-days this difference has widened. The big traders entered in the organized retail sector and

their hoarding capacity is much more. They way hoard more goods. Sir, the Government has surrendered before the inflation, which is constantly depriving the common people of the country. Hon. Union Minister of Agriculture has admitted the fact that inflation has worsened the situation but at the same time he has expressed his inability to check the same. The Planning commission has also expressed this concern over the same but on the issue of check the inflation, the Commission has said that it also does not have any hope that the Government would be able to check it is near future.

Though, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister and the leader of this Government has said one month back in Mumbai that the bad times are over. The inflation was increasing due to drought, which seems to be under control now. What meaning one would draw from the contradictory statements made by the two stalwart of the same Government within the one month? Nevertheless, there is no need to draw any meaning from the same because life depends on the reality not on mere statements and today the horrifying fact is that from Kerala to Kashmir and from Kutch to Kamroop, the inflation has broken the back of common man.

The Government is not making any efforts of check the inflation which is the single most hurting factor to common man. Since independence. Though it is responsibility of the Government to protect the lives of common man, it is not doing anything but has passed the buck to the Reserve Bank of India, which is not the right step. As far as we know about RBI that it does not contain inflation directly has a tool to but check the liquidity in the market and went for the demand to moderate which in turn will mellow inflation. Sir, it is not an effective measure. Through you, I would like to request to the Government that do not try to befool the people of the country. Please seriously address the issue of inflation. Hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Hon. Minister of Agriculture should strive to have semblance of unanimity of opinion on the inflation and send across the message say that Government is serious on the issue of inflation and should make efforts to bring a positive result.

\*SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE (Raver): The inflation had begun to raise its head ever the election for fourteenth Lok Sabha. The people of the country have re-elected the UPA Government inspite of the inflation. Therefore, the Government is thinking that they need not to pay any attention to the inflation as the people re-elected them inspite of inflation. Sir, at the same time, I would like to say that future is grim and I have collected some dates through the newspaper which I want to put up before this Government—

1. Every fourth persons of the country is hungry as on date.
2. More than 21 crore people of the fourth biggest country of the world do not get sufficient food.
3. A decline of 34 kilogram of foodgrains, available to a person each year has been registered during the last ten years.
4. The sowing area of foodgrain crops has been replaced by export oriented crops to the extent of 80 lakh hectares and by 1 crore hectares to produce crops for generating bio-fuels, a trend observed during the recent year.
5. The Exim policy has been off the track for the last ten years. Will the Government pay attention to it or not?

The farmers sell potato and onion at the rate of Rs. 2 per kilogram whereas the consumers have to buy it at the rate of Rs. 15 per kilogram what are the steps likely to be taken by the Government to check this huge gap between them. How can the Government check the price-rise?

Following immediate action requires to be taken by the Government for the same.

1. There is need to improve the Exim Policy.

2. Some sort of relief should be given to farmers, new subsidy mechanism needs to be developed, the global warming crisis is a worsening and the same is causing 25 per cent loss to the agriculture. It should be checked.
3. Foodgrains preservation is of paramount importance.
4. Food worth crore of rupees is goes waste in the festivities in cities, the same should be checked.
5. Adequate arrangement to be made in order to provide irrigation facility to farmers in the country.
6. Population of the country should be controlled and it is very important.
7. There is need to take steps in order to provide sufficient food to every country men and to check the inflation.

\*SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): I am giving some suggestions through you in respect of discussion going on in the House regarding price-rise. It is well known that prices have increased and common man made the people living below the poverty line are reeling under it. Therefore, my suggestions to check price-rise are as under:—

1. The main reasons of price-rise of forward trading. Hoarders are involved in the forward trade of lakh tonnes of goods through internet and thus it increases the price of goods. Therefore, food items should be kept out from the list of forward trading and necessary amendment in forward trading laws should be made at the earliest for this purpose.
2. There is a need to implement essential commodities strictly. Provision for short trial should be made for the people involved in the violation of Essential Commodities Act. Moreover,

there should be provisions for quick punishment to the people found guilty of violation.

3. The import-export policy should be reviewed. Presently, there is shortage of foodgrains in the country due to the failure of Monsoon and in such a situation import of rice is not justified from any point of view. Therefore, import of rice should be stopped immediately.
4. The Chief Ministers of the concerned States should make necessary arrangement to obtain daily report regarding the food items under the Chairmanship of District Collectors and it should be the duty of Chief Minister of report the matter to Union Government on daily basis until inflation is controlled and such an arrangement can be done through e-mail.
5. The price are increasing due to the uncertainty of monsoon. Therefore, strict action should be taken against adulterators and hoarders and until the situation improves daily report regarding the action taken against such people should be sent to the Government of India through the Chief Ministers of the States.
6. The prices have increased due to the increasing prices of petrol and diesel. So, decision should be taken to roll back the prices of petrol and diesel so as the impact of price-rise can be minimized.
7. The prices are likely to rise further due to uncertainty of monsoon and drought. Indian Council for Agricultural Research may direct its scientists to suggest alternative arrangements in order to avoid drought and uncertainty of monsoon. There may be suggestions regarding making efforts to produce fodder leaf with the optimum use of organic manure alongwith drip and micro irrigation so that livestock can be

saved and foodgrain production can also be made possible through the use of alternative arrangement.

8. Public distribution system should be reviewed. The facilities being extended to common man excluding the BPL should be stopped immediately because benefits of such facilities are being availed by the hoarders instead of common man. Quick action should be taken in respect of kerosene. Funds saved through the said action should be used in checking the price-rise.

\*SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Today the entire country is reeling under the vicious circle of inflation. The rate of common consumer commodities are sky rocking. The prices of food items are soaring. If you go through the prices of all essential commodities during the last one year, one common fact is revealed that after the Lok Sabha elections when the UPA Government came into power for the second time; it brought the gift of inflation with it. In the first quarter of current year nominal rise in the rates of essential commodities has been registered but in the month of May as soon the Government came into power, the price-rise gained the momentum and it is sky rocking at this time.

The price of pulses have increased more than double in comparison to the prices during the last year. It was about Rs. 40-45 per kg. last year but now it is about Rs. 90-100 per kg. Price of edible oils have been increased by 50%. The rates of sugar have been increased to more than double. It was Rs. 17-20 last year but now it is Rs. 40-45 per kg. Rates of vegetables and fruits have been increased by 3 to 4 times. Rates of poor's vegetable i.e. potato have increased by 5 times within the period of one year. Similar condition is with the onion. First of all, pulses disappeared from the plate of the poor, then vegetable and ultimately today the condition is so much worst that the common man is not in a position to have bread with salt and onion.

[Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh]

The Government has been claiming that the Government godowns are packed to their capacity with cereals. There will be neither shortage nor their rates would be increased. But today increase is being registered even in the rates of wheat and rice. There are short term as well as long term reasons for extraordinary rise in the rates of essential commodities:—

1. Short term reasons:

- (A) hoarding and black marketing.
- (B) low production due to drought.
- (C) mismanagement and corruption.

2. Long term reasons:

Ignoring the agriculture sector: Hon'ble Finance Minister had himself admitted in Rajya Sabha during the last session that the expenditure on farming has reduced during the last 10-12 years and there is a need to enhance it. Contribution of agriculture sector in GDP has decreased. On the one hand hon'ble Finance Minister advised to increase expenditure on agriculture but the fact is that there is a provision in union budget for the year 2009-10 to spend only 1% on agriculture directly. After the green revolution only 1.14% increase has been registered in pulses production which is minimal while 28% increase in wheat, 2.23% increase in rice and 1.70% increase in maize have been registered.

No efforts have been made to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds since last many years. Neither is sown area has been increased nor has its production been increased.

Farmers of the country have sufficient production capacity but the policies of Government are not favourable. The Government has no faith in the farmers but have more faith on import. The farmers are forced to change crops because of the wrong and faulty policies.

- Ten years back, the country was self-reliant in case of edible oil but today more than half of edible oil required is imported from foreign countries.
- In case of pulses also, we depend on import.
- Earlier, we used to export sugar to foreign countries by producing more than the required demand. Now, both the sugar and raw sugar is being imported. The farmers are getting disinclined with the sugarcane farming. What are the reasons?
  - (i) Low purchase price compared to cost.
  - (ii) Delay in the payment of sugarcane prices.

It is an open secret that the decision regarding import of pulses, rice, wheat, sugar and edible oil is taken only when their prices start soaring up and by that time the black-marketeers have already got billion of rupees manipulated. But, the Government do not take any lesson from it.

- It is a reality that since the formation of UPA Government at the Centre, the food crisis the country reached an alarming State and our dependence on import increased.
- Instead of tightening the grip on hoarders and black-marketeers, the Government is encouraging them.

### Suggestions

1. Strong action should be taken against hoarders and black marketeers.
2. Effective measures should be taken to control price-rise.
3. Budget allocation should be increased to encourage farming.

[English]

\*DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar) :

The entire country is being governed by the economy ever regulated. What has happened to this country today? Until and unless the price-rise is controlled whoever is ruling prior to election exhibiting within the tariff of party manifesto and also in the public meeting boldly announcing that after the election is over if the respective party may come to the power may go for controlling the price-rise. Before the election also the rise of petroleum products rate was high and it was reduced before the peoples' verdiction. After the party comes to the power the same price rate is also increased in the Congress rule. From the time of independence to till now whoever is crowned failed to control the price-rise. But during the Congress regime, the essential commodities are increased beyond expectation. Why it happened, you know, the party leaders used to collect to the power after their job is over they forget their commitment and they have no controlling hands upon the rich business people those are controlling the market. It happened in every year and presently the price-rise is so high it touches the sky creating miserable havoc in the day to day life of poor and common people. Rich people can tolerate the rise of prices but it creates hazards in the lives of middle-class and lower middle-class. The first category (rich ones) nothing looses. The second category may suffer without any risk but the third category the poor, downtrodden and proliferate not only suffering but they are dying everyday. Are they cursed to suffer, their inner agony and pain may have a greater impact on the society where their unhealthy suffocated breathing: airing the atmosphere and the Government may be dethroned at any moment. Therefore, after reaching the inter year peak of 12.5% on August, 2008 inflation as measured by year and year variations fell sharply to 0.3% on the March 28, 2009. This large order of violation in the inflation outcome in just one year is unprecedented. The sharp violation in intimation of the commodity prices contributed significantly to the spiraling inflation in the first half and then to the subsequent

decline from higher base. So the transmission process of lower inflation at the wholesale labour to the retail on emerged as an important issue in the conduct of Reserve Bank's monetary policy.

**The Global Inflation** have impact on price-rise in the country. Global inflation is measured in advance economics on account of higher energy and food prices declined subsequently. Consumer Price Index increased 3.6% in March, 2008 according to the latest assessment of US Federal Open Market Committee.

In the light of increasing economic slackness in domestic and world economy it was expected that inflation would remain subdued but the Bank of Japan in the latest assessment in April, 2009 assessed that economic conditions have deteriorated significantly in Japan and are likely to continue deteriorating for the time being and recently moderated reflecting the decline in the prices of Petroleum products and the stabilization of food prices furthermore increasing slackness in supply and demand conditions. Among the major economies consumer price inflation in China declined sharply from 80.3% in March, 2008 to a -1.6% in February, 2009. The Peoples' Bank of China reduced the Benchmark lending rate since September, 2008 to facilitate continued stable and fast development of the national economy. Likewise, world economy had a greater impact to govern the Indian economy. Basis upon the Global Commodity Price, Central Government failed to control neither they are providing more grants for farming and agriculture until and unless the Government never knows how to take proper initiatives in favour of agriculture, farmers. The price-rise in our country cannot be controlled. The basic lies within the villagers those are involved in tilling the lands, they are dying without food. Government is ignoring their starvation and presently in the entire country the farmers are committing suicides because of the loans they usually take from the rural oriented banks and excluding that also from the money-lenders. They fail to repay the poor loanee could not return his dues in time and money is multiplied. Therefore, with utter frustration and family pressure any human being attempt suicide.

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.



[Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani]

Neither the law is protecting or Government render any help to protect their lives. Though our country is oriented the only culture is agriculture.

So the banking process to be changed and interest should be wiped out. The biggest mistake the RBI can commit is to trip on food inflation and hike even before loan growth picks up appreciably such as action will comprise the good work it has done so far and also probably creeping the evolving recovery should maintain and avoid premature monetary tightening though inflation worries have emerged sooner than expected policy matters.

Presently, monitored food prices punishing the poor. The price-rise due to drought warning, cyclone is a fraud. Of course, the drought push up prices further but the prices are being rising for five years since the elections. Take the years when there were good Monsoons and from more than one year we have claimed second production of grains. The price of rice and wheat went upto increase in the prices of such items was already increased after the elections they have risen dramatically. The agriculture Minister have said the rice in the price due to black marketing, or hoarding but was silent on the trade-in futures in fact the ban on trading in wheat before the results of elections were announced earlier and the existing banks on other items also being removed the price-rise since within highest ever accept during the pre-emergency periods food prices have gone up but airline tickets have come down corporate profit have gone up even in the period of crisis where lacks have been thrown out of jobs. If we went to see the type of windfall profits that business and the traders are making we just have to look at the case of sugar dominated by the agricultural minister himself. In Maharashtra sugar cooperatives have been known to be crore in the elections which is recovered immediately by the hike in sugar prices in 2007. A private institute of which Hon'ble Minister of Power is President for life published a report which said 70% of they were sick. Our Union Minister of Power has announced a

financial package worth 400 crores for the sick cooperatives. How this type of announcement can save the lives of poor people to control the price-rise inflationary pressures rising and the Government must now focus on managing inflation, economical conditions showing from higher inflation to declining growth to rising inflation during past years economic managers were scrambling their policies and rapidly changing the economic scenario. Therefore, I am questioning to the Central Government to have a better control to reduce the rise of the price to save the lives of poor peasants to lower middle-class suffering. Presently, you go to any market, you can't face your family purchasing the essential commodities in the lower price. Everyday the rate is enhancing and there is no control through the bureaucracy. If the Government is failed to control the possibility of education may so happen can create a civil war. It happens to my State Orissa also. The rise of price and essential commodities so high, the State Government cannot control without the help of Central Government. This is a Global phenomenon that can be easily governed through Central Government only. The State Government are nowhere responsible for this. So the Government new innovative ideas and initiatives to control the price-rise in order to save the poor people out of disaster.

[Translation]

\*SHRI RAMASHANKAR RAJBHAR (Salempur): The present Government repeatedly speaks of controlling the price-rise. I would like to present the data of the previous 6 years regime of the Government from the year 2003 to 2009. In the year 2003, the prices of essential commodities were Rs. 7.50 per kg. for wheat, Rs. 8.36 per kg. for flour, Rs. 8.41 per kg. for coarse rice, Rs. 28.63 per kg. for Arhar, Rs. 17.45 per kg. for gram, Rs. 53.54 per kg. for mustard oil, Rs. 15.40 per kg. for sugar, Rs. 11.77 per kg. for jaggery, Rs. 7.62 per bread, Rs. 6.83 per iodine salt, Rs. 139 per kg. tea; Rs. 4.90 per kg. of potato, Rs. 11.45 per kg. for onion respectively. In the year 2009, under the same coalition Government of Congress, the same has soared up to Rs. 11.84 for wheat, Rs. 13.05 for flour, Rs. 15.67

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

for coarse rice, Rs. 80.36 for pulses, Rs. 31.32 for gram, Rs. 67.91 for mustard oil, Rs. 61.68 for Refined oil, Rs. 51.82 for vanaspati ghee and Rs. 45 for sugar and this increase in the prices is highly burdensome. The prices of all the goods including vegetables are going up and up. When the new Government was formed, the House unanimously opposed the increase in prices of diesel and petrol because its ill-effect had to give rise to such a situation but the Government kept mum in order to please the industrial houses. The increase in diesel prices led to increase in freight charges which resulted in rise in prices of commodities in the form of surcharge.

The Government is not paying attention in respect of increasing production of pulses in the country. India is an agricultural dominated country and the rise in cost of agricultural production is the consequence of wrong policies of the Government.

The Government of India allowed the private companies to store wheat which encouraged hoarding and the prices of food items were also increased which made the farmers disappointed. The situation is out of control due to inflation in the areas affected with calamities like drought and flood. This Government of the country has increased the prices of wheat by 18 per cent, flour by 15 per cent, rice by 15 per cent, pulses by 88 per cent, sugar by 65 per cent, jaggery by 100 per cent, potato by 41 per cent, tea by 45 per cent, onion by 25 per cent and vegetables by 200 per cent in the year 2009. Sir, it appears to me that the persons running the Government eat 50 gram arhar dal for Rs. 300 in the five star hotels and one raddish, one cucumber, one tomato and one onion for Rs. 200. Therefore, they let the prices in the country go uncontrolled. All the restrictions have been removed and the stock limit has been done away with, so how can the prices be controlled. The farmers has got disappointed with the support price being ignored. The wheat was imported by paying higher prices. It was not stored by purchasing it from the farmer and paying him the cost of production. Speaker, Madam, the poor is finding it hard to make the both ends meet because of this price-rise. The Government in turning a blind eye.

This artificial price-rise situation has been increased by the Government in the form of national calamity. Poorvanchal is also an area existing in the State of Uttar Pradesh in the country where the farmer in spite of being devoid of the Government facilities is striving for development. I hail from Salempur Parliamentary Constituency. There is a saying in Bhojpuri in our area "Deshawur Relleva, Deshawur Kheechleva" which means when the farmer produces the food grains, the trader purchases it at distress prices by saying "Deshawur Relleva" and when there is no production, the trader sells the same at higher prices by saying "Deshawur Kheechleva". There is an urgent need of producing food grains in order to supply as per the demand. How will the production take place until the Government positively supports the farmers in case of production, storage, distribution and support price.

\*SHRI PREMDAS (Etawah): Sir I would like to say that today the poor farmer is in trouble because of the price-rise we are talking about. Unemployment is rising. The common man is feeling distressed, The Government should keep a check on hoarding in order to control it and as hon. Mulayam Sigh Yadav ji has said that some policy regarding prices should be implemented. There is a lot of prosperity in big cities but the villages are still reeling under poverty. Until the agriculture is given priority, India cannot become a developed country. The data can not reveal the facts. The common man is really suffering due to price-rise. The agriculture has been boost up in the first place in those countries where development has taken place. The production capacity in our country is very less whereas the production capacity in other countries is quite high. A special cell should be created to check the same and the price-rise in the country should be controlled.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Thank you Mr. Chairman. When we are discussing about price-rise normally the tempers also rise but I would say that the Reserve Bank of India had sent out a very polite but strong alert to the

[Shri B. Mahtab]

Government to tackle rising food prices. This was on 30th October 2009. RBI had very categorically stated that it cannot be tackled by monetary instruments. In the credit policy announced during that period the RBI had expressed concern about inflation which this time round has been fueled by domestic factors, primarily rising food prices. This is being stated by the RBI Governor.

I am told or I am given to understand that the Finance Minister is not intervening in this discussion and the Food and Civil Supply Minister who is also the Agriculture Minister is going to give the reply. It would have been better if the Finance Minister would have...

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : He is going to reply it.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : In that case it is good.

I would start by saying that food prices are going up sharply. Anyone doing shopping for the household is aware of it. All agricultural goods and allied semi-processed food items have shot up by 20 per cent in the last one month. Apparently there is no relief from the situation. Yet Government is awaiting the Rabi crop. Periodically Ministers are coming out with statements that everything will normalise within the next three months. But things are going from bad to worse with food prices being so high that it is not only hitting hard on the average household's budget, but also it means that the average household is spending less on other consumer items. It would mean that the demand for industrial goods would also stagnate or decline. Our export growth is on the decline for the last 12 consecutive months. Owing to global crisis, people all over the world are saving more and spending less. Credit off take from banks in our country and also abroad has dropped to single digit levels after 12 years. It is not picking up and inflation is making people hold back their spending on non-food items of expenditure. It has a cumulative effect on the industry side, on the production side and on the

manufacturing side and it is also affecting our economy. When this is the situation in our country, how can an average income earner, say, with Rs. 3,000 per month, feed his children in urban India? Even *dal* is beyond the reach of many people. What policy options do the Government have to look after the lower income group people of our population?

Often Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is being quoted in Government quarters when price-rise is being discussed. But despite low level of WPI based inflation, the figures for food prices have remained inordinately high and this is because WPI based inflation figure is not the right indicator of food commodities prices due to the lower weightage of food commodities of the WPI index which needs to be updated. Therefore, to see the rate of inflation in the case of food commodities it is essential to look at the food articles index which represents the food items like cereals, pulses, vegetables, milk etc.

During the last few months the surge in the index has been very phenomenal. It is calculated, and I had also done certain calculations, in case of potatoes the increase is 127.6 per cent; in case of vegetables it is 54.5 per cent; in case of onions it is 50 per cent; in case of sugar it is 41 per cent and in case of pulses it is 21.2 per cent. Moreover, meat, egg and poultry indices also rose by 25 per cent. This shows that the prices of primary food articles have been unrelentingly high. People who spend a higher proportion of their income on food have been hit hard. The bitter truth is, with all humbleness I would state this in this House, that high food prices have not as yet sparked off angry protests neither from citizens nor from political parties. This is a question which was posed to me by a friend from the media as to why no political party is agitating on the streets on this issue. Why no political party is taking up the cause of people when price-rise is hitting everyone? This is perhaps because of economic and political reasons. The inertia gives this Government, as I would put it, some breathing space but are you prepared to plan a proper response? Are you prepared to grab the opportunity?

Food inflation in the first week of November was 14.55 per cent. Yet, there has barely been a whimper of organised protest in the streets. We are living in the age of paradoxes in this country.

Sir, you are aware and also many senior citizens or any enlightened citizen is aware that elections have been lost or won over the prices of onions. Yet there is no whimper now. You do not need a super computer to understand why this is happening. It might be that a large section of elected representatives are not poor though they represent the poor and are not affected by price-rise. The food spending accounts now is a lower slice of household budget than before. This is the economic aspect. Food expenses account is becoming lower in every family specially those who have a regular income every month and those who are not bothered about their income which is coming every month to them. I would say that lower relative spending on food may be a fact for the growing urban middle class but there are millions of poor Indians who are net buyers of high priced food and for whom current levels of food prices is hurting the most.

I am reminded of one maxim of an American economist named Milton Friedman who said "Inflation is taxation without legislation." It is a hydra headed monster which strikes at individuals from a number of directions at the same time. It eats away the benefits of growth, erodes the purchasing power of wages and devalues savings. Sustainable growth is impossible to achieve in an environment of high consumer inflation.

What is worrying me is the current phase of inflation, that is, it is almost entirely home grown. Oil prices have been fairly steady and there is no imported price shock to blame the crisis. Despite a poor monsoon, the Government is sitting on adequate stocks of foodgrains. I would say that the crisis is largely supply-side driven. This is a shocking failure and this is a charge on the Government that I would like to make. This is a shocking failure of governance. The fact of the matter is that consumer price inflation has been high since March of last year. It remained around ten per cent during the whole

of last year when food production was a record high with no sign of drought. Moreover, with a ban on futures-trading in rice, wheat, pulses and sugar, it is futile to blame the futures market for the inflationary spiral.

Finally, with the economy growing slower than in the last four years, there is no reason to blame the increase in demand on the grounds that the economy is heating up. If none of this is responsible for the food price inflation, then what is? The plain and simple reason is the poor management of food economy by the Government. Three commodities, I would like to mention here, have seen the sharpest increase in the prices. They are: rice, wheat and sugar. Inflation in each of these commodities seems to be the creation of the Government. It is because of the Government's lop-sided policies.

The story of rice is the story of the Government's apathy, insensitivity and lack of management. Progressive procurement of rice has reached the level of 33 million tonnes which is six million tonnes higher than last year. But there has not been any increase in the off-take. Stocks are much higher and the continuing stock of rice has created a speculative market. Increasing prices and the spectre of drought and floods in parts of the country have only fanned speculation and hoarding.

In case of pulses, we have a shortage. There is no doubt about that. We are dependent on import. There is a shortfall of about three million tonnes. The MSP has increased. The hon. Agriculture Minister was kind enough to do that. But, why is the crop area not increasing? We have a National Food Security Mission, which was launched since 2007-08 to enhance production of rice, wheat and pulses. You are expected to achieve an increase of two million tonnes within five years. But, do you know how much have we achieved within the last two years? In 2006-07, it was 14.20 million tonnes and in 2007-08 it has increased to only 14.8 million tonnes. How can you achieve the target if you progress in this pace?

On sugar, it is more interesting and more intriguing. It leaves a very bitter taste. Has the Government analysed

[Shri B. Mahtab]

as to why there is a decline in sugarcane production? ...*(Interruptions)* In 2006-07, it was 35 million tonnes. In 2007-08, it has come down to 28 million tonnes. It is not certainly due to monsoon failure. Primarily it is because of the delayed price paid to farmers. Stagnant price of sugarcane has also contributed to this. Until 2007-08, India was a net exporter of sugar, shipping nearly six million tonnes, and now we are forced to import.

A peculiar case has come up and I demand an explanation or an answer from the Government. If the Minister can educate me on it, it would be good. On 17th April, 2009, the Government allowed import of one million tonne of white sugar at zero duty through public sector undertaking, by 1st August, 2009. But just a day before that date, that is on 31st July, 2009, before the expiry date, private sector was allowed to import. By that time, the State Trading Corporation had imported – though it was allowed to import one lakh tonnes – only 52,000 tonnes of white sugar falling short of the required quantity. If, in the international market the sugar price was high and the STC did not or could not buy it, why did the Government allow private players to import? First, you allow them to export and create a shortage in the domestic market, which shoots up the price. Then, you allow them to import. Who benefits from it? This price mechanism has been jacked up – this is my allegation – in such a way and the design is so glaring that it is stinking.

Lastly, do we have a Centralised Price Monitoring System? I know the Ministry of Finance in the Economic Affairs Department has a Price Monitoring Unit. It gives inputs. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is also there. They collate the information and the data. There is a Cabinet Committee on Prices and there are three other Ministerial Committees. But my question is this. Which is the nodal Ministry to look after price-rise? Is it everybody's responsibility and thereby nobody's responsibility?

I conclude by saying about the foolishness of a man.

I will be quoting one line in Bengali at the end. A man was trying to cross a stream with his grandson. He knew a little bit of arithmetic. He had a stick with him. He calculated the depth of the stream. ... *(Interruptions)* At his end, it was two feet, in the middle he saw, it was four feet and in the other side of the bank, it was three feet. Four three and two feet make nine feet. He measured his grandson's height. He was three feet. So, he calculated two plus four plus three, it became nine; divided by three, it is three. His grandson's height is three. So, he said, you come behind me and you follow me. I need not put you on my shoulder. You can cross the stream. He went to the other side and looked back. His grand son was not there. *Hisab Kitab theek Aache, chele dobche keno?* I do not know whether he found his grandson or not, but I think this Government is calculating the situation of price-rise in that manner like that of foolish man. Please do not lose your grandson now. You are bringing tremendous difficulty to the people of this country.

Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE (Betul): H.E. Hon'ble President of India in her address to Parliament had mentioned the period of 100 days for providing relief to common man and giving them benefits during this period and paying special attention towards them. At that time, People believed it but now I feel it was wrong to believe what she said.

Today, common man is finding it difficult to survive because of inflation and they have lost their peace. Today, I would like to say by putting a question mark on the policy and intention of the Government that it has become very necessary to pay attention towards 100 crores of people of the country and special steps should be taken in this regard.

On the one hand, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, hon'ble Minister of Finance is of the opinion that the price-rise

\*Speech was laid on the Table.

should not be allowed to cross a particular limit. This attitude of UPA Government is not promoting the interest of common man. On the other, they are hiding their own weaknesses and making State Government responsible for the failure of putting restraint on inflation and giving relief to the common man. Definitely, Central Government should take strong action against blackmarketeers and hoarders and strict laws should be made urgently against them and steps should be taken in this regard.

Congress ruled States are providing essential commodities when prices have increased then why the Central Government does not take the credit from common man by doing this task all over the country?

An increase of 10.4 per cent in industrial production index (IIP) has been registered which is the maximum in the last 22 months. It shows steep increase in prices. There is no dearth of great economists, intellectuals in the Government but in spite of that, failure to stabilize the price-rise is beyond the understanding of all of us.

Today, the situation of price-rise is such that the essential commodities are only pocketful in return of bagful of money spent by the common man. The prices rose by 14 per cent in the last 6 months, prices of sugar rose by 30 per cent, prices of potatoes crossed all the limits. The prices of vegetables have gone up by 85 per cent and still it does not seem that the prices will be in control in coming months. Yet the claim of bringing inflation in single digit is a mirage. People are in a fix due to the current situation of price-rise.

The Government may have tried to reach a consensus but so far, I have not seen that the Government has put any check on the rising prices of essential commodities required for the survival of common man but on the contrary it has come to light that the persons who had the onus of saving common man in this adverse situation have left them in the lurch.

Moreover, the lobby led by P. Chidambaram, the Minister of Home Affairs says that there is no need for

too much worry on the price-rise and if we interfere too much then it may backfire. If this is the perception of the Minister of Home Affairs then what can we expect from the Government?

As much as common man expects for relief from the Government, adverse statements from Shri Sharad Pawar, hon'ble Minister of Agriculture spoil the game and make the life of the common man more miserable. I think that only to say this that the situation of price-rise is a matter of serious concern or to say that it is difficult to curb the prices of foodgrains or we are trying to control the price-rise and yet not finding any solution for that is definitely a proof of a weak Government.

Today, the budget of middle class families has gone haywire Family Members are afraid of making any demand. Sugar brings bitterness in one's month instead of sweetness. Earlier, vegetables that were available for rupees 5 to 15 per kg. are now available at the rate of Rs. 40/- to 50/-. As a measure to control the situation, Delhi Government tried to sell vegetables through 288 Mother Dairy booths at lower prices as they claimed it but on the ground it has been found that pulses are not available at near about 125 booths even today.

By seeing all this, one can assume that the condition of common man has become that of Draupadi.

Government had been feigning time and again, sometimes they feigned in the name of ill effects of drought or global warming or monsoon but now it has all been revealed to public that these were misleading statements. To be insincere in such a condition is nothing but cheating with the common man.

Today, people think it is nothing but a farce to say that Government is very serious on price-rise. At times selling things at the booths of Mother Dairy or taking decision to sell what, rice, pulses, sugar in the open market all has been exposed to public.

Hon'ble Prime Minister has been expressing his views on prices rise time and again and thus he has been hurting

[Shrimati Jyoti Dhurve]

common man. He is thinking that people will get prepared to face the problem of price-rise if they come to know that price-rise is inevitable but by doing so, he is belittling their expectations and thus making them a living dead. So far as the matter of taking strong action against blackmarketeers and taking strict steps by the State Government is concerned, our Madhya Pradesh Government is not lagging behind in this task. We have raided all the hoarders against it in the State as per the rules of the Central Government while issuing warnings not to do it in future.

But not allocating quota by the Central Government in accordance with our demands is a step motherly treatment with our State.

I want to inform through you that the special assistance to backwards, poors, tribals and unindustrialized States would prove to be very successful.

Today time has come when Central Government should pay special attention and it should contribute towards the all round progress of every State and region as per their requirement and characteristics, only then, we will be able to take our country forward as a developed nation. Even after 62 years of independence we are not self reliant. I still have unwavering in my country and its soil that if we realize its potential, perhaps we will not have a depend on other countries and our country will occupy top position in the world. CPI is more appropriate for the purpose of measuring inflation at the consumer level. Food, beverages and Tobacco carry approximately 50 per cent weightage in CPI-UNMI. It has 13 per cent weightage for cereals and pulses. Textiles have seven per cent weightage and housing has 16 per cent weightage. Food and beverages have 57 per cent weightage in CPIAL and CPIRL.

Economists are of the opinion that inflation is not going to be a thing of past now. At present inflation continues to be the biggest economic and social challenge before the nation. According to 'Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for

the month of October, 2009 the rate of inflation has increased by one per cent. But prices of food articles have increased manifold.

Agriculture has 18 per cent share in the economy of the country. In India, agriculture has been left to the mercy of God. Actually, our country lags far behind on the front of agricultural reforms. Green Revolution in the country has come to an end.

Inflation needs to be properly reined in — whatever drama the Government does for creating awareness about the need for balanced and nutritious food, these articles have gone beyond the reach of any ordinary family. At present there has not been any special increase in the income of common man, whatever little increase has been registered is like a drop in the ocean.

Inflation has come down in the world but in our country prices of eatables have increased. We should take stringent measures to deal with inflation and to check hoarding. Ministry of Food at State level should be under the Chief Minister so that rules could be implemented.

There is need of food security in view of steep inflation, according to the report of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFO), the number of poor and starving and malnourished persons is highest in India at 23 crore and 30 lakh. Per capita hunger versus per capita income-Prime Minister might be saying that any person will not be left starving, but the fact is that every one person out of four is going without meal. Rising inflation and countrywide drought has made the situation worse. In these circumstances to what extent this announcement by the Prime Minister will assure the common man experts are apprehensive about it.

Certainly, our country is most powerful in respect of foodgrains than other countries or India might be the only country which is self reliant and has the potential to feed and countries also, I hope, this supremacy of our country will neither come to an end ever and nor it will be allowed to come to an end.

[English]

SHRI ANAND PRAKASH PARANJPE (Kalyan) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important topic like price-rise. Price-rise of food grains and other essential commodities is a matter of grave concern for all the citizens of this country. We hear daily stories regarding the soaring prices which is affecting the rich, the middle class, the lower middle class and people who are below the poverty line. It is such a sensitive issue which is affecting each and everybody across all sections of the society. Sitting here in this august House, as a young Member, we have been hearing about the various steps taken by the Government to control inflation, to monitor inflation, the various technical terms like the Wholesale Price Index, the Consumer Price Index and how the Wholesale Price Index is monitored weekly and the Consumer Price Index is released on a monthly basis. All these statistical figures sound good to the ear very nice sitting here in this august House, but the harsh reality outside, which the common man is facing or the *aam aadmi* is facing, is very harsh.

I would like to state a few facts in front of you. The Government has been stating that the year-on-year inflation has come down from 11 per cent to near about one per cent. We should not trumpet that by bringing down inflation, we have achieved something extraordinary. The fact is that the common man is still reeling under the pressure of soaring prices of food items and consumer essentials. The prices of food articles have gone up by around 13.4 per cent. I would like to mention a few items here. The prices of potatoes have gone up by 100.82 per cent; of onion, by around 50 per cent; pulses by around 23 per cent. The price of rice has risen by around 12.19 per cent, that of wheat by around 7.47 per cent; cereals by around 11.15 per cent and milk by around 10 per cent. Even the price of common *dal* has increased by around 100 per cent. If we come across all these price-rises, I really wonder how the common man living on the street outside would be making his livelihood possible.

Just two days back, during the Question Hour, the hon. Agriculture Minister in his Statement mentioned that there would be a shortfall of around 21 millions tonnes in the Kharif season as compared to 2008. The rice production is stated to fall by around 15 million tonnes, that of cereals by 5.5 million tonnes. While making such a Statement, on the one side, in the *Times of India* of 5th November, an article appeared where the hon. Agriculture Minister admitted that rise in food prices is there. He stated: "The shortfall in the Kharif season is likely to hit and we hope that the situation would change once the Rabi crops are harvested." On the same day, in the same newspaper, a Statement by the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission said: "The food inflation is not a matter of concern and the issue has been hyped too much in the country." I really fail to understand in which direction our Government is going. When the hon. Minister was making a grave the statement regarding the rise in food prices, a statement, totally in the opposite direction, was being made by the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission. I really want to know from the Government what steps would be taken to fill in the gap which is bound to be there because of the shortfall in the Kharif season.

Another point of concern is the Public Distribution System. Time and again, we have been hearing discussions in this august House that strict measures would be taken against black-marketeers and hoarders. But I really wonder whether such steps have been taken because even today in the open market, a lot of stocks of rice, pulses, wheat are there with the blackmarketeers and the hoarders. Whenever we go to a ration shop, we do not get the necessary commodities at the ration shop which should be supplied through the Public Distribution System but these essential commodities are available at a very high price with the private players. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take stern action in this regard. Even the Supreme Court had to intervene and direct the Government that they should deal with the price-rise on a war footing but little has changed since then. So, I urge upon the hon. Minister and the Government to deal with this problem of



[Shri Anand Prakash Paranjpe]

*Aam Aadmi* with sincerity and to take stern steps for implementing an efficient Public Distribution System.

In a recent report by the RBI, it had been clearly mentioned that the Government had failed to tackle the rising food prices and the WPI would be minus 3.4 per cent. Even then I fail to understand what steps the Government has taken. The prices of food articles have been hit because of short supply and also inefficient distribution channels.

From May 2009 till November 2009, there has been a continuous rise in the food prices. I feel, looking at the comparative figures and the price-rise year on, year on, a perseverant feeling of helplessness and abject rejection among all sections of the society. It seems that the Government is slipping down the lane as far as managing the price control situation is concerned and that we are sitting on a volcano which could explode any time and also the fact that the Government seems to be overtaken by nervousness and amnesia in management of price front.

So, I would urge upon the Government not to waste any time in bringing the situation under control. I once again thank you for allowing me to speak on such an important subject.

[Translation]

\*SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI (Jalaun): Inflation is increasing in the country day by day. Even pulses are not available in the market at less than Rs. 100 per kilogram. Prices of vegetables are soaring. Prices of edible oils have risen steeply. DMS deshi ghee is not available even at the rate of Rs. 260 in Delhi. Prices of milk have been increased a number of times in the last six months. Even inferior quality flour is not available at less than Rs. 20 per kilogram, while good quality flour is available at the rate of Rs. 30 to 40 per kilogram, which has created such a situation that a common man cannot afford full mean. People are at a

loss as to how to face inflation. The responsibility of providing food, clothes and housing to the people lies with the Government. But the Government has turned a blind eye to the problem of price-rise. That is why people are holding demonstrations at several places. The Union Government has introduced National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the country under which one member of every family gets 100 days employment every year and wages are paid at the rate of Rs. 100 per day. The amount of Rs. 10,000 is paid after deducting the share of middlemen. The head of the family is unable to feed his old parent, wife and two children in 100 rupees in this era of price-rise.

The way prices have increased across the country, the prices of agricultural equipments, fertilizers have been increased manifold. The farmers are not getting even fertilizers. They have to buy fertilizer from the market at double price, that is why there is resentment among the farmers. The Government has neither been able to check prices, nor it has been able to provide 365 days employment to labourers. It clearly shows that the Central and the State Governments do not worry about the farmers and labourers at all. These Governments protect the interests of capitalists and industrialists only. If essential items for agriculture i.e. agricultural equipments and fertilizers are not made available to the farmers at cheaper rates, the farmers and labourers will jointly launch mass movement and they will be compelled to chase away and disgrace officers and the public representatives. Farmers and labourers in my parliamentary constituency Jalaun and the whole Bundelkhand are facing natural calamities like drought for the last 5 years Farmers have turned labourers while labourers are starving. Majority of the people have left the area and education of their children has been affected. This year, God was pleased and Bundelkhand received adequate rainfall, but the Central and State Government again created more problems by not making available fertilizers and seeds to the farmers. This has resulted in a lot of resentment in Bundelkhand and particularly in my parliamentary constituency, in Kanpur rural and other areas. There is a need to provide electricity,

water, fertilizer and essential commodities etc. promptly by the Central Government and Uttar Pradesh Government to safeguard the interests of farmers and labourers. State Government has turned a blind eye to the price-rise of essential commodities and problems of framers and labourers. Poor people can't afford to convert their kuchcha houses into pucca houses. Gunda Tax is being extorted by increasing the prices of Baalu, Mauram, Gitti more than two times.

Through this House, I request the Central Government that while giving Rs. 100 as wage to all the labourers working under Employment Guarantee Scheme it should ensure providing meal, education, medicines, housing, clothes and items of daily use for them and it should also ensure providing all agricultural equipments, fertilizers, seeds, electricity, water and all other facilities to the farmers for earning the livelihood.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESOO NAIK (North Goa): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the issue of price-rise.

Today, an important issue of price-rise has been taken up for discussion. The people are in distress because of price-rise. If we see the earning of 60 per cent people of the country, we will find that they get only Rs. 20/- per day. These are official data. In this situation, it has become very difficult for them to get both ends meal. It do not want to mention the figures as my colleagues have already said about it. Today, the price of sugar is Rs. 40/- per kg. and prices of flour, rice, potato and onion are Rs. 20/-, Rs. 30/-, Rs. 35/- and Rs. 20-30 per kg. respectively in the market. The poors, workers and farmers are at the mercy of God. Every fourth person of the country is hungry today. He is suffering from natural calamities and also worried about it. He has suffered a lot due to price-rise. According to the Government the inflation is in negative zone but according to me it is in an emergency zone as the rate of inflation is quite high. The Prime Minister is saying that the bad phase of price-rise is going to end, despite that the prices are not coming down. Instead of assuring the people, the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture says

that the prices will not come down for three months, these will further increase rather. The need of the hour is that the people be assured that the prices will come down. The Government does not take action against speculators and hoarders as a result of that the prices are going upward. The farmers are not getting remunerative price. The price of onion is Rs. 30/- per kg. but the farmer is not getting even Rs. 5/- per kg. for that. How long Government will allow it to go like that in view of all these? Perhaps the Government is not checking the price-rise so as to achieve higher growth rate. If the Government desires that the growth rate increases, my contention is that the suicide rate will also increase with it. The Government should use its power to check price-rise, keeping in view the gap between demand and supply in the retail market, but Government is not doing so. If needed, we should increase import of commodities but the Government is doing nothing. The people are tackling with the problem of financial crisis, floods and drought, besides the price-rise has added to their woes further. The prices of rice, wheat, flour, pulses are going upward. The prices of vegetables are skyrocketing. The common men can not afford to buy them such is the situation today.

When the UPA fought election, it had promised to bring the prices down within 100 days. On this issue it was voted too power and formed Government. But this Government could not check the price-rise and solve the problem of common man. The common man is not in a position to face his family. It is the bounden duty of the Government to provide food, cloth and shelter to every citizen of the country. Not to speak of shelter, the Government is not even providing both ends meals to the common man.

The Government has run a NREGA scheme. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know you well as it was introduced in your time and was in your control. Under this scheme a persons get Rs. 103/- to 110/- as wage. But the way the price is rising, if a family consists of four persons. A sum of Rs. 110/- is spent in arranging 1 kg. each of rice, flour and half kg. of pulses. After that nothing is left for children education, medicines for parents etc. Today 1 kg of onion costs Rs. 30/-. Earlier when women used to cut onion it

[Shri Shripad Yesoo Naik]

used to bring tears in their eyes but now when they go to the market to buy onion the rate of the onion brings tears in their eyes. Six day ago a common man came to my house. He said that life has become miserable. When he goes back to home in the evening with half quantity of onion than the required quantity of ration, his wife asks as to why he has brought to half ration, his child asks, about his notebook, the ailing daughter questions about her medicine? Keeping in view the above situation, the Government should focus its attention towards bringing down the prices. But it seems that the Government is not making any effort which is a matter of concern. The Government merely makes a declaration to bring down the prices, but actually it is not taking any step. It seems that the Government has handed over the right to determine the prices of commodities to hoarders. Whatever price they decide one has to pay. Hence the speculators and hoarders are making a huge profit.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to give some suggestions in this regard. I first demand is that Government should curb the price-rise as early as possible. The Government may bring down the prices of essential commodities and foodgrains. For this the Government may determine the price itself. Besides, stern action should be taken against speculators and hoarders. The Government should ban the export of foodgrains and if needed, import it. Farmers should be encouraged to increase the yield by providing them remunerative price. Today, the prices of essential commodities are increasing continuously. The Government is encouraging the future trading of several essential commodities. There is a need to check the connivance of hoarders and speculators with big M.N.C.s officers and politicians. If this is not done the rise in prices will not come down and the common man won't be able to live peacefully.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on this burning issue. I was listening to all the hon'ble leaders of the opposition and my colleagues in the ongoing discussion. I felt that there was

no seriousness in the discussion on the price-rise but only allegations and counter-allegations were hurled as if the Union Government is solely responsible for the price-rise. The whole country knows the reasons behind price-rise. Some of my colleagues have mentioned and I also agree with them that there are four reasons behind the price-rise today. If prices of petroleum products and gold increases in the international market, then naturally it affects our country also. The issue of price-rise is also a matter of concern at national level as the world is passing through an economic recession. It also affects our country. But, all our colleagues have said that hon'ble Prime Minister is an economist, our Minister of Finance is sitting here, I would like to tell when the whole world is reeling under economic recession, prominent corporate houses and major banks are being closed down and thousands of employees are being retrenched in various developed countries, be it Europe or America, even in that situation only India could bravely face the recession and it was possible because of the economic policies of the Union Government. When average GDP in the world was 2-3 per cent and in China it was recorded 7.6 per cent, India's GDP was 7.7 per cent.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): What will GDP do?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue your speech. Mr. Saroj do not interrupt. Your point will not be recorded. Please do not interrupt. Why suddenly have you started to speak in the middle of his speech? Your point will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: DGP means Director General of Police and GDP means Growth Rate. Mr. Deputy-Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit in the House that we have not interrupted the speech of any Hon'ble Member who so ever criticized and blamed the Centre. Therefore, you should also listen to us patiently. I believe

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\*Not recorded.

that a serious issue is being discussed in the House and I will tell the reasons of price-rise. All our Hon'ble colleagues and respected leaders have mentioned that there is no problem in the State regarding storage of food grains, but if there is storage in the State and if hoarding and black marketing is taking place, and if poor people are not getting food grains, kerosene and sugar through the Public Distribution System in the State, then one cannot blame the Union Government for this. Instead the Government of Uttar Pradesh should be held responsible for this mess.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member, you may please take your seat. Your point is not being recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: What have these people done?...*(Interruptions)* Sir, they are interrupting my speech. You may please extend my time, which they are wasting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Their point is not being recorded. You may continue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Just now, my colleagues have mentioned that we are not providing goods. Definitely, I would like to answer their point that the House was disrupted for one or two days because of shortage of fertilizers. I would also like to say their point according to official figures and if anything was found wrong then I will resign from the Lok Sabha. I would like to say with full responsibility that in the year 2008-09, the State has demanded 11.50 lakh metric tonne DAP requirement and in that year we have provided 12.76 metric tonnes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are deviating from price-rise to fertilizers.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I am saying it just for reference Arunachal Pradesh is mentioned with China. Food grain is associated with fertilizers; so why we could

not mention about fertilizers. People talk about China.  
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gorakhnath Pandey, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I have thirty years legislative experience. I have been a Member of the Assembly for the last 28 years continuously. Now I have been elected to the Lok Sabha. I am well aware of parliamentary traditions. I do not want to drift away from parliamentary traditions. Today, I have mentioned one point specifically because our hon'ble Minister was willing to reply yesterday, but he was not allowed to reply. We want that whole country should know that this year Uttar Pradesh has demanded 13 lakh tonnes DAP and so far we have provided 12.29 lakh metric tonnes *[English]* In Uttar Pradesh, eight rakes of DAP and NPK are being sent every day *[Translation]* The 20 thousand metric tonne fertilizer is being sent in UP daily. If that fertilizer is further sent to Nepal or it is sold in black or it is hoarded, then definitely the State Government will be responsible....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, you have provided me the opportunity to speak. I would seriously like to say that there are various reasons for price-rise. I am concerned with price-rise and our Union Government is also concerned with it. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture will now tell about the steps being taken in this regard. I think that price-rise is basically associated with production and if demand is higher and if there is gap between production and demand, then price will definitely rise. If there is shortage of land as Mr. Mahtab has mentioned and I we have increased the MSP, then why production is decreasing. I will explain its reasons. If there is shortage of land, then definitely production will be affected and prices

[Shri Jagdambika Pal]

will rise. The time 299 districts were drought affected as a result of less monsoon due to which production was also affected giving rise to inflation. Today, NAREGA Programme is under implementation in villages for which Rs. 39,000 crore have been allocated by the Central Government from its coffers. This has helped to give rural folk work and this has augmented their purchasing power. For such peasants Rs. 100 was a big amount and for earning that sum they had to come to cities like Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad etc. When purchasing power increases the inflation will certainly move up. When foodgrains under PDS system are not properly distributed, these would certainly be blackmarketed, and this way inflation would go up. I am enumerating the reasons for inflation. I am not criticizing any party. We all should be worried about this. When population increases, inflation also goes up. The manner in which the Finance Minister has benefited crores of employees by implementing the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission and the manner in which the pay of crores of employees has increased has paved way for price-rise as when the purchasing power increases, the inflation also goes up. As far as the scarcity of land is concerned, it is evident from the report....(Interruptions) with regard to the scarcity of land. I would like to say that during the last one year cultivable land has shrunk 7.9 per cent. It has been reduced by 7.9 percentage, Gorakhji, you may criticize me here in the House, but you know that by acquiring the cultivable farm land from Noida to Dadri and Buland Shaher at throw away prices the State Government is selling it to builders for developing residential colonies. Naturally when the farmer is constantly faced with the scarcity of land and the manner in which State Government provides land to those private builders, the production would certainly be affected. Whereas 79.22 million hectares of land was cultivated last year, this year, land under cultivation is just 63.78 million hectare. They are saying that, today, the Government is doing nothing to reign in inflation. Today, the State Government does not bother if the production gets affected or whether funds are being properly utilized or not. Many schemes that are being

implemented to augment production of pulses and oil seed under the agricultural policy but the Central Government remain concerned and wants that there should not be any shortage of foodgrains, edible oil, pulses in the country. For that, the Central Government has taken several steps, for which we should have been thankful to the Government but no hon'ble Member expressed gratitude.

Today six important commodities are sugar wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds and oil. In view of the fact that there should not be an scarcity of these commodities and the people of this country should get these things, today, the import duty has been reduced to zero to facilitate import of foodgrains into the country and make up the deficiency of foodgrains. Likewise, we have reduced duty on the import of refined and vegetable oils. Recently, a discussion took place in the House the non-basmati rice is being exported, we have banned such export. Today, on the one hand we have banned the export of foodgrains and on the other hand we are trying to make available the foodgrains as per the requirement of the country by incurring loss of duty on the foodgrains. The Central Government is taking these steps and despite that they are not acknowledging these endeavours. They are not taking note of the National Food Security Mission in 2008-09 we ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have just started my speech. Till now people have been interrupting me. Look at the plight of the farmer in Uttar Pradesh today, who is not getting remunerative price for his produce. The small and marginal farmers do not have capacity for hoarding grains. I agree with Shri Mulayam Singhji that if rabi or kharif crop is harvested and if paddy crop is harvested then, the farmer has to sell it off immediately. But, today, one and a half month has elapsed and till now tokens have not been arranged at these procurement centers. Paddy is not being procured anywhere in whole of Uttar Pradesh. Today, the small and marginal farmers are forced to sell at the rate of Rs. 600-700 per quintal. They want to know about agricultural policy. All of us know as to who was occupying the treasury benches from the

year 2000 to 2005. In the last five years, merely 50 rupees were increased over the support price of Rs. 500 which was fixed in year 2004 and in the year 2005 the MSP for paddy was Rs. 550 I want to congratulate the Central Government for increasing the MSP from 550 to Rs. 950 per quintal and Rs. 50 as bonus. Thus, the Government has also raised the MSP for paddy crop for the farmers of the country to Rs. 1000. Likewise the MSP of wheat which stood at Rs. 630 earlier, has now been raised to Rs. 1100 per quintal. We are not benefiting some body else.

**17.00 hrs.**

I have got with me statistics for paddy, jawar, millet, arhar, moong, urad and cotton. Is cotton being grown in Uttar Pradesh since the Congress Government was dethroned there? Have Shri Gorakhnath ji, Shri Dara Singhji ever paid attention to it? They are just bothered about the statues and the monuments....(Interruptions) Certainly it will not benefit Uttar Pradesh. In the last five years the MSP for wheat, paddy, jawar, arhar and pulses have been doubled as compared to their production cost. We have started providing remunerative prices. I want to say that on the issue of sugarcane the Lok Sabha could not function for two days as the Centre had promulgated an ordinance. This issue cropped up and having regard to our views the Central Government immediately amended that ordinance and removed the clauses 3B. I want to State that not even a single sugar mill is operational in Uttar Pradesh. Now State Government should be asked as to how long the sugar cane crop will not be harvested? What will happen when the farmer will burn his crops? Again, when the production of sugar would decline, we will ask the Centre to supply sugar and electricity. When you have to come to the doors of Centre for each and every thing then what is the fun of having a State Government? Who will utilize the essential commodities? If vast stocks are lying in the State and if action is to be taken against anyone then it is the right of State Government. I can say it with challenge that raids must have been conducted in Uttar Pradesh and after raid on body is convicted, no body is punished. The hon'ble Members sitting here know how they are

exonerated after the raids and how their seizures are released....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: This is fact....(Interruptions) why he gets up every time....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, when the gross domestic demand in the rural backward areas will increase. ....(Interruptions) Tufani ji. ....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should address the Chair. You please take your seat.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I will not see towards that side, I will address you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now your time is over. Please take your seat.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I want to say one thing honestly regarding inclusive growth that today the gross domestic demand is growing....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have names of other Members from your party. They also have to speak.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, the people understand the economy of inflation. Although people know these things, they want to make us responsible for the price-rise. But the result of the recently held elections in Maharashtra, Haryana and Arunachal Pradesh prove that the Central Government is farmer and people friendly and it is taking right steps in right direction.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I wish this serious discussion is not derailed. It has not been economically proved; neither has it been claimed that high growth results in inflation. It has not been said

[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

by the Government; nor by any authoritative sources; that increase in the support price has led to inflation.

Inclusive growth does not mean high cost of price. Inclusive growth does mean availability of foodgrains to the people at a reasonable price. The basic point is why the price is rising and what the Government should have done and what the Government has not done. Can it be denied by anybody that increase in price is gathering momentum every week?

The prices are increasing every week. The rate of increase of prices is gathering momentum every week. That is why the Government is bound to be in a dock. It is not a question of politics. It is a question of a social welfare State. People must have access to food to live. People must have a shelter. People must have a reasonable income. It is the welfare State. The Congress is committed. Therefore, the question is – why did the Government fail in curbing the prices which has become almost a catastrophe in the recent period.

Therefore, the question arises that there is a strong suspicion that the Government lacks political will to take action against those who are responsible for the price-rise. Let us not pass on the buck that this is not Uttar Pradesh Assembly. Neither it is Bihar Assembly. Let us not pass on the buck. Let us not say that the prices are increasing because the State Governments have been defaulting in the discharge of their responsibilities. What about Delhi, the capital of India? We live in Delhi. In Delhi the potatoes are being sold at Rs. 35 per kg. The Central Government is here. The Government in the State is run by the same political party. Therefore, let us not try to hide the non-performance of the Government behind the performance of the State Governments. It is all through; everywhere, in every nook and corner of the country that the prices are increasing.

What is the reason for this? It is because the demand for 100 days' employment has increased, because of

population growth the prices have increased and because of international prices, the prices have increased. Let us look realistically at the basic, human problem of this great country. Everyone has to look at it from that point of view.

I have a feeling that the basic economic policies are responsible for the price-rise. I have a feeling that the speculative economy that the Government has sought to build up over years is responsible. Today morning I was reading the speech of the hon. Prime Minister made in the United States. He is carefully saying – to whom, to the Corporates – 'Do not worry, liberalisation will be further advanced; therefore, come and invest in India.'

Sir, this is the crux. Overdose of liberalisation without any monitoring, without any safeguard has given the wrong signal to everybody in the country that you can do whatever you like because the Government is committed to liberalisation and liberalisation means no intervention of the State- *laissez faire* – no intervention of the State.

It is true that there is shortage of production. Hon. Minister of Finance had, in his speech, said – as far as I remember – that there may be a shortfall by 20 per cent in the food production in the country. But the point is – increase in price is not proportionate to the shortfall in the production. It is much more than that. The increase in food price is totally disproportionate to the proportion of decline of food production. It is much more than that. That is where the crux lies. Let us hit the nail at the top.

Therefore, the question is that price-rise is not due to only mismatch of demand and supply. Without taking basic corrective steps, the Government is indulging in reckless import of food grains. Shri Sharad Pawar, it is a shame that after twenty years, you are importing rice in this country India, the bowl of world rice, the place of Green Revolution, the place of Shri Pratap Singh Kairon, the place of revolution that India talked about. This is a national shame that India is importing rice after twenty years. That is not the shame of the Government alone, that is the shame that we are also confronted with.

Sir, we have lost our food security. We are on the verge of losing our economic sovereignty. I am not making a sweeping statement. Economic sovereignty of a nation depends on food self-sufficiency. Since we are losing food self-sufficiency, there is an apprehension genuinely that our economic sovereignty may be tinkered with. Our political sovereignty may be in peril. Food sovereignty is the foundation of the political sovereignty of any nation in the world today.

Sir, price-rise is no puzzle. We are discussing the puzzling increase in price unknown in the history of India. Let us recognise the truth. In fact, it is an offensive of the traders – I repeat that it is an offensive of the traders – against the Indian consumers in a highly liberalised market economy where the Government inaction is pronounced.

Sir, price-rise is not a phenomenon of today. We discussed it in the last Session also. I hope, the Government will not mind if I say that from day one the UPA had assumed power in 2004, price-rise has been a symptom. In the last six years, price-rise has been gradually ascending, its rate of increase has been ascending. Therefore, the question is that the subject of discussion should not be price-rise; the subject of discussion should be Government inaction, its inability, its colossal failure, the collapse of the administration to take care of speculation and hoarding and its abject failure.

I am sorry to say that 65 per cent of people live on agriculture. Shri Sharad Pawar says that he is also an agriculturist. I do not know. Maybe he is. But even under his stewardship, he has not been able to retrieve the steady decline of agriculture in this country.

What is the momentum that price-rise has gathered. I do not go into main statistics; I am brief. In one week, price of essential commodities has increased by 65 per cent. Shri Sharad Pawar can explain it. It has happened in one week ending on 7.11.09. In the previous week, it was 40 per cent. There is galloping rise in the rate of increase.

Sir, let me give you example of three commodities – rice, wheat and potato. India produces 100 million tonnes of rice. It is for the Agriculture Minister to confirm whether he is producing 100 million tonnes of rice. That is enough to feed our population. Why is there a price-rise? A particular quality of rice, that is, *kalam* rice, was available at Rs. 24 a Kg. Today it is available at Rs. 40. How could it be? How could it gather so much of momentum? What has been the wrong? That is what causes anxiety. About wheat, hon. Sharad Pawarji says that 78 million tonnes of wheat has been produced, if I am not wrong. What is the consumption need? It is 76 million tonnes. Then why should the price of wheat increase by Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 per kg.?

My dear friend Jagdambika Babu has spoken and left. He was speaking about demand supply mismatch. Here is a case. Take the case of potato. It is the most important vegetable for every Indian. What is the price-rise? It is 102.4 per cent in the recent period. In the last debate I had spoken that from Rs. 6 it has become Rs. 20. It has become 300 per cent rise. Today again it is 100 per cent rise. It only shows that it is not only the shortfall of production but short-circuit of supply, holding up of the stock by the traders, that is responsible for it. The Government feels shy not to lay its hands on any trader, any hoarder, anybody who plays to the life of the people. I do not say that the blame is exclusively of the Central Government. State Government also did not do its job. It is for the Central Government to cite the example of how many unscrupulous traders have been arrested in Delhi. It only establishes that inflation is beyond any conceivable rate. There is growing divergence between the policy of the Government and the vital concerns of the people. It is particularly for those Indians. Indians spend 45 per cent of their income on food. It is not United States. It is not Obama's State. In our country, 45 per cent of our income is spent on food and food prices have increased by almost 100 per cent in a year. Where do you go? Is not the Government to be blamed? Is not there a default? Is it not true that we have not done our job? Taste of the pudding is in the eating. We would like to taste every bit of their policy in terms of the service it renders to the



[Shri Gurudas Dasgupta]

people. The Chief Statistician of the country and also a civil servant has said that the price-rise is due to hoarding and stockpiling. It is not me but a bureaucrat is saying. Therefore, it is the future trading which is playing hell; future trading allowed by the Government is playing hell. It is the liberalised export that has brought the country to a ruin. It is the collapse of the public distribution system that has over-hit the market. Therefore, this has happened all in the background of the collapse of the agriculture in the country. And within six years, the Government could not take any important step to retrieve the agriculture. Therefore, agricultural crisis in the background, the speculators are playing hell and the Government is too soft. It is for the Government to spell out whether it has any political will. The failure is all around. On all counts there is a failure.

I tell the leaders of the Government with all modesty that electoral victory cannot always condone the criminality of failure on the part of the Government. After all it is democracy. I appeal to the Government to ponder whether they have defaulted in performing their duties to the nation.

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Silence please. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I did not have the intention of intervening in the discussion as my distinguished colleague the Minister of Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution would be replying to the debate. But I thought that since some policies in respect of particularly monetary policy and fiscal policy which have a bearing on the overall inflationary situation, I should refer to some of those issues.

The first point which has been raised in general terms by the distinguished Member of this House, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi and which has been echoed to some extent by the last speaker before me is that the Government is too obsessed with GDP growth and to achieve a higher GDP growth it is mindless of the sufferings of people and the oppressing price-rise which has affected the life of the common man. First of all, that conclusion is not correct. Yes, we want to achieve a higher GDP growth. A higher GDP growth, a higher tax-GDP ratio has a very close nexus between addressing poverty, addressing the needs of the common people, and also contributing to the higher income generation.

Whatever be the reason – good or bad or indifferent – I have been in the Government for the last four decades, though not continuously, whenever Congress Party formed the Government. Even though I occupied the office of the Finance Minister in the early 1980s, I could not dream of taking a decision of loan waiver to the extent of Rs. 71,000 crore to extend benefit to four crore farmers of the country who do not live in the five-star, four-star, three-star, or in any hotel of any metropolitan city but live in the villages. I could not think of it in the 1980s. But it could be done in 2007-08 because our tax-GDP ratio increased to more than 12 per cent, because our economy could achieve nine per cent GDP growth in three consecutive years. Therefore, these are not irrelevant.

Somebody was saying, what would we do with the GDP? That sounds nice when you talk to your constituency and indulge in rhetoric. But please do not bring that to the floor of the Parliament, particularly into determining the policies of the Government where this House has the exclusive control and authority. We have to look at how the prices have built up over the years. It is true that we took certain decisions which have, what you call in the language of the economy, cost-push-impact, in some of the essential items of commodities.

I would like to give you just two examples. We have increased the minimum support price of rice and wheat. The minimum support price for paddy was Rs. 550 per

\*Not recorded.

quintal in 2003-04. Today, it is Rs. 1000 – Rs. 950 plus Rs. 50. as bonus. ...*(Interruptions)* Would you please take your seat? If you do not want to listen to me, I am not enamoured of listening to my own voice. Therefore, please listen to me.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : We are all listening to you.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : One hon. Member suddenly got up; I do not know what prompted him.

So, I am simply asking this – if I enhance the prices of paddy from Rs. 550 to Rs. 1000 including bonus, and when I procure substantial quantum of rice, does it not fix the benchmark? When I fix the price of one quintal of sugarcane at Rs. 129, does it not fix the benchmark? By what economy, can I give higher prices per quintal of sugarcane and at the same time, I can give, for everybody, at a cheap price, rice, wheat, sugar and others? So, the legitimate question can be asked – what can we do for those people who cannot afford? In a growing economy, we must recognize that there will be an inflationary pressure; it is the responsibility of the Government to moderate that pressure; it is some sort of a balancing game, a see-saw game; when it goes beyond the tolerable limit, definitely action needs to be taken. Most respectfully, I would like to remind this House that just a year ago, we gave the details on the floor of this House; my distinguished predecessor, participating in a debate, when we found that the rate of inflation reached – I am talking of WPI and I will come to CPI a little later – a high and broke 13-years record; it was more than 13 per cent. It was because before that, in the first half of 2008, there were three major international commodity price crises. The first was the essential commodities and raw materials which we require for the manufacturing activities; then we had the petroleum prices, which reached as high as 147 dollar per barrel. When we came to Office in May 2004, it was 39 dollar per barrel and in August 2008, it reached as high as 147 dollar per barrel. Therefore, what we had to do? We had to resort to restricting the money supply and the crucial rates: repo rates, reverse repo rates, CLR, SLR.

were tightened but we had another set of problems when from the month of September, 2008 the adverse impact of the international financial crisis which is known as 'melt down' had come and it again had its adverse impact on it, which is being felt even today.

I was just going through the figure that from October, 2008 till today our exports are going down, imports are going down and international trade is going down all of which constituted a substantial quantum of our GDP. It is going down because Indian exports can never expand unless there is a strong recovery in the European market, North American market and in the developed economies market. About 62 per cent of the Indian export is directed towards European Union, North-America and Japan taken together. Therefore, it is not merely our own fiscal policy or our own monetary policy that will determine the future of our own exports. It depends to some extent on the robust and quick recovery of economy in the European market and in the developed countries market. It is gradually coming up but still it is not very robust. We have to wait for some more time.

While presenting my Interim Budget and subsequently the General Budget in July in this House I had to say that I had to inject in the system Rs. 1,86,000 crore to stimulate and generate the internal demand. If I would not have generated the internal demand, you may calculate the growth rate of the last two quarters of the last fiscal year and the growth rate which we achieved at 6.7 per cent at the end of the financial year. If you say, 'no, I am not concerned with growth', I have nothing to say. I do not subscribe to that philosophy. I do not subscribe to that opinion. We want higher growth. But, at the same time I am concerned and as I am concerned, from 2001 – today is 2009 – I have not increased the issue price of wheat, rice, kerosene oil or sugar. For Antodaya Programme we are giving 35 kg. of food grains per family per month; Rs. 2 per kg. wheat and Rs. 3 per kg. rice. Who is to distribute? Is it Shri Sharad Pawar of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supply? It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, you do not say that

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

cooperative federalism is merely a phrase when you talk of sharing the taxes. Cooperative federalism is not confined only to sharing the taxes of the devolution. Cooperative federalism includes the responsibility to be borne collectively by both the Union Government and the State Governments. It is not possible physically. If it were to be done, then India would have to be converted into a unitary State. It is not possible physically to take the responsibility of the Public Distribution System. Therefore, the answer lies in the fact that we have to protect the vulnerable sections, the weaker sections. The organised employees have their DA formula. With rising prices they will have some sort of neutralisation, if not fully, at least substantially. But those poor daily wage earners, what will they do? They do not have any DA mechanism. For them the answer lies in enhancing their daily wages which we have done through NREGA. So, instead of analysing the reasons theoretically, please ensure that they get jobs for 100 days a year at the rate of Rs. 100 per day. It is because each State is now being run by political parties which are represented either from this side or that side. Therefore, nobody can say that they do not have a share. Yes, I may have to bear the lion's share and I am prepared to bear that lion's share, but please accept this fact. Please generate economic activity.

The massive investment which we have made in the planning will generate income for the poor people. That will help him to ameliorate and neutralise to some extent the adverse impact of the rising prices. You will say that I am trying to globalise it. If the fact is global, then what else will I do? Please remember that in the debate that we had in the month of July the way some of the hon. Members described the drought situation as if heavens would fall, the sky would have fallen and demanded immediate action because the rains were delayed. There is no doubt that adverse impact was there. But I am told and the hon. Minister of Agriculture would corroborate me that even in the State of Uttar Pradesh where 58 districts out of 80 plus districts were declared as drought affected, are having very good harvest. I am expecting a good

procurement also from there. Therefore, there would be some short-fall no doubt. It may be 15 million tonnes; it may be 20 million tonnes. Some hon. Members made the point, what has import and export to do with this? Some hon. Members said that Government is still exporting. Yes, at one point of time it was there. But now all commodities that are in short supply, export of those commodities have been banned — all commodities including rice and wheat. Even we have fixed a Minimum Export Price on Basmati Rice and onions. We have fixed the Minimum Export Price of Basmati Rice at 900 dollars per tonnes. Therefore, we have done it. We have kept the input. It is simple — to remove the imbalance between demand and supply. Therefore, the States are being taken on the monetary side. In the second quarter, monetary policy announced by the Reserve Bank of India has taken care of it. If one were to look at the SLR, it would be seen that SLR has increased by one percentage point. The CRR has been kept at 5 per cent but the CBLO adjustment would be taken in CRR. But the third important point which emerged in course of the debate is that some hon. Members stated that when most of the countries in the world have accepted CPI as the only index, why is India not going to have that? We are fully aware of the WPI and CPI dichotomy. I would not take much of the time of the House because other hon. Members will speak on this debate and I will not eat into their time. But there is a difference in the weightage. It depends on the consumption pattern of a particular class.

We have four series of Consumer Price Index. They are Rural Labour, Rural Agricultural Labour, Urban Non-manual Employees and Industrial Workers. These are the four series of Consumer Price Index. Food has weightage in the component of Consumer Price Indices. It varies from 46.20 per cent to 69.15 per cent while in the WPI, it is only about 25.43 per cent. Therefore, there will be a difference. Unfortunately, the convergence which used to take place after seven to eight months, because of certain reasons, is not taking place. Experts are examining it. At one point of time, we thought of it. Shri Sudip Bandhyopadhyay raised this issue as to why cannot we switch over to Consumer Price Index. We appointed an

Export Committee and they found out that 29 countries in the world are still having both WPI and CPI. In our case, our dearness allowance formula is linked with different types of industrial workers and linked with their Consumer Price Index. Therefore, it is difficult to have convergence of views but still we are working on it. For example, in one particular area, we have made some sort of convergence and there, instead of having separate data collection, we take one data collection and thereafter, juxtapose the weightage in that basket and arrive at a decision.

The short point which I am trying to drive at, Mr. Chairman Sir, is that we are deeply concerned with price-rise. When the prices go high, when people suffer, when essential commodities are not available, definitely, people will not feel happy. People feel angry and frustrated and that will get reflected in the voices of the representatives of the people. But when the prices of potatoes increased and the prices of vegetables increase, it is very difficult for the Union Finance Minister and the Union Agriculture Minister to say it is not so, as because we have seen the scenario. I am sure this is bad management because in one State, I found that when there was over production of potatoes, they could not buy them. There were no adequate storage facilities. They were simply dumped in the streets, traffic was closed and after being spoilt, it created a situation that it even caused some sort of a health hazard....(*Interruptions*) Unfortunately, it sometimes happens.

Therefore, we are doing what we shall have to do. We would like our farmers to get more prices. I know that there is still a mismatch. From the field to the market, there is still a huge mismatch. If you expect it to be done centrally, I am afraid, it is not possible. In our democracy, in our cooperative federalism, it is not possible. What is to be done by the State Governments has to be done by them. What is to be done by the Controller of Monetary Policy and through Credit Policy, or Fiscal Policy to keep up the demand-supply mechanism through export and import windows, will be done by us. But most respectfully, I would like to submit, Mr. Chairman Sir, that what is to

be done by the State Governments will have to be done by the State Governments. If we can do it collectively and together, we will be able to deliver goods. That is the essence of cooperative federalism.

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have called me at an inappropriate time. The Finance Minister of our country has extended the subject so much that it is not possible to conclude it in today's debate. This debate is not related to the fiscal and monetary policy of the country. We will discuss the fiscal management and monetary policy when the supplementary demands will be presented in the House. The subject of discussion was not be price-rise. The subject of the debate is the reasons for increase in consumer items even when the rate of inflation is decreasing. The Members participating in this debate have changed the scope of the debate.

When the overall rate of inflation is 8 per cent, then why the rate of inflation in consumer items which have a direct bearing on the common people is 16.32 per cent. This is not a single subject. The Government of India has a constitutional and legal mandate for the guarantee of food security and price security. The Government of India cannot go back from this responsibility by only resorting to monetary system, fiscal system, import-export and credit policy. I am submitting this when Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs and Minister of Finance is also sitting here. We have to think about it as to who is pocketing the benefits of this price-rise when the farmers are not getting the price of their produce? The biggest question is that when the price of potato was Rs. 2/- per kg. at the time of production, then how it has gone up to Rs. 18 per kilogram in wholesale market and Rs. 28 per kilogram in retail market. Whether this anarchy will continue in this country? Why the Central Government is avoiding its responsibility when consumers are being exploited? There is also fiscal federalism with the political federalism in our country and this is the constitutional responsibility of the Government of India to ensure that there is no anarchy in the country. But the way the prices of consumer goods

[Shri Jagdanand Singh]

have increased it has become a reason for anarchy. The godowns are full but the stocks of the common man are empty. People have no money and prices are soaring. I would like to ask the Minister of Food and Consumer Affairs as to which of their policy is responsible for this situation when inflation is decreasing and prices of consumers goods are increasing? Neither the demand for foodgrains has increased in the country nor the production of foodgrains has decreased. But the hoarding has certainly gone up. The Government of India is responsible for checking the hoardings, it may be done through the State Government but the Central Government cannot shy away from this responsibility. If you are not responsible then why this discussion is going on in the House? You have to understand the feelings of the Parliament and this discussion reminds you of your responsibilities. Our Hon. Minister for Finance has increased the scope of the debate. We have not enough time to have discussion on the subject to that extent but the Central Government should discharge its responsibility. You are importing, you are banning exports, you are doing all the things then why the prices are increasing. Is it not true that this increase in prices is going into the coffers of hoarders? The people of India don't want to escape from paying taxes. You have injected Rs. two lakh crores to improve the financial condition of the country, on one has objection in this regard. The people of India will repay the loan.

I am also not questioning the huge subsidy being paid by the Government of India. I just want to know whether the amount being charged in the name of increased taxes is being deposited by traders in the coffers of the Government? The people of India are paying taxes to run the country but our traders are increasing the prices in the name of increased taxes and charging them from the customers. Who is responsible for this? The Government of India should accept this responsibility. The action of traders is like terrorists. Their tendency to charge exorbitant prices is increasing. The prices at the point of production and the prices at the point of consumption have a huge

difference. If it is not the result of the policies of the Government, then certainly it is the result of the implementation of the policies. Either the Central Government has to take the responsibility or State Government should accept the responsibility on the instruction of the Central Government. The way our Finance Minister tried to conclude the debate is not acceptable to us. That was not the subject of the debate. They cannot deny that consumer are suffering a lot. This debate is not related to their monetary or fiscal policies. This debate is focused towards the economic sufferings of the consumers and behaviour of the traders as terrorists in the country.

The price-rise is not limited to any particular State but it is countrywide. The most powerful institution in our federal structure is the Government of India. The Parliament is omnipotent. That's why we are discussing the subject in the Parliament. The Finance Minister is bound to reply as to how the price will decrease, how the consumers will get relieve?

Mr. Chairman, it is surprising that when the inflation was at 12 per cent, the prices of foodgrains had increased only by 8 per cent. But when the inflation is at little more than one per cent, the prices of foodgrains have gone up by 16.23 per cent. Whether this is not the policy subject, whether this is not the subject related to implementation? Whether the Central or State Governments are not responsible for that? So, we would like to know from the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies if the money is going to the coffers of the nation that has been accumulated through the increased prices of the commodities from the consumers and whether the Government of India are getting taxes on them? Whether your liquidity problem is being solved? Whether your money accumulated on account of increased prices is filling the chests of businessmen and traders.

Terrorism and extortion are not two different things. Where people accumulate beyond their capacity through their power is called extortion and we can term that as terrorism. I say that consumers are reeling under terrorism in this country. We have to identify the terrorists and set

the people of India free from their clutches. We cannot put the discussion to an end by expanding it into a wider sphere. The subjects raised in the Parliament have certain limits and we will have to give replies within those limits.

Sir, I have raised this point within a limited sphere. We all demand replies. The foodstuffs have become dearer, whether the Government of India do not responsible for food security? Whether you are not in a mood to lower down the prices? It is in the news that there is difference of opinions among the Cabinet Ministers over this subject. While one Minister says let the prices rise, which will push the GDP up whereas another Minister says that in order to push up the GDP prices rise should not be allowed to that extent.

Sir, this is the issue of management, not of policies. Whether the Government fails in management, they have to give answers in the Parliament. This House echoes the voice of more than 100 crore people of India. Today, the crores of people of India are raising their voice to check the price-rise of consumer articles, which is going beyond their means. The Godowns are full but the poor are with their empty bellies. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hunger is equally felt by the rich and the poor. The hunger paves way for people to revolt. If the hunger is due to our low production, we will tolerate it that the production is low or it is difficult to feed all. Whether it is not true that our food Minister had claimed that the production of food grains had increased by 5 crores tonnes during his tenure.

Sir, whether it is not true that our Agriculture Minister had said that the production of foodgrains had increased by five crores tonnes during his tenure. If this is true then why there is an increase in the prices? Why there is a difference in demand and supply? My submission is that the demand has not increased rather the supply has decreased. The supply has not decreased due to the low production, it has decreased because the hoarders are hoarding the food articles and thus making the life of the people a hell. Government of India cannot ignore their responsibility, let Pranab da expand the scope of the discussion, but the fact remains that Government of India

should discharge its duties. Be it through States or centre, the people of India must get rid of hunger and price-rise.

[English]

\*SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni) : The current price rising phenomena for the last several month, especially of the essential commodities is a grave concern for all of us. The skyrocketing rise in prices of pulse, which is considered to be basic food item of a poor man, is unprecedented phenomena. Similar is the fate of vegetables items. The steep hike in prices of the food commodities not only affected the middle class but it has severely hit the poor farmer and working class people. The household women are facing great difficulties in managing their day to day affairs. The proportionate rise in income of these people is not enough to meet their daily requirements. No doubt, this increase in prices of food items can be attributed to failure of current monsoon. But, since vast majority of the people of our country are affected by this phenomena, the matter is of grave concern to all of us.

The issue is more serious, since the benefit of rise in essential commodities do not go to the small and marginal farmers of our country. The farmers are not getting due remuneration of their products. Huge profits on these commodities go in the pocket of middlemen. There is an urgent need to streamline the functioning of Central and State Government agencies involved in procurement of these commodities. Efforts may be made to procure products of small and marginal farmers at the reasonable rate. Total ban on the trading activities of the middle men should be imposed in procuring products of small and marginal farmers. These farmers may be encouraged to form co-operative societies in order to get higher remuneration of their product. Directives may be issued to Government. Agencies/Institutions that preference should be given to procure the products of these small farmers. Since, our present Hon'ble Railway Minister has initiated several measures in the interest of poorest among the poor,

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\*Speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

I humbly request her to consider giving a special treatment for transportation of products of small and marginal farmers, where ever facility for transportation of agricultural products is available, so that these farmers can get best remuneration of their products.

Our economy has achieved a remarkable growth despite the recessions all over the world and we got applause from all over the world for this achievement. But, this achievement has no importance if we are unable to provide food articles to a common man at a reasonable price. We have to take care of a common man and see that no one is deprived of food. The concerned Government should invoke Essential Commodities Act to regulate the price of essential commodities. There is an urgent need to streamline the Public Distribution system in every block/district, especially in rural parts of the country as majority of our population live in rural areas. More responsibility should be fixed on the Government officials in order to get proper distribution of the food items through P.D.S. Stern action should be taken against officials, found in adopting malpractices in P.D.S.

There may be scarcity of some essential food items due to sharp fall in their production. If need be, permission may be accorded to import sufficient quantity of these items and every effort may be made by the Central Government/concerned State Government that the same is available to common man at a reasonable price. If need arises, the Government may consider to regulate the price of these items. Stern actions against the traders found in illegal hoarding of essential commodities may be taken by the concerned State Government. The speculative business phenomena in essential food commodities trade is detrimental to whole society. There is need to take appropriate measures to prevent such nefarious activities.

Since, due to global warming phenomena of nature, there will be a drastic change in weather, resulting in acute shortage of water. It seems that after reaping the fruits of "Green Revolution" we are not giving due importance

to the agricultural sector. Keeping in view the rapid increase in population and climate change, there is an urgent need to pay a special attention to this sector. About 60% of our total population is engaged in agricultural sector and earn their livelihood. It seems to me that without adequate growth of agriculture sector; our growth in other sectors is incomplete. Farmers may be encouraged to grow less water consuming nutritious crops. Similarly, they may be educated about the rational use of fertilizers in growing their crops. Researches in the field of agriculture production, particularly keeping in view the common man requirement, may be augmented. Efforts may be made to allocate adequate funds to the agriculture sector. The interest of small and marginal farmers should be protected while formulating agricultural product price policy. Every possible efforts be made to make available adequate power supply to the farmers at a reasonable cost. Adequate numbers of warehouses, cold storages may be made available to the small and marginal farmers at a reasonable cost. Lakhs of tones of cereals are lying rotten in the godowns owned and managed by the Central Government/State Governments due to the lacklusture attitude of their officials as well as lack of other facilities required for preserving these cereals. Adequate measures are required to be taken in this regard. I am sure that our U.P.A. Government will successfully overcome this present temporary phenomena of steep hike in food commodities, which is mainly due to sharp decline in rain fall, affecting the food production in the country and the poor people will not get disappointment.

Finally, it is pertinent to mention here that earlier, our U.P.A. Government had taken some bold steps to improve the economic conditions of small and marginal farmers of the whole country by waiving off Rs. 71 crores farmers loan. Loan taken by these farmers from the Nationalized Banks were waived off throughout the country. However, some of the States Government tried to take credit for the same. It is my humble suggestion that in future, whatever steps is taken by our U.P.A. Government in the interest of small and marginal farmers, the same may be properly publicized by giving wide advertisements/information through elec-

tronic as well as print media, so that the people belonging to these communities, mostly dwelling in remote areas of our country, can get correct and true information about the performance of our Government and they may not be misguided by the false propaganda of the opposition that we have done nothing for them.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion has been initiated regarding the price-rise of essential commodities in the country. Even in the Mansoon Session, this important subject was debate at a length. During that session according to the data placed here; every fourth person of this country is hungry. More than 21 crores population of the second largest country of the world do not get food. Food for an average person in a year has been declined by 34 kilos during the last 10 years. In the year 1999, the per capita consumption of food grains in India was 186 kilograms, which is constantly decreasing. In order to hide the price-rise of the food articles the Government have put the food stuffs into the categories of prices of steels and thus are trying to pull wool over the eyes of the common man.

Sir, I am recalling a line of Ramcharit Manas that — "Jasu Raj Priya Praya Dukhari, So Nrip Awasi Narak Adhikari." The people of the country are dying of hunger, their condition is very pathetic, farmers are committing suicide, workers are not being paid their wages and the data with which the treasury bench and honourable Finance Minister are trying to mislead the House and cheating common people, are very dangerous. They think if common people are not raising their voices against price-rise in that was they are accepting their manipulated data, is not correct. It seems to me a lull before a terrible storm. If there is no sufficient production of food grain in India, an agriculture country, who is responsible than? What is Ministry of Agriculture doing after all? What steps have we taken a boast the agriculture production on the lines with the other countries? In the world world the nature and god have bestowed us with a fertile land and about half of this land is fertile for production.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the honourable House is agree, the proceedings of the House may be extended for an hour.

SEVERAL HONOURABLE MEMBERS: It is all right.

YOGI ADITYA NATH: Sir, the Government are not able to feed the present population of the country so there should be a question mark on the intention of the Government. Today, the gap has widened between the rich and the poor. The rich have become richer and the poor poorer. So long as this inequality continues, anarchy will also persist. This anarchy would lead this society towards naxalism and such turmoil which is beyond our imagination, but this situation is being ignored. One hon'ble Member said that salaries have increased, but how many Government employees have been benefited from the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission? Have the labourers and employees working in private sector got that kind of benefit? Have their wages increased as much as that of Government employees? Will the policies of the nation be formulated only for the five per cent people and rest of the people be totally ignored? When we talk about common man, we mean those 95 per cent people who are farmers and labourers of this country, people who live in hutments, in villages, who are landless and eke out their livelihood with great difficulty but Government never thinks about them.

It is due to this inequality that prices are soaring. Here efforts are being made to mislead the country with the help of figures only. However, the sadder aspect of it is that when hon'ble Prime Minister and hon'ble Minister of Agriculture say that prices will further go up, we find that prices of almost all commodities go up by 20 to 25 per cent in the next week. The rate of sugar was Rs. 12/- per kg. two years ago but today it is being sold at the rate of Rs. 40/- per kg. Hon'ble Minister of Finance was saying a little while ago that the support price of paddy was Rs. 5/- in the year 2003-04 but when the support price was Rs. 5/- rice was available at a price of Rs. 8/- per kg. in the market. Today the support price of paddy has been



[Yogi Aditya Nath]

increased by the Government upto Rs. 10/- but the market price of paddy is much more than this. They say that we would not have enough foodgrains in the near future. When we cannot have enough foodgrains then how can the gap between demand and supply be bridged? Making mention of Uttar Pradesh, I would say that Centers of paddy procurement have not started at any place there. At present the situation in Uttar Pradesh is very bad. The farmers are forced to sell their produce at a rate of Rs. seven or eight per kg. to middleman instead of Rs. 10/- per kg.'s support price. Sugarcane farmers are burning their produce as sugar mill owners, to whom he supplies sugarcane are unable to pay them remunerative price. It is their helplessness as they have to prepare their fields for the next crop and that is why they are burning their produce. They are burning their produce so that they can sow wheat, pulses and oilseeds. This is the condition in Uttar Pradesh. I would like to tell hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that efforts are on to mislead the country with the help of slogans, it must be stopped forthwith. Efforts be made to prevent the country from slipping into anarchy. We should think about 85 per cent people who are poor, helpless and deprived of any Government facilities. Their jobcards have been made under NREGA but they are not given guarantee of work, if anybody has done the work. But they are not given guarantee work, if anybody has done the work. We have seen what was done in the name of NREGA in Uttar Pradesh. The Government said that they would increase the wages up to Rs. 100/- but Rs. 60/- it still being paid and not Rs. 100/-. The Government have talked about increasing the wages by Rs. 40/- but it has not been done yet. If the Government of India does not keep its promise, I don't think that needy people would be able to take benefit of such programmes.

Sir, through you, I would like to request hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that he being the Minister of Agriculture, he makes Statement regarding prices. He made a Statement about the prices of sugar and its price has reached upto Rs. 30 to 36 and in the retail market it is being sold at

a price of Rs. 40 per kg. This is the same sugar which was available at a price of Rs. 15 and 16 per kg. earlier but at present it is being sold at Rs. 40 per kg. Similarly, the prices of pulses are also sky rocketing. After all where will common man go? It is in this House we should think about common man. Policy need to be formulated keeping in mind not only the Government employees and persons associated with the Government but also those who are unemployed, landless, labourers, private mill workers, hawkers. The fire of soaring prices is increasing. We should come out of illusion that that the common man is not reacting as skill there is brisk demand. The common man believes in doing rather than saying. It may be the lull before the storm. It appears to me that it may lead to a political Tsunami. Both this anarchy and corruption are destroying the country. I would certainly like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture. We need to be decisive – those who are neutral will also be held responsible. Hon'ble Minister belongs to that area of Maharashtra where many farmers have committed suicide and at that time he had announced a relief package. Several farmers had committed suicide in Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand region. Several farmers have also committed suicide in Karnataka. Such suicides are continuously taking place. I think due to such policies of the Government the farmers have no option but to commit suicide. Presently it has happened with the sugarcane farmers. Keeping such situation in mind, I once again appeal the Government to take strong steps to control rising prices and all kinds of hoarding. I would like to request Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that there is a need to control rising prices and to take strong action for this.

[English]

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (Sikkim): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in such an important discussion. It is no doubt a very grave situation. But I would like to also make a point out here that we have discussed price-rise in many parts of the country but, I think, one of the parts of the country which has not seen representation in today's

discussion is the States like Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and those States which are border States in the North-East where the price-rise is, in fact, more phenomenal than any other part of the country.

I can give you an example that today if we are talking of potato here which is now being sold at Rs. 35/- per kilogram, I think, in my State, Sikkim, we are grappling with the situation where potato is now being sold at over Rs. 40/- per kilogram. So, in all, whenever there is inflationary tendency in other parts of the country, the mountain States are affected that much more because being border States they are more in consumption States and, therefore, all the food items which are not grown locally necessarily have to be brought from outside, and so, there is the additional burden of transportation.

I would like to bring another aspect in this House that when I discussed with the Chairman of the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices, I asked a question as to whether any survey of costs and prices of commodities which are grown in the mountains was done and he replied in the negative. So, Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to bring this to the attention of the Government that it is high time that we brought some of the commodities which are grown in the mountains under the scanner of the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices. This will have a two-pronged effect. It will also bring these commodities under the scanner of what the inputs are and, therefore, the Government can respond in a much better manner to the needs of the farmers in these mountain States like Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Now, I do not want to get into the hardships faced by the mountain people but the very fact that you live in a more difficult terrain adds to the overall burden. Therefore, the response of the Government needs to be differentiated in that sense. I would request that an instrument be thought of which can have a differentiated kind of a response mechanism to the increase in the costs and prices of commodities and other essential items in the mountain States.

The final thing that I would bring to the attention of the House – so much has been discussed but I am just giving one or two points which need to be addressed and need to be brought to the attention of the House – is this. When you have States like Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and other States which are border States, the fact is that you need to look at the prices which our poor people are paying out there because this should not become another issue on which there is any more social problem that can be created in the border areas.

With these words, I would like to conclude but at the same time I would also like to say that we are fully with the Government and we know that the Government will respond in full measure to the rising costs and prices.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Before participating in this debate, I would like to raise a basic question. How many times this subject has been discussed in the previous Lok Sabha i.e. Fourteenth Lok Sabha and Fifteenth Lok Sabha. But did UPA Government check the rising prices? Did farmers get fertilizers, seeds and pesticides at subsidized rate? The answer is in negative.

Recently, a news came through media that there are two lobbies in the Cabinet regarding price control. One lobby which is pro-American emphasises to concentrate only on growth. Do not tinker with price-rise, do not impose any control on market. If you will tinker with one, the second will come up. In such situation if the Government will interfere the result would be disastrous one.

The second point which this lobby maintains is that despite rise in prices, business is increasing in the market. Business of companies is increasing. In such situation there is no need to worry about rising prices.

The second lobby says Government should check rising prices. It is dangerous for both common man and

[Shri Kaushalendra Kumar]

UPA Government. Ways suggested by this lobby are as under:—

1. In present scenario, the Government should decide the maximum limit of price-rise. If prices increase above the said limit, the Government should take stringent steps immediately.
2. Relief packages can be provided to the industries in order to improve growth rate in figures.
3. In view of mismatch between demand and supply the Government can justify the prices by exercising its rights in the retail market.
4. Increasing fiscal deficit can be overlooked for some time.

Common man is unable to make both ends meet due to exorbitant increase in the prices in the prices in the country. Prices are rising in the country by leaps and bounds. The prices of common food items like flour, rice, pulses, sugar, oil and vegetable ghee and other commodities of daily use like tea, soap, salt are increasing incessantly. Government is unable to control this. Blackmarketeers, hoarders and adulterators are making huge profits by taking advantage of the increasing prices. The prices of vegetables are skyrocketing. Onion, and potato are being sold at the rates of apple and apple is being sold like cashew. Farmers, employees, workers, dalits, backward castes, tribals who are badly affected with the all-around price-rise have reached on the verge of starvation and the State of penury. Lower middle class and indigent families are able to get food only after several days which is causing multifold increase in malnutrition, mental and physical disabilities and condition of frailty among people. Through this august house I would like to ask the Government whether UPA Government is in awe of pro-American lobby. Because of this, interests of poor people, workers, farmers, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward castes,

extremely backward castes, minorities, lower middle class are being ignored.

I would like to ask the Government the reasons for not checking the price-rise. Whether you take decision under the US pressure. 70% people of India are farmers. Therefore, It is the duty of Government to take care of their interests.

\*SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion under Rule 193 on rising prices of essential commodities, initiated by Shri Rajeev Ranjan Singh and Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi. Sir, it may be noted that the impact of steps taken to control price-rise of essential commodities cannot be seen immediately. The present scenario has arisen as a result of decisions taken by the previous Governments. Due to the bad impact on manufacturing sector, which also affected non-manufacturing sector, the present situation has arisen. I find that there is a need to improve conditions of our farmers, be it irrigation facilities, minimum support price or marketing facilities.

18.15 hrs.

[SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA *in the Chair*]

When we take up these responsibilities, we will be in a position to control prices and provide essential commodities at reasonable prices to common people. Because of the decisions and comprehensive plans made by UPA Chairperson Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Ministers for Finance and Agriculture, through the measures to benefit farmers and common people, we are in a position to sustain our GDP growth rate. That's why we are able to withstand inflation, which is appreciable. As we have a responsibility to provide essential commodities to common people, we should make short term as well as long term plans. By enhancing minimum support prices for wheat and rice to around

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

Rs. 1000 per quintal, which used to be around Rs. 550, we have extended moral support to our farming community. As a result, farmers are now encouraged to take up farming. Sir, we witness natural disasters like floods and drought, which adversely affect our agriculture. We need to work on seasonal and unseasonal crops as alternative options. There are perishable goods, for which we should have enough cold storage. Such facilities will help in the long run and adequate funds should be provided to individuals setting up cold storage. Apart from rice, wheat and potato, milk is another major produce. If we look at milk procurement, in my district around 7 lakh litres of milk is procured. Outsiders procure this milk and as a result farmers are deprived of remunerative price. If they have to buy milk for their personal use, they buy it at double the price. Milk storage facilities should be set up in such places, where milk is procured in large quantities. By doing so, we will be giving support to milk producers. Through National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, we can control migration and make optimum use of unused land. We should concentrate on horticulture. UPA Government has waived off Rs. 71000 crores of farmers' loans, and is providing loan at the interest rate of 3%. By providing disease resistant crops we can increase productivity.

\*There should be a comprehensive plan for land development. Waste land should be brought under use. Under Public Distribution Scheme, rice is being distributed at Rs. 3 per Kg, and all BPL families are being covered under AAY (Antyodaya Anna Yojana). Middle class families are suffering due to price-rise of essential commodities. There should be reduced or zero import duty on sugar and edible oils. There should be temporary ban on the export of essential commodities. Irrigation facilities should be given priority, so that lakhs of acres of land can be brought under irrigation, which will in turn contribute significantly to our GDP. Babu Jagjivan Ram Sujala Sravanthi irrigation project, which will provide irrigation facilities to 12 lakh acres of land in Polavaram may be accorded the status of a National Project. Major irrigation projects, which are

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\*English translation of the speech originally laid on the Table in Telugu.

the brain child of our beloved leader late Sri Y.S. Rajashekhara Reddy, may be granted adequate funds. It will be a major boon to the farming community and agriculture. With my humble request to the Central Government to grant adequate funds for the irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh, I conclude my speech.\*\*

\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat):  
Hon. Chairman sir, today I will take two minutes more because I will have to reply to a few questions raised by hon. Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee. After India got independence, it was the Congress party which mooted the issue of 'food for all'. Therefore it introduced the system of modified rationing, statutory rationing and PDS. But I am astonished to find that now, when the prices of all commodities are spiralling, Congress is very indifferent. This issue was raised in the parliamentary committee held in August. It was assured at that time that GDP is increasing, inflation is decreasing and so prices would also come down gradually. But what is the ground reality? We can very well see that price of foodgrains has increased by 22%, price of potato has increased by 104%, that of sugar, onion and pulses have increased by 45%, 25% and 35% respectively. So people are asking that why are the prices rising so sharply; what is the Government doing there; whether they will be able to survive or not. About 72% of the population of our country almost starve everyday and they want a proper reply from the Government.

Why did the Congress party deviate from its slogan of 'food for all'? It did so because during the regime of late Prime Minister Shri Narsimha Rao it adopted the policy of liberalisation. In 1994, hon. Finance Minister signed the WTO agreement in Morocco and subsequently deregulated 1421 commodities. As a result the national and international hoarders began large scale hoarding practices. The PDS system-distribution system entirely collapsed. I don't even know whether the Essential Commodities Act exists now or not. But the traders got an impetus to make more profits by any means and the prices of commodities

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\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Prasanta Kumar Majumdar]

started shooting through the roof. The Government completely lost the control over the market.

However this is not the sole responsibility of the Central Government; the state Government too have certain roles to play. But it is a matter of policy decision. The prices are rising not only because of the production and supply mismatch but mostly because of the policies. We always look forward to the imperialist country i.e. America.

We are following the instructions of USA blindly and are upholding the liberalisation policy with much fanfare. Prices are rising because of this.

One more menace is the practice of internal and outer forward trading, which is resulting in higher prices. Finance Minister says that he has fixed the minimum support price of Rs. 900 but does he know that no cultivator in West Bengal received more than Rs. 700 or Rs. 750. Hon. Minister should try to know all these things. I took the floor to inform him that the farmers did not get the amount declared and it is his duty to find out the facts.

With the increasing population, prices will become steeper. Then how will the people survive? What will they eat? The entire House should unanimously resolve to do something for the countrymen. I visit many places and I came to know that the ration card distribution mechanism is also faulty. 50% of the cards are held up with the ration dealers. All of them have to be taken away from their hands. Moreover 14 essential commodities should be supplied through the rationing system. Even the BPL cards are full of mistakes. These are grabbed by the persons who do not actually figure in the BPL list. The Government had assured that the mistakes would be rectified within 100 days of coming to power. Nothing has been done so far. The Essential Commodities Act should be implemented as soon as possible; hoarding should be banned. The Central Government and the State Government should work in tandem with each other to take concrete steps to help the people. Otherwise the prices will continue to rise and the common people of this country will continue to suffer.

With these words, I thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me opportunity to speak on price-rise. The way the prices of essential commodities have increased and the way prices are skyrocketing, it surely has become a big problem for the poor people to sustain their livelihood and eke out their living. My several senior colleagues have put forward their views in this regard. I would like to bring into your notice towards the poor people living in villages who earn their living through daily wages. It has become difficult for them to sustain their life due to price-rise. We find that recently the prices have risen at an alarming rate in the last week, in fact if we take a look at the last few months, prices have increased at a fast pace with each passing day. Today price-rise comes to 65%. It has made records during the last week whether it is rice, sugar, wheat, flour, onion, milk or vegetables. Prices of everything have been skyrocketing. It has become difficult for common man to sustain his life.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is duty of the Union Government to curb the spiralling prices. Problem being faced by the poor in earning their livelihood should be taken care of. Hon'ble Finance Minister have just now put across some facts in his speech. He talked about the responsibilities of the Union Government and the State Governments. While agreeing with his Statement I would only say that the economic policy for the country is formulated by the Union Government. It is the responsibility of the State Government of implement the same. But, today since the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is sitting in the House, I would like him to know that 80 per cent people of this country living in villages are dependent on agriculture. Main occupation of 60% of villages is agriculture. This is sowing season for crops and there is shortage of manure. Even DAP manure is not available in villages. There is also shortage of urea. This matter was discussed in the House. There was commotion and walk out. Citing data, the Hon'ble Minister stated that their supply is as per demand.

But if we go to the villages and see for ourselves we find that the people have to queue up and among themselves to get manure. It is not available there. It sowing will not take place in time, if good seed will not be procured.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jagdambika Pal ji, you have delivered your speech. Please sit down.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Sir, you go to the villages and see for yourself....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jagdambika Pal ji, please sit down. Why do you stand up every time?

[English]

Nothing will go on record except Shri Gorakhnath Pandey's speech.

...(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Sir, accusations and counter accusation will neither reduce the inflation nor the problem of the farmers will be solved. If it is being said that manure is being supplied to the villages, one can go there and see the facts. One has to see the problems being faced by the farmers living in villages....(Interruptions) They are not getting DAP and seeds and you are saying that supply is being made. Data are being shown to us that supply is as per demand. Accusations are there and it is easy to do so. It is the responsibility of the Union Government and the Minister for Agriculture. Indian economy is based on agriculture. If we will not improve its condition, the inflation will keep on increasing. Today, the farmers need good seed, irrigation facility and manure and they should be taken care of. Also, the increase in prices and the way people are storing the commodities should be taken care of.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request the Hon'ble

Minister, through Chair, that the increasing price-rise be checked so as to secure the life of common man. With these words, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Brijbhushan Sharan Singh.

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (Kaiserganj): Mr. Chairman, as I am the youngest one, nobody will interfere in my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Brijbhushan Sharan Singh, You have already laid your written speech on the Table. So, you can't speak on the same matter again. Rules don't permit that you speak on the same matter again. If you had to speak on it you should not have laid your speech on the Table. Therefore, please sit down.

Now, Mr. Pralhad Joshi.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad): Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important issue. To begin with I remember an article reflecting the economy of Zimbabwe under Robert Mugabe. A picture of a vegetable vendor was there in the Internet. He was shown carrying a basketful of bundles of currency notes in a can basket on his head after selling his small quantity of vegetables. Anybody can understand the plight of that economy and the high price of very small quantity of the vegetables that he had sold and still walking despite having basketful of notes. I am afraid, if we go in the same direction and in the same manner, India will also have the same plight.

I would just like to remind one thing to the Government through you. In the Fourteenth Lok Sabha I was there and hon. Sharad Pawarji was also there. We have discussed in almost every Session or at least in every alternative Session about the issue of price-rise. Every time a regular reply, a ready reply – like *Satyanarayana Katha* – used to be given. The reply used to be that – 'inflation is a universal phenomenon; there is the problem of crude oil, the price of crude oil in the international market has

[Shri Pralhad Joshi]

reached its highest level and it is reaching sky'. The ultimate reply was – 'we are going to arrest it, we are going to control it'.

But, what has happened? In the last five years the same thing was continued. I would like to ask the hon. Minister one thing. Just now the hon. Minister of Finance intervened in the debate. He referred to the crude oil price in the international market. I would like to ask one thing. After the melt down, what is the price of crude oil today? It has touched the very lowest level in the recent past. Despite that, the prices of all the essential commodities did not come down. The price of crude oil came down to 50 dollars a barrel, it was varying between 40 and 50 dollars a barrel. Take the prices of essential commodities in the entire world. The inflation was down. But only exceptionally in India, under the Consumer Price Index, it was more. Why is it so? Is it not a mismanagement?

Sir, he was also telling about demand-supply mismatch. I would like to say one thing. Hundred million tonnes of rice is produced which is almost self-sufficient for India. The same is the case with wheat. We have our own buffer stocks in both sugarcane and sugar which is also good and we have also imported sugar.

Despite all these things, why is the inflation so high and why are the prices of essential commodities reaching the sky? I would request them to look at the WPI. In 2003-04, it was 5.6 per cent; in 2004-05, it was 6.2 per cent; in 2005-06, it was 3.1 per cent; in 2006-07, it was 4.4 per cent; in 2007-08, it was 5.0 per cent; and in 2008-09, it was 8.1 per cent. Let us also look at the CPI. It was 3.8 per cent in 2003-04 and 2.6 per cent in 2004-05, while in the year 2009-10, it has reached 9.1 per cent. In such a situation, they are claiming that it is just because of the crude oil. The same reply was given during the discussion in the 14th Lok Sabha also that it was because of crude oil.

Now, it is being told that it is due to the economic meltdown. If the prices are rising due to economic

meltdown why is China not suffering from the same problem. why are other countries like Japan not facing the same problem? Inflation rate in those countries is quite less and prices of essential commodities in those countries are available in the internet. They are quite less and are far below in comparison to rates prevailing in India.

Mr. Chairman, through you, I would request the Government to have a look at the figures. I do not know from where Shri Adhir Chowdhury of the Congress Party got the price of Rs. 22 for rice. Let him support it. Today the price of rice is between Rs. 35 and Rs. 40. This rate is not quoted by me; it is quoted by many of the leading periodicals and magazines. It is even available in internet and it is between Rs. 35 and Rs. 40.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude and take your seat.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : Sir, I lay the remaining part of my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay.

\*SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI : To begin with I remember an article, reflecting on the economy of Robert Mogabe's rule in Zimbabwe and a picture depicting the kind of economy people experience in that country.

A vegetable vender was shown carrying a basket full of bundle of currency notes in a can basket on his head after selling his small quantity of vegetables. This anybody can understand the plight of economy and high price of the very small quantity of the vegetables that he had sold and still walking despite of having basket full of notes.

I fear, in our country today, far are not the days of finding on the roads such vegetable vendors commonly. If the present feat of price-rise continues, our economy will be in shambles.

It is admitted fact our U.P.A. Government is conveniently depicting only Wholesale Price Index and

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\*...\*This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

boasting that it has reached 'O' Point while the food prices are skyrocketing plunging the poorer section and middle class Indians into a deep dips of darkness. After 60 years now they are telling whether the calculation of inflation on WPI is right or wrong.

Look at the comparative WPI and CPI since 2003-04 to 2008-09 which is indicative of the performance of this UPA Government's, term 1&2 on economic front and still boasts of Congress Ka Hatth Aam Adami ke Saath.

#### Whole Sale Price Index

(1) 2003-04	5.6
(2) 2004-05	6.2
(3) 2005-06	3.1
(4) 2006-07	4.4
(5) 2007-08	5.0
(6) 2008-09	8.1

#### Consumer Price Index

(1) 2003-04	3.8
(2) 2004-05	2.6
(3) 2005-06	3.9
(4) 2006-07	7.5
(5) 2007-08	7.2
(6) 2008-09	10.6
(7) 2009-10	9.1

Look at the some of the food items prices then and now.

	During N.D.A. Government (2004)		During U.P.A. Government	
	Rs.		Rs.	
	1	2	1	2
(1) Rice	11.50 kg.		40.00 kg.	
(2) Wheat	11.50 kg.		25.00 kg.	

	1	2
(3) Atta	10.50 kg.	26.00 kg.
(4) Tur Dal	30.00 kg.	90.00 kg.
(5) Gram Dal	21.67 kg.	45.00 kg.
(6) Milk	21.00 Ltr.	32.00 kg.
(7) Edible Oil	64.00 kg.	90.00 kg.
(8) Potato	6.50 kg.	25.00 kg.
(9) Onion	12.50 kg.	25.00 kg.
(10) Sugar	18.00 kg.	35.00 kg.

On the basis of the above, the new slogan is coined: inflation is dead long live high prices. In August-2008, the W.P.I. had reached its ever high, that is 13% which was historical in 32 years and not stood at a negative 0.18 as per the statistics available. However, while the headline inflation rate has been creeping downwards, the index for primary articles moved up by 1.1 percent in the same week due to rise in prices of fruits, vegetables and other food articles in the last few weeks. It means average Indian households have to shell out 40-45 percent more for groceries. In a common man's understanding, inflation is a price-rise or a rise in the general level of prices of goods and services in an economy over a period of time.

Indian uses WPI figures to gauge inflation trends, while world over CPI inflation data is used. It is always natural this Government prefers this system, because it is for easier to manipulate WPI Index than CPI Index.

Worldwide, CPI inflation has fallen but in India it rules still in double digits. International data shows a falling trend in food item prices. As per world statistics CPI inflation on food is going down internationally.

What is more strange is the pre-election dip in food prices in agri-commodities in Maharashtra fell around. At the same time two weeks post Maharashtra election food articles prices seem to have tripled from the pre-election



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dip. More strange naturally is high food prices are still not reflected in the overall rate of inflation since primary articles enjoy a weightage of 22.02 percent. In calculating WPI in this calculation the Government presumes that the common man spends almost 80% on.

It is unfortunate that the food prices have been negated by the falling prices of fuel and manufactures products. Siddarth Roy, Chief Economist, Tata Groups, says that food prices, which directly affect the common man, are still very high. In February the index for primary articles went up by 7.5%.

The Government is busy playing up the low WPI, while the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which actually reflects the burden on the consumer's pocket, is still very high. The WPI is testing near zero levels and the CPI is near double-digit levels.

In January, the CPI was at 11.35 per cent while WPI was at 5.2 per cent and in February, the CPI came down marginally to 9.63 while WPI fell to 3.6 per cent. The two inflation indices have never been in such contrast as they are today. Thus, food and beverages enjoy a weight of 46 per cent, while calculating this index, as they form a large part of the common industrial worker's expenditure.

At present, the CPI and the WPI are completely divergent, and Abheek Barua, Chief Economist, HDFC Banks, says "Given that a large part of the population is impacted by high food prices, the disconnect between food prices and inflation is not good for the economy". For poor households, 70-80 per cent of expenditure is on food and even for relatively richer households, food is a major segment, and any index that does not reflect this trend is unlikely to give an accurate picture on inflation.

High food prices are also crucial for the revival of the economy. Food being a critical component of an industrial worker's wage basket, industry cannot renegotiate wages till food prices came down. Going forward, the situation

is not likely to improve as the Reserve Bank of India expects inflation to bounce back to 4 per cent by March 2010. But why are food prices still so high? The primary reasons is clearly the demand-supply mismatch. Over the last decade, India's food production has not kept pace with the increase in consumption. For instance, foodgrain production has increased only by 17.20 per cent in the last eight years from 196.81 million tonnes in 2001 to 230.67 million tones in 2008. Explains Ajit Ranade, Chief Economist at the Aditya Birla Group: "Food prices reflect the gap between demand and supply and changing consumption patterns. India needs to focus on its supply-side strategy. Food productivity will have to be enhanced if India does not want to import food. "Besides, years of neglect have brought Indian agriculture to a point where productivity is perhaps the lowest." S. Sivakumar, Divisional Chief Executive of ITC's Agri Business Division, says: "More investments in research and extension is the key to improving productivity of crops in the long run."

An average housewife winces each time she looks at the wholesale price index numbers or the inflation rate put out by the government. "Those numbers are nothing but a cruel joke".

The countless Indian middle class families, has reasons to feel worried. Her household budget on staples like Rice, Wheat, Tur (Arhar) and Sugar has gone up by an average 65 per cent in the past one year, though income has remained stagnant at last year's level.

For example, the fair average quality rice was available at Rs. 24 a kg around the same time last. This has shot up to Rs. 38 per kg now, even though India produces about 100 million tonnes of rice every year, which can comfortably meet the domestic demand. Since export of non-basmati rice has been banned, the domestic availability remained as it was last year.

A representative of All India Rice Exporters Association, held panic statements by ministers responsible for the price hike. Both Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Agriculture Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar first said that

India had sufficient foodgrain to feed everybody for 13 to 14 months in case there was a drought. Within a few days, Mukherjee told Parliament that the country required to import 15 million tonne of foodgrain including rice and wheat to meet this season's demand as domestic output is set to fall 5 to 10 per cent.

The confusing statements prompted many traders to hold on to their inventories in anticipation of higher price yields. Further the rise in wheat prices has also bothered housewives. The government has claimed that it has handled wheat stocks efficiently and production has been normal at around 78 million tonnes against consumption of 76 million tonnes. Yet, each kg of wheat has increased Rs. 6-8 since last year.

Sugar prices have more than doubled to Rs. 34 a kg from Rs. 16 a year ago, forcing many consumers to halve the monthly intake from 1 kg per person to 500 grams.

According to estimates, the average per capita consumption of rice and wheat in an Indian family is 7 kgs each and that of Tur 1 kg.

Last year, sugar availability in the country was almost at par with consumption at 23.5 million tonnes. Since the Ministry of Agriculture has permitted free raw sugar import by private companies also, there is no reason why supply could not meet the demand and thereby control prices.

Officials said the reasons behind the sudden rise are lesser area under sugarcane, global rise in prices and hoarding by traders. The area under sugarcane has been reduced to 400,000 hectares. This is due to delayed monsoon and lower sugarcane prices last year. Officials however said the price-rise is not in proportion to the decline in production.

On pulses, stagnant production had led to the price-rise. Import-dependent India has seen around 2.5 times increase in pulse prices in the past one year. The country's increasing demand for pulses due to the rise in population has resulted in an increase in net imports from about

460,000 tones in 1998-99 to over 2 million tonnes in 2008-09. This is likely to go up if serious attention is not given to increasing production. The government owes an explanation to all this.

So, who is responsible for this distorted economy of the country distorted in the sense quite reflected in the position that inflation has reached its ever lowest that is plunging into negative place but still the food prices are sky rocketing.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, the past Finance Minister Shri Chidambaram and present Finance Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee is the trio who owe an explanation to the country.\*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir, after the impact of Tsunami Shri Sharad Pawarji has visited Andaman and Nicobar Islands to which I belong. People call it Kaala Pani. Let us once again go there and ensure that people no more call it Kaala Pani. Shri Sharad Pawarji may please do something in this regard. With this hope and expectation, I express my views.

On 4th June, 2009 hon'ble President and mentioned in her Address about the food security and also raised concern in this regard. The same thing was reiterated by the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on 15th August. He talked about the food security. I make a mention of what he had said on that day; "No even a single citizen of India should ever go hungry". No one in India should go hungry. He had further added: 'We resolve to root out malnutrition from our country'. Nobody should be affected by malnutrition in the country. Keeping it in view, I am making a request to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, he is present here, and what is happening in this country? First of all, the prices of commodities have risen. The Minister of Finance himself mentioned it. He expressed his concern over price-rise. He also said that the answer lies in improving the PDS mechanism and then we can have a way-out. If we go

[Shri Bishnu Pada Ray]

further, the question arises also to what is happening with the PDS. I compare Andaman and Nicobar with other parts of the country. I regret to call it Kaala Pani and hope that the Minister of Food will do justice to it. In Mizoram, a person belonging to APL gets 16 kilograms of rice. In Puducherry, comparatively more quantity of rice is given to persons belonging to APL. In Lakshadweep, a quantity of eight kilograms of rice per person is given. The crops in Andaman and Nicobar Islands which the Minister himself visited were inundated with water during Tsunami. In Nicobar Islands there is no production of rice. There, the rice under PDS was available seven kilograms per person which has now been limited to Five kilograms per person. Is this what we call improving the mechanism of PDS? You please improve the mechanism of PDS in the name of the poor but the definition of poverty has not been elucidated.

What is happening in Andaman and Nicobar? Punni rice is supplied from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. In our country, the price of rice is Rs. 30/- per kilogram. In the last point of India, there is an area named Indira Point at Cambhal bay near Indonesia bearing the name of former Prime Minister India Gandhi. When the rice priced at Rs. 30 per kilogram in Port Blair reaches Cambhal-bay its price rises to Rs. 40 per kilogram. If an entry is to be made in the Guinness Book of world records regarding the prices of rice in India, let us go to Andaman and Nicobar. Wheat flour is purchased at the rate of Rs. ten to twelve rupees per kilogram while in our Island wheat flour is available in packets. The wheat flour packets are supplied from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Wheat is not produced there, there is no winter season at this place. The same wheat flour is priced at Rs. thirty per kilogram in Port Blair. When it reaches the last point of the country, the price of one kilogram of wheat flour touches Rs. forty per kilo...*(Interruptions)* Sami ji, you are welcome. You are a very good friend of mine also. I am asking you to kindly pay a visit to our area. I had approached the Government of Delhi, I was looking forward to talk to the authorities there. Under open market sale scheme, Government of

India, Ministry of Food and Public Distribution decided to supply wheat in open market. The Government of Delhi has formulated a scheme, on the lines of your scheme named whole wheat fortified flour which means the wheat after grinding is fortified with vitamins, and this flour is being sold by the Government of Delhi. This was the scheme. At which price is wheat flour sold in Delhi? The price of 10 kilogram of wheat flour packet is Rs. 139 in Delhi and there is no requirement of ration cards in the regard. Then the words of the Prime Minister will certainly prove true that no one will die of starvation and nobody will fall prey to malnutrition. I would like to make a request to the Minister of Finance to ensure that the wheat flour is sold in Andaman and Nicobar and other parts of the country at the rate of Rs. 13.90 per kilogram at which it is being sold in Delhi by the Government of Delhi so that the people belonging to Kaala Pani do not have to purchase wheat flour at the rate of Rs. forty per kilogram. You should implement this in the entire country but at the same time, give special attention to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. There is no Assembly there, our Minister of Food Shri Sharad Pawar is here with us. There is no one in between. This is my first case.

Sir, the hon'ble Member of CPM had rightly said that pulses and edible oil should be supplied under PDS. If oil and pulses are not sold to the people under PDS, can anyone consume pulses at hundred rupees? Today, Anganwadi workers and the helpers are the worst hit by the price-rise. They were the most affected people. The poor children who are studying in Anganwadi centres are not getting nutritious food. Where did the price-rise hit? The mid-day meal scheme got hit. Lord Krishna was born in someone's house and Yasodha Maiya brought him up. Anganwadi workers is like Yasodha Maiya. What do we give them — Four rupees, three rupees? Give them protein, give them calories. If we take into account the value of protein and calorie contents, it will come to Rs. eight to ten in respect of protein in snacks at Anganwadi and also in respect of nutrients and you will give them Rs. three, calories have been fixed in respect of the mid-day meals, proteins have also been fixed. An amount of Rs. five is

given in Andaman. Will anyone get proteins with the amount? That's why I am saying this, our Minister of Food is present here and if we name it one the Prime Minister, the name of the Government will remain attached to it. The slogan of Indira Gandhi i.e. food, clothes and shelter for all will go on and 'remove poverty' will also be a part of the slogan. This time you came to power, next time people will go for a change. Please keep it in mind....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Lastly, I would like to talk about sugar. I had shown you, bargaining of sugar is taking place in Andaman and Nicobar seas. These are not my words, Shri Abul Kalam Saheb had visited the place. Also a defence meeting was held, senior delegates of the Government went there. It was regarding security and development and also the meeting was held for assessing the threat posed by China in Andaman and Nicobar. As a Coast Guard Officer said in the meeting what, had shown to Sharad Pawarji, a Korean ship MV-MU-San, North-Korean ship was transporting Sugar to Iraq, Oman by way of Andaman seas and there was no option to offload sugar in India or in Colombo. Our Government had made an announcement that Sugar would be imported and import duty would also be reduced. Keeping this in view, the Korean ship was positioned in Hadway Island in Andaman. The Coast Guard intercepted the ship and made enquiries. They said that the ship was withheld there because our Government would remove import duty, we will not sell the sugar to Oman and Iraq. The price of sugar is on the rise sugar was off loaded in India. Why the price of IMFL's is not increase in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The price of alcohol not is not rising but the price of sugar is increasing. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your last point has been completed. How many times it will be the last point, last time happens for one time only.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: I do not know if the Government is really worried. Sixty years have gone by. Ideas of Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi should be kept in mind only then it would be meaningful to sit in the Government.

I want to mention four points. The Government of Delhi is selling flour at wholesale rate of 13 rupees 90 paise per kg. You give this to Andaman, to Lakshadweep. None should starved, increase the right quota in APL. People should get pulses and edible oils in the ration shops. Rates of petrol, diesel are different in Bengal, compared to other place. Bring equal rates in petrol, diesel and then the rates of commodities will be alright.

The Minister of Food Shri Sharad Power is sitting here. You have seen India. You should see Andaman Nicobar and then consider this matter keeping that in mind.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been very carefully listening to the discussion in the House on the issue of prices of essential commodities. In fact, during the last Session also this particular subject was discussed and I had the opportunity to apprise the House of the overall monsoon position, delayed rains, and its impact on Indian agriculture, particularly on production and productivity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset let me assure the House that moderating inflation and robust and all-inclusive growth are the two most important policy plans of this Government. The Government is also committed that the farmers all over the country will receive fair and remunerative prices and that the terms of trade will be maintained in favour of the farmer. Therefore, the Government has been working on two policy planks – one to give a boost to the agriculture and second to insulate the vulnerable sections of the society, especially those who come below poverty line, and target the population under

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Antyodaya Anna Yojana without adversely affecting the growth momentum necessary for the socioeconomic development of the country. The Government is very much concerned about the rising prices, particularly of food.

I do not want to comment on this – this is such an important subject which was discussed in the House for hours together, but unfortunately, those who initiated this discussion have some more important responsibilities outside the House and that is why, I am not feeling their presence here.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Ghatal) : We are all here.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Certainly. You have not initiated; I said, 'those who initiated this'.

Before I go into the dynamics of inflation, there are certain points that I want to place before the House. Over the past two years, there have been certain developments in the farm sector which are often forgotten. There have been quantum jumps in the MSP; the farmers are getting better prices; they are empowered and are able to make informed decisions on the timing and the pricing of their produce; they are also able to make informed decisions on the next crop that is to be cultivated; they are finally getting their dues also.

I shall very briefly mention the overall background of the inflationary pressure on the economy, as well as the anti-inflationary measures that the Government has taken. The world food situation is being rapidly identified by the new driving forces; that is, income growth, climate change, globalization, urbanization and food consumption, production and market.

Hon. Members are aware that we have passed through very difficult times over the past years. World financial and commodity markets were experiencing sharp decline; due to financial integration, the uncertainty of the global financial situation was transmitted to the countries outside

the epicentre of the crisis and thus, impacted on the Indian economy. The real GDP growth declined, with a deceleration in growth spread across the three sectors – agriculture, allied activities, industries and services.

RBI took measures in expanding rupee liquidity. Taken together, the measures put in place since mid-September 2008 have ensured that the Indian financial market continued to function in an orderly manner. At a macro level, the Government intensified its efforts on procuring as much food grains as possible from the local market. A record of 55.58 million tonnes of food grains – that is, 33.1 million tonnes of rice and 22.57 million tonnes of wheat was procured in 2008-09.

I may remind the hon. Members that this is the highest ever procurement since Independence. During November 2008-October 2009, India also imported substantial quantities of edible oil, amounting to 8.2 million tonnes, an increase by 46 per cent over the last year. Similarly, in the period April 2008 to March 2009, 2.44 million tonnes of pulses were imported to improve the domestic availability. During April-October of the current year, 1.59 million tonnes of pulses have been imported, compared to 1.32 million tonnes in the corresponding period of last year. These imports aided by Government policy of allowing them at zero import duty, have had a moderating influence on the prices of the commodities.

I shall now come to the basic scenario regarding the inflation of essential commodities today. Hon. Members are aware that the UPA Government has successfully been able to tame the inflation as measured by the WPI. The annual rate of inflation based on the monthly WPI stood at 1.34 per cent for the month of October 2009 as compared to 11.6 per cent during the corresponding month of the previous year. I am actually aware that inflation in food articles is currently about 11.55 per cent. I must remind the House that one of the mandates of this Government's manifesto has been to offer remunerative prices to the farmers. In tune with the mandate, the Government has increased the Minimum Support Price of wheat from Rs. 640 per quintal to Rs. 1100 that is 72 per cent rise

and in the case of paddy, common variety, from Rs. 560 per quintal to Rs. 1000 per quintal, that is 79 per cent increase that too between 2004-05 and 2009-10. I can read out the figures for the essential commodities but I do not wish to take the time of the House on this account.

I shall, now, briefly touch upon the inflationary trend of important essential items; rice and wheat. Our main concern is to ensure the availability of food grains for the Public Distribution System so that the impact of inflation on the common man is minimised. Hon. Members are fully aware that for the second successive year we have had record production of food grains totalling 233.88 MT. The increase in food grains production has been matched by increased procurement for the Central Pool. The Government has procured a record 58.53 MT of food grains this year as a result the Central Pool stock of wheat as on 1st of November 2009 was 268.88 lakh tonne; for the year 2009-10 quantity of 108.14 lakh tonne of rice has been procured till 30th of November 2009.

In fact, as on today, our procurement has started essentially in Punjab, Haryana and Western UP. I am very happy to brief the House that this year irrespective of a lot of odd situations, Punjab and Haryana farmers have saved their crops and procurement of paddy in Punjab and Haryana this year is more than what we procured last year. I am sure, probably the similar situation might repeat in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

A point was raised by some hon. Member here with regard to the prices of paddy. The Government of India might have announced Rs. 950, plus Rs. 50. bonus but the farmers of Uttar Pradesh are not getting that type of price and they are selling their paddy at Rs. 700. When we collected information from all the State Governments, we received communication from Uttar Pradesh Government that this year their crop is very bad and probably they will not be able to supply to the Central pool.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL : They have introduced the token system and so far they have not been able to release the quota....(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : I have got letters from some of the hon. Members of Parliament regarding crop condition. We again tried to contact the Uttar Pradesh Government. The UP Government had communicated to us that because of the last rain, the crop condition has improved and probably they will be able to start some procurement. Ultimately, procurement in the field level is the responsibility of the State. If they want advance support, we are ready to send. The point which has been raised here, I will definitely look into the matter and we will see that the farmers, particularly paddy farmers from Uttar Pradesh will not suffer and they get proper price.

19.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, the time of the House was extended for one hour and before we proceed further we would have to extend it for some more time.

The time of the House is extended till the reply of the Minister and also conclusion of the Zero Hour.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The price of rice and wheat is reasonably stable. In fact, my distinguished colleague Shri Gurudas Dasgupta has given certain figures. I am ready to go with him to any market. I have also got some information regarding the price of rice as of today. It is being sold at Rs. 23/- per kilogram in Delhi market. I was hearing from my very senior colleague that his experience is something different and definitely I would look into the matter.

Sir, the figures that I have suggested that a year back the price of rice was Rs. 22 per kilogram and practically this remained stable for seven to eight months and as on 23rd of November, 2009 price of rice in Delhi market was Rs. 23/- per kilogram. Similarly, the price of wheat, about a year back in Delhi market was Rs. 13/- per kilogram, but as of today it is being sold at Rs. 15 per kilogram. The increase has been of Rs. 2/- per kilogram. Similarly, about a year back the price of *atta* was Rs. 14/- per kilogram and as of today it is being sold at Rs. 17/- per kilogram. The real serious situation is in regard to *dal*. The

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

price of *Tur dal* one year back was Rs. 51/- per kilogram which is now being sold at Rs. 91/- per kilogram. The price of *urad dal* one year back was Rs. 47/- per kilogram and is now being sold at Rs. 77/- per kilogram. The price of *moong dal* one year back was Rs. 47/- per kilogram and it is being sold at Rs. 82/- per kilogram. The price of sugar one year back was Rs. 20/- per kilogram and now it is being sold at Rs. 38/- per kilogram. The price of potato a year back was Rs. 11/- per kilogram and now it is being sold at Rs. 22/- per kilogram and onion which was being sold at Rs. 18/- per kilogram a year back is now being sold at Rs. 25/- per kilogram. The prices of these items are reasonably high.

Another important issue which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members is the situation in regard to edible oil. As you are all aware, India is not self-sufficient in some of the agricultural commodities, particularly edible oil and pulses. We import practically 40 per cent of edible oil and 50 per cent of our requirement of pulses from a large number of countries. Currently, the international market prices of edible oil, as on 19th November, 2009, are higher as compared to last year. The price of crude palm oil has increased by 25 per cent internationally; the price of soyabean internationally has increased by 21 per cent; the price of sunflower in international markets has increased by 15 per cent; and the price of palmoline internationally has increased by 49 per cent. This is the overall situation in the international market. That is why there will be some impact. But we have taken a number of steps. We are importing some edible oil and are supplying to the State Governments at subsidized rates. There are 12 to 13 States which are taking advantage of this scheme.

There was a lot of discussion with regard to sugar prices. It is true that this year sugar prices have gone to abnormal levels. The domestic production in sugar this year is estimated at 148 million tonnes as compared to production of sugar year before last year which was 260 million tonnes.

Sir, a point was raised by the hon. Member, Shri Mahtab. He asked whether there was design as such before two years because there was ample production, it was exported and this year, there is a shortfall. In fact, sugar production is a cyclic process. Every two years, there is a shortage of sugar. If we take a five year period, for the first three years, there will be ample crop in the country and prices of sugar and sugarcane will come down like anything. In the other two years, when the prices go down, the farmers will immediately shift from sugarcane to other crop. He might go in for wheat, he might prefer some other crop, and the availability of sugarcane is not enough then. Production of sugarcane goes down, prices become high and the farmers will get better price.

This year, the situation is similar. But that was not the situation two years back. Two years back, there was tremendous production. In fact, one of the major problems which I was facing and a major complaint that I was getting from particularly sugarcane growers was that mills were not paying their prices. It was because there was too much production, there was no warehouse facilities to keep sugar. In many sugar mills, sugar was kept in the open covered by tarpaulin. Mills were not in a position to pay proper price to the farmers and that is why, the overall position of the farmers was quite bad. In such a situation, the Government took a conscious decision to introduce a few new schemes.

Firstly, it was buffer stock subsidy. This was the first time when sugar was kept in the godown warehouses of the mills for six months and the interest charges or the godown charges were paid by the Government. In addition, there was another scheme which we had introduced. We tried our level best to export sugar and we have provided transport subsidy for export. It is because unless and until we remove the stock, clear the godowns, get some money, farmers will not get their proper price. That is why, practically, more than Rs. 800 crores have been spent by the Government just to provide subsidy to exports. That was a peculiar situation and just to save the farmers, such a decision was taken with the approval and consultation of the respective sugarcane producing State Governments.

I have made a statement in this same House about two years ago in this regard. When the prices of sugar was going down, it was about Rs. 13 a kilogram. I made a statement in the same House saying that whether the price of sugar is Rs. 13 or Rs. 14 or Rs. 15, it will ultimately lead to a serious problem of availability of sugarcane in the next year. It is because the farmers will become alert and they will immediately shift from sugarcane to elsewhere, and they have shifted. The country which produced 260 lakh tonnes of sugar two years back has produced 150 lakh tonnes this year. The country's requirement is 230 lakh tonnes a year. Our total consumption is 230 lakh tonnes but the production was 150 lakh tonnes. Thus there was a clear-cut shortage of 80 lakh tonnes. Hence, there was no choice but to import.

Then the question comes as to what type of sugar we should import. It was just possible to import fine sugar but we took a conscious decision to import raw sugar. A lot of people asked as to why we imported raw sugar. The reason for importing raw sugar is that firstly, it is cheaper and secondly, we can import and process as capacity utilisation is there. The workers who are working in the mills will get employment and the country will get a cheaper rate for the sugar. That was the reason why we had taken a decision to import sugar. Actually, the Government has not imported. We just allowed the sugar mills to import it. We just removed the duty.

We just requested them to import it, process it and make it available in the market. But still we are not in a position to fulfill the total requirement. There is a gap. This gap will be definitely there. One more reason is that, essentially in those States which are producing sugarcane, this year, due to insufficient rain the plantation has been substantially low, particularly in Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, sizeable cane has been diverted to jaggery. We have got information that jaggery is not used essentially for eating purposes. It is used for some other purpose. But those who are in the jaggery manufacturing, are providing better price to the farmers.

Shri Mulayam Singh has raised the issue of sugarcane. This year, the Uttar Pradesh Government has announced a price of Rs. 165 per quintal to the farmers. The Uttar Pradesh Sugarcane Mill Association has announced that it will provide Rs. 15 as bonus. So, Rs. 165 plus Rs. 15 comes to Rs. 180. In today's newspaper there is a report that some mills have announced a price of Rs. 195. I would like to inform the House that Rs. 195 or Rs. 200 is the price which the farmer is getting. This is the highest price which the farmers have got in the last fifty years. This is the position with regard to Uttar Pradesh.

Sugarcane growers of South India, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are getting somewhat near to Rs. 230 per quintal. One of the main reasons is that sugar mills in those States are in the cooperative sector. They are owned by farmers. That is why whatever they are earning is passed on to the farmers in the form of sugarcane price and that is why they are getting a better price.

My appeal to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and the mill owners is that, as the sugar price has gone to the sky this year, they should definitely try to pass substantial portion of the sugar price to the farmers. The farmers should get more than Rs. 200 or Rs. 210 in Uttar Pradesh. Otherwise, farmers will definitely shift from sugarcane to other crops and again the country will face serious problems.

*[Translation]*

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (Kaiserganj):  
The cooperative sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: All of them have come under the Government, they are no longer cooperative mills.

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: But they are not giving it.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The cooperative sugar mills are not running three Chairman of all Government Sugar mills are collectors.



SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH: Sir, yesterday a meeting took place. Private Mill owners have accepted it. But, what will happen to farmers related with those mills whose control is with the Government?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Government should give it because this is the right time because they are selling sugar at such a high price this year and which the country has not seen till date. With such high price at least 70 per cent money should go to farmers as the cost of sugarcane. When it is given in the world over, it is given in other States of India, then it is an injustice not to provide the same here. We are going to write to the State Government that they should give reasonable price to these farmers.

[English]

There are two other issues which have been raised about potato. Out of 311 lakh metric tonnes production during 2009, around 175 to 180 lakh metric tonnes of potato were stored in the cold-storages as well as in temporary storages. At present more than ninety per cent of the stored stock is over and the rest should be over by the end of November or by mid-December, 2009. Increased demand from the processing industry and delayed monsoon leading to delay in the potato plantation, increased the rates of other vegetables resulting in increased demand in the domestic market. In fact, one of the major producing States is West Bengal as it is appearing now-a-days. I recollect, about two years back, one of the major problems which the potato farmers of West Bengal were facing was as to what to do with potato. That is why the Government of India has provided, directly or indirectly, some transport subsidy. The West Bengal potato was going to Singapore and to South-East Asia. So, that was the position in the States like West Bengal which were exporters. This year the crop condition of that State is bad. There is a particular type of disease that has affected potato crop heavily in West Bengal and even in Uttar Pradesh and suddenly this year the availability of potato has been substantially dropped. But, I am sure, this is a temporary thing and the situation will definitely

improve. These are some seasonal variations and sometimes it does happen because of certain situations. But I am absolutely clear about one thing that this is a temporary situation and in the rabi crop, the situation will definitely improve.

Similarly, there is an issue of onion which has been raised here. Total onion production in the country during the year 2008-09 is estimated to be around 76.37 lakh tonnes as compared to last year's production of about 74.51 lakh tonnes. Around 25.10 lakh tonnes onions were stored in the country during the year 2009, which is almost similar to last year's storage of 25.65 lakh tonnes. At present around 90 per cent stored stock is over and the rest would be over by November end. Around 2.5 lakh tonnes onions are still available for consumption in stores of different parts of the country.

Onion has two crops and one is in the kharif season. But this year, essentially the States like Maharashtra, which is producing about 70 per cent onion and which is supplied to the rest of the country, in that entire onion belt, there were no rains. There is drought. That is why the farmers could not take up the onion crop. But the last sphere of monsoon has improved the situation and sizeable area was brought under the onions. But, unfortunately, about two weeks back, again there was a depression in the Bay of Bengal and that has created havoc in certain parts of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat and that entire crop has been destroyed and that is the reason why the onion prices have gone up to a sky level. Again, I think, this is a temporary situation. The Government is trying its level best to provide seeds to Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and to some of the States which can take up the crop of the onions. I am sure the situation will definitely improve.

Sir, this is one of the items which has a tremendous export potential. India exports onion, but just to directly or indirectly control the exports, we have decided that the Minimum Export Price (MEP) of the onion which was there about 85 dollar per metric tonne, we have increased to 300 dollar per metric tonne in October, 2009 and recently

about one week back, the MEP has now been increased to 445 dollar per metric tonne and because of that, I think, the export will be reduced and the availability in the domestic market will definitely improve and we will be able to give some relief to the public at large.

One important issue was raised here. It is all right. There was some shortage of certain food. There are 299 districts which were declared drought-affected by twelve States. Our kharif season has substantially suffered and we could not take up paddy crop in 56 lakh hectare of land this year. That has resulted in drop of rice production by about 14 to 15 million tonnes. In other few lakh hectares, production of other crops like pulses and others has been dropped because of drought. That was the situation. But in such a situation, still, the last year's stock position of wheat and rice is good in the country. We had decided to import certain items particularly sugar, pulses and oilseeds. We have kept a close eye to see how hoarding and blackmarketing is not there. This is the type of a decision which the Government of India can take but these decisions are implemented by the States. All the powers have been given to the State Governments. At present, 20 States and Union Territories have issued orders imposing stock limits, stock declaration requirements in respect of the essential commodities for which the Government of India has issued orders permitting to issue such restrictions. These commodities are pulses, rice, paddy, edible oil, edible oil seeds and sugar. In the case of pulses, 16 States have issued orders imposing stock limit. Another 5 States have imposed the licensing and stock declaration requirements.

The Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 gives powers to the State Governments to detain people up to six months if it is found that they could act in a manner which is prejudicial to the maintenance of supply of essential commodities. During the current year, 2009, up to 31st October, 2009, the States have reported that they have detained hardly 126 persons. These actions are taken to keep a check on the prices. But, I think, the State

Governments should take more interest in this matter.

I tried to collect the information regarding the States which have taken effective action. Now, I will give some examples. Take the State of Bihar. In the entire State, — this is up to 31st October, 2009 — the Bihar State Government has conducted a total number of four raids; the number of persons arrested was two and the persons prosecuted were nil.

Coming to Delhi, there were 70 raids, 45 persons were arrested and 49 persons were prosecuted. In Gujarat, there were 18,459 raids; 18 persons were arrested and 71 persons were prosecuted. In Himachal Pradesh, there were 14,946 raids; three persons were arrested and two persons were only prosecuted. In Kerala, there were 33,638 raids; 18 persons were arrested and only two, out of them, were prosecuted. In Maharashtra, there were 716 raids; 1,171 people were arrested and 756 persons were prosecuted. In Tamil Nadu, there were 11,535 raids; 3,532 persons were arrested and 1079 persons were prosecuted. In West Bengal, there were 56 raids; 58 persons were arrested and one person has been prosecuted...*(Interruptions)* In Tripura, there were 3 raids; one person was arrested and one person was prosecuted. So, there are some States which have taken action and there are some other States which have introduced raids but they have not arrested the people concerned. The number of prosecutions is very rare. Again, I have requested the State Chief Ministers saying that this picture is not good and in such a situation, if the State Government's machinery is not alert, if it is not taking preventive action and making detention against hoardings, it will be difficult to give relief to the public at large.

That is why our expectation is that they should do something in this regard. This is not something where only the Government of India can act. The Act has given some powers to us but, ultimately, powers have to be delegated to the States. The State Government is going to take action. When we have provided these powers, I think, it is the responsibility of the State Governments also and they should also take effective steps.

[Shri Sharad Pawar]

A question was raised as to what type of measures the Government of India has taken. I will now try to dwell on the effective steps taken by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply of essential commodities and contain inflation.

As far as fiscal measures are concerned, we have reduced import duties to zero for sugar, rice, wheat, pulses, edible oil and maize. We have reduced import duties on refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils to 7.5 per cent. We have allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under OGL. We have allowed import of white and refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED up to one million tonnes on 1st of July, 2009 at zero duty (notified on 13.2.2009). This has been extended up to 30th of November, 2009.

As far as administrative measures are concerned, we have also banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses; effected no change in the tariff rates value of edible oils; imposed stock limit orders in the case of paddy, rice, pulses, sugar, edible oils and edible oilseeds up to 31st November, 2010; the periodic enhancements in MSP — currently Rs. 1100 per quintal for wheat, Rs. 1000 per quintal for common rice variety just to maximize procurement of wheat and rice.

DR. K.S. RAO (Eluru) : What about palm oil seed?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : That we have reduced to 7.5 per cent.

DR. K.S. RAO : If you were to increase the price, the market price has come down from Rs. 6,400 to Rs. 3,800 to the farmers who are raising the palm oil crop. By resorting to import, they will be further crushed.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : In fact, this particular decision is mainly for some time. We have decided to discuss it with the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Government of Kerala, Government of Tamil Nadu and we will take the views from these Governments and take appropriate action at the appropriate time.

DR. K.S. RAO : If adequate price is paid to the palm growers, there will not be any need to import edible oil.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : What does he mean by adequate price? Unfortunately, the prices are going to such a level that it is the responsibility of the Government definitely to protect the interests of farmers, but simultaneously, we should not by-pass the interests of the consumers. That is why, we have to make a balance between both of them and our efforts are to keep that balance. Definitely, I have received a representation about the import of oil, particularly palm oil and I will definitely see how to protect the interests of the domestic farmers, but simultaneously I cannot just forget the interests of the consumers also.

As my colleague, the hon. Finance Minister, has already explained that we have not changed the Central Issue Price practically for the last seven-eight years. It is Rs. 5.65 per kg. for BPL and Rs. 3 per kg. for AAY for rice. For wheat he has also said that it is Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per kg. for AAY.

Future trading in Rice, Urad and Tur has been suspended by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 and it continues during 2009-10. Future trading in sugar was also suspended w.e.f. 27.5.2009 up to 31st December, 2009. If required, the concerned authority will give serious thought to extend the period also.

For the month of November, 2009, a quantity of 15 lakh tonnes of non-levy sugar has been made available, which includes 10.5 lakh tones of normal non-levy sugar to the market. So, these administrative measures and fiscal measures have been taken by the Government of India which will give some result.

My concern is this. We have made all efforts to insulate the farmer from the onslaught of rising input costs by providing inputs such as fertilizers at reasonable rates.

I am also concerned that delivery systems established by some of the State Governments have shown weaknesses in reaching the food grains allocated under

the PDS to the genuinely poor. I would like to reiterate my earlier appeal to the State Governments to streamline Public Distribution Systems and ensure that no leakage or diversions take place and the genuine poor families get the benefit of the food subsidy.

In fact, one of the points which has been raised here by some of the hon. Members is that we should reintroduce the Universal Public Distribution System. In fact, this decision was taken about eight or nine years back. It was a conscious decision. The idea behind was to protect the interests of the really poor sections of the society. We are implementing that decision for the last eight or nine years. I am in a position to give a full commitment at this time. This is a little difficult year. This is the year where 299 districts are facing drought. This is the year where there is a setback in food production and agricultural production. But at the appropriate time we will give a serious thought to this particular suggestion.

Sir, I do not want to take more time of the House. It is true that the Government is quite serious about the rising prices. In the last discussion also, I never said that the situation would be improved immediately. It is not simple. We have to improve the production. We have to improve the productivity. We are investing substantial money on agriculture. We have introduced many Schemes like RKVY and the National Food Security Mission where we are giving tremendous weightage to improve the production and the productivity of wheat, rice, pulses and oilseeds. Our efforts are also to provide a better price to the farmer whereby he will be definitely enthused to pay more attention in productivity.

With the full support from the farming community and pragmatic policies of the Government of India, and with the full cooperation from the States, I think, we will be able to overcome this situation. We have to work together and we have to face this particular problem collectively.  
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we go to the Matters of Urgent Public Importance.

Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, 90 per cent or more population is directly or indirectly connected with agriculture in my State. Agriculture constitutes 35 per cent of the GDP in Bihar. We can understand from this that how many persons are dependent on agriculture. Allied business of Agriculture is Animal Husbandry. Not only in Bihar rather the number of animals in the entire country is very low. Earlier there used to be agribusinesses like animal husbandry, milk production from cow, buffalo, goat, ploughing with bulls and meat and egg production from poultry farming, piggery and pisciculture. Farmers used to earn additional income from these other than farming. This reduced unemployment among rural people. These businesses increase the economic prosperity of rural people, check the migration of rural people into Metropolis and substantially decrease the burden on metropolis. The Government should give special attention and incentive to this area. For this, the Central Government should give special central assistance to Government of Bihar. This is my demand.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to talk about N.H. — one with your permission. You can see, the way work is progressing in our country. There is carelessness on the part of construction agencies which result in lots of accidents. Many people have been killed in these accidents. I want to talk about my State only. The progress of construction of roads during this five years of my tenure has been very slow. At least one thousand persons have been killed in a stretch of road of 90 kilometers only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit that the digging material which accumulates in the process of the construction is lying on both sides of the road. There is no such system in which it is kept on one side. Old road in between is not being repaired. I request you that special attention should be given to it. The number of persons killed in accident is far more than those being killed in terrorism, militancy.

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

Mr.. Chairman, Sir, I would request the Government through you that please take up this matter seriously and solve this matter.

\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Hon. Chairman Sir, West Bengal can be divided into two parts-one is south Bengal and another is north Bengal. All of you are aware that north Bengal is famous for its scenic beauty and natural resources. People from all over the world come to visit the place and enjoy the natural beauty of Darjeeling, Duars hills and Sikkim. But due to water pollution and environmental pollution, now rainfall is very less there. There is rampant deforestation, construction of houses, roads and other infrastructure facilities which are adversely affecting the rivers and they are drying up as a result. The waterfalls are silent today and the quantum of water is also less. The situation on the whole is very grim. So the Government should come forward with schemes to tap and conserve the water of rivers Teesta, Jaldhaka, Kalchini during the monsoon season. If that water is diverted properly to the villages of north Bengal then the environment will become much better. The water will help the forests to thrive and the region will become more beautiful. Thus the Government should focus more on the Teesta Project which it has already undertaken. But not a single penny has been spent for this project. For the benefit of the people of the region, the work needs to be expedited and completed as soon as possible.

The Government should pay heed to my request. With these few words, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in zero hour and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (Alappuzha) : Sir, I wish to bring to the kind attention of this august House the discriminating treatment meted out to the Malayalam Film Industry by the Jury Chairman of the Indian Panorama for the International Film Festival. It has been alleged that he even refused to watch the Malayalam movies including

the movie *Pazhassiraja*, the mega project of Malayalam Film Industry.

We all know that Pazhassiraja was the only native king to rise against the British misrule. He was a great freedom fighter, who fought the British through Guerilla Warfare by rallying the forces of Kurichyer Tribe and become a martyr for this country.

The historical event has been immortalized in celluloid by the world famous writer M.T. Vasudeven Nair, the director Hariharan and National Film Award Winner Mammooty.

But it is a shameful thing that such a discrimination has been practised against the great movie industry that has made memorable contributions to the Indian Films.

I would, therefore, urge upon the concerned Minister to take necessary action against such despicable action.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you gave me the time to speak and I am thankful to you for that. Through you, I want to draw the attention of Government to one very important problem. M.C.D. office situated in the capital of country, Delhi has 22853 ghost employees who are getting salary without working which puts a burden of Rs. 204 crore on the Government exchequer annually.

Sir, the M.C.D. Commissioner Shri K.S. Mehra himself has admitted this fact in August this year. When they implemented the biometric system for attendance in the M.C.D. then this thing came out that there are approximately 22,583 such employees that have been on the pay-rolls of the M.C.D. for years but they are not present in M.C.D. office or in field duty physically. Despite this, they are getting salary without work. They are getting salary through cheque. I think that there cannot be any any thing more serious than the persons getting the salary from the exchequer of Government and are not performing their responsibility and are oblivious of their duty. I would definitely like that the Central Government should direct the

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali

M.C.D. that the responsibility should be fixed in this regard and an enquiry should be conducted into this matter to ascertain as to when such appointments were made and how illegal appointments were made and how the salaries were drawn in the name of persons not working on these posts. This is definitely a misuse of Government money. Therefore, I think that this is a very serious matter. A complete enquiry should be conducted in this regard.

DR. RAJAN SUSHANT (Kangra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today a very huge problem has come up before the entire country owing which not only farmers and people in general but also the monkeys are in difficult situation. Absence of fruit-bearing trees in the forests is a problem for the monkeys. In the current scenario, fruit-bearing trees are no longer available in the forests for monkeys. Therefore, the monkeys are compelled to shift to the villages, hamlets and to the towns for their sustenance. On reaching there, they are attacking children, women and the masses. Such circumstances even induced Mrs. Priyanka Gandhi to file an official complaint to the NDMC in the year 2007. Not just that, the former Deputy-Mayor Mr. Bajwa had died in the year 2007 for the same cause and the situation in Delhi has reached in horrific proportion that a large number of monkeys in groups are being seen near PMO, South Block and Rashtrapati Bhawan and at various other places. It has caused a severe problem and the situation is such that the monkeys are now travelling in Delhi Metro. At certain places, they are having even wines to quench their thirst and are intimidating the people.

Sir, the people had to take recourse to the Delhi High Court and even the Supreme Court to protect themselves from the menace of the monkeys. On the other hand, the farmers are also in trouble as the monkeys cause damage to their standing crops. They put in strenuous efforts to grow their crops and finally their crops result in huge loss to them. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to constitute a task force at the earliest to save the common people, farmers and their crops. A battalion should be raised in the States like Himachal Pradesh and Delhi as Farmers' Battalion for protection of crops and for protection

of human lives. I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important matter.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw your attention towards the menu prescribed for Midday Meal Scheme being run by the Government of India. I belong to Bikaner in the State of Rajasthan. I have found that under this Scheme, everyday's menu has been fixed by the Government of India. Under this scheme, a provision has also been made for cooking rice twice a week. I am of the view that Midday Meal is a very good scheme. Under this scheme, admission into primary and middle schools has been very fine and there has been improvement in meals too but on the day of cooking rice, the attendance of students is low. There is general observation in such a field. Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India that in western Rajasthan particularly around Bikaner Parliamentary Constituency and its nearby districts, eating rice is not in the food habit of people. They are the people who do not eat rice but consume wheat. Therefore, I request the Government to effect a change in the menu and I would also like to request the Government of India to decide the menu of Midday Meal keeping in view the food habits in order that there is no loss of paddy and the programme is conducted successfully.

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw your attention towards a very important issue. Bihar is an extremely backward State where the consumption of electricity is very low in comparison to the average consumption of electricity in the country. There, the water is not being drained from the river Ganga for the use in thermal power plants. It means no thermal power plant can now be installed there.

As far as the setting up of power plants is concerned, atomic power stations have been installed in as many as six States and the quantum of power generation is to the tune of 4000 MW. As per proposal, seven more atomic power stations are to be set up. Through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that in the three States which already have atomic power stations, three

[Shri Jagdanand Singh]

more atomic power plants are scheduled to be set up. There are four new States where atomic power stations shall be set up on new models. In those new States, there is only one State of Eastern region i.e. West Bengal. All those atomic power plants are being set up in the southern region and in western region or are proposed to be set up in the northern region.

After all when will such regional imbalance be over. There is an acute shortage of power. When the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement was being signed, the point was vociferously being raised that atomic power plants would be set up at a large scale in the country to generate power. The farmers who are not getting electricity in agriculture sector are proposed to be provided with electricity. Now, there is an issue of setting up of these atomic power plants, a decision to this effect has been taken preferably in the month of October. The UPA, in its first term had also talked of setting up an atomic power plant in Nawada, Bihar. Now, I see that the issue is over. The present situation is that atomic power plants are not going to be set up either in Bihar or in Jharkhand or in Orissa. Jharkhand, a neighbouring State of Bihar was also a part of undivided Bihar, accounts for the major share of the stock of uranium found in the country. Why is it that regional imbalances of this kind are being created? The States which are at the lowest level in terms of generation of power where atomic power stations are already available, are being equipped with power stations instead of atomic power stations. The demands may increase there is future. However, at present Bihar stands at the last ladder. An Atomic power station should be set up there also. It was scheduled to be installed in Nawada in the State. There the Government had assured of setting up an atomic power station.

This is what I demand from the Government through you.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni) : Sir, I wish to

bring a few lines to the notice of this august House regarding the pathetic life of Tamilians who are living in Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Brunei and other countries. They are being harassed by our Indian High Commission people when they go to get their visa. I welcome our Government's decision to give dual citizenship to the Indian origin people who are living in foreign countries. At this moment, whenever our people want to come to their motherland, they are being charged extraordinary fees. If a person wants to have visa, they have to pay 170 or 180 ringgits, that means, more than Rs. 2000 in Indian rupees. About ten years back, we may have been poor. But now our country's economy is booming. At this juncture why should we collect this much of visa fees? It should either be reduced or withdrawn.

In respect of many other countries, the Government of India is not collecting visa fees. 30 per cent of the total population of Malaysia are Tamilians. In Singapore, out of their total population, 20 per cent are Tamilians. Similarly, in Brunei, 20 per cent of the population consists of Tamilians. In Sri Lanka also, 25 per cent people are Tamilians. If they want to come to their motherland, they should be given free access.

My request is that the Ministry of External Affairs should put Tamil speaking officers in these embassies. Sir, I have been to Sri Lanka. There also not a single Tamilian officer, whether the First Officer or Second Officer or the Third Officer is working there. They are all Hindi-speaking people. Our Tamil people in those countries do not know Hindi. The old timers do not know Hindi. The new generation people have learnt Hindi. They can speak Hindi and English also. The old timers do not know the other language.

My request is that mainly in Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei and Sri Lanka you have to put Tamil officers, those who speak Tamil. Such officers can be put in these Embassies and the visa fee should be reduced or it should be abolished.

With these words I conclude.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (Shimla): Sir, I want to raise a very important issue in this House. Some time back an international bidding was conducted with regard to widening of the road from Thiyog to Rodu in Himachal Pradesh in which work was awarded to a Chinese company. However, it was not authorized to execute the work as it did not have work-visa and the work was deferred due to which nearly 60-65 kilometres long road is the extremely dilapidated condition. There the roads are completely damaged due to the machines. The work is not likely to be completed within the given period of time.

Sir, through you, I would like to urge upon the

Government either to take back work from that company or to allow it to complete the work within the specified period of time.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 30th November, 2009 at 11 a.m.

**19.52 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, November 30, 2009/ Agrahayana 9, 1931 (Saka).*

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