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LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Fifteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, July 20, 2009/Asadha 29, 1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Madam Speaker, I will put across my view point just in two minutes. This is a serious matter of public importance...(interruption)

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 221-Shri B. Mahtab.

...(Interruption)

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Mulayam Singh, Please sit down. We will take it up after the Question Hour.

...(Interruption)

MADAM SPEAKER: We will take it up after the Question Hour.

...(Interruption)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Question Hour run. Please raise this issue during Zero Hour.

...(Interruption)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I would like to request the Leader of the House...(Interruption)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Question Hour run. Mr. Mulayam Singh, please let the Question Hour run.

...(Interruption)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Pakistan is running a propaganda against us at the international level...(Interruption)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please raise it in the Zero Hour. We have got the notice. Raise it in the Zero Hour.

...(Interruption)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Question Hour run.

...(Interruption)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Unless Pakistan reins in terrorism...(Interruption) 15-20 days back even Hon'ble Prome Minister has said this. What are the reasons for being a signatory at Sharm-Al-Sheikh? Pakistan has blamed us for Baluchistan. ...(Interruption)

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Question Hour run. Please raise it in the Zero Hour.

...(Interruption)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Pakistan has blamed that India is responsible for it. Pakistan will campaign against India in the whole world on this issue...(Interruption)

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes. We have got the notice.

...(Interruption)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam, therefore, I request you to adjourn the Question Hour and let the adjournment Motion be discussed immediately. It is my request. It is a national issue. The Government should present the related document in the House and there should be a discussion on it.

MADAM SPEAKER: It is alright. Please sit down.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): We will have a structured discussion. ...(Interruptions)

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 221—Shri B. Mahtab.

[English]

Import of Cheap Goods

*221. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of cheap goods is having an adverse impact on the domestic industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the relevant law to impose quantitative restrictions anti-dumping measures on import of such goods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Import of Cheap Goods

(a) and (b) Trade defence measures are available to the domestic industry to counter unfair trade practices followed by exporters of goods from other countries. In case a product is imported into the country at less than its normal value, and it causes injury to the domestic industry, the domestic industry can make an application to Directorate-General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) in the Department of Commerce for imposition of anti-dumping duty. Similarly, an application for imposition of safeguard duty can be made by the domestic industry to Directorate-General of Safeguards under Ministry of Finance, in case there is serious injury/market disruption, or threat of serious injury/threat of market disruption to the domestic industry, as a consequence of increased imports of an article into India. During 2008-09 and 2009-10 (upto 15.07.2009 anti-dumping duty was imposed in 22 cases (final duty in 12 cases and provisional duty in 10 cases) and Safeguard duty was imposed in 4 cases (final duty in 2 cases and provisional duty in 2 cases).

(c) and (d) Under Section 3(2) of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, the Central Government has an inherent power to impose restrictions on import of goods. A specific proposal to amend Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 to provide for quantitative restrictions, as safeguard measures, in accordance with the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, is before the Government. However, the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 presently includes provisions for providing relief to the domestic producers against injury causes to them by imports, in accordance with the Agreement on Anti-Dumping (*i.e.* the Agreement on the implementation of Article VI of GATT, 1995), the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures, and the Agreement on

Safeguards. These provisions are aimed at offsetting the adverse effects of 'dumped' imports, 'subsidized' imports or 'increased' imports.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: My first supplementary is this. The safeguard action is initiated when the industry complains about a surge in import adversely impairing them. Dumping of products shows that the domestic consumption in the producer country has declined. On both these cases, the industry has to prove that there has been injury to them by the imports. When many of the products against whom complaints are made are actually inputs for other industries and these industries will benefit from cheaper imports, downward pressure and their imports would exert on domestic prices. So it is worth inflicting damage on such imports which is a crucial input. Should Government go in for blanket protectionism to grant safeguard to complainant industries?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam Speaker, as I have explained in the reply, there are various trade defence measures that are available to the Government and to the domestic industry. In case, there are unfair trade practices for imports at lower prices or surge in imports, which cause injury to the domestic industry or threaten to cause injury or cause disruption in the market, the measures which are available to the Government include the following.

Firstly, there is an inherent power under Article 3(2) of the Foreign Trade Act. The Foreign Trade Act empowers the Government to prohibit the imports if their domestic industry has complained and that there is a threat. The normal course is when such a situation arises, if the prices of the products imported are lower than the prices at which they are sold in their country or lower than the prices at which the producer country is exporting to any third country, then the domestic industry which is affected can immediately make a complaint to the Director General of Anti-Dumping (DGAD). The DGAD is empowered then to impose the anti-dumping duty. We had, in 1975 under the Customs Tariff Act, given those powers even to the customs. This was amended again in 1985. When for the first time anti-dumping legislation came into India for the identification and assessment of dumping and the imposition of duty. So, the DGAD is empowered.

In addition to that, we did amend the Customs Tariff Act, 1995 after the WTO Agreement came into place, so that our legislation is in line with the WTO legislations. We have provisions to meet the agreement on the

implementation of Article 6 of GATT, which is anti-dumping. There is also an agreement on subsidies and countervailing measures. If a producing country gives subsidies which are price-distorting, countervailing duties can be imposed by the DGAD in this case. There is also Directorate General of Safeguards which keeps an eye. If there is such a situation as the hon. Member has mentioned, additionally safeguards duty can also be imposed. We are now in the process of amending the Foreign Trade Act and by bringing in a provision of quantitative restrictions which would make this law too on par with the WTO Agreements.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Madam Speaker, my question was not answered fully. There are two types of industries here. One is importing as a component and the other is to bring in a finished product. There the problem lies. There is competition between two types of industries within our country. Some industries are complaining against these imports and some are in favour of them. My question was on that. If the Minister can answer that later while answering my second supplementary ...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam, the question which I have from the hon. Member says: "Whether the import of cheap goods is having an adverse impact on the domestic industry?" This is the question which I have answered. Now he is saying that there are two types of imports, one which benefit the industry where the cheap imports are required. There is nothing called cheap imports; normally it is low-priced imports. If they threaten the domestic industry, if they cause disruption or cause injury, then the provisions are there, as I have explained to the hon. Member, Madam. But he is now referring to something not connected with the question. We have policies in place to deal with those situations where the imported items go into production.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please ask a question which is within the ambit of your original question. Mr. Minister, I think he is formulating his question again.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Madam Speaker, my first supplementary was very much related to the original question which talks about import of cheap goods.

If it is a fact that China, to which the Minister can refer to, remains a non-market economy where the determination of a normal price of a product has become a difficult exercise particularly when the cost estimates are subsumed under a host of subsidies and do not

reflect market realities, how are anti-dumping measures enforced and investigations made? Is not the machinery tardy? Even where anti-dumping duty is imposed against a particular country or its products, the same country could send the same products, to circumvent the anti-dumping duty, through a third country which does not even manufacture that product. When and how this tardy system will be corrected?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam, as I had earlier mentioned, there are various provisions in the law to take action in such situations. In case of China, to which the hon. Member has referred to, there is a separate provision which is 'Transitional Products-specific Safeguards Mechanism' which India or any other WTO member-country can invoke in such a situation. This provision was made at the time of China's accession to the WTO. So, China's case is entirely different. As and when a situation has presented itself, action has been taken including anti-dumping duties, prohibiting imports of certain goods, and also safeguards duties, the details of which I have. The hon. Member has also asked about the country of origin. Country of origin is considered in the final notification, which circumvents any such possibility.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI: I thank the hon. Minister for giving a detailed reply. It is an agreed fact that the cheap imports are affecting the economy of the country.

In this backdrop, I would like to ask this. As per the RBI's report, India imported 24.16 million worth of goods from China in April to December 2008, which is double the amount of 12.64 million compared to the same period in the previous year. China continues to be the single largest source of imports, the share of 10.3 per cent in total imports. In this case, if a ban is imposed on Chinese goods, may I know from the hon. Minister, through you Madam, what are the alternative sources to meet the domestic demand?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: The hon. Member needs to know that there are no blanket bans that are imposed when we talk of trade and commerce. The WTO agreements provide for action which the Governments can take in these situations which I have explained in detail. However, under the Foreign Trade Development and Regulation Rules, the Government of India has inherent powers to act, to save the domestic industry.

Besides that, the WTO agreement itself which is on safeguards and quantitative restrictions where we are also

proposing to amend the legislation empowers us and that would be in line and harmony with the WTO agreements to take such actions. Regarding China, as and when the situation has arisen or when the domestic industry has complained, action has been taken.

In my reply, a number of cases have been mentioned where anti-dumping duties have been imposed or where safeguard duties have been imposed. But, Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to inform the House that the impact of the measures which the Government has taken, has resulted in slowing down of such imports from China.

These imports were growing at the rate of 60 per cent in 2006-07; in 2007-08, the growth was 55.41 per cent; and in 2008-09, it has come down to 13.25 per cent. So, from 60.53, it has come down to more than one quarter of the imports. It is today, less than the growth of imports from other countries.

Recently some decisions were taken which were demanded by the situation as such. We have imposed restrictions on the import of toys on health grounds from China; restrictions have been imposed on the dairy product imports again on health grounds, and also, on the import of mobile phones without IMEI number or with all zeros – this has been prohibited by the notification of 16th June 2009.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV: Madam, the people from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh residing along the Nepal Border have brought huge quantity of goods either legally or illegally or through smuggling from China and these goods are being sold at cheaper rates. Especially, the pumping set of the farmer which has been named as "use and throw" by us. The people buy it at cheaper rates, use it once and when it becomes irreparable, they just throw it in the dustbin. "Power tiller" from China is also there. It is bought at cheaper rates and is supplied to the farmer on double the rates through subsidy. Farmers have been continuously raising this issue. Even I have been raising this issue on behalf of the Government that the power tiller which costs around 70-75 thousand is provided to us through subsidy at the rate of one lakh forty thousand or one lakh fifty thousand rupees and what are getting is substandard goods. Mitsubishi and Kobola companies are selling those products with their labels. What action or steps the Government will take to check the misuse of the subsidy

and the fraud done by the Chinese with the farmers by providing them with poor and substandard quality of pumping sets and power tillers?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam, I have clarified in my reply that Government has got the laws and provisions under which action is taken under such circumstances. Hon'ble Member has talked about the smuggling which comes under the customs department. There is Customs Act to deal with it. They have got all the powers to take actions under such circumstances. If there is a specific complaint related to a particular State wherein the goods have been provided through the smuggling and not by the Government, as the Hon'ble Member has said and our associated Institutions take action in those cases and if the Hon'ble Member refers to any such specific case, enquiry will be carried out and action will be taken in the matter.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT: Half of my question has already been asked by Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav, however I would like to ask another part of it from the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. Minister, all the goods directly imported from the foreign countries, are available in our market. Today, Chinese seeds are also available in our villages. You told us that after getting the feedback in this regard, these toys and other products have been banned. I would like to know about the mechanism available for protection of consumer rights in case we come to know about use of hazardous substances in the foreign goods that we are using? If we buy a canned product of coca cola and find something wrong with it, we know that we can go to the consumer forum or to the shopkeeper but if a drink comes from South-East Asia or China or if we find something wrong with the seeds from China or with the engines, which the Member has already talked about, then what is the mechanism available to a common man which might guarantee them the consumer rights and enable them to raise their voice against the substandard goods. Most of the shopkeepers do not own up if there is anything wrong with the foreign products. I know that it is not directly related to your Ministry but how can the consumers safeguard their interests?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam, the food items and other things are imported under various agreements and if there is any complaint regarding them it is inquired into. There are some institutions which conduct the inquiry and they have also got the powers to take action immediately. This question is related to dumping. The

cheaper goods are only limited to be imported from the other countries to the Indian market. There are other organizations working to protect the rights of the consumers. As far as the question of import and export is concerned, there are 390 such tariff lines which are put under strict observation. 478 tariff lines are mostly related to the food items which we have put into the restricted list and 53 tariff lines are directly related to the consumers which pertains to vegetables, fruits and milk and they are restricted. If the hon'ble Member wants to pass on some information we can forward the same to the concerned officer.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Madam Speaker, hon'ble Minister has already replied my question partly but I would like to know from him about the import of mobile phones on a large scale from China. Most of these mobile phones had no IMEI numbers. He said that import of these phones has been banned. But these mobile phones were imported and IMEI number was essential from security point of view. Whether he has taken any action against not having those numbers?

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Madam, this is restricted only to the export of cheap articles. I have informed the House about these mobile phones that it has been banned from 16th June. The mobile phones earlier imported without IMEI numbers now cannot be brought into India. I have no information about the number of such mobiles brought into India before this. I can give this information to the hon'ble member by collecting information about the estimated number of such phones brought into the country. The Government have taken action and imposed a ban on the import of such mobiles.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now question No. 222-Shri Shailendra Kumar.

Provision of Quality Materials to Soldiers

+

*222. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI SAJJAN VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether weapon and non-weapon materials provided to the soldiers posted in the border/high altitude areas are of state-of-the-art technology;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken alongwith the funds allocated by the Government to equip the soldiers with the above materials of the latest technology?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) All soldiers including those in the border/high altitude areas are equipped with weapon and non-weapon materials based on the operational and security needs of the country.

These materials are procured as per qualitative requirements which are revised from time to time keeping in pace with emerging technologies and the operational requirements, changes in threat perceptions, capabilities and equipment of adversaries, etc.

Funds are placed at the disposal of the Services who spend them with the approval of the Competent Financial Authority for procuring such items as per their requirements.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon'ble Madam Speaker, our soldiers are deployed at high altitudes on our borders and there are many complaints in this regard. You might have seen that whether it was Kargil war or fighting against the terrorists, especially when such event take place, the Indian soldiers are not equipped with the sophisticated weapons. This makes them unable to use these sophisticated weapons. For this reason, large number of brave soldiers and jawans have been killed fighting with the terrorists and in the Kargil war. Recently, you might have noticed that the terrorist attack that took place in Maharashtra, the bullet proof jackets given to the soldiers and jawans have not proved effective. When these jackets were checked and the bullets were fired on them, these bullet pierced through these jackets. The hon'ble Minister has not given the reply in detail. Our soldiers were killed fighting with the terrorist organizations in the country or in the Kargil war though I know that the enemies were at heights. There are many such questions and through you I want to ask from the hon'ble Minister whether any action plan has been chalked out for the manufacturing of sophisticated weapons so that our soldiers can be equipped with those weapons?

[English]

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Madam, there is a constant endeavour to equip our soldiers for guarding

our borders with the best possible equipment and the best possible defences. Now there is a convention by which we maintain a proportion of 30:40:30 for state-of-the-art equipment, equipment that has been stabilized and equipment that is about to be phased out. It is because there are cost implications and the decision to equip the soldiers with the state-of-the-art equipment is a decision that has to be taken with great responsibility which involves cost and also assessing the adversary's capabilities and also a lot of other factors.

Now, specifically as far as the bulletproof jacket is concerned, I agree there have been certain deficiencies where there were gaps in the sides and in the neck where the soldiers could get injured. Those GSQRs are being looked at by the Army Headquarters and these revised GSQRs and better specifications have been sent to the Ministry. We are looking at how to procure those jackets for our soldiers.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Hon'ble Madam Speaker, in the reply hon'ble Minister has admitted about the mistakes committed in the bulletproof jackets. He has said in the reply the funds allocated to the forces which remains in their possession and they spend them for the acquisition of such articles as per their needs with the approval of the competent financial authorities. The hon'ble Minister has not mentioned the amounts. Has he taken any action against the people who have supplied such things and the agencies from which the Government have procured them and the authorities responsible for all this?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): To speed up the procurement of these kinds of most modern equipment, recently the Ministry has taken a decision. Hitherto, the Ministry used to give the final clearance. Now we have taken a decision to appoint a Committee under MGO and that Committee is authorized to take the decision and the financial powers of the Raksha Mantri have also been given to that committee. So, there is no question of delay now. After considering the security aspect, they can take decisions and can give money also. Now the committee under MGO can give all clearances.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Sajjan Verma — Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ: Hon'ble Madam Speaker, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister that the jawans suffer a lot of difficulties at high altitudes in Reiki and for this work the jawans need snow mobiles. Whether hon'ble Minister has provided the snow mobiles to the army personnels?

[English]

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Madam, Speaker, at the high altitude area we have special clothing and maintenance equipment. All the equipment that are necessary for guarding the borders is given to them. If the necessity of snow mobile is there, it will definitely be looked into.

SHRI A. SAMPATH: Madam, Speaker, through you I would like to know one point. The answer given by the hon. Defence Minister is very vague. But I do hope that our Defence Minister may become the successor of the late V.K. Krishna Menon who initiated efforts for the development of indigenous production of military equipments.

Fortunately I had the occasion to serve in the Standing Committee of Defence twice and had the rare opportunity of visiting the Siachen Glacier. I understand that the expenditure that we incur per day for the upkeep of the highest battle field on earth is more than Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 crore. When I went through the answer to this Question I understood that most of the materials were being procured from other countries and were not indigenously manufactured. I would like to know whether the Government of India will take necessary steps immediately for the production of good quality and State-of-the-Art technology equipments for providing to our soldiers and officers who are doing their duty in the Siachen Glacier and the high altitude areas.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Madam, Speaker, the first aim of the Government is to provide State-of-the-Art equipment to those soldiers who are working in the most difficult areas like the Siachen Glacier and wherever possible we provide them from indigenous sources. Out of the 55 items which are provided to the soldiers who are deployed in the Siachen Glacier and other high altitude areas, only 19 of them are being imported. Rest of the equipment is manufactured from our own sources. We are gradually trying to produce those 19 items also indigenously. But till that time we cannot provide those just for the sake of

providing indigenous equipment, which are not up to the mark—to our soldiers. That is more dangerous. Our first priority is giving the most modern and State-of-the-art equipment to our soldiers who are working in such areas. The policy of the Government is produce more equipment from our own sources at the earliest.

Now we have taken a decision that in all procurements, first priority, wherever possible, if any equipment can be produced in India either by the Public Sector or the Private Sector, should be by India. If that is not possible, then only we will buy from abroad. That is the recent policy of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Speaker Madam, through you I want to ask two questions at a time from the hon'ble Minister.

MADAM SPEAKER: You may ask one question.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The first question is this that the Government have admitted that the bullet-proof jackets are of inferior quality. I want to know about the persons responsible for this and if the Government consider anybody responsible, what action have been taken against such persons. The second question is this that. ...*(Interruption)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You may ask one supplementary question.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: This is the part of this question. This is not the second question. This is the question pertaining to the Ministry of Defence, which has been replied by the Minister of Defence. The first and foremost thing is that as to who are responsible for Government of jackets of such inferior quality? So many people sacrificed their lives. Our soldiers protect the country by sacrificing their lives. So, this cannot be treated as a trivial matter. Who are responsible for this and what action has been taken against such persons so that such thing does not happen again? The time by which likely the country will be self reliant in respect of weapons and what is the planning of the Government in this regard? Besides, all these things, whether the Government have framed any time bound programme to manufacture weapons better than those of other countries and for being at par with them in the matter of sophisticated weapons? If so, the hon'ble Minister is requested to inform us about this.

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Even though we had set the target for self-reliance 50 years ago by the first Prime Minister, late Pandit Ji, over the years, in spite of the efforts by all successive Governments. ...*(Interruptions)* That is why, I said 'all successive Governments'. We do not try to get credit for ourselves on anything. All successive Governments tried to achieve this goal. But still, the unfortunate part, the shameful part is that we are importing 70 per cent of the equipment used by the Armed Forces. A country like India cannot allow this situation to continue. It is shameful and dangerous also. From whichever country we are importing, there can be a situation when we will face real difficulties. There can be some kind of a ban on imports or technology control. So, we have taken a decision now.

As I told earlier, hereafter, first priority will be given to buy from India. The Armed Forces have also agreed to it. If any Indian industry, public or private, can assure us that they can supply equipment to the Armed Forces, they will be given the first choice. If there is no source in India, whether public or private industry, to supply equipment, only then we will allow any kind of import. Now, I think, hereafter things will speed up.

The Government has taken one more decision. In the past, we used to have amendment of Defence Procurement Procedure every two years. Now we have taken a decision, to hasten the process of Indianisation, to amend the Defence Procurement Procedure every year instead of two years. The main idea is to give more teeth so that we can assure more transparency on the one side and on the other side give more space to the Indian industry, both public and private industry. I hope, we will be able to speed up the process year after year.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, my question is still unanswered. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please maintain silence and be seated. You have already asked two questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Naveen Jindal.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Naveen Jindal is saying.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, the second question was about time bound programme and the time by which will be self-dependent in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Now we told the DRDO as well as the industry, both public and private, that they should see to it that whatever has happened in the past

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: When will do it?

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: We cannot say on the specific time limit. One thing I can assure that things will move fast hereafter. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Silence please. Let other Non-members also ask their questions.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to this point?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: If I may clarify on the jackets part of it, I did not say 'sub-standard'. I said that there were some shortcomings in their performance which are being rectified with the new GSQR. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: There is some misunderstanding. The old jackets were supplied as per the old GSQR. But when we found that that GSQR is not suitable to most difficult conditions, now the Army has taken a decision to

change the GSQR. They have changed the DSQR. Now, hereafter, the procurement will be done as per the new GSQR.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Madam Speaker, I have seen the answers provided by the hon. Minister and heard the discussions. Many hon. Members of Parliament have raised vary valid points.

In my view also the quality of small arms, ammunition and equipment provided to our armed forces is not up to the mark. Starting from the running shoes to combat boots to the body armour, which they are referring to as bullet proof wears, or even the helmet, are not really up to the mark. Even, most of the small arms that we are providing to our armed forces are of World War-II vintage and are obsolete. The countries which produce them have put them in the museums, but our ordnance factories still continue to produce these obsolete arms.

Even our neighbours, Pakistan and Bangladesh, are providing their armed forces better small arms than what we are providing.

The hon. Minister and the Government have taken many steps. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, under his dynamic leadership, what drastic steps they are going to take so that we provide our armed forces, our valiant soldiers, the best equipment possible.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Madam Speaker, the question is very important. Our Government and the whole country are concerned about it, because as far as armed forces are concerned, there is no political aspect to it.

Our concern is to give most modern and state-of-the-art equipment to the armed forces. But it is an on-going process. While admitting that there are still some equipment that are not most modern, I would like to add that considering the past, every year improvement is taking place. In the early years, the death toll in the Siachen Glacier used to be high. Hundreds of soldiers used to die there. But, now, things are fast improving. Still, we are not satisfied. Even if one soldier dies because of bad quality, we cannot agree to that situation. So, we are determined to provide most modern equipment to those soldiers who are working in the difficult areas. It is a continuing process. We will do everything possible to speed up the process. We must also realize one thing. We are a democracy. In some other countries one or two individuals take decisions. They procure immediately whatever they want. But in our country we have systems

and procedures. All these things are there. In spite of that, every serious attempt is being made to simplify the systems and to provide the most modern and state-of-the-art equipment to the armed forces.

I realize the concern of the Members of Parliament belonging to all parties. So, I will take it seriously and the Government will take it seriously. We will try our best, whatever is humanly possible, to give the most modern equipment to the armed forces.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Madam, through you, I want to know from the Minister whether the Government would give preference to if public partnership for procurement it receives offer for this. Shri George Fernandes was the Minister of Defence in the NDA Government and the then Government had established an Ordnance Factory at Rajgir, Bihar and a lot of investment was made in this regard but no progress has been made so far. On the one hand a decision was taken to establish an Ordnance Factory at the level of the Government, payment was made, investment was done but still the goods were purchased from the private sector, people from the outside. Every now and then there are complaints about scam in defence deals. I want to know about the status of the expenditure and investment made in Rajgir, Bihar by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India and the time by which it is likely to be completed? Have the Government shut it down or taken any decision to continue it? We would like to know about this?

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: The construction work in the Nalanda factory is going on. There was some inordinate delay and years have passed without doing much work. But, now, things are improving. However, still there are some problems. But I can assure the hon. Member that the Nalanda factory will become a reality.

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 223—
Shri Ghanshyam Anuragi.

Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas

+

*223. SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

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

(a) the policy governing opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs);

(b) the details of KVs sanctioned during the past three years;

(c) the details of approved KVs which are yet to be established;

(d) the reasons for the delay in opening of such KVs, region-wise;

(e) the measures taken by the Government for early establishment of such Vidyalayas;

(f) whether the Government proposes to expand KVs; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

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

Statement

(a) Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) are opened primarily to cater to the educational needs of the children of transferable Central Government employees including Defence and Para-military personnel by providing a common programme of education. Kendriya Vidyalayas are opened on receipt of the proposal from the sponsoring agencies, *i.e.* various Ministries of Government of India, State Governments/UTs, Public Sector undertakings and Institutions of Higher Learning, etc. which have to commit requisite resources. The norms for opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas are given in the enclosed Annexure-I

(b) The details of KVs sanctioned during the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Annexure-II

(c) There is no such case at present.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

(f) and (g) Opening of KV depends, *inter-alia*, on receipt of a viable proposal from the sponsoring agency, approval of competent authority and availability of funds.

Annexure I*Norms for Opening of Kendriya Vidyalayas*

1. Proposal for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalaya (Central School) is considered only if sponsored by one of the following:-

- (i) (a) Ministries or Departments of the Government of India.
- (b) State Governments.
- (c) Union Territories' Administrations.
- (d) Organization of employees belonging to the eligible categories, (as in iii).
- (ii) Free of cost land as defined under two categories viz. (i) Minimum (ii) Desirable, the details of which are as under:

Sl. No.	Location	(i) Minimum requirement (in Acres)	(ii) Desirable extent (In Acres)
I.	Metropolitan city	02	04
II.	Hilly Areas	04	08
III.	Urban Area	04	08
IV.	Semi-Urban/Rural Areas	05	10

The Sponsoring Authority will, however, be liable to provide land as per 'desirable norms' but where that does not become possible despite best efforts, they would be under obligation to make available land atleast to the extent of 'minimum norms' free of cost.

- (iii) (a) When there is a concentration of at least 500 employees of the Defence services or of Central Government or of the Government of India Undertaking individually or joint (250 in the case of Special Focus Districts).
- (b) When there is minimum potential enrolment of children of specified categories for opening a Kendriya Vidyalaya belonging to categories I to VI which may be 200 or an average of 30 per class whichever is more.
- (iv) When the sponsoring authority makes available, free of rent or on nominal rent temporary accommodation to house the expanding Vidyalaya till the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan does construct its own Vidyalaya building on the land leased to it; and
- (v) Provision of the residential accommodation to at least 50% of the staff, should be made available by the sponsoring authority. The number of such residential units needs to be earmarked before the school is opened.

2. A new Kendriya Vidyalaya may be opened in the campus of Govt. of India undertaking if it agrees to bear the recurring and non-recurring expenditure including accommodation, land and future development facilities as also the proportionate overhead charges on the proposed Vidyalaya provided the need for such a Vidyalaya is established with reference to the location and non-availability of alternate educational facilities.
3. A new Kendriya Vidyalaya may be opened in the campus of an Institution of Higher Learning, like IIT, CSIR Laboratories etc. on the same terms and conditions as stipulated in respect of Schools for Public Sector Undertaking.

Annexure II*Details of Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) Sanctioned during the past three years i.e. 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09.*

Year	Name of KV	State	Current Status
1	2	3	4
2006-07	1. Dangs	Gujarat	Orders were issued on 30.8.2006 sanctioning a K.V. in this District but the Sponsoring Authority failed to provide suitable infrastructural facilities and hence the sanction of this KV has been cancelled and utilized by opening a new KV at another feasible location.

1	2	3	4
	2. Panchmahal	-do-	Sanctioned during the year 2006-07 and made functional during the year 2007-08
	3. Kodagu	Karnataka	-Do-
	4. Badwani	Madhya Pradesh	-Do-
	5. Dindori	-do-	-Do-
	6. Boudh	Orissa	-Do-
	7. Gajapati (Paralekhamundi)	-do-	-Do-
	8. Malkangiri	Orissa	-Do-
	9. Nabrangpur	-do-	-Do-
	10. Rayagada	-do-	-Do-
	11. Deoghar (Madhupur)	Jharkhand	-Do-
	12. Garhwa	-do-	-Do-
	13. Godda	-do-	-Do-
	14. Jamtara	-do-	-Do-
	15. Palamu	-do-	Orders were issued on 30.8.2006 sanctioning a K.V. in this District but the Sponsoring Authority failed to provide suitable infrastructural facilities and hence the sanction of this KV has been cancelled and utilized by opening a new KV at another feasible location.
	16. Sahibganj	-do-	Orders were issued on 30.8.2006 sanctioning a K.V. in this District but the Sponsoring Authority failed to provide suitable infrastructural facilities and hence the sanction of this KV has been cancelled and utilized by opening a new KV at another feasible location.
	17. Simdega	-do-	Sanctioned during the year 2006-07 and made functional during the year 2007-08
	18. Latehar	-do-	-do-
	19. Lahaul Spiti	H.P.	-do-

1	2	3	4
	20. Thiruvannamalai	Tamilnadu	-do-
	21. Kollam	Kerala	-do-
	22. East Garo Hills	Meghalaya	Orders were issued on 30.8.2006 sanctioning a K.V. in this District but the Sponsoring Authority failed to provide suitable infrastructural facilities and hence the sanction of this KV has been cancelled and utilized by sanctioning a new KV at another feasible location.
	23. Jaintiya Hills	Meghalaya	Orders were issued on 30.8.2006 sanctioning a K.V. in this District but the Sponsoring Authority failed to provide suitable infrastructural facilities and hence the sanction of this KV has been cancelled and utilized by opening a new KV at another feasible location.
	24. Goalpara	Assam	Sanctioned during the year 2006-07 and made functional during the year 2007-08.
	25. Golaghat	-do-	Sanctioned during the year 2006-07 and made functional during the year 2007-08.
	26. Nalbari	-do-	Orders were issued on 30.8.2006 sanctioning a K.V. in this District but the Sponsoring Authority failed to provide suitable infrastructural facilities and hence the sanction of this KV has been cancelled and utilized by opening a new KV at another feasible location.
	27. Cuddappah	Andhra Pradesh	Sanctioned during the year 2006-07 and made functional during the year 2007-08.
	28. Khammam	-do-	-do-
	29. Vijayanagaram	-do-	-do-
	30. Warrangal	-do-	-do-
	31. West Godavari	-do-	-do-
	32. Dhamtari	Chhattisgarh	-do-
	33. Kanker	-do-	-do-

1	2	3	4
	34. Dungerpur	Rajasthan	-do-
	35. Dakshin Dinajpur	West Bengal	-do-
	36. Birbhum	-do-	-do-
	37. Nadia (Ranaghat)	-do-	-do-
	38. South Sikkim	Sikkim	Orders were issued on 30.8.2006 sanctioning a K.V. in this District but the Sponsoring Authority failed to provide suitable infrastructural facilities and hence the sanction of this KV has been cancelled and utilized by opening a new KV at another feasible location.
	39. Badaun	Uttar Pradesh	Sanctioned during the year 2006-07 and made functional during the year 2007-08.
	40. Bahraich	-do-	Orders were issued on 30.8.2006 sanctioning a K.V. in this District but the Sponsoring Authority failed to provide suitable infrastructural facilities and hence the sanction of this KV has been cancelled and utilized by opening a new KV at another feasible location.
	41. Lakhimpur Kheri	-do-	Sanctioned during the year 2006-07 and made functional during the year 2008-09.
	42. Dhule	Maharashtra	Sanctioned during the year 2006-07 and made functional during the year 2007-08.
	43. Yawatmal	-do-	-do-
	44. Araria	Bihar	Sanctioned during the year 2006-07 and made functional during the year 2007-08.
	45. Madhubani	-do-	Orders were issued on 30.8.2006 sanctioning a K.V. in this District but the Sponsoring Authority failed to provide suitable infrastructural facilities and hence the sanction of this KV has been cancelled and utilized by opening a new KV at another feasible location.

1	2	3	4
	46. Sheohar	-do-	Sanctioned during the year 2006-07 and made functional during the year 2008-09.
	47. Supaul	-do-	Orders were issued on 30.8.2006 sanctioning a K.V. in this District but the Sponsoring Authority failed to provide suitable infrastructural facilities and hence the sanction of this KV has been cancelled and utilized by opening a new KV at another feasible location.
	48. Dhalai	Tripura	Sanctioned during the year 2006-07 and made functional during the year 2007-08.
	49. Temenglong	Manipur	-do-
	50. Ukhrul	-do-	-do-
2007-08	1. Sector 12 Dwarka	Delhi	Functional
	2. Venkatagiri, Distt. Nellore	Andhra Pradesh	Functional
	3. Panna, Distt. Panna	Madhya Pradesh	Functional
	4. Mati Akabarpur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat	Uttar Pradesh	Functional
	5. No.II RCF Kapurthala	Punjab	Functional
	6. Sivaganga	Tamil Nadu	Functional
	7. O.F. Estate Nalanda	Bihar	Functional
	8. Garha, Distt Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	Functional
	9. SAP Campus Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala	Functional
	10. Teesta Low Dam Project-III, Darjeeling	West Bengal	Functional (Project Sector)
	11. AFS Thanjavur	Tamilnadu	Functional
	12. No.III Belgaum	Karnataka	Functional
	13. Dirang, West Kameng Distt.	Arunachal Pradesh	Functional

1	2	3	4
	14. Bagalkot	Karnataka	Functional
	15. Ongole, Ditt. Prakassam	Andhra Pradesh	Functional
	16. Kandhamal	Orissa	Functional
	17. Dharmapuri	Tamil Nadu	Functional
	18. Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh	Sanctioned during the year 2007-08 and made functional during the year 2008-09
	19. Sheopur	Madhya Pradesh	Functional
	20. Chittorgarh	Rajasthan	Functional
	21. Gandhigaram, Dindigul	Tamil Nadu	Functional
	22. Bhadrak	Orissa	Functional
2008-09	1. Mahe	Puducherry	Functional
	2. Tangdhar, Kupwara Distt.	Jammu and Kashmir	Functional
	3. Datia	Madhya Pradesh	Functional
	4. Gumla	Jharkhand	Functional
	5. Painavu, Idukki distt.	Kerala	Functional
	6. Nagercoil, Kanyakumari Distt.	Tamil Nadu	Functional
	7. Khairagarh	Chhattisgarh	Functional
	8. Adilabad	Andhra Pradesh	Functional
	9. Mahabubnagar	Andhra Pradesh	Functional
2009-10 & till date	Nil	Nil	Nil

Note: 1. Orders sanctioning 50 Kendriya Vidyalayas under the criteria of Special Focus Districts, were issued on 30.08.2006 based on the approval of CCEA.

2. The KVs sanctioned during the year 2007-08 (21 KVs, excluding Teesta Low Dam Project-III, Darjeeling which is in Project Sector) and 2008-09 (09 KVs.) are in lieu of the closed/non-functional KVs whose sanctions have been utilized.

[Translation]

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which the Government will open Kendriya Vidyalayas in educationally backward districts of the

country including Urai, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahua, Banda and Chitrkut districts of Uttar Pradesh. Does the Government propose to provide residential facility in these new Vidyalayas in view of the interests of students? To open Kendriya Vidyalaya. ... (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask only one question.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: In reply to the question raised by the hon. Member I would like to say only that there are 981 Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country as on date. We have not opened any Kendriya Vidyalaya so far during 11th Five Year Plan. Last time, we had received Rs. 1500 crores in the budget. All this amount of Rs. 1500 crores is spent to run these 981 Kendriya Vidyalayas. We had made a demand of Rs. 4600 crores, but, we received only Rs. 1500 crores. Therefore, we did not open any Kendriya Vidyalayas during 11th Five Year Plan. Hon'ble Member is raising question about Uttar Pradesh. I would like to say about the question raised by the hon. Member in regard to Uttar Pradesh that we cannot open any new Vidyalaya until we get funds. ...*(Interruptions)* I have told that we had received only Rs. 1500 crores. ...*(Interruptions)*. Therefore, we cannot open any new Vidyalaya. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, you may ask second supplementary.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is an allegation against the Minister Finance. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Mulayam Singhji, you will also get an opportunity. He is a new Member. Let him ask the question uninterrupted.

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI: Through you, I would like to request the Government that this is a very important question. The Government should find out a solution. The Government can provide money Hon'ble Minister of Finance is sitting here. Provision should be made for this in the package meant for Bundelkhand.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You are absolutely right. We also want to open maximum number of Kendriya Vidyalayas. We are going to make a demand that we should be allowed to open Kendriya Vidyalaya after diverting the funds which remain unspent. We will make this demand. You need not worry. I am also worried about this. I also want that maximum number of Kendriya Vidyalayas should be opened because the students studying in Kendriya Vidyalayas have excelled in studies in private and other schools. We would like to open more

number of Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country, for this, we will make a demand also.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri P. Karunakaran—not present.

Shri Jagdambika Pal.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down. Please be silent.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Madam Speaker, Hon'ble Minister has admitted in his reply that 981 Kendriya Vidyalayas have been opened in the country and a provision of only Rs. 1500 crores has been made in the budget. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister about the action being taken by him to solve the problems faced by the students studying in Kendriya Vidyalayas of any state in the event of transfer of their parents to another state having no Kendriya Vidyalayas because Kendriya Vidyalayas have same curriculum and maintain uniformity in syllabus covered. What are the steps proposed by the Hon'ble Minister to obviate the difficulties faced by the students on the transfer of their parents.

The another related point that there is no such district in the country where the employees of Central Government are not posted, whether they are from Railways, communication or any other department. The concept of Kendriya Vidyalayas has been envisaged keeping in view the interests of these employees because they are transferred through out the country. Therefore, the question is whether hon. Minister will in principal, consider any scheme to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in all districts of the country, particularly, in various district of Uttar Pradesh, including Siddarth Nagar, which is the birth place of Gautam Buddha, after getting funds in supplementary budget or next budget. Through you, I would like to know the reaction of the hon. Minister and the Government in this regard.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, we want to open Kendriya Vidyalaya in each district of the country. This is my view and we want that Kendriya Vidyalaya should be opened. At present, there are 275 civil districts where there is no Kendriya Vidyalaya. ...*(Interruptions)* If you allow me to give reply, discussion will also be held. We

want that Kendriya Vidyalayas should be opened in each district. This is a scheme which extends benefits to all. We have opened 50 Kendriya Vidyalayas in backward areas which are our focussed areas. We have opened 50 Kendriya Vidyalayas in SC,ST and minority dominated areas alongwith the areas where women literacy rate is less than 10% and 26 Kendriya Vidyalayas are yet to be opened. We want that Kendriya Vidyalayas should be opened in each district of the country. This is the demand made by you also. Therefore, we want it to be fulfilled.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam, the hon'ble Minister has laid a detailed reply on the table of the House. He has given us the details of the Kendriya Vidyalayas sanctioned in the year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09, but, as mentioned in the reply, not even a single Kendriya Vidyalayas has been sanctioned in the year 2009-10.

So far as I know and he must be aware that the proposals for 50 Vidyalayas have been sent to his Ministry. A Vidyalaya to be opened in district Raisen of my parliamentary constituency has also been included therein. The district Raisen is one of 275 district having no Kendriya Vidyalayas as mentioned by him. He has disappointed us while talking about paucity of funds. First of all, I would like the whole House to unanimously make a recommendation to the Minister of Finance to make available funds to get the desire of the Minister of Education to open Kendriya Vidyalaya fulfilled. An amount of Rs. 1500 crore does not serve any purpose. The proposal of previous Government to open a Kendriya Vidyalayas in each district should be implemented. I would like to know the time by which the proposals to sanction Vidyalayas to be opened in this year are likely to be cleared and request you that Raisen must be included therein.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You have rightly said. There are 53 such places not 50 where all the formalities have been completed. The State Government has decided to provide land but the Ministry has no funds. Since it is an internal matter, you are requested not to bring it here... we will take a decision in this regard. *...(Interruptions)* You need not worry as to how it is to be done? As far as your constituency is concerned there is a demand by all Members of Parliament to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in their respective constituencies and any how I would try to meet this demand. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We are supporting you.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I welcome your support. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister to the demand made by entire House in national interest and request him to accept this legitimate demand with happiness, for consideration. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: We shall decide, you need not worry. *...(Interruptions)* You, yourself be happy, all will be well. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Shri Pranab Da you pay attention only to the ruling alliance, kindly pay your attention to the Opposition also. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam Speaker, during the Question Hour, I cannot reply to a question pertaining to the other Ministry.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: It has been proved that you are not going to get funds. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: They only asked for your smile.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: He has smiled. Shri Gorakhnath Pandey ji, now, you speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: You keep on smiling. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We will ask. When you solve this matter. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Hon'ble Madam Speaker, this is a very important matter. Education is the most important and the first step to any kind of development. I associate myself with Shrimati Sushma Swaraj's statement. I, through you, would like to say from the Hon'ble Minister that there are no Kendriya Vidyalayas

in the villages where farmers and workers live in jhuggi-jhoparis. Most of the Kendriya Vidyalayas are far away in cities and it is difficult for their children to go there for education. My district Badhoi is situated between Kashi and Prayag. Poor farmers live there along with their families. Hon'ble Minister has said that the Government considering to open Kendriya Vidyalaya in each district. Funds are required to implement it. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance is present here and the entire House desires so, all of us want this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please ask the question.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Madam Speaker, I am asking the question. The entire House wants that Kendriya Vidyalayas should be opened in each district. In my district Bhadotui there is Kashi Naresh Post Graduate Government Degree College which is one of the three Degree Colleges established in the first group by the State Government but there is no Kendriya Vidyalaya in this district till date. The district headquarter also is at Gyanpur. I would like to say to the Hon'ble Minister that at the time of preparing a list of the districts, Gyanpur also should be given priority and the House may be informed in this regard.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Hon'ble, Madam Speaker, regarding the question asked by the Hon'ble member I would like to say that a discussion on the Right to Education Bill is going to start in Rajya Sabha, today. I would like that the Bill should be passed by that House as well as by this House as early as possible. That will make it possible to establish a good school in each neighbourhood of India. This is going to be a historical event. I think that there will be a school in neighbourhood of each place during next three years. I think the demand for education school will be, almost met when school will be opened in each. Yet the demand for Kendriya Vidyalaya, from wherever received, would also be met.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, the Union Government aims to impart education to all through Kendriya Vidyalaya but as per the existing rules only the words of central government employees are enrolled and the remaining local children do not get admission in these schools. I would like to know from the Government whether the Minister intends to reserve some seats for local children so that they could also get quality education.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Admission in Kendriya Vidyalayas is given under seven categories.

[English]

They are: children transferable Central Government employees including ex-Servicemen, children of non-transferable Central Government employees including ex-Servicemen, children of transferable and non-transferable employees of autonomous bodies, children of transferable State Government employees, children of non-transferable employees of State Governments, children of transferable and non-transferable employees of autonomous bodies and children from any other category.

[Translation]

Madam, wherever we open Kendriya Vidyalaya first preference in admission is given to the children under these six categories. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, keep silence. Let the Minister reply.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, if seats remain vacant after giving admission to the prescribed categories then students of other categories are also accommodated. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please, keep silence.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Madam, Speaker, Hon'ble Minister is opening schools only for children of Government employees. I request that admission should also be given to the local children. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please listen the complete reply of Hon'ble Minister. Please take your seat.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, I have replied to the question asked by Hon'ble Member. That is why I said that under the Right to Education Bill, that we are going to pass, all the poor children would get good quality education.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Whether the children of farmers will get admission therein?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: The farmers not poor? Why do you differentiate the poor? Children of all people including farmers, the poor, people of Jhuggi-jhopari and persons residing at any place will get education.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Hon. Madam Speaker, Hon. Minister while assuming charge of the

ministry has stated that around 10 thousand model schools would be opened this year. You being a jurist I would like to tell you that Prof. Amartya Sen has said that if the proportion of investment in medical and education sector was more then the country would flourish, but I am sorry to hear this reply today that there is no budget for this purpose. I would like to ask you if there is any proposal to open central schools, does the Govt. propose to open model schools across the country and the number of such schools proposed to be opened in Uttar Pradesh?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, it has been the policy of our government to open model schools and we are going to open such schools. We have earlier put our policy before you, now planning is on for model schools. As I said earlier, and I reiterate the same when the Right to Education is passed, only then children between the age 6 to 14 years will be able to get good education.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Madam Speaker, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister that one of the schools opened by them has been operating in old rooms of a hospital for the last 10 years in Kathua. Please take a note of it. This year no admissions were given in standard-I. It seems that planning is on for closing the schools in Kathua. Moreover, Madam I would like to ask who will benefit if only children of employees are permitted to study in the schools in the districts, and other children are not allowed to study in such schools? Why it is so that a child of poor living below porsling line home to study in Mid-day-meal schools? I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he will improve their level or not?

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: In the reply to the question asked by the Hon. Member. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Hon. Madam, Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister that the whole House is concerned about this issue. Therefore, there should be detailed discussion on this issue.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I also believe that these should be a discussion on the issue. When the Right to Education Bill is brought then we will have discussion on it.

MADAM SPEAKER: You can give notice.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Madam, I would like to tell the Hon. Member that because of this, we are bringing Right to Education Bill. Central schools are only meant for the

children of Central Government employees, State Government employees, PSU employees and children of other people could not get admission in these schools. Keeping in view all this, we are bringing Right to Education Bill. We have formulated norms, standards under the Bill. All the existing schools have to follow these norms in next three years. If they don't follow the rules, they will be closed. What you are saying is current. That is why we are bringing the Right to Education Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. No. 224, Shri Kisanbhai Patel Absent Shri Pradeep Majhi.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Madam, I am trying to seek your permission to ask a question for quite a long time by raising my hand, but you have not given me opportunity to ask the question, instead you allowed the other Members to ask questions, who raised their hands after me. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Take your seat please. Please maintain silence.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Improving Quality of Higher Education

*224. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any comprehensive plan to improve the quality of higher education in the prevailing global scenario;

(b) if so details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage private sector and also to enhance Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) to improve the quality of education; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b): Improvement of quality of higher education has to be a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the XI Plan aiming at, *inter-alia*, improvement of quality through increased allocations for improvement of infrastructure in the existing higher and technical educational institutions and by way of setting up of new quality institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of Innovation Universities aiming at world class standards, quality institutions such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, Schools for Planning and Architecture, establishment of 50 centres for training and research in frontier areas of Science and Technology, etc. The recommendations of a Task Force constituted by the Government for strengthening basic science research have been accepted and the Task Force has been converted to an Empowered Committee to oversee the implementation. The University Grants Commission (UGC) implements various schemes for improving quality of higher education, such as Universities with Potential for Excellence, Colleges with Potential for Excellence, Special Assistance Programme, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Science and Technology, Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure for Humanities and Social Sciences, Fellowship Programmes for Research students as well as orientation and refresher programmes for newly appointed and in-service teachers through its Academic Staff Colleges.

The UGC has also taken up various measures for educational reforms, including introduction of semester system, regular updating of curricula and credit transfer. State Governments are also proposed to be incentivized through financial assistance for expansion of the capacity of the existing institutions, for starting of new institutions of higher education, for the establishment of model colleges in low GER districts, and for the establishment of new polytechnics in unserved and underserved districts in the country.

Improved pay package for teachers in universities and colleges has been announced by the Central Government in order to attract and retain talented persons in the teaching profession. It has also been decided to make National Eligibility Test (NET)/State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) compulsory for appointment as teachers at

entry level in the universities and colleges, except for those who have obtained Ph.D. degree from universities following the norms prescribed by the UGC in its regulations regarding registration, course work and evaluation process.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council, which is an Inter-University Centre of the UGC, assesses universities and colleges from time to time on various parameters of quality. There is a proposal to create an independent body for regulation of assessment and accreditation of higher education institutions and make accreditation mandatory.

(c) and (d) The Government proposes to encourage private sector participation in the field of education consistent with the policy of non-commercialization of education. The Government has already allowed FDI up to 100% on the automatic route in the Education Sector, by virtue of Press Note 2 (2000 Series) dated the 11th February 2000 of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Government is contemplating a law to put in place a mechanism to facilitate the entry of reputed foreign universities accredited in their country of origin for further improving the quality of higher education and research in the country, while preventing the entry of foreign institutions/universities of dubious quality.

[Translation]

Affiliation of Institutes

*225. SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms laid down for affiliation of institutes with various universities;

(b) the number of state universities including Allahabad University, which have been made central universities during the last three years;

(c) the status of the institutes affiliated with such state universities on their becoming central universities;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed the prescribed norms for affiliation in the recent past; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) While the Acts of Universities may provide for affiliation of colleges and institutions situated within their territorial jurisdiction, the conditions under which colleges and institutions may be admitted to the privileges of a University are provided in its Statutes and ordinances. Such conditions generally include (i) the suitability and adequacy of accommodation and equipment for teaching; (ii) the qualifications and adequacy of teaching staff and the conditions of their service; (iii) the arrangements for the residence, welfare, discipline and supervision of students; (iv) the adequacy of financial provision made for the continued maintenance of the college or institution; and (v) such other matters as are essential for the maintenance of the standards of University education.

(b) The University of Allahabad was established and incorporated as a Central University under the University of Allahabad Act, 2005 which came into force on 14.7.2005. The following State Universities have been established and incorporated as Central Universities during the last three years:

- (i) Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh)
- (ii) Tripura University, Agartala (Tripura)
- (iii) Doctor Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (Madhya Pradesh)
- (iv) Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh)
- (v) Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, (Uttarakhand)

(c) According to the relevant provisions of the Acts of these Universities, on and from the commencement of the respective Acts, all colleges and institutions affiliated to them as State Universities stood affiliated to them as Central Universities.

(d) and (e) In April, 1994, the University Grants Commission had circulated to the various State Governments and affiliating universities model guidelines regarding conditions for affiliation of colleges. The Commission has recently reviewed these guidelines and has framed Regulations on the subject. The salient features of these Regulations are enclosed as Statement. These Regulations are in the process of being notified by the commission.

Statement

Eligibility Criteria for Temporary Affiliation

1. Colleges seeking affiliation at the time of inspection by the University shall have.
 - (i) Owned land of 2 acres if it is located in Metropolitan Cities and 5 acres, if it is located in other areas and other academic and physical

infrastructure as prescribed by the university or concerned Regulatory Bodies.

- (ii) Number of teaching and non-teaching staff as per university norms;
 - (iii) A duly constituted Management Body as specified by the university.
2. The college, if not run by the State Government, shall be managed by duly constituted and registered Society or Trust and shall have;
 - (i) A corpus fund and provide an undertaking to the University that it has adequate recurring income from its own sources for its functioning.
 - (ii) To execute a bond in regard to imparting instructions only in the subjects, courses/ programmes in the faculties for which affiliation have been granted, comply with all the provisions of the Act, Statues, Rules and Regulations of the university, have number of teaching posts as prescribed, qualified teaching staff and the recruitment/promotion procedures and salary as prescribed by the UGC and conditions of services as per university/ State Govt. norms.
 - (iii) To charge fee as approved by the university and the college shall not collect any capitation fee or donation.
 - (iv) Academic and welfare activities for the students belonging to SCs/STs and other disadvantages groups.
 3. Procedure for granting Temporary Affiliation:
 - (i) The Government/Society/Trust shall make an application within the stipulated time to the university in the prescribed proforma with prescribed fee along with essential required documents.
 - (ii) The college shall be inspected by the university through a Committee of experts nominated by the Vice-Chancellor;
 - (iii) The report of the Committee shall be processed by the university through its appropriate bodies to grant or not to grant temporary affiliations recording the reasons in writing for its decisions within three months of inspection.

4. Eligibility Criteria for Permanent Affiliation.

[English]

- (i) The college shall have completed five years of satisfactory performance and attained the academic and administrative standards as prescribed by the University/UGC/Statutory Regulatory Body concerned.
- (ii) The college shall have completed construction of buildings and all infrastructure/facilities as stipulated in the Regulations and have teaching and non-teaching staff on permanent/regular basis in the UGC/Government scales of pay.
5. Procedure for granting Permanent Affiliation is the same as for temporary affiliation.
6. The affiliation can be withdrawn on violation of the provisions of Act, Statutes or Regulations or any condition of affiliation.
7. There is a provision of imposition of penalties on the universities granting affiliation to sub-standard colleges or failure of universities/colleges to comply with the Regulations of the Commission.

Installation of Mobile Towers

*226. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of mobile towers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the break-up of the number of mobile towers installed by private operators and the public sector companies, State-wise;

(c) whether absence of adequate number of towers has impeded the growth of the telecom sector in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The total number of Mobile Towers in India is 3,32,759 approximately as per SACFA clearances, the state-wise breakup of Public sector & Private sector is as under:

Name of State	Public sector	Private sector	Total Number of towers
1	2	3	4
Rajasthan	3026	19322	22348
Gujarat, Daman & Diu	2083	22156	24239
Maharashtra & Goa	3908	32143	36051
Karnataka	2070	18058	20128
Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh	2178	16279	18457
West Bengal, Orissa, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island	3137	28290	31427
Assam & Arunachal Pradesh	964	5332	6296
Delhi, Haryana & Chandigarh	2978	18432	21410
Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand	5712	37814	43526
Andhra Pradesh	2611	23518	26129
Punjab & Himachal Pradesh	2300	14907	17207
Jammu & Kashmir	713	3978	4691
Tamil Nadu & Puducherry	2968	23383	26351

1	2	3	4
Bihar & Jharkhand	1901	13593	15494
Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura	570	2646	3216
Kerala & Lakshadweep	2560	13229	15789
Total	39679	293080	332759

(c) to (e) The Installation of towers is a continuous process as a part of linear growth of mobile telephony in the country. The Government encourages installation of such towers in the rural areas through subsidy from Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund.

Old Age Homes

*227. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:
SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/guidelines laid down for construction/maintenance of old age homes in the country;

(b) the number of old age homes opened in the country during the last three years and the current years, State-wise;

(c) the number of people residing in each of these homes during the said period, location-wise;

(d) whether any proposal for opening of such homes is pending with the Government including that of Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) Under the Ministry's Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP), grant-in-aid for maintenance of Old Age Homes (OAHs) is provided upto 90% of the admissible recurring cost, to suitable NGOs.

At present, there is no scheme of giving assistance for construction of Old Age Homes.

(b) and (c) State-wise number of Old Age Homes for which assistance was provided under IPOP for the first time, during the period since 2006-07, the location of each such OAH, and the number of beneficiaries for which grant was given, are shown in Statement-I enclosed.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) State-wise numbers of proposals of grant in aid for Old Age Homes recommended by State Governments for the first time as per the IPOP Scheme (as revised w.e.f. 1.4.2008), which are pending, are at Statement-II enclosed. Pending cases are being processed as per the guidelines/eligibility norms and subject to availability of funds under the Scheme.

Statement I

Sl.No.	State where assistance for an OAH has been given for the first time in the last three years (and current year)	No. of OAHs assisted for the first time	Location of OAHs assisted for the first time	No. of beneficiaries of OAH assisted for the first time as per capacity of OAH
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	West Godavari Adilabad	25 25

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Assam	4	Darrang	25
			Guwahati	25
			Golaghat	25
			Karimganj	25
3.	Bihar	1	Kaimur	25
4.	Haryana	1	Bhiwani	25
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1	Lahaul Spiti	25
6.	Karnataka	2	Bellary	25
			Shimoga	25
7.	Punjab	1	Faridkot	25
8.	Tamil Nadu	3	Vellore	25
			Ramanathapuram	25
			Chennai	25
9.	Maharashtra	5	Bhandara	25
			Dhule	25
			Nanded	25
			Akola	25
			Bhandara	25
10.	Orissa	2	Bhadrak	25
			Bhadrak	25
11.	Uttar Pradesh	5	Bijnour	25
			J P Nagar	25
			Sonebhadra	25
			Sonebhadra	25
			Lucknow	25
12.	West Bengal	1	Kolkata	25
	Total	28		700

Statement II

SI.No.	Name of State	Number of pending proposals of Old Age Homes, received from the State Governments for the first time, as per the revised IPOP Scheme
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1	2	3
1.	Manipur	18
2.	Karnataka	39

1	2	3
3.	Haryana	9
4.	Kerala	24
5.	Tamil Nadu	8
6.	Gujarat	8
7.	Himachal Pradesh	5
8.	Rajasthan	24

1	2	3
9.	Andhra Pradesh	69
10.	Bihar	22
11.	Uttarakhand	10
12.	Jharkhand	1
13.	Chhattisgarh	3
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11
15.	West Bengal	18
16.	Assam	29
17.	Orissa	21
18.	Jammu and Kashmir	3
19.	Tripura	1
20.	Punjab	1
21.	Maharashtra	35
22.	Nagaland	13
Total		372

Recruitment to Armed Forces from Tribal Areas

*228. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN:
SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch special recruitment drive for youths in tribal specific areas for various posts in the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such drives launched during the last three years;

(d) the number of tribal youths recruited in the drives during the above period;

(e) whether the Government proposes to open new recruitment centres in various parts of the country, including the tribal areas of Orissa and Gujarat; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) to (f) The recruitment in the Armed Forces is based

on merit and is equally open to every citizen of the country without discrimination irrespective of caste, creed, tribe or religion, provided the candidate meets the laid down age, physical, medical and educational criteria. Officers in the Armed Forces are selected primarily through All India open competition. Personnel Below Officer Ranks (PBORs) are recruited through recruitment rallies held in different parts of the country in case of Army. In Navy, recruitment of PBOR is application based through recruitment tests. In Air Force, recruitment of PBOR is through selection tests on all India basis. Recruitment rallies are also conducted in some areas.

Recruitment of youth, including from tribal areas across the country is an ongoing process. The recruitment data for a particular region, religion, tribe, caste or creed is not maintained.

There is presently no proposal to open new Recruitment Centres.

Allotment of STD/ISD/PCO Booths

*229. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending with the Union Government for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO booths in the country including West Bengal, circle-wise at present;

(b) the names of the circles where Telephone Advisory Committees have been constituted for providing such booths;

(c) the number of persons who have applied for allotment of PCO booths in the country including West Bengal during the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the effective steps taken/being taken by the Government to clear the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Union Government does not provide telecom service. Therefore, the question of pending applications of STD/ISD/PCO booths with Central Government does not arise. However, pending applications of STD/ISD/PCO booths with BSNL/MTNL (Government controlled Public Sector Undertakings) are given in last column of the Statement enclosed.

(b) Telecom Advisory Committees (TACs) do not provide STD/ISD/PCO Booths.

(c) Number of persons who have applied for allotment of STD/ISD/PCO Booths in BSNL/MTNL during the last three years and in the current financial year till 30-06-2009 are given in annexure circle-wise (including West Bengal circle).

(d) PCOs are generally available on demand subject to technical feasibility and fulfillment of commercial conditions.

Statement

Number of persons who have applied for STD/ISD/PCO Booths during last three years & current year and number of pending applications as on 30.06.2009

S.No.	Name of Circle	Number of persons who have applied for STD/ISD/PCOs during					Total	Pending applications as on 30.6.09
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (up to 30.6.09)			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	117	60	103	51	331	Nil	
2.	Andhra Pradesh	48491	35217	19993	2844	106545	1	
3.	Assam	5370	1519	447	49	7385	Nil	
4.	Bihar	10672	3385	1746	160	15963	Nil	
5.	Chhattisgarh	3002	2543	485	0	6030	Nil	
6.	Gujarat	5691	5424	4854	275	16244	13	
7.	Haryana	1712	3530	2369	243	7854	Nil	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1216	852	445	104	2617	Nil	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1713	866	670	55	3304	6	
10.	Jharkhand	594	742	492	318	2146	Nil	
11.	Karnataka	40836	196114	65829	5378	308157	15	
12.	Kerala	21079	11330	8939	645	41993	108	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	5379	20517	4545	594	31035	Nil	
14.	Maharashtra	61432	34627	18996	1665	116720	108	
15.	North East-I	1860	2258	270	10	4398	Nil	
16.	North-East-II	575	503	751	101	1930	Nil	
17.	Orissa	3383	2022	1555	349	7309	Nil	
18.	Punjab	2354	2932	2832	299	8417	Nil	
19.	Rajsthan	4111	2012	2000	342	8465	Nil	
20.	Tamil Nadu	38146	62956	28597	8595	138294	Nil	
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	19303	28003	10530	1126	58962	Nil	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	1771	1651	2762	505	6689	Nil
23.	Uttaranchal	640	537	339	36	1552	10
24.	West Bengal	9026	6120	1152	5116	21414	Nil
25.	Calcutta	2952	6400	10343	359	20054	Nil
26.	Chennai	9377	2442	1500	322	13641	Nil
27.	MTNL Delhi	6826	10803	6457	2207	26293	Nil
28.	MTNL Mumbai	4035	4940	5008	956	14939	Nil
Total		311663	450305	204009	32704	998681	261

[*Translation*]

Universalisation of Secondary Education

*230. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH MEENA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes any scheme for universalisation of secondary Education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the norms and the funding pattern under the said scheme;

(d) whether funds have been earmarked for the scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and time by which the scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The new centrally sponsored scheme called "Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan" is meant to universalise access to secondary education and to improve its quality. The scheme envisages enhancing enrollment at secondary stage by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance: of every habitation, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, and removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers. The sharing pattern between the centre and the States during the 11th Five Year Plan is 75:25, while for the north-eastern States, the ratio is 90:10.

(d) and (e) An amount of Rs. 20,120 crore has been allocated for the scheme during the 11th Five Year Plan. The budget provision for 2009-10 is Rs. 1353.98 crore. The scheme has already been launched in March, 2009.

[*English*]

Modernisation of Post Offices

*231. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of 'Project Arrow' being implemented for modernization of post offices and customer services provided both in urban and rural post offices;

(b) the details of post offices selected for the project from different States including Andhra Pradesh especially in the rural areas;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide these post offices with their own building/accommodation instead of operating from rented premises; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The objective of Project Arrow is to give a new outlook to post offices by modernizing exterior and interior designs of the post office, upgrading infrastructure and enhancing

core operation including IT enabled services and processes. In 2008, 500 post offices had been modernized under Project Arrow in two phases and given the response of the customers and staff of post offices, Project Arrow is currently being extended to another 500 post offices. Project Arrow is enabling revitalization of India Post's core operations and provision of new technology-enabled services to the common man.

(b) The scheme is being implemented both in urban and rural areas. The details of post offices selected for the project from different States including Andhra Pradesh is given in the Statements-I, II and III enclosed.

(c) and (d) Project Arrow is being implemented in both departmental and rented buildings/houses as indicated at in Statement-IV enclosed.

Statement I

Project Arrow Phases-I (List of Post Offices)

Sl.No.	Name of the identified Post Office	Postal Division	Revenue District	Postal Region
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization—Andhra Pradesh Circle</i>				
1.	Nekkonda Sub Post office	Warangal	Warangal	Hyd. Region
2.	Kohir Sub Post office	Sangareddy	Medak	Hyd. Region
3.	Pattikonda LSG Post office	Kurnool	Kurnool	Kurnool
4.	Dwaraka Tirumala Sub Post office	Eluru	West Godavari	Vijaywada
5.	Sompeta Sub Post office	Srikakulam	Srikakulam	Visakhapatnam
<i>Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization—Jharkhand Circle</i>				
6.	Doranda Head Post office	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi
7.	Madhupur Sub Post Office	Dumka	Deoghar	Ranchi
8.	Jamshedpur Head Post office	Jamshedpur	Jamshedpur	Ranchi
9.	Hazaribagh Head Post Office	Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh	Ranchi
<i>Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization—Madhya Pradesh Circle</i>				
10.	Guna Head Post Office	Guna	Guna	Indore
11.	Shivpuroi Head Post Office	Guna	Shivpuri	Indore
12.	Ashok Nagar Mukhya Dak Ghar	Guna	Guna	Indore
13.	Nanda Nagar Sub Post Office	Indore City	Indore	Indore
14.	Morena Head Post Office	Chambal	Morena	Indore
15.	Morar Head Post Office	Gwalior	Gwalior	Indore
<i>Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization—Maharashtra Circle</i>				
16.	Bhandara Head Post Office	Nagpur Mfl. Dn.	Bhandara	Nagpur
17.	Jawhar Sub Post Office	Thane West	Thane	Mumbai
18.	Baramati Sub Post Office	Pune Muffasil	Pune	Pune

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Nanded Head Post Office	Nanded	Nanded	Aurangabad
20.	Kalangut Sub Post Office	North Goa	Goa	Goa
<i>Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization—North-East Circle</i>				
21.	Cherrapunjee Sub Post Office	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills	North-East
22.	Mokokchung Mukhya Dak Ghar	Nagaland	Mokokchung	North-East
<i>Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization—Orissa Circle</i>				
23.	Kamakshyanagar Sub Post Office	Dhenkanal	Angul	Sambalpur
24.	Barpali Sub Post Office	Sambalpur	Bargarh	Sambalpur
25.	Gopalpur Sub Post Office	Berhampur	Ganjam	Berhampur
26.	Puri Head Post Office	Puri	Puri	Bhubaneshwar
27.	Chandabali Sub Post office	Bhadrak	Bhadrak	Bhubaneshwar
<i>Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization—Rajasthan Circle</i>				
28.	Mokundgarh Sub Post Office	Jhunjhunu	Jhunjhunu	Jodhpur
29.	Shahpura Sub Post Office	Bhilwara	Bhilwara	Ajmer
30.	Jhalawar Head Post Office	Kota	Jhalawar	Ajmer
31.	Nandanwan Sub Post Office	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	Jodhpur
32.	Rajasthan Secretariat Sub Post Office	Jaipur	Jaipur	Jaipur
<i>Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization—Tamil Nadu Circle</i>				
33.	Perambalur	Srirangam	Perambalur	Tiruchirapalli
34.	Madanagopalapuram	Srirangam	Perambalur	Tiruchirapalli
35.	Thurai mangalam	Srirangam	Perambalur	Tiruchirapalli
36.	Padalur	Srirangam	Perambalur	Tiruchirapalli
37.	Chettikulam	Srirangam	Perambalur	Tiruchirapalli
38.	Ariyalur	Trichy	Ariyalur	Tiruchirapalli
39.	Jeyankondam	Trichy	Ariyalur	Tiruchirapalli
40.	Thuraiyur	Srirangam	Tiruchy	Tiruchirapalli
41.	Tirukuvalai	Nagapattinam	Nagapattinam	Tiruchirapalli
<i>Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization—Uttar Pradesh Circle</i>				
42.	Amethi Mukhya Dak Ghar	Sultanpur	Sultanpur	Lucknow
43.	Bhadohi Mukhya Dak Ghar	Varanasi West	Varanasi	Allahabad
44.	Nawabganj Sub Post Office	Gonda	Gonda	Gorakhpur

1	2	3	4	5
45.	Kaisargarh Sub Post Office	Bahraich	Bahraich	Gorakhpur
46.	Akbarpur Sub Post Office	Kanpur Muffasil	Kanpur Dehat	Kanpur
<i>Post Offices to be taken up for modernization and total computerization—Uttarakhand Circle</i>				
47.	Narendranagar Sub Post Office	Tehri	Tehri	Uttarakhand
48.	Rajpur Sub Post Office	Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
49.	Satpuli Sub Post Office	Pauri	Pauri Garhwal	Uttarakhand
50.	Kichha Sub Post office	Nainital	Udham Singh Nagar	Uttarakhand

Statement II*Project Arrow Phase-II (List of Post Offices)*

Sl. No.	Name of PO	Postal Division	Revenue District	Region
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh				
1.	S.K. Nagar SO	Adilabad	Adilabad	Hyderabad
2.	Sirisilla SO	Karimnagar	Karimnagar	Hyderabad
3.	Warrangal HO	Warangal	Warangal	Hyderabad
4.	Banswada SO	Nlizamabad	Nizamabad	Hyderabad
5.	Mahabubnagar HO	Mahabubnagar	Mahabubnagar	Hyderabad
6.	Huzurnagar SO	Suryapet	Nalgonda	Hyderabad
7.	Nagarkurnool SO	Wanaparthly	Mahbubnagar	Hyderabad
8.	Mulug SO	Hanamkonda	Warangal	Hyderabad
9.	Manthani SO	Peddapally	Karimnagar	Hyderabad
10.	Dubbak SO	Medak	Medak	Hyderabad
11.	Kamareddy HO	Nizamabad	Nizamabad	Hyderabad
12.	Begampeth SO	Secunderabad	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City
13.	Hyderabad GPO	Independent Unit	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City
14.	Secunderabad HO	Secunderabad	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City
15.	Banjara Hills SO	Hyderabad	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City
16.	Jubilee HO	Hyderabad South East	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City
17.	Gooty SO	Anantapur	Anantapur	Kurnool
18.	Badvel SO	Tirupati	Chittoor	Kurnool

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Kuppam SO	Chittoor	Chittoor	Kurnool
20.	Kodur SO	Cuddapah	Cuddapah	Kurnool
21.	Cuddapah HO	Kumool	Kurnool	Kurnool
22.	Penukonda SO	Nandyal	Kurnool	Kumool
23.	Yemmiganur SO	Proddatur	Cuddapah	Kumool
24.	Chandragiri HO	Tirupati	Chittoor	Kurnool
25.	Tirupati HO	Tirupati	Chittoor	Kurnool
26.	Lakkireddy Palli SO	Kadapa	Kadapa	Kumool
27.	Hanuman Junction SO	Gudivada	Krishna	Vijayawada
28.	Vijawada HO	Vijayawada	Krishna	Vijayawada
29.	Amaravathi SO	Guntur	Guntur	Vijayawada
30.	Vinukonda SO	Narasaraopet	Guntur	Vijayawada
31.	Guntur HO	Guntur	Guntur	Vijayawada
32.	Eluru HO	Eluru	West Godavari	Vijayawada
33.	Kothapatnam SO	Prakasam	Prakasam	Vijayawada
34.	Tanuku HO	Bhimavaram	West Godavari	Vijayawada
35.	Khammam HO	Khammam	Khammam	Vijayawada
36.	Sullurpet SO	Gudur	Nellore	Vijayawada
37.	Santhamaguluru SO	Prakasham	Prakasham	Vijayawada
38.	Amalapuram HO	Amalapuram	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
39.	Narsipatnam HO	Anakapalle	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam
40.	Visakhapatnam HO	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam	Visakhapatnam
41.	Palakonda SO	Parvathipuram	Srikakulam	Visakhapatnam
42.	Tuni SO	Kakinada	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam
43.	Vizianagaram HO	Vizianagaram	Vizianagaram	Visakhapatnam
44.	Vizianagaram Cantt. SO	Vizianagaram	Vizianagaram	Visakhapatnam
Bihar				
45.	Bankipore HO	Patna	Patna	Patna
46.	Muzaffarpur HO	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur
47.	Madhubani HO	Madhubani	Madhubani	Muzaffarpur
48.	Gopalganj HO	Siwan	Gopalganj	Muzaffarpur

1	2	3	4	5
49.	Chapra HO	Saran	Saran	Patna
50.	Biharsharif HO	Nalanda	Nalanda	Patna
51.	Aurangabad HO	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	Patna
52.	Arrah HO	Bhojpur	Bhojpur	Patna
53.	Bikramganj SO	Bhojpur	Rohtas	Patna
54.	Sasaram HO	Rohtas	Sasaram	Patna
55.	Hajipur HO	Vaishali	Vaishali	Patna
56.	Motihari HO	Motihari	Champanan	Muzaffarpur
57.	Gaya HO	Gaya	Gaya	Patna
58.	Bhagalpur HO	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Patna
59.	Munger HO	Munger	Munger	Patna
Gujarat				
60.	Gandhi Nagar HO	Gandhi Nagar	Gandhi Nagar	Ahmedabad
61.	Dwarka SO	Jamnagar	Jamnagar	Rajkot
62.	Prabhas Patan SO	Junagarh	Junagarh	Rajkot
63.	Bhuj HO	Kutch	Kutch	Rajkot
64.	Porbandar HO	Porbandar	Porbandar	Rajkot
65.	Miyagam Karjan SO	Vadodara West	Vadodara	Vadodara
66.	Rajpipla SO	Bharuch	Narmada	Vadodara
67.	Padara SO	Vadodara West	Vadodara	Vadodara
68.	Chhotaudepur SO	Vadodara East	Vadodara	Vadodara
69.	Bodeli (Sankheda) SO	Vadodara East	Vadodara	Vadodara
Jharkhand				
70.	Jhumritilaiya SO	Hazaribagh	Kodarma	Ranchi
71.	Dhanbad HO	Dhanbad	Dhanbad	Ranchi
72.	Golmuri SO	Jamshedpur	Jamshedpur	Ranchi
73.	Sakchi NDSO	Jamshedpur	Jamshedpur	Ranchi
74.	Katrasgarh SO	Dhanbad	Dhanbad	Ranchi
75.	Simdega MDG	Ranchi	Simdega	Ranchi
76.	Namkum SO	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi
77.	Kanke SO	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi

1	2	3	4	5
78.	Gumla HO	Ranchi	Gumla	Ranchi
79.	Lohardaga MDG	Ranchi	Lohardaga	Ranchi
80.	Chaibasa HO	Singhbhum	West Singhbhum	Ranchi
81.	Tatanagar SO	Singhbhum	East Singhbhum	Ranchi
82.	Daltonganj HO	Palamau	Palamau	Ranchi
83.	Giridih HO	Giridih	Giridih	Ranchi
84.	B. Deoghar HO	Dumka	Deoghar	Ranchi
85.	Dumka HO	-do-	Dumka	Ranchi
86.	Godda MDG	-do-	Godda	Ranchi
87.	B.S. City HO	Dhanbad	Bokaro	Ranchi
88.	B.S. City sec-IX SO	-do-	Bokaro	Ranchi
89.	B.S. City Sec-VI SO	-do-	-do-	Ranchi
90.	BCCL Dhanbad SO	-do	Dhanbad	Ranchi
91.	Dhurva SO	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi
92.	Ramgarh Cantt. HO	Hazaribagh	Ramgarh	Ranchi
93.	Ranchi GPO	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi
94.	Koderma SO	Hazaribagh	Koderma	Ranchi
95.	Garhwa MDG	Palamau	Garhwa	Ranchi
96.	Latehar MDG	Palamau	Latehar	Ranchi
Madhya Pradesh				
97.	Sagar Cantt. HO	Sagar Dn.	Sagar	Bhopal
98.	Khurai MDG	Sagar Dn.	Sagar	Bhopal
99.	Chhatarpur SO	Chhatarpur Dn.	Chhatarpur	Bhopal
100.	Khajuraho SO	Chhatarpur Dn.	Chhatarpur	Bhopal
101.	Panna SO	Chhatarpur Dn.	Chhatarpur	Bhopal
102.	Hoshangabad HO	Hoshangabad Dn.	Hoshangabad	Bhopal
103.	Shahdol HO	Shahdol Dn.	Shahdol	Bhopal
104.	Nourazabad SO	Shahdol Dn.	Shahdol	Bhopal
105.	Bhel HO Piplani, Bhopal	Bhopal Dn.	Bhopal	Bhopal
106.	Dhanpuri SO	Shahdol Dn.	Shahdol	Bhopal
107.	Rewa HO	Rewa Dn.	Rewa	Bhopal

1	2	3	4	5
108.	Chhindwara HO	Chhindwara Dn.	Chhindwara	Bhopal
109.	Vidisha HO	Vidisha Dn.	Vidisha	Bhopal
110.	Raisen HO	Vidisha Dn.	Raisen	Bhopal
111.	Ganj Basoda SO	Vidisha Dn.	Vidisha	Bhopal
112.	Sironj SO	Vidisha Dn.	Vidisha	Bhopal
113.	Kurwai SO	Vidisha Dn.	Vidisha	Bhopal
114.	Sanchi SO	Vidisha Dn.	Raisen	Bhopal
115.	Bhopal GPO	Bhopal Dn.	Bhopal	Bhopal
116.	C.T.T. Nagar HO	Bhopal Dn.	Bhopal	Bhopal
117.	Mungawali SO	Guna Dn.	Ashok Nagar	Indore
118.	Guna Bazar SO	Guna Dn.	Guna	Indore
119.	Karera SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore
120.	Pichhore SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore
121.	Dak Bhawan SO	Bhopal On.	Bhopal	Bhopal
122.	Kolaras SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore
123.	Guna City SO	Guna Dn.	Guna	Indore
124.	Aroun SO	Guna Dn.	Guna	Indore
125.	Esagarh SO	Guna Dn.	Ashok Nagar	Indore
126.	Gwalior Fort SO	Gwalior Dn.	Gwalior	Indore
127.	Shadora SO	Guna Dn.	Ashok Nagar	Indore
128.	Bamori SO	Guna Dn.	Guna	Indore
129.	Pohri SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore
130.	Shivpuri City SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore
131.	Badrwas SO	Guna Dn.	Shivpuri	Indore
132.	Bhitarwar SO	Gwalior Dn.	Gwaiior	Indore
133.	Bhander SO	Gwalior Dn.	Gwalior	Indore
134.	Dabra SO	Gwalior Dn.	Gwalior	Indore
135.	Datia MDG	Gwalior Dn.	Datia	Indore
136.	Ambha SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore
137.	Sheopur SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore
138.	Joura SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore

1	2	3	4	5
139.	Vijaypur SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore
140.	Sabalgarh SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore
141.	Bhind HO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Bhind	Indore
142.	Porsa SO	Chambal Dn. Morena	Morena	Indore
143.	Umri SO	Morena Dn.	Morena	Indore
144.	Lashkar HO	Gwalior	Gwalior	Indore
145.	Chanderi SO	Guna	Guna	Indore
146.	Indore GPO	Indore City Dn.	Indore	Indore
147.	Indore City HO	Indore City Dn.	Indore	Indore
148.	Oewas HO	Indore Mfl Dn.	Dewas	Indore
149.	Dhar HO	Indore Mfl Dn.	Dhar	Indore
150.	Mhow MDG	Indore Mfl Dn.	Indore	Indore
151.	Mandu SO	Indore Mfl Dn.	Indore	Indore
152.	Jabalpur HO	Jabalpur Dn	Jabalpur	Indore
153.	Katni HO	Jabalpur Dn	Katni	Indore
154.	Khandwa HO	Khandwa Dn	Khandwa	Indore
155.	Burtianpur SO	Khandwa Dn	Burhanpur	Indore
156.	Khargone SO	Khandwa Dn	Khargone	Indore
157.	Mandsaur HO	Mandsaur Dn.	Mandsaur	Indore
158.	Mandsaur City SO	Mandsaur Dn.	Mandsaur	Indore
159.	Neemuch HO	Mandsaur Dn.	Neemuch	Indore
160.	Garoth SO	Mandsaur Dn.	Mandsaur	Indore
161.	Ratlam HO	Ratlam Dn.	Ratlam	Indore
162.	Jhabua HO	Ratlam Dn.	Jhabua	Indore
163.	Jaora SO	Ratlam Dn.	Ratlam	Indore
164.	Sehore HO	Sehore Dn.	Sehore	Indore
165.	Kotri SO	Sehore Dn.	Sehore	Indore
166.	Rajgarh (Bia) SO	Sehore Dn.	Rajgarh	Indore
167.	Khilchipur SO	Sehore Dn.	Rajgarh	Indore
168.	Ujjain HO	Malwa Dn.	Ujjain	Indore
169.	Ujjain City SO	Malwa Dn.	Ujjain	Indore

1	2	3	4	5
170.	Shajapur HO	Malwa Dn.	Shajapur	Indore
171.	Shujalpur Mandi SO	Malwa Dn.	Shajapur	Indore
172.	Bercha SO	Malwa Dn.	Shajapur	Indore
173.	Agar Malwa SO	Ujjain Dn.	Ujjain	Indore
Maharashtra				
174.	Latur HO	Osmanabad	Latur	Aurangabad
175.	Amalner SO	Jalgaon	Jalgaon	Aurangabad
176.	Egatpuri SO	Nashik	Nashik	Aurangabad
177.	Dhule HO	Dhule	Dhule	Aurangabad
178.	Parli Vaidyanath SO	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	Aurangabad
179.	Aurangabad HO	Bhusawal	Jalgaon	Aurangabad
180.	Beed HO	Beed	Beed	Aurangabad
181.	Jalgaon HO	Jalgaon	Jalgaon	Aurangabad
182.	Nasik HO	Malegaon	Nashik	Aurangabad
183.	Parbhani HO	Parbhani	Parbhani	Aurangabad
184.	Kolhapur HO	Kolhapur	Kolhapur	Goa
185.	Mapusa MDG	Goa	North Goa	Goa
186.	Sangli HO	Sangli	Sangli	Goa
187.	Ponda MDG	Goa	South Goa	Goa
188.	Miraj HO	Sangli	Sangli	Goa
189.	C C Oros MDG	Sindhudurg	Sindhudurg	Goa
190.	Ratnagiri HO	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	Goa
191.	Chiplun HO	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	Goa
192.	Jaysinghpur MDG	Kolhapur	Kolhapur	Goa
193.	Panaji HO	Panaji	Panaji	Goa
194.	Mumbai GPO	Mumbai South	Mumbai	Mumbai
195.	Juhu SO	Mumbai North	Mumbai	Mumbai
196.	Mantralaya SO	Mumbai City South	Mumbai	Mumbai
197.	Vashi SO	Navi Mumbai	Thane	Mumbai
198.	Alibag HO	Raigad	Raigad	Mumbai
199.	Matunga SO	Mumbai City North East	Mumbai	Mumbai

1	2	3	4	5
200.	Dadar HO	Mumbai	Mumbai	Mumbai
201.	Motilalnagar SO	Mumbai City North West	Mumbai	Mumbai
202.	Ulhas Nagar V	Thane Central Division	Thane	Mumbai
203.	Nariman Point SO	Mumbai City South	Mumbai	Mumbai
204.	Chandrapur HO	Chandrapur	Chandrapur	Nagpur
205.	Gondia HO	Nagpur Mfl.	Gondia	Nagpur
206.	Sakoli SO	Nagpur Mfl.	Bhandara	Nagpur
207.	Amgaon SO	Nagpur Mfl.	Gondia	Nagpur
208.	Akola HO	Akola	Akola	Nagpur
209.	Amraoti HO	Amraoti	Amraoti	Nagpur
210.	Wardha HO	Wardha	Wardha	Nagpur
211.	Yeotmal HO	Yeotmal	Yeotmal	Nagpur
212.	Nagpur GPO	Nagpur	Nagpur	Nagpur
213.	Chandur Railway SO	Amraoti	Amraoti	Nagpur
214.	Mahabaleshwar SO	Satara	Satara	Pune
215.	Shivaji Nagar SO	Pune City West Dn	Pune	Pune
216.	Pune City HO	Pune City West	Pune	Pune
217.	Rajgurunagar SO	Pune Moffusil	Pune	Pune
218.	Panchgani SO	Satara	Satara	Pune
219.	Shrirampur HO	Shrirampur	Ahmednagar	Pune
220.	Karad HO	Satara	Satara	Pune
221.	Ahmadnagar HO	Ahmednagar	Admednagar	Pune
North-East				
222.	Naharlagun	Arunachal Pradesh	Papumpare	North-East
223.	Champhai SO	Mizoram	Champhai	North-East
224.	Sabroom SO	Agartala	South Tripura	North-East
225.	Panisagar SO	Dharmanagar	North Tripura	North-East
226.	Jowai SO	Meghalaya	Janitia Hills	North-East
227.	Lunglei SO	Mizoram	Lunglei	North-East
228.	Wokha SO	Nagaland	Wokha	North-East
229.	Kohima HO	Nagaland	Kohima	North-East

1	2	3	4	5
230.	Tura HO	Meghalaya	West Garo Hills	North-East
231.	Agartala HO	Agartala	West Tripura	North-East
232.	Aizwal HO	Mizoram	Aizwal	North-East
Orissa				
233.	Junagarh SO	Kalahandi	Kalahandi	Berhampur
234.	G. Udayagiri SO	Phulbani	Phulbani	Berhampur
235.	Sorada SO	Aska	Ganjam	Berhampur
236.	Pariakhemundi HO	Berhampur	Gajapati	Berhampur(GM)
237.	Mabarangapur MDG	Koraput	Nabarangapur	Berhampur(GM)
238.	Sunabeda-2 SO	Koraput	Koraput	Berhampur(GM)
239.	Madanpur Rampur SO	Kalahandi	Kalahandi	Berhampur(GM)
240.	Phulbani HO	Phulbani	Phulbani	Berhampur(GM)
241.	Pipli SO	Bhubaneswar	Puri	Bhubaneswar
242.	Ashok Nagar SO	Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar
243.	Rajkanika SO	Cuttack North	Kendrapara	Bhubaneswar
244.	College Square SO	Cuttack South	Jagatsinghpur	Bhubaneswar
245.	Sakhigopal SO	Puri	Puri	Bhubaneswar
246.	Choudwar SO	Cuttack South	Cuttack	Bhubaneswar
247.	Baripada HO	Mayurbhanja	Mayurbhanja	Bhubaneswar
248.	Soro MDG	Balasore	Balasore	Bhubaneswar
249.	Bhadrak HO	Bhadrak	Bhadrak	Bhubaneswar
250.	Chandnichowk HO	Cuttack City	Cuttack	Bhubaneswar
251.	Bank MDG	Cuttack City	Cuttack	Bhubaneswar
252.	Jajpur Road MDG	Cuttack North	Jajpur	Bhubaneswar
253.	Bhubaneswar GPO	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	Bhubaneswar
254.	Saheed Nagar MDG	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	Bhubaneswar
255.	Rajgangapur SO	Sundargarh	Sundargarh	Sambalpur
256.	Anandpur SO	Keonjhar	Keonjhar	Sambalpur
257.	Talcher MDG	Dhenkanal	Angul	Sambalpur
258.	Sambalpur HO	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	Sambalpur
259.	Bargarh HO	Sambalpur	Bargarh	Sambalpur

1	2	3	4	5
260.	Jharsuguda HO	Sambalpur	Jharsuguda	Sambalpur
261.	Balangir HO	Balangir	Balangir	Sambalpur
262.	Sonepur MDG	Balangir	Sonepur	Sambalpur
263.	Rourkela HO	Sundargarh	Sundargarh	Sambalpur
264.	Rourkela-2 MDG	Sundargarh	Sundargarh	Sambalpur
265.	Pallahara SO	Dhenkanal	Angul	Sambalpur
266.	Dhenkanal HO	Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal	Sambalpur
267.	Rairakhol SO	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	Sambalpur
Rajasthan				
268.	Bundi HO	Tonk	Bundi	Ajmer
269.	Chhittogarh HO	Chittogarh	Chittogarh	Ajmer
270.	Shastri Cirde Udaipur SO	Udaipur	Udaipur	Ajmer
271.	Kankroli HO	Udaipur	Rajsamand	Ajmer
272.	Bhilwara City SO	Bhilwara	Bhilwara	Ajmer
273.	Dungarpur HO	Dungarpur	Dungarpur	Ajmer
274.	Pushkar SO	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer
275.	Madanganj HO	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer
276.	Bijainagar MDG	Beawar	Ajmer	Ajmer
277.	Gangapur SO	Bhilwara	Bhilwara	Ajmer
278.	Ajmer HO	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer
279.	Nimbaheda SO	Chittogarh	Chittogarh	Ajmer
280.	Kapasan SO	Chittogarh	Chittogarh	Ajmer
281.	Sagwara SO	Dungarpur	Dungarpur	Ajmer
282.	Todarai Singh SO	Tonk	Tonk	Ajmer
283.	Uniarra SO	Tonk	Tonk	Ajmer
284.	Deogarh SO	Udaipur	Udaipur	Ajmer
285.	Mavli Jn. MDG	Udaipur	Udaipur	Ajmer
286.	Kota HO	Kota	Kota	Ajmer
287.	Moti Doongri MDG	Alwar	Alwar	Jaipur
288.	Alwar HO	Alwar	Alwar	Jaipur
289.	Jawahar Nagar HO	Jawahar Nagar	Jawahar Nagar	Jaipur

1	2	3	4	5
290.	Deeg HO	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	Jaipur
291.	Sawai Madhopur HO	Sawaimadhopur	Sawaimadhopur	Jaipur
292.	Rajgarh SO	Alwar	Alwar	Jaipur
293.	Mansarovar SO	Jaipur City	Jaipur	Jaipur
294.	Shastri Nagar HO	Jaipur City	Jaipur	Jaipur
295.	Bhusawar SO	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	Jaipur
296.	Kaman SO	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	Jaipur
297.	Bharatpur HO	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	Jaipur
298.	Jodhpur HO	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	Jodhpur
299.	Sridungargarh SO	Bikaner	Bikaner	Jodhpur
300.	Sadalpur SO	Churu	Churu	Jodhpur
301.	Sujargarh SO	Churu	Churu	Jodhpur
302.	Pilani SO	Jhunjhunu	Jhunjhunu	Jodhpur
303.	Pokaran SO	Jodhpur	Jaisalmer	Jodhpur -
304.	Merta City SO	Nagaur	Nagaur	Jodhpur
305.	Laxmangarh SO	Sikar	Sikar	Jodhpur
306.	Abu Road SO	Sirohi	Sirohi	Jodhpur
307.	Bhinmal SO	Sirohi	Jalore	Jodhpur
308.	Jaisalmer HO	Jodhpur	Jaisalmer	Jodhpur
309.	Chohtan SO	Barmer	Barmer	Jodhpur
310.	Sumerpur SO	Pali	Pali	Jodhpur
311.	Sriganganagar HO	Sriganganagar	Sriganganagar	Jodhpur
312.	Pali City SO	Pali	Pali	Jodhpur
313.	Nagaur City SO	Nagaur	Nagaur	Jodhpur
314.	Kutchery SO	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	Jodhpur
315.	Sirohi HO	Sirohi	Sirohi	Jodhpur
Tamil Nadu				
316.	Vridhdhachalam HO	Vridhdhachalam	Chennai	Central
317.	Nannilam SO	Nagapattinam	Chennai	Central
318.	Parangipetai SO	Cuddalore	Chennai	Central
319.	Vallam SO	Thanjavur	Tiruvallur	Central

1	2	3	4	5
320.	Musiri SO	Srirangam	Trichy	Central
321.	Karaikal SO	Nagapattinam	Karaikal	Central
322.	Bhuvanagiri SO	Cuddalore	Cuddalore	Central
323.	Tirukkoyilur SO	Vridhachalam	Villupuram	Central
324.	Koradachery SO	Kumbakonam	Tiruvarur	Central
325.	Udayarpalayam SO	Trichy	Ariyalur	Central
326.	Kulithalai SO	Karur	Karur	Central
327.	Viralimalai SO	Pudukottai	Pudukottai	Central
328.	Sirkali HO	Mayiladuthurai	Nagapattinam	Central
329.	Anna Nagar SO	Chennai City North	Chennai	Chennai City
330.	Bahoor SO	Pondicherry	Chennai	Chennai City
331.	St. Thomas Mount HO	Chennai City South	Chennai	Chennai City
332.	Kalpakkam SO	Chengalpattu	Chennai	Chennai City
333.	Tiruvallaur HO	Kanchipuram	Tiruvallur	Chennai City
334.	Villupuram HO	Pondicherry	Tiruvallur	Chennai City
335.	Gingee SO	Pondicherry	Tiruvannamalai	Chennai City
336.	Tiruvottiyur	Tambaram	Tiruvallur	Chennai City
337.	Washermentpet SO	Chennai North	Chennai	Chennai City
338.	Chrompet SO	Tambaram	Chennai	Chennai City
339.	Sholinghur SO	Arakkonam	Vellore	Chennai City
340.	Kanchipuram HO	Kanchipuram	Kanchipuram	Chennai City
341.	Mudaliarpeta SO	Pondicherry	Pondicherry UT	Chennai City
342.	Vandavasi SO	Tiruvannamalai	Tiruvannamalai	Chennai City
343.	Gandhinagar SO	Vellore	Vellore	Chennai City
344.	Anna Road HO	Anna Road HO Division	Chennai	Circle office
345.	Suchindram SO	Kanyakumari	Chennai	Southern
346.	Kalakad SO	Tirunelveli	Chennai	Southern
347.	Kodaikanal SO	Didigul	Chennai	Southern
348.	Rameswaram SO	Ramanathapuram	Chennai	Southern
349.	Arumuganeri SO	Tutucorin	Chennai	Southern
350.	Tirumangalam SO	Madurai	Tiruvallur	Southern

1	2	3	4	5
351.	Uthamapalayam SO	Theni	Tiruvallur	Southern
352.	Srivilliputhur SO	Virudhunagar	Tiruvallur	Southern
353.	Singampuneri SO	Kairaikudi	Chennai	Southern
354.	Ilyangudi	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern
355.	Kanyakumari SO	Kanyakumari	Kanyakumari	Southern
356.	Tenkasi HO	Kovilpatti	Tirunelveli	Southern
357.	Palace SO	Madurai	Madurai	Southern
358.	Abiramam SO	Ramnad	Ramanathapuram	Southern
359.	Tiruppattur SO	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern
360.	Theni SO	Theni	Theni	Southern
361.	Valliyur SO	Tirunelveli	Tirunelveli	Southern
362.	Srivaikundam HO	Tuticorin	Tuticorin	Southern
363.	Manamadurai HO	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern
364.	Kallal	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern
365.	Kalayarkoil	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern
366.	Karaikudi HO	Karaikudi	Karaikudi	Southern
367.	Devakottai HO	Karaikudi	Karaikudi	Southern
368.	Alagappapuram SO	Karaikudi	Karaikudi	Southern
369.	Sivaganga HO	Sivaganga	Sivaganga	Southern
370.	Perundurai SO	Erode	Chennai	Western
371.	Denkanikotta SO	Dharmapuri	Chennai	Western
372.	Velur SO	Namakkal	Chennai	Western
373.	Valapadi SO	Salem East	Chennai	Western
374.	Wellington SO	Nilgiris	Chennai	Western
375.	Coimbatore HO	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Western
376.	Coimbatore N.G.G.O Colony	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Western
377.	Podanur SO	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Western
378.	Chennimalai SO	Erode	Erode	Western
379.	Pandamangalam SO	Namakkal	Namakkal	Western
380.	Aravankadu SO	Nilgiris	Nilgiris	Western
381.	Valparai SO	Pollachi	Coimbatore	Western

1	2	3	4	5
382.	Rasipuram SO	Salem (W)	Namakkal	Western
Uttar Pradesh				
383.	Agra HO	Agra	Agra	Agra
384.	Anoopshahar SO	Bulandshahar	Bulandshahar	Agra
385.	Agra Fort HO	Agra	Agra	Agra
386.	Kasganj SO	Etah	Etah	Agra
387.	Aligarh HO	Aligarh	Aligarh	Agra
388.	Jhansi HO	Jhansi	Jhansi	Agra
389.	Lalitpur HO	Jhansi	Lalitpur	Agra
390.	Karhal SO	Mainpuri	Mainpuri	Agra
391.	Allahabad HO	Allahabad	Allahabad	Allahabad
392.	Pratapgarh HO	Pratapgarh	Pratapgarh	Allahabad
393.	Saidpur SO	Ghazipur	Ghazipur	Allahabad
394.	Allahabad Kutchery HO	Allahabad	Allahabad	Allahabad
395.	Varanasi HO	Varanasi East	Varanasi	Allahabad
396.	Varanasi Cantt. HO	Varanasi West	Varanasi	Allahabad
397.	NOIDA HO	Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad	Bareilly
398.	Meerut Cantt. HO	Meerut	Meerut	Bareilly
399.	Bareilly HO	Bareilly	Bareilly	Bareilly
400.	Kheri HO	Kheri	Kheri	Bareilly
401.	Bijnor HO	Bijnor	Bijnor	Bareilly
402.	Ghaziabad HO	Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad	Bareilly
403.	Moradabad HO	Moradabad	Moradabad	Bareilly
404.	Khatauli SO	Muzaffarnagar	Muzaffarnagar	Bareilly
405.	Shahjahanpur HO	Shahjahanpur	Shahjahanpur	Bareilly
406.	Balia HO	Balia	Balia	Gorakhpur
407.	Azamgarh HO	Azamgarh	Azamgarh	Gorakhpur
408.	Gorakhpur HO	Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur
409.	Kanpur HO	Kanpur City	Kanpur	Kanpur
410.	Kanpur Cantt. HO	Kanpur City	Kanpur	Kanpur
411.	Nawabganj HO	Kanpur City	Kanpur	Kanpur

1	2	3	4	5
412.	Lucknow Chowk HO	Lucknow	Lucknow	Lucknow
413.	Raebareli HO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow
414.	Lalganj HO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow
415.	Bacchrawan SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow
416.	Maharajganj SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow
417.	Mustafabad SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow
418.	Unchachar SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow
419.	Dalmau SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow
420.	Gauri Ganj SO	Sultanpur	Sultanpur	Lucknow
421.	Musaffirkhana SO	Sultanpur	Sultanpur	Lucknow
422.	Bazar Baldirai SO	Sultanpur	Sultanpur	Lucknow
423.	Jais SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow
424.	Salon SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow
425.	Sheoratanganj SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow
426.	Semrauta SO	Raebareli	Raebareli	Lucknow
427.	Bhadar SO	Sultanpur	Sultanpur	Lucknow
Uttarakhand				
428.	Almora HSG IHO	Almora	Almora	Uttarakhand
429.	Ranikhet HSG IHO	Almora	Almora	Uttarakhand
430.	Bageshwar HSGI MDG	Almora	Bageshwar	Uttarakhand
431.	Gopeshwar HSG IHO	Chamoli	Chamoli	Uttarakhand
432.	Rudra Prayag HSG I MDG	Chamoli	Rudra Prayag	Uttarakhand
433.	Dehradun Cantt HSG I HO	Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
434.	Dehradun GPO	Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
435.	Roorkee HSG IHO	Dehradun	Hardwar	Uttarakhand
436.	Rishikesh HSG I MDG	Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttarakhand
437.	Nainital HSGI HO	Nainital	Nainital	Uttarakhand
438.	Haldwani HSGI HO	Nainital	Nainital	Uttarakhand
439.	Rudrapur HSGI MDG	Nainital	U.S.Nagar	Uttarakhand
440.	Kashipur HSG I MDG	Nainital	U.S.Nagar	Uttarakhand
441.	Pauri HSGI HO	Pauri	Pauri	Uttarakhand

1	2	3	4	5
442.	Kotdwar HSGI HO	Pauri	Pauri	Uttarakhand
443.	Lansdowne HSGI HO	Pauri	Pauri	Uttarakhand
444.	Srinagar HSGII SO	Pauri	Pauri	Uttarakhand
445.	Pithoragarh HSGI HO	Pithoragarh	Pithoragarh	Uttarakhand
446.	Champawat HSG I MDG	Pithoragarh	Champawat	Uttarakhand
447.	Lohaghat LSG SO	Pithoragarh	Champawat	Uttarakhand
448.	New Tehri HSGI HO	Tehri	Tehri	Uttarakhand
449.	Uttarkashi HSGI MDG	Tehri	Uttarkashi	Uttarakhand
450.	Joshimath LSG SO	Chamoli	Chamoli	Uttarakhand

Statement III*Project Arrow Phase-III (List of Post Offices)*

Sl. No.	Name of PO	Pin Code	Status of the identified PO	Building Deptt./ Rented	Postal Division	Revenue District	Region	Circle	Circle Count
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh									
1.	Hanamkonda HO	506001	HO	Dept.	Hanamkonda	Warangal	Hyderabad	AP	1
2.	Sangareddy HO	502001	HO	Dept.	Sangareddy	Medak	Hyderabad	AP	2
3.	Bellampalli SO	504251	SO	Dept.	Adilabad	Adilabad	Hyderabad	AP	3
4.	Kazipet SO	506003	SO	Dept.	Hanamkonda	Warangal	Hyderabad	AP	4
5.	Khairatabad HO	500004	HO	Dept.	Hyderabad City Division	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City	AP	5
6.	Humayunnagar	500028	SO	Dept.	Hyd. City Dn.	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City	AP	6
7.	Sanathnagar I.E.	500018	SO	Dept.	-do-	Hyderabad	Hyderabad City	AP	7
8.	Begum Bazar	500012	SO	Dept.	Hyd.South East		Hyderabad City	AP	8
9.	Chittoor HO	517001	HO	Dept.	Chittoor	Chittoor	Kurnool	AP	9
10.	Kurnool	518001	HO	Dept.	Kurnool	Kurnool	Kurnool	AP	10
11.	Tirumala	517504	SO	Dept.	Tirupati	Chittoor	Kurnool	AP	11
12.	Nellore HO	524001	HO	Dept.	Nellore	Nellore	Vijayawada	AP	12
13.	Tenali HO	522201	HO	Dept.	Tenali	Guntur	Vijayawada	AP	13
14.	Repalle	522265	SO	Dept.	Tenali	Guntur	Vijayawada	AP	14
15.	Gandhi Chowk (Khm)	507003	SO	Dept.	Khammam	Khammam	Vijayawada	AP	15
16.	Rajahmundry HO	533101	HO	Dept.	Rajahmundry	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam	AP	16
17.	Srikakulam HO	532001	HO	Dept.	Srikakulam	Srikakulam	Visakhapatnam	AP	17
18.	Kakinada HO	533001	HO	Dept.	Kakinada	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam	AP	18
19.	Kothapeta MDG	533223	SO	Dept.	Amalapuram	East Godavari	Visakhapatnam	AP	19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Assam									
20.	Dibrugarh	786001	HO	Dept.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Assam	1
21.	Tinsukia	786125	HO	Dept.	Tinsukia	Tinsukia	Dibrugarh	Assam	2
22.	Jorhat	785001	HO	Dept.	Sivasagar	Jorhat	Dibrugarh	Assam	3
23.	Sivasagar	785640	HO	Dept.	Sivasagar	Sivasagar	Dibrugarh	Assam	4
24.	Tezpur	784001	HO	Dept.	Darrang	Sonitpur	Dibrugarh	Assam	5
25.	Nagaon	782001	HO	Dept.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Dibrugarh	Assam	6
26.	Silchar	788001	HO	Dept.	Cachar	Cachar	Dibrugarh	Assam	7
27.	Dhemaji	787057	SO	Dept.	Dibrugarh	Dhemaji	Dibrugarh	Assam	8
28.	Morigaon	782105	SO	Dept.	Nagaon	Morigaon	Dibrugarh	Assam	9
29.	Duliajan	786602	SO	Dept.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Assam	10
30.	Digboi	786171	SO	Dept.	Tinsukia	Tinsukia	Dibrugarh	Assam	11
31.	Doomdooma	786151	SO	Dept.	Tinsukia	Tinsukia	Dibrugarh	Assam	12
32.	Bokakhat	785612	SO	Dept.	Sivasagar	Golaghat	Dibrugarh	Assam	13
33.	Mariani	785634	SO	Dept.	Sivasagar	Jorhat	Dibrugarh	Assam	14
34.	Chariali	784176	SO	Dept.	Darrang	Sonitpur	Dibrugarh	Assam	15
35.	Nalbari	781335	HO	Dept.	Nalbari-Barpeta	Nalbari	Guwhati HQ	Assam	16
36.	Barpeta	781301	HO	Dept.	Nalbari-Barpeta	Barpeta	Guwhati HQ	Assam	17
37.	Dhubri	783301	HO	Dept.	Goalpara	Dhubri	Guwhati HQ	Assam	18
38.	Guwahati GPO	781001	HO	Dept.	Guwahati	Kamrup	Guwhati HQ	Assam	19
39.	Guwahati University	781014	HO	Dept.	Guwahati	Kamrup	Guwhati HQ	Assam	20
40.	Bongaigaon	783380	SO	Dept.	Goalpara	Bongaigaon	Guwhati HQ	Assam	21
41.	Rangia	781354	SO	Dept.	Guwahati	Kamrup	Guwhati HQ	Assa	22
42.	Barpeta Road	781315	SO	Dept.	Nalbari-Barpeta	Barpeta	Guwhati HQ	Assam	23
Bihar									
43.	Buxar HO	802101	HO	Dept.	Bhojpur	Buxar	Central	Bihar	1
44.	Patna GPO	800001	HO	Dept.	Patna GPO	Petna	Central	Bihar	2
45.	Patna City.	800008	SO	Dept.	Patna	Patna	Central	Bihar	3
46.	Patliputra	800013	SO	Dept.	Patna	Patna	Central	Bihar	4
47.	Gulzarbagh	800007	SO	Dept.	Patna	Patna	Central	Bihar	5
48.	Lohia Nagar	800020	SO	Dept.	Patna	Patna	Central	Bihar	6
49.	Bhagalpur City	812002	SO	Dept.	Bhagalpur	Bhagalpur	Central	Bihar	7
50.	Patna Secretariat	800015	SO	Dept.	Patna	Patna	Central	Bihar	8
51.	Dumraon	802119	SO	Rented	Bhojpur	Buxar	Central	Bihar	9
52.	Dalmianagar	821305	SO	Rented	Rohtas	Rohtas	Central	Bihar	10
53.	Rajgir	803116	SO	Rented	Nalanda	Nalanda	Central	Bihar	11
54.	Patna University	800005	SO	Rented	Patna	Patna	Central	Bihar	12
55.	Darbhana HO	846004	HO	Dept.	Darbhanga	Darbhanga	North	Bihar	13
56.	Purnea HO	854301	HO	Dept.	Purnea	Purnea	North	Bihar	14
57.	Katihar HO	854105	HO	Dept.	Purnea	Katihar	North	Bihar	15
58.	Saharsa HO	852201	HO	Dept.	Saharsa	Saharsa	North	Bihar	16
59.	Siwan HO	841226	HO	Dept.	Siwan	Siwan	North	Bihar	17
60.	Kishanganj	855107	SO	Dept.	Purnea	Kishanganj	North	Bihar	18
61.	Araria	854311	SO	Dept.	Purnea	Araria	North	Bihar	19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
62.	Raxaul	845306	SO	Dept.	Motihari	Motihari	North	Bihar	20
63.	Barauni	851112	SO	Dept.	Begusarai	Begusarai	North	Bihar	21
64.	Barauni Oil Refinery	851114	SO	Rented	Begusarai	Begusarai	North	Bihar	22
65.	DMCH	846003	SO	Rented	Darbhanga	Darbhanga	North	Bihar	23
Chhattisgarh									
66.	Raipur HO	492001	HO	Dept.	Raipur	Raipur	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	1
67.	DurgHO	491001	HO	Dept.	Durg	Durg	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	2
68.	Bilaspur HO	495001	HO	Dept.	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	3
69.	Korba HO	495677	HO	Dept.	Bilaspur	Korba	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	4
70.	Raigarti HO	496001	HO	Dept.	Raigarh	Raigarh	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	5
71.	Raipur Ganj	492009	SO	Dept.	Raipur	Rajpur	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	6
72.	Batoda Bazar	493332	SO	Dept.	Raipur	Raipur	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	7
73.	Dhamtari	493773	SO	Dept.	Raipur	Dhamtari	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	8
74.	Mahasamund	493445	SO	Dept.	Raipur	Mahasamund	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	9
75.	Jashpur Nagar	496331	SO	Dept.	Raigarh	Jashpur Nagar	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	10
76.	C.C.Bhilai	490006	SO	Dept.	Durg	Durg	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	11
77.	Akaltara	495552	SO	Dept.	Bilaspur	Janjgir Champa	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	12
78.	Dongargarh SO	491445	SO	Dept.	Durg	Rajnandgaon	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	13
79.	Bhilai-1	490001	SO	Rented	Durg	Durg	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	14
80.	Manendragarh	497442	SO	Rented	Raigarh	Korea	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	15
81.	Kawardha	491995	SO	Rented	Durg	Kawardha	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	16
82.	Mungeli	495334	SO	Rented	Bilaspur	Bilaspur	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	17
83.	Champa	495671	SO	Rented	Bilaspur	Janjgir Champa	Raipur	Chhattisgarh	18
Delhi									
84.	Sansad Marg HO	110001	HO	Dept.	Central	New Delhi	Delhi	Delhi	1
85.	New Delhi HO	110001	HO	Dept.	Independent unit	New Delhi	..do..	Delhi	2
86.	Indra Prastha HO	110002	HO	Dept.	Central	Central	..do..	Delhi	3
87.	Lodhi Road HO	110003	HO	Dept.	South		..do..	Delhi	4
88.	Naraina	110028	HO	Dept.	West		..do..	Delhi	5
89.	Kalkaji	110019	HO	Dept.	South	South	..do..	Delhi	6
90.	Ashok Vihar HO	110052	HO	Dept.	North	Northwest	..do..	Delhi	7
91.	Delhi GPO	110006	HO	Dept.	Independent Unit	North	..do..	Delhi	8
92.	Jhilmil HO	110095	HO	Dept.	East	Northeast	..do..	Delhi	9
93.	Krishna Nagar	110051	HO	Dept.	East	East	..do..	Delhi	10
94.	Ramesh Nagar	110015	HO	Dept.	West		..do..	Delhi	11
95.	Sarojini Nagar	110023	HO	Dept.	South West		..do..	Delhi	12
96.	Rajender Nagar	110060	SO	Dept.	Central	Central	..do..	Delhi	13
97.	Patpar Ganj	110091	SO	Dept.	East	East	..do..	Delhi	14
98.	Civil Lines	110054	SO	Dept.	North	North	..do..	Delhi	15
99.	Badarpur	110044	SO	Dept.	South		..do..	Delhi	16
100.	Greater Kailash	110048	SO	Dept.	South		..do..	Delhi	17
101.	Jangpura	110014	SO	Dept.	South	South	..do..	Delhi	18
102.	Lajpat Nagar	110024	SO	Dept.	South	South	..do..	Delhi	19
103.	Malviya Nagar	110017	SO	Dept.	South		..do..	Delhi	20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
104.	S.N.Puri	110065	SO	Dept.	South		..do..	Delhi	21
105.	Hauzkhas PO	110016	SO	Dept.	South West	South	..do..	Delhi	22
106.	S.J.Enc.	110029	SO	Dept.	South West	South	..do..	Delhi	23
107.	Janakpuri, B Block	110058	SO	Dept.	West		..do..	Delhi	24
108.	Rajouri Garden	110027	SO	Dept.	West	West	..do..	Delhi	25
109.	Tilak Nagar	110018	SO	Dept.	West		..do..	Delhi	26
110.	Chankya Puri	110021	SO	Dept.	South West	South West	..do..	Delhi	27
111.	Karol Bagh	110005	SO	Dept.	Central	Central	..do..	Delhi	28
112.	JNU	110067	SO	Rented	South West	South	..do..	Delhi	29
113.	Connaught Place	110001	SO	Rented	Central	New Delhi	..do..	Delhi	30
114.	Shahdara	110032	SO	Rented	East	Northeast	..do..	Delhi	31
115.	O.I. Estate	110020	SO	Rented	South		..do..	Delhi	32
116.	Rashtrapati Bhawan	110004	SO	Rented	Central	Central	..do..	Delhi	33
117.	Janpath	110001	SO	Rented	Central	New Delhi	..do..	Delhi	34
118.	Udyog Bhawan	110011	SO	Rented	Central	New Delhi	..do..	Delhi	35
119.	UPSC	110069	SO	Rented	Central		..do..	Delhi	36
Gujarat									
120.	Ahmedabad GPO	380001	HO	Dept.	Independent Unit	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	1
121.	Paldi PO	380007	SO	Dept.	Ahmedabad City	Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	Guarat	2
122.	Junagadh HO	362001	HO	Dept.	Junagadh	Junagadh	Raikot	Gujarat	3
123.	Jhavnagar HO	364001	HO	Dept.	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	Raikot	Gujarat	4
124.	Jamnagar HO	361001	HO	Dept.	Jamnagar	Jamnagar	Raikot	Gujarat	5
125.	Rajkot HO	360001	HO	Dept.	Raikot	Rajkot	Rajkot	Gujarat	6
126.	Rajkot Bhaktinagar PO	360002	SO	Dept.	Raikot	Raikot	Raikot	Gujarat	7
127.	Una MDG	362560	SO	Dept.	Junagadh	Junagadh	Rajkot	Guarat	8
128.	MORBI MDG	363641	SO	Dept.	Rajkot	Raikot	Rajkot	Guarat	9
129.	Khambhalia MDG	361305	SO	Rented	Jamnagar	Jamnagar	Raikot	Guarat	10
130.	Manavadar SO	362630	SO	Rented	Porbandar	Junagadh	Raikot	Guarat	11
131.	mahuva MDG	364290	SO	Rented	Bhavnagar	Bhavnagar	Raikot	Guarat	12
132.	Surat HO	395003	HO	Dept	Surat	Surat	Vadodara	Guarat	13
133.	Bharuch HO	392001	HO	Dept.	Bharuch	Bharuch	Vadodara	Gujarat	14
134.	Vadodara HO	390001	HO	Dept.	Vadodara East Dn	Vadodara	Vadodara	Gujarat	15
135.	Valsad HO	396001	HO	Dept.	Valsad	Valsad	Vadodara	Gujarat	16
136.	Silvassa MDG	396230	SO	Dept.	Valsad	UT of DNH	Vadodara	Gujarat	17
137.	Vapi MDG	396191	SO	Dept.	Valsad	Valsad	Vadodara	Gujarat	18
138.	Vyara MDG	394650	SO	Dept.	Bardoli	Surat	Vadodara	Guarat	19
139.	Umreth	388220	SO	Rented	Anand	Anand	Vadodara	Gujarat	20
140.	Ankleshwar MDG	393001	SO	Rented	Bharuch	Bharuch	Vadodara	Guarat	21
Haryana									
141.	Ambala GPO	133001	HO	Dept.	Ambala	Ambala	Ambala	Haryana	1
142.	Ambala City HO	134003	HO	Dept.	Ambala	Ambala	Ambala	Haryana	2
143.	Faridabad NIT HO	121001	HO	Dept.	Faridabad	Faridabad	Ambala	Haryana	3
144.	Gurgaon HO	122001	HO	Dept.	Gurgaon	Gurgaon	Ambala	Haryana	4
145.	Hissar HO	125001	HO	Dept.	Hissar	Hissar	Ambala	Haryana	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
146.	Karnal HO	132001	HO	Dept.	Karnal	Karnal	Ambala	Haryana	6
147.	Panipat HO	132103	HO	Dept.	Karnal	Panipat	Ambala	Haryana	7
148.	Kurukshetra HO	136118	HO	Dept.	Kurukshetra	Kurukshetra	Ambala	Haryana	8
149.	Rohtak HO	124001	HO	Dept.	Rohtak	Rohtak	Ambala	Haryana	8
150.	Jind HO	126102	HO	Dept.	Karnal	Karnal	Ambala	Haryana	10
151.	Sadar Bazar Ambala SO	133001	SO	Dept.	Ambala	Ambala	Ambala	Haryana	11
152.	Sec-8 Panchkula (MDG)	134109	SO	Dept.	Ambala	Panchkula	Ambala	Haryana	12
153.	Sec-16A FBD SO	121002	SO	Dept.	Faridabad	Faridabad	Ambala	Haryana	13
154.	Kaithal MDG	136027	SO	Dept.	Kurukshetra	Kaithal	Ambala	Haryana	14
155.	Sec-7 FBD SO	121006	SO	Dept.	Faridabad	Faridabad	Ambala	Haryana	15
156.	Charakhi Dadri	127306	SO	Dept.	Bhiwani	Bhiwani	Ambala	Haryana	16
157.	Sec-22, FBD SO	121005	SO	Rented	Faridabad	Faridabad	Ambala	Haryana	17
158.	Kurukshetra University	136119	SO	Rented	Kurukshetra	Kurukshetra	Ambala	Haryana	18
159.	Medical College Rohtak	124001	SO	Rented	Rohtak	Rohtak	Ambala	Haryana	19
160.	Hodal SO	121106	SO	Rented	Faridabad	Faridabad	Ambala	Haryana	20
Himachal Pradesh									
161.	Shimla	171001	HO	Dept.	Shimla	Shimla	H.P.	HP	1
162.	Chamba	176310	HO	Dept.	Chamba	Chamba	H.P.	HP	2
163.	Kangra	176001	HO	Dept.	Dehra	Kangra	H.P.	HP	3
164.	Dharamsala	176215	HO	Dept.	Dharamsala	Kangra	H.P.	HP	4
165.	Keylong	175132	HO	Dept.	Mandi	Lahaul & Spiti	H.P.	HP	5
166.	Kullu	175101	HO	Dept.	Mandi	Kullu	H.P.	HP	6
167.	Reckong Peo	172 107	HO	Dept.	Rampur	Kinnaur	H.P.	HP	7
168.	Kasauli	173204	SO	Dept.	Solan	Solan	H.P.	HP	8
169.	Dalhousie	176304	SO	Dept.	Chamba	Chamba	H.P.	HP	9
170.	Manali	175 131	SO	Dept.	Mandi	Kullu	H.P.	HP	10
171.	Shimla East	171002	SO	Dept.	Shimla	Shimla	H.P.	HP	11
172.	Parwanoo	173220	SO	Dept.	Solan	Solan	H.P.	HP	12
173.	Bajjnath	176 125	SO	Dept.	Dharamsala	Kangra	H.P.	HP	13
174.	Jawalamukhi	176031	SO	Rented	Dehra	Kangra	H.P.	HP	14
Jammu and Kashmir									
175.	Srinagar GPO	190001	HO	Dept.	Srinagar	Srinagar	J&K	J&K	1
176.	Anantnag HO	192101	HO	Dept.	Srinagar	Anantnag	J&K	J&K	2
177.	Baramulla HO	193101	HO	Dept.	Baramulla	Baramulla	J&K	J&K	3
178.	Leh HO	194101	HO	Dept.	Leh	Leh	J&K	J&K	4
179.	Gandhi Nagar	180004	HO	Dept.	Jammu	Jammu	J&K	J&K	5
180.	SR Ganj SO	190002	SO	Dept.	Srinagar	Srinagar	J&K	J&K	6
181.	RS Pura MDG	181102	SO	Dept.	Jammu	Jammu	J&K	J&K	7
182.	Doda MDG	182202	SO	Dept.	Udhampur	Doda	J&K	J&K	8
183.	Pulwama MDG	192301	SO	Dept.	Srinagar	Pulwama	J&K	J&K	9

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184.	Ram Nagar SO	182122	SO	Dept.	Udhampur	Udhampur	J&K	J&K	10
185.	Akhnoor MDG	181201	SO	Rented	Jammu	Jammu	J&K	J&K	11
Jharkhand									
186.	Sahibganj	816109	SO	Dept.	S.P DN	Sahibganj	Ranchi	Jharkhand	1
187.	Chatra MDG	825401	SO	Dept.	Hazaribagh	Chatra	Ranchi	Jharkhand	2
188.	Japla	822116	SO	Dept.	Palamau	Palamau	Ranchi	Jharkhand	3
189.	Chirkunda	828202	SO	Dept.	Dhanbad	Dhanbad	Ranchi	Jharkhand	4
190.	Silli	835102	SO	Dept.	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi	Jharkhand	5
191.	Pakur	816107	SO	Dept.	S.P DN	Pakur	Ranchi	Jharkhand	6
192.	Chakradharpur	833102	SO	Rented	Singbhum	West Singhbhum	Ranchi	Jharkhand	7
193.	A. G.Bihar NDSO	834002	SO	Rented	Ranchi	Ranchi	Ranchi	Jharkhand	8
194.	Maithandam	828207	SO	Rented	Dhanbad	Dhanbad	Ranchi	Jharkhand	9
195.	Satsang	814116	SO	Rented	S.P DN	B. Deoghar	Ranchi	Jharkhand	10
Karnataka									
196.	Bangalore GPO ,	560001	HO	Dept.	GPO	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	1
197.	Basavangudi HO	560004	HO	Dept.	Bangalore South	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	2
198.	Jayanagar HO	560041	HO	Dept.	Bangalore South	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	3
199.	Rajajinagar HO	560010	HO	Dept.	Bangalore West	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	4
200.	HAL II Stage HO	560008	HO	Dept.	Banagalore East	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	5
201.	Basaveshwaranagar MDG	560079	SO	Dept.	Bangalore West	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	6
202.	Fraser Town	560005	SO	Dept.	Banagalore East	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	7
203.	Museum Road	560025	SO	Dept.	Banagalore East	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	8
204.	Indiranaqar	560038	SO	Dept.	Banagalore East	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	9
205.	Chamaraipeet	560018	SO	Dept.	Bangalore South	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	10
206.	Jayanagar III blk	560011	SO	Dept.	Bangalore South	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	11
207.	Yelahanka SO	560064	SO	Dept.	Bangalore East	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	12
208.	Peenya Small Industries	560058	SO	Dept.	Bangalore West	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	13
209.	Viveknaqar	560047	SO	Dept.	Banagalore East	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	14
210.	D R College	560029	SO	Dept.	Bangalore South	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	15
211.	Science Institute	560012	SO	Dept.	Bangalore West	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	16
212.	St. Thomas Town	560084	SO	Dept.	Banagalore East	Bangalore	Bangalore	Karnataka	17
213.	Belgaum HO	590001	HO	Dept.	Belgaum	Belgaum	N.K Region	Karnataka	18
214.	Bellary HO	583101	HO	Dept.	Bellary	Bellary	N.K Region	Karnataka	19
215.	Bijapur HO	586101	HO	Dept.	Bijapur	Bijapur	N.K Region	Karnataka	20
216.	Bidar HO	585 401	HO	Dept.	Bidar	Bidar	N.K Region	Karnataka	21
217.	Oharwad HO	580001	HO	Dept.	Dharwad	Dharwad	N.K Region	Karnataka	22
218.	GULBARGA HO	585101	HO	Dept.	Gulbarga	Gulbarga	N.K Region	Karnataka	23
219.	SHAHABAD	58S228	SO	Dept.	Gulbarga	Gulbarga	N.K Region	Karnataka	24
220.	Dharwad K.C. Park	580008	SO	Dept.	Dharwad	Dharwad	N.K Region	Karnataka	25
221.	Kolar HO	563101	HO	Dept.	Kolar	Kolar	S.K. Region	Karnataka	26
222.	Manalore HO	575001	HO	Dept.	Mangalore	Dakshinakannada	S.K. Region	Karnataka	27
223.	Udupi HO	576101	HO	Dept.	Udupi	Udupi	S.K. Region	Karnataka	26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
224.	Mysore HO	570001	HO	Dept.	Mysore	Mysore	S.K. Region	Karnataka	29
225.	Chamarajnagar	571313	SO	Dept.	Nanjangud	Chamarainagar	S.K. Region	Karnataka	30
Kerala									
226.	Alappuzha	688001	HO	Dept.	Alappuzha	Alappuzha	Central	Kerala	1
227.	Aluva HO	683101	HO	Dept.	Aluva	Ernakulam	Central	Kerala	2
228.	Changanassery	686101	HO	Dept.	Shanganassery	Kottayam	Central	Kerala	2
229.	Ernakulam	682011	HO	Dept.	Ernakulam	Ernakulam	Central	Kerala	4
230.	Kochi HO	682001	HO	Dept.	Ernakulam	Ernakulam	Central	Kerala	5
231.	Kottayam	686001	HO	Dept.	Kottayam	Kottayam	Central	Kerala	6
232.	Thrissur	680001	HO	Dept.	Thrissur	Thrissur	Central	Kerala	7
233.	Tripunithura	682301	SO	Dept.	Ernakulam	Ernakulam	Central	Kerala	8
234.	Pallickal	690503	SO	Dept.	Mavelikara	Alappuzha	Central	Kerala	9
235.	Munnar	685612	SO	Dept.	Idukki	Idukki	Central	Kerala	10
236.	Kavaratti	682555	SO	Dept.	Lakshadweep	Lakshadweep	Central	Kerala	11
237.	Calicut	673001	HO	Dept.	Calicut	Calicut	Northern	Kerala	12
238.	Kannur	670001	HO	Dept.	Kannur	Kannur	Northern	Kerala	13
239.	Palakkad	678001	HO	Dept.	Palakkad	Palakkad	Northern	Kerala	14
240.	Thatassery HO	670101	HO	Dept.	Thalassery	Kannur	Northern	Kerala	15
241.	Nileshwar	671314	SO	Dept.	Kasaragod	Kasaragod	Northern	Kerala	16
242.	Kottakkal SO	676503	SO	Dept.	Tirur	Malappuram	Northern	Kerala	17
243.	Payyoli	673522	SO	Dept.	Vadakara	Calicut	Northern	Kerala	18
244.	Kollam	691001	HO	Dept.	Kollam	Kollam	Southern	Kerala	19
245.	Pathanamthitta	689645	HO	Dept.	Pathanamthitta	Pathanamthitta	Southern	Kerala	20
246.	Trivandrum GPO	695001	HO	Dept.	Trivandrum North	Trivandrum	Southern	Kerala	21
247.	Thycaud HO	695 014	HO	Dept.	Trivandrum South	Trivandrum	Southern	Kerala	22
248.	Pattom Palace	695004	SO	Dept.	Trivandrum North	Trivandrum	Southern	Kerala	23
249.	Trivandrum Fort	695023	SO	Dept.	Trivandrum North	Trivandrum	Southern	Kerala	24
250.	Trivandrum Med College	695011	SO	Dept.	Trivandrum North	Trivandrum	Southern	Kerala	25
Maharashtra									
251.	Kankvali	416602	SO	Rented	Kankavli			Maharashtra	1
252.	Kudal	416520	SO	Rented	Malvan			Maharashtra	2
253.	Malegaon HO	423203	HO	Dept.	Malegaon	Nashik	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	3
254.	Nashik Road HO	422101	HO	Dept.	Nashik	Nashik	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	4
255.	Manmad SO	423104	SO	Dept.	Malegaon	Nashik	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	5
256.	Tuuapur MDG	413601	SO	Dept.	Osmanabad	Osmanabad	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	6
257.	Dindori SO	422202	SO	Rented	Nashik	Nashik	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	7
258.	Chikhalthana Indus	431006	SO	Rented	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	8
259.	Ambajogai	431517	SO	Dept.	Beed	Beed	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	9
260.	Malvan HO	416606	HO	Dept.	Malvan	Sindhudurg	Goa	Maharashtra	10
261.	Sangmeshwar	415611	SO	Rented	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	Goa	Maharashtra	11
262.	Tasgaon	416312	SO	Rented	Sangli	Sangli	Goa	Maharashtra	12
263.	Gadhinglaj	416502	SO	Rented	Kolhapur	Kolhapur	Goa	Maharashtra	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
264.	Kolhapur Railway Station	416001	SO	Rented	Kolhapur	Kolhapur	Goa	Maharashtra	14
265.	Devrukh	415804	SO	Rented	Ratnagiri	Ratnagiri	Goa	Maharashtra	15
266.	Chembur HO	400071	HO	Dept.	MBI City North East Divn	Greater Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra	16
267.	Thane HO	400601	HO	Dept.	Thane Central On.	Thane	Mumbai	Maharashtra	17
268.	Mahim HO	400016	HO	Dept.	Mumbai City West	Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra	18
269.	Kalbadevi HO	400002	HO	Dept.	South Dn	Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra	19
270.	Azadnagar	400053	SO	Dept.	Mumbai City North	Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra	20
271.	Chakala MIDC	400093	SO	Dept.	Mumbai City North	Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra	21
272.	Andheri RS	400058	SO	Dept.	Mumbai City North	Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra	22
273.	Colaba Post Office	400005	SO	Dept.	South Dn	Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra	23
274.	Kurla (W)	400070	SO	Dept.	MBI City North East Divn	Greater	Mumbai	Maharashtra	24
275.	Goregaon East	400063	SO	Rented	MBI City North West	Greater	Mumbai	Maharashtra	25
276.	Powai IIT	400076	SO	Rented	MBI City N/E Divn	Greater	Mumbai	Maharashtra	26
277.	Mulund (W)	400080	SO	Rented	MBI City North East Divn	Greater	Mumbai	Maharashtra	27
278.	Borivali West	400092	SO	Rented	Mbl City North west	Mumbai	Mumbai	Maharashtra	28
279.	Nagpur City HO	440002	HO	Dept.	Nagpur City	Nagpur	Nanpur	Maharashtra	29
280.	Gadchiroli MDG	442605	SO	Dept.	Chanda Dn	Gadchiroli	Nappur	Maharashtra	30
281.	Pune HO	411001	HO	Dept.	Pune City East	Pune	Pune	Maharashtra	31
282.	Satara HO	415001	HO	Dept.	Satara	Satara	Pune	Maharashtra	32
283.	Chinchwad East	411019	SO	Dept.	Puna City East	Pune	Pune	Maharashtra	33
284.	Shirdi	423109	SO	Rented	Shrirampur	Ahmad Nagar	Pune	Maharashtra	34
Madhya Pradesh									
285.	Gwalior City	474003	SO	Dept.	Gwalior	Gwalior	GwaHor	MP	1
286.	R.B. Colony	474001	SO	Rented	Gwalior	Gwalior	Gwalior	MP	2
287.	Porsa	476115	SO	Rented	Morena	Morena	Gwalior	MP	3
288.	Tekanpur	475005	SO	Rented	Gwalior	Gwalior	Gwalior	MP	4
289.	Motimahahal	474007	SO	Rented	Gwalior	Gwalior	Gwalior	MP	5
290.	Gwalior R.S.	474002	SO	Ranted	Gwalior	Gwalior	Gwalior	MP	6
291.	Balaghat HO	481001	HO	Dept.	Balaghat	Balaghat	H.Q.	MP	7
292.	Seoni HO	480661	HO	Dept.	Balaghat	Seoni	H.Q.	MP	8
293.	Damoh HO	470661	HO	Dept	Sagar	Damoh	H.Q.	MP	9
294.	Tikamgarh HO	472001	HO	Dept.	Chhatarpur	Tikamgarti	H.Q.	MP	10
295.	Narsinghpur HO	487001	HO	Dept.	Hoshangabad	Narsinghpur	H.Q.	MP	11
296.	Sidhi HO	486661	HO	Dept.	Shehdol	Sidhi	H.Q.	MP	12
297.	Satna HO	485001	HO	Dept.	Rewa	Satna	H.Q.	MP	13
298.	Betul	460001	HO	Dept.	Chhindwara	Betul	H.Q.	MP	14
299.	Govindpura SO	462023	SO	Dept.	Bhopal	Bhopal	H.Q.	MP	15
300.	Parasia	480441	SO	Dept.	Chhindwara	Chhindwara	H.Q.	MP	16
301.	Maihar	485771	SO	Dept.	Rewa	Satna	H.Q.	MP	17
302.	Ravi Shankar Nagar, Bhopal	462016	SO	Dept.	Bhopal	Bhopal	H.Q.	MP	18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
303.	H E Hospital	462024	SO	Dept.	Bhopal	Bhopal	H.Q.	MP	19
304.	Dindori	481880	SO	Dept.	Balaghat	Dindori	H.Q.	MP	20
305.	Itarsi	461111	SO	Dept.	Hoshangabad	Hoshangabad	H.Q.	MP	21
306.	Sagar University	470003	SO	Rented	Sagar	Sagar	HQ	MP	22
307.	M.L. Nagar, Ujjain	456010	SO	Dept.	Ujjain	Ujjain	Indore	MP	23
308.	Nagda	456335	SO	Dept.	Ujjain	Ujjain	Indore	MP	24
309.	Manorama Ganj	452001	SO	Rented	Indore City	Indore	Indore	MP	25
310.	RSS Nagar	452008	SO	Rented	Indore City	Indore	Indore	MP	26
311.	CITY-2	452002	SO	Rented	Indore City	Indore	Indore	MP	27
312.	Maheshwar	451224	SO	Dept.	Khandwa	Khargone	Indore	MP	28
313.	Barwani	451551	SO	Dept.	Khandwa	Barwani	Indore	MP	29
314.	Badnawar	454660	SO	Rented	Indore (Mfl)	Dhar	Indore	MP	30
North East									
315.	Radhakishorepur	799120	HO	Dept.	Agartala	South Tripura	North East	NE	1
316.	Dharmanagar HPO	799250	HO	Dept.	Dharmanagar	North Tripura	North East	NE	2
317.	Imphal HPO	795001	HO	Dept.	Manipur	Imphal West	North East	NE	3
318.	Shillong GPO	793001	HO	Dept.	Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills	North East	NE	4
319.	Kolasib	796081	SO	Dept.	Mizoram	Kolasib	North East	NE	5
320.	Khowai	799201	SO	Dept.	Dharmanagar	West Tripura	North East	NE	6
321.	Along MDG	791001	SO	Dept.	Arunachal Pr.	West Siang	North East	NE	7
322.	Tezu MDG	792001	SO	Dept.	Arunachal Pr.	Lohit	North East	NE	8
323.	Khonsa MDG	786630	SO	Dept.	Arunachal Pr.	Tirap	North East	NE	9
324.	Churachandpur	795128	SO	Dept.	Manipur	Churachandpur	North East	NE	10
325.	Mon	798621	SO	Dept.	Nagaland	Mon	North East	NE	11
326.	Tuensang	798612	SO	Dept.	Nagaland	Tuensang	North East	NE	12
327.	ARTC	797115	SO	Rented	Nagaland	Dimapur	North East	NE	13
Orissa									
328.	Aska	761110	HO	Dept.	Aska	Ganjam	Berhampur	Orissa	1
329.	Bhawanipatna	766001	HO	Dapt.	Kalahandi	Kalahandi	Berhampur	Orissa	2
330.	Koraput	764020	HO	Dept.	Koraput	Koraput	Berhampur	Orissa	3
331.	Balasore	756001	HO	Dapt.	Balasore	Balasore	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	4
332.	Cuttack GPO	753001	HO	Dept.	Cuttack City	Cuttack	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	5
333.	Kendrapara	754211	HO	Dept.	Cuttack North	Kendrapara	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	6
334.	Rairangpur	757043	HO	Dapt.	Mayurbhani	Mayurbhani	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	7
335.	Bhubaneswar-2 (Old Tow)	751002	SO	Dept.	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	8
336.	Paradeep	754142	SO	Dept.	Cuttack South	Jagatsinghpur	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	9
337.	Salipur	754202	SO	Dapt.	Cuttack North	Cuttack	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	10
338.	Bhoinagar	751022	SO	Rented	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	11
339.	Telenoa Bazar	753009	SO	Rented	Cuttack City	Cuttack	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	12
340.	Utkal University	751004	SO	Rented	Bhubaneswar	Khurda	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	13
341.	aonjtiargarh	758001	HO	Dept.	Keonjhar	Keonjhar	Sambalpur	Orissa	14
342.	Deogarh	768108	SO	Dept.	Sambalpur	Deogarh	Sambalpur	Orissa	15
343.	Barbil MDG	758035	SO	Dept.	Keonihar	Keonjhar	Sambalpur	Orissa	16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
344.	Burta MDG	768017	SO	Dept.	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	Orissa	17
345.	Jatni MDG	752050	so	Dept.	Puri	Knorda	Sambalpur	Orissa	18
346.	Rourkela-5	769005	so	Rented	Sundargarh	Sundargarh	Sambalpur	Orissa	19
347.	Rourkela-11	769011	so	Rented	Sundargarh	Sundargarh	Sambalpur	Orissa	20
348.	Nalco Nagar	759145	so	Rented	Dhenkenal	Angul	Sambalpur	Orissa	21
Punjab									
349.	GPO, Chd	180017	HO	Dapt.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	HQ	Punjab	1
350.	Ludhiana HPO	141001	HO	Dept.	Ludhiana City	Ludhiana	HQ	Punjab	2
351.	Patiala	147001	HO	Dept.	Patiala	Patiala	HQ	Punjab	3
352.	Model Town	141002	SO	Dept.	Ludhiana City	Ludhiana	HQ	Punjab	4
353.	Central Post Office	141008	SO	Dept.	Ludhiana City	Ludhiana	HQ	Punjab	5
354.	Bamala SO	148101	SO	Dept.	Sangrur	Bamala	HQ	Punjab	6
355.	Camana SO	147101	SO	Dept.	Patiala	Patiala	HQ Region	Punjab	7
356.	Malerkotla SO	148023	SO	Dept.	Sangrur	Sangrur	HQ Region	Punjab	8
357.	Amritsar	143001	HO	Dept.	Amritsar	Amritsar	Punjab Region	Punjab	9
358.	Bathinda HO	151001	HO	Dept.	Bathinda	Bathinda	Punjab Region	Punjab	10
359.	Faridkot HO	151203	HO	Dept.	Faridkot	Faridkot	Punjab Region	Punjab	11
360.	Kapurthala HO	144601	HO	Dept.	Kapurthala	Kapurthala	Punjab Region	Punjab	12
361.	hagwara HO	144401	HO	Dept.	Kapurthala	Kapurthala	Punjab Region	Punjab	13
362.	Gurdaspur HO	143521	HO	Dept.	Gurdaspur	Gurdaspur	Punjab Region	Punjab	14
363.	Jalandhar City	144001	HO	Dept.	Jalandhar	Jalandhar	Punjab Region	Punjab	15
364.	Golden Temple, Amritsar	143006	SO	Dept.	Amritsar	Amritsar	Punjab Region	Punjab	16
365.	Bathinda City	151005	SO	Dept.	Bathinda	Bathinda	Punjab Region	Punjab	17
366.	Abohar	152116	SO	Dept.	Ferozepur	Ferozepur	Punjab Region	Punjab	18
367.	Fazilka	152123	SO	Dept.	Ferozepur	Ferozepur	Punjab Region	Punjab	19
368.	Model Town	144003	SO	Dept.	Jalandhar	Jalandhar	Punjab Region	Punjab	20
369.	Industrial Town	144004	SO	Rented	Jalandhar	Jalandhar	Punjab Region	Punjab	21
370.	Kot Kapura	151204	SO	Rented	Faridkot	Faridkot	Punjab Region	Punjab	22
371.	Goraya	144409	SO	Rented	Jalandhar	Jalandhar	Punjab Region	Punjab	23
372.	Zira	142047	SO	Rented	Ferozepur	Ferozepur	Punjab Region	Punjab	24
373.	Gidderbaha	152101	SO	Rented	Faridkot	Faridkot	Punjab Region	Punjab	25
Rajasthan									
374.	Pisangana	305204	SO	Dept.	Beawar	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	1
375.	Bhinai	305622	SO	Rented	Beawar	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	2
376.	Arain	305203	SO	Dept.	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	3
377.	Mangliwas	305203	SO	Rented	Beawar	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	4
378.	Kishangarh City	305801	SO	Dept.	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	5
379.	Sarwar	305403	SO	Rented	Beawar	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	6
380.	Dargah Sharif	305001	SO	Rented	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	7
381.	RPSC	305001	SO	Rented	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	8
382.	Ajai Nagar	305001	SO	Dept.	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	9
383.	MDS University	305009	SO	Rented	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	10

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384.	Udaipur HO	313001	HO	Dept.	Udaipur	Udaipur	Ajmer	Rajasthan	11
385.	Tonk HO	304001	HO	Dept.	Tonk	Tonk	Ajmer	Rajasthan	12
386.	Bhilwara HO	311001	HO	Dept.	Bhilwara	Bhilwara	Ajmer	Rajasthan	13
387.	Masuda	305623	SO	Dept.	Beawar	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	14
388.	nasirabad MDG	305601	SO	Dept.	Beawar	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	15
389.	Kekri	305404	SO	Dept.	Beawar	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	16
390.	Kuchery, Ajmer	305001	SO	Dept.	Ajmer	Ajmer	Ajmer	Rajasthan	17
391.	JAIPUR GRO	302001	HO	Dept.	JAIPUR CITY	JAIPUR	JAIPUR	Rajasthan	18
392.	Dausa HO	303303	HO	Dept.	Jaipur Mfl.	Dausa	Jaipur	Rajasthan	19
393.	Sambhar Lake HO	303604	HO	Dept.	Jaipur Mfl.	JAIPUR	Jaipur	Rajasthan	20
394.	Dholpur HO	328001	HO	Dept.	Dholpur	Dholpur	Jaipur	Rajasthan	21
395.	JAIPUR CITY	302003	SO	Dept.	JAIPUR CITY	JAIPUR	JAIPUR	Rajasthan	22
396.	Bharatpur City MDG	321001	SO	Dept.	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	Jaipur	Rajasthan	23
397.	Vidhyadhar Nagar SO	302023	SO	Rented	Jaipur	Jaipur	Jaipur	Rajasthan	24
398.	Todabhim	321611	SO	Rented	Jaipur	Jaipur	Jaipur	Rajasthan	25
399.	JHOTWARA	302012	SO	Rented	JAIPUR CITY	JAIPUR	JAIPUR	Rajasthan	26
400.	SHYAM NAGAR	302019	SO	Rented	JAIPUR CITY	JAIPUR	JAIPUR	Rajasthan	27
401.	Phagi	303005	SO	Dept.	Jaipur (M) Division	Jaipur	Jaipur	Rajasthan	28
402.	Dudu	303008	SO	Dept.	Jaipur (M) Division	Jaipur	Jaipur	Rajasthan	29
403.	Bikaner HO	334001	HO	Dept.	Bikaner	Bikaner	JODHPUR	Rajasthan	30
404.	Churu HO	331001	HO	Dept.	Churu	Churu	JODHPUR	Rajasthan	31
405.	Jhunjhunu HO	333001	HO	Dept.	Jhunjhunu	Jhunjhunu	JODHPUR	Rajasthan	32
406.	Shastri Nagar	342003	SO	Dept.	Jodhpur Dn	Jodhpur	JODHPUR	Rajasthan	33
407.	Makrana MDG	341505	SO	Dept.	Nagaur	Nagaur Raj.	JODHPUR	Rajasthan	34
408.	Singhana SO	333516	SO	Rented	Jhunjhunu	Jhunjhunu	JODHPUR	Rajasthan	35
409.	SIWANA	344044	SO	Rented	BARMER	BARMER	JODHPUR	Rajasthan	36
410.	Surajgarh SO	333029	SO	Rented	Jhunjhunu	Jhunjhunu	JODHPUR	Rajasthan	37
Tamil Nadu									
411.	Chidambaram HO	608001	HO	Dept.	Cuddalore	Cuddalore	Central	TN	1
412.	Cuddalore HO	607001	HO	Dept.	Cuddalore	Cuddalore	Central	TN	2
413.	Thanjavur HO	613001	HO	Dept.	Thanjavur	Thanjavur	Central	TN	3
414.	Tiruchairapalli HO	620001	HO	Dept.	Tiruchairapalli	Tiruchairapalli	Central	TN	4
415.	Puducherry HO	605001	HO	Dept.	Puducherry	Puducherry	Chennai City	TN	5
416.	Tambaram HO	600045	HO	Dept.	Tambaram	Kanchipuram	Chennai City	TN	6
417.	Chengalpattu HPO	603001	HO	Dept.	Chengalpattu	Kanchipuram	Chennai City	TN	7
418.	Vellore HO	632001	HO	Dept.	Vellore	Vellore	Chennai City	TN	8
419.	Adyar SO	600020	SO	Dept.	Chennai City South	Chennai	Chennai City	TN	9
420.	Guindy IE SO	600032	SO	Dept.	Chennai City South	Chennai	Chennai City	TN	10
421.	Besant Nagar SO	600090	SO	Dept.	Chennai City South	Chennai	Chennai City	TN	11
422.	T Nagar North SO	600017	SO	Dept.	Chennai City Central	Chennai	Chennai City	TN	12
423.	Teynampet SO	600018	SO	Dept.	Chennai City Central	Chennai	Chennai City	TN	13
424.	Royapettah SO	600014	SO	Dept.	Chennai City Central	Chennai	Chennai City	TN	14

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425.	Chennai GPO	600001	HO	Dept.	Chennai GPO	Chennai	Circle Office	TN	15
426.	Udagamandalam	643001	HO	Dept.	Nilgiris	Nilgiris	Coimbatore	TN	16
427.	Madurai	625001	HO	Dept.	Madurai	Madurai	Southern	TN	17
428.	Mettupalayam HO	641301	HO	Dept.	Tirupur	Coimbatore	Western	TN	18
429.	Erode HPO	638001	HO	Dept.	Erode	Erode	Western	TN	19
430.	Coonoor HPO	643101	HO	Dept.	Nilgiri Division	Nilgiri Dt	Western	TN	20
431.	Salem HO	636001	HO	Dept.	Salem East	Salem	Western	TN	21
432.	Gudalur Nilgiris	643211	SO	Dept.	Nilgiri Division	Nilgiri Dt	Western	TN	22
433.	Love Dale SO	643003	SO	Dept.	Nilgiris	Nilgiris	Western	TN	23
434.	Charring Cross SO	643001	SO	Dept.	Nilgiris	Nilgiris	Western	TN	24
435.	Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalay	641020	SO	Rented	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Western	TN	25
436.	Indu Nagar	643005	SO	Rented	Nilgiri	Nilgiri	Western	TN	26
437.	Coonoor RS so	6432102	SO	Dept.	Nilgiris	Nilgiris		TN	27
Uttar Pradesh									
438.	Etawah HO	206001	HO	Dept.	Etawah	Etawah	Agra	UP	1
439.	Mathura HO	281001	HO	Dept.	Mathura	Mathura	Agra	UP	2
440.	Mainpuri City SO	205001	SO	Dept.	Mainpuri	Mainpuri	Agra	UP	3
441.	AMU ALIGARH	202002	SO	Rented	Aligarh	Aligarh	Agra	UP	4
442.	Ghazipur HO	233001	HO	Dept.	Ghazipur	Ghazipur	Allahabad	UP	5
443.	Mirzapur HO	231001	HO	Dept.	Mirzapur	Mirzapur	Allahabad	UP	6
444.	Robertsganj	231216	SO	Dept.	Mirzapur	Sonbhadra	Allahabad	UP	7
445.	Moghalsarai	232101	SO	Dept.	Varanasi(E)	Chandauli	Allahabad	UP	8
446.	Chunar SO	231304	SO	Dept.	Mirzapur	Sonbhadra	Allahabad	UP	9
447.	BHU	221005	SO	Rented	Varanasi(E)	Varanasi	Allahabad	UP	10
448.	Shaktinagar	231222	SO	Rented	Mirzapur	Sonbhadra	Allahabad	UP	11
449.	Muzzafarnagar HO	251001	HO	Dept.	Muzzafarnagar	Muzzafarnagar	Bareilly	UP	12
450.	Meerut City HO	250002	HO	Dept.	Meerut	Meerut	Bareilly	UP	13
451.	Saharanpur HO	247001	HO	Dept.	Saharanpur	Saharanpur	Bareilly	UP	14
452.	Deoria HO	274001	HO	Dept.	Deoria	Deoria	Gorakhpur	UP	15
453.	Gonda HO	271001	HO	Dept.	Gonda	Gonda	Gorakhpur	UP	16
454.	Geeta Press	273005	SO	Rented	Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur	Gorakhpur	UP	17
455.	Fatehpur HO	212601	HO	Dept.	Fatehpur	Fatehpur	Kanpur	UP	18
456.	Armapoore SO	208009	SO	Rented	KP City	Kanpur	Kanpur	UP	19
457.	IIT Kanpur SO	208016	SO	Rented	KP City	Kanpur	Kanpur	UP	20
458.	Lucknow GPO	226001	HO	Dept.	Lucknow	Lucknow	Lucknow	UP	21
459.	Sitapur HO	261001	HO	Dept.	Sitapur	Sitapur	Lucknow	UP	22
460.	Faizabad HO	224001	HO	Dept.	Faizabad	Faizabad	Lucknow	UP	23
461.	Dilkusha SO	226002	SO	Dept.	Lucknow	Lucknow	Lucknow	UP	24
462.	Modinagar	201204	SO	Dept.	Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad	Lucknow	UP	25
463.	Ghaziabad City	201009	SO	Dept.	Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad	Lucknow	UP	26
464.	Alambagh SO	226005	SO	Dept.	Lucknow	Lucknow	Lucknow	UP	27
465.	New Hyderabad SO	226007	SO	Dept.	Lucknow	Lucknow	Lucknow	UP	28

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Uttarakhand									
466.	Ramnagar SO	244715	SO	Dept.	Nainital	Naintial	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	1
467.	Virbhadra SO	249202	SO	Dept.	Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttrakhand	Uttarakhand	2
468.	Bajjnath	263641	SO	Rented	Almora	Bageshwar	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	3
469.	Augustmuni	246421	SO	Rented	Chamoli	Rudraprayag	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	4
470.	Okhimath	246469	SO	Rented	Chamoli	Rudraprayag	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	5
471.	Dehradun City	248001	SO	Rented	Dehradun	Dehradun	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	6
472.	Dhumakot	246277	SO	Rented	Pauri	Pauri	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	7
West Bengal									
473.	Port Blair	744101	HO	Dept.	A&N Islands	South Andaman	HQ Region	West Bengal	1
474.	Alipore	700027	HO	Dept.	self unit	South 24 parganas	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	2
475.	Barabazar	700007	HO	Dept.	self unit	Kolkata	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	3
476.	Berhampore HO	742101	HO	Dept.	Murshidabad	Murshidabad	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	4
477.	Kolkata G.P.O.	700001	HO	Dept.	self unit	Kolkata	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	5
478.	Park Street	700016	HO	Dept.	Central Kolkata	Kolkata	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	6
479.	Tollygunge HPO	700033	HO	Dept.	South Kolkata	Kolkata	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	7
480.	Bolpur SO	731204	SO	Dept.	Birbhum	Birbhum	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	8
481.	S.B. Road DSO	700029	SO	Dept.	South Kolkata	Kolkata	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	9
482.	New Alipore SO	700053	SO	Dept.	South Kolkata	Kolkata	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	10
483.	Kakdwip SO	743347	SO	Dept.	South Presidency	South 24 Parganas	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	11
484.	Ballygunge MDG	700019	SO	Dept.	South Kolkata	Kolkata	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	12
485.	Bidhan Nagar CC Block	700064	SO	Dept.	Kolkata East Dn.	North 24 Parganas	Kolkata Region	West Bengal	13
486.	Alipurduar MDG	736121	SO	Dept.	Coochbehar	Coochbehar	NB & Sikkim Region	West Bengal	14
487.	Kalimpong MDG	734301	SO	Dept.	Darjeeling	Darjeeling	NB & Sikkim Region	West Bengal	15
488.	Darjeeling HO	734101	HO	Dept.	Darjeeling	Darjeeling	North Bengal & Sikkim	West Bengal	16
489.	Gangtok HO	737101	HO	Dept.	Sikkim	Sikkim	North Bengal & Sikkim	West Bengal	17
490.	Siliguri HO	734001	HO	Dept.	Darjeeling	Darjeeling	North Bengal & Sikkim	West Bengal	18
491.	Maynaguri	735224	SO	Dept.	Jalpaiguri	Jalpaiguri	North Bengal & Sikkim	West Bengal	19
492.	Asansol	713301	HO	Dept.	Asansol	Burdwan	South Bengal	West Bengal	20
493.	Burdwan	713101	HO	Dept.	Burdwan	Burdwan	South Bengal	West Bengal	21
494.	Durgapur	713201	HO	Dept.	Asansol	Burdwan	South Bengal	West Bengal	22
495.	Howrah	711101	HO	Dept.	Howrah	Howrah	South Bengal	West Bengal	23
496.	Midnapore	721101	HO	Dept.	Midnapore	Paschim	South Bengal	West Bengal	24
497.	Singur	712409	SO	Rented	South Hooghly	Hooghly	South Bengal	West Bengal	25
498.	Bagnan SO	711303	SO	Rented	Howrah	Howrah	South Bengal	West Bengal	26
499.	Dainhat	713502	SO	Rented	Burdwan	Burdwan	South Bengal	West Bengal	27
500.	Egra	721429	SO	Rented	Contai	Purba Midnapore	South Bengal	West Bengal	28

Statement IV*Break up of Post Offices in Departmental Rented Building—Project Arrow*

Sl.No.	Phase	Departmental	Rented	Total
1.	Phase-I	50	Nil	50
2.	Phase-II	435	15	450
3.	Phase-III	400	100	500

Cancellation of Defence Deals

*232. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has cancelled defence deals with certain defence firms recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the defence deals affected thereby and the reasons therefor;

(c) the total value of defence equipment procured from such companies during the last three years;

(d) the action taken by the Government against the companies and the officials involved; and

(e) the steps taken to check recurrence of such incidents and bring about transparency in defence deals?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) to (e) The CBI registered an FIR on 17.5.2009 in Kolkata against, *inter-alia*, the then Director General, Ordnance Factories and Chairman, Ordnance Factory Board, Kolkata, containing, among other things, certain allegations about illegal gratification in the matters of various supply orders placed by Ordnance Factory Board on the private manufacturers suppliers including foreign suppliers. The names of the following firms/companies/suppliers/vendors figure in the said FIR:

- (i) M/s Israeli Military Industries,
- (ii) M/s Singapore Technology,
- (iii) M/s HYT Engineering,
- (iv) M/s T.S. Kishan and Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi,
- (v) M/s R.K. Machine Tools,

(vi) M/s BVT, Poland,

(vii) M/s Media Architects Pvt. Ltd., Singapore.

In the light of the said FIR; it has been decided that all procurement/acquisition cases in the pipeline with any of the above mentioned firms/companies/suppliers/vendors, may be put on hold for the present, and should not be proceeded with till further orders.

The Defence Procurement Procedure is revised from time to time with a view to ensuring, *inter-alia*, the highest degree of probity and public accountability, transparency in operations, free competition and impartiality.

[Translation]

Employment Oriented Education

*233. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring reforms in the present education system to make it employment oriented; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Keeping in mind that the education system should cater to the needs of the manpower requirement for the economic development of the country, Government has accorded high importance to vocational education and training. While elaborating on the essence and role of Education, the National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 (as modified in 1992) has recognized that Education develops manpower for different levels of the economy. The NPE also envisages the introduction of systematic, well-planned and rigorously implemented programmes of vocational education. The policy envisages that efforts

will be made to provide children at the higher secondary level with generic vocational courses which cut across several occupational fields and which are not occupation specific.

Government has implemented a Technical Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP) with the assistance from the World Bank to improve the quality of education and enhance the capabilities of the technical institutions to become dynamic, demand-driven, quality conscious and competitive at national and international levels. The proposed reforms include faculty development, examination reforms, regular curriculum revision, introduction of semester system, focus on research and giving autonomy with the accountability.

A Nation-wide scheme of "Sub-mission on Polytechnics" has also been launched, wherein assistance is being given to the State Governments for starting 1000 new Polytechnics, revamping of the Community Polytechnic Scheme and increasing their number to 1000, for construction of 500 women's hostels and for the upgradation of existing 500 Polytechnics.

The UGC also has schemes for Career Orientation to Education/Career Oriented Programmes Career Oriented Courses, which aim to ensure that graduates who pass out after completing these courses, have knowledge, skills and aptitude for gainful employment.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Vocationalisation of Secondary Education" which was started in 1988, vocational courses were started at the higher secondary stage to enhance the employability of the students. The National Curriculum Framework 2005 has recommended work-centred education as an integral part of the school curriculum.

Government has also launched a scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) to provide vocational training to non-literate, neo-literate people as well as school drop-outs by identifying skills as would have a market in the region of their establishment. At present, 221 JSS are functioning in various States of the country. Sanction Orders have been issued for setting up of 50 more JSSs in the country.

Changes in Higher and Technical Education

*234. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to consult all the stakeholders including State Governments before undertaking any structural and organisational changes in the higher and technical education in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has already written to State Governments, the University Grants Commission (UGC) and other Statutory Councils for their views on the recommendations of the Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal, including the recommendation to create an all-encompassing National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER).

Irregularities in Ration Procurement

*235. SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain irregularities in the procurement of ration for the Army at Northern command have been reported recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the persons involved?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) While no irregularities in the procurement of ration have been reported recently at the Northern Command, the CBI is investigating certain alleged irregularities in conclusion of local Wheat grinding contracts in that Command and has registered a case.

Creation of Employment Opportunities

*236. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed and achieved for employment generation during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the targets fixed for creation of employment opportunities during each year of the Eleventh Plan Period; and

(c) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): (a) to (c) The 10th Plan targeted creation of job opportunities was 50 million against which about 47 million job opportunities were created on current daily status basis. The 11th Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million job opportunities. These job opportunities are likely to be created on account of growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), investment in infrastructure development, growth in export and expenditure on employment generation programmes implemented by the Government. While employment generation on account of general economic growth process, investment on infrastructure development and export growth is available only after completion of next quinquennial survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. The employment generated through employment generation programmes of Government of India such as Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY); National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and Prime Minister's Employment Generation programme (PMEGP) is as under:

- (i) Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under employed poor, to help them set up self employment ventures and also through providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. A target of assisting 1.20 lakh urban poor to set up individual/group micro enterprises was fixed for each of the year 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. Against these targets, achievements in these years were 1.36, 1.81 and 1.85 lakh respectively. The target fixed for 2009-10 is 0.50 lakh.
- (ii) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 75:25 cost sharing basis between the Centre and the States. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided to members of BPL families for creating income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and subsidy. During years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 the target was to assist 10.91, 13.53 and 17.63 lakh swarozgaris. Against these 16.92, 16.99 and 18.62 swarozgaris were assisted respectively. The target for 2009-10 is to assist 18.22 lakh swarozgaris against which 1.35 lakh swarozgaris have been assisted till 31st May, 2009.

- (iii) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) provides for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. Persondays of employment generated were 950.56 lakh during 2006-07; 14359.22 lakh in 2007-08 and 21600.57 lakh in 2008-09. The targets under NAREGA are not fixed as it is mandatory to provide employment to all eligible persons who offer themselves for work.
- (iv) Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) came into existence during August, 2008 after merger of two earlier schemes, namely, Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) and pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY). The programme directly creates self-employment by providing credit linked subsidy for setting up of micro enterprises. The scheme is for implementation from 2008-09 to 2012-13 with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4735 crore towards margin money and Rs. 250 crore towards backward and forward linkages with the target for generation of 37.37 lakh employment opportunities. The target for generation of 6.17 lakh additional employment opportunities during 2008-09 was set up under the scheme against which 3.63 lakh (provisional) additional employment opportunities are estimated to have been generated till 31.03.2009.

Yahspal Committee Report

*237. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR HEGDE:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALLAS*
LALAN SINGH:

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

- (a) whether the Report of the Yashpal Committee on Higher Education contained any note of dissent;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Prof.

Kaushik Basu, one of the twenty two members of the Committee to advise on Renovation and Rejuvenation of Higher Education under Prof. Yash Pal, had given a note of dissent, the gist of which is as follows:

- (i) Private sector money should be allowed to come into higher education. There is no harm if private colleges end up teaching mainly commercially viable subjects and cater to relatively rich students.
- (ii) The information about the performance of universities and institutions of higher learning be made easily available. The University Grants Commission (UGC) should produce and publicise ratings of information about such institutions and misinformation should be punished.
- (iii) There is a need to reconcile to a differential treatment of institutions and universities and also of individuals and pay differentials should be allowed.
- (iv) India should build some good universities with quality residences for students and advertise them globally to make the country into the world's major hub for higher education.

Several members of the Committee have responded to the note of dissent. Their views may be summarized as follows:

- (i) The Report of the Committee lays the thrust that a university should, in principle, be able to cover all subjects. Therefore, the proposition of allowing profit making private sector organizations who may like to stick to only a few commercially attractive areas of study in higher education, is difficult to accept.
- (ii) The Report has already recommended rating of institutions and information provision through two divisions of the proposed National Commission for Higher Education and Research (NCHER).
- (iii) Once the fundamental principle of autonomy of an institution is accepted, the issue of pay differentials would be taken care of.
- (iv) Presently, intake of foreign students is not restricted. Besides, with autonomy, universities will be free to develop their own strategies.

(c) While the Government acknowledges that private participation would be required for supplementing the

requirement of investments in Higher Education, the present national policy as well as decisions of the Supreme Court are against profit-making in education even though reasonable surpluses can be generated to be ploughed back into institutional development. The report of the Prof. Yash Pal Committee is under consideration of the Government.

Action Plan for Development of Backward Regions

*238. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the regional imbalances in respect of industrial development amount various States;

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

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey/study of the industrially backward regions in the country;

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

(e) whether the Government has drawn any Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of such backward regions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The list of Industrial Investment proposals filed state-wise from 1991 to May 2009 is placed at Statement-I enclosed. Investments in the present policy regime are essentially made by entrepreneurs, businesses and enterprises. These decisions are based on a large number of parameters like market, availability of raw material, availability of human skills, infrastructure, incentives etc. Government's role is of a facilitator and promoter. The primary responsibility of industrial development is of the State Governments and the Central Government supplements and complements this effort.

(c) and (d) The Government of India had set up a study group in 1993 to identify the industrially backward districts to provide fiscal support. Based on the recommendations of the study group, the Government of India notified on 7th October, 1997, a list of 123 industrially backward districts in various States to avail

benefits under Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961). List is at Statement-II enclosed. The scheme ended in 2004. The reasons for industrial backwardness in these regions are poor infrastructure, inaccessible markets, poor resource base etc. No study has been conducted so far for identifying industrially backward States.

(e) and (f) In a deregulated industrial environment investment decisions are taken by entrepreneurs. The

State Governments promote industrial development and investment. The Central Government through various policy initiatives has been improving the overall investment climate. The Government of India is implementing package of incentives for the special category States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the States of the North East *i.e.* Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura as detailed in Statement-III enclosed. Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Statement I

Industrial Investment Proposals (Statewise) August 1991-may 2009

Name of the State/UTs	IEM+LOI+DIL		Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum (IEMs)						Letters of Intent (LOIs)+Direct Industrial Licences (DILs)					
	Total Investment (Rs. Crore)	%age	Number Filed	%age	Proposed Investment (Rs. Cr.)	%age	Proposed Emp. (Nos)	%age	Numbers granted	%age	Proposed Investment (Rs. Cr.)	%age	Proposed Emp. (Nos)	%age
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Orissa	680847	12.97	1382	1.78	675403	13.19	587778	3.52	37	0.83	5444	4.18	11882	1.25
Chhattisgarh	674416	12.85	2331	3.00	673851	13.16	611301	3.66	31	0.70	565	0.43	3816	0.40
Gujarat	625205	11.91	9142	11.75	601801	11.75	1631511	9.77	467	10.53	23404	17.98	75855	7.99
Maharashtra	523135	9.96	14043	18.05	504353	9.85	2584397	15.48	599	13.51	18782	14.43	139590	14.69
Andhra Pradesh	444887	8.47	5652	726	429776	8.39	1092839	6.55	532	12.00	15111	11.61	97260	10.24
Karnataka	385998	7.35	3244	4.17	375436	7.33	730252	4.37	284	6.41	10562	8.11	76914	8.10
Jharkhand	371181	7.07	930	1.20	370707	7.24	357151	2.14	18	0.41	474	0.36	2368	0.25
Madhya Pradesh	318137	6.06	3065	3.94	314863	6.15	780257	4.67	147	3.32	3274	2.51	31682	3.34
West Bengal	287827	5.48	4429	5.69	283672	5.54	882651	5.29	101	2.28	4155	3.19	20706	2.18
Tamil Nadu	209944	4.00	6658	8.56	196034	3.83	2028619	12.15	865	19.51	13910	10.68	151111	15.91
Uttar Pradesh	196486	3.74	6551	8.42	186568	3.64	1755116	10.51	372	8.39	9918	7.62	102114	10.75
Punjab	99100	1.89	2936	3.77	90747	1.77	664410	3.98	266	6.00	8353	6.42	86078	9.06
Rajasthan	94444	1.80	3236	4.16	92789	1.81	607789	3.64	101	2.28	1655	1.27	15680	1.65
Haryana	79337	1.51	3956	5.08	74956	1.46	623002	3.73	242	5.46	4381	3.36	64333	6.77
Uttarakhand	47789	0.91	1719	2.21	47251	0.92	302043	1.81	33	0.74	538	0.41	8547	0.90
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	37491	0.71	2119	2.72	37173	0.73	241839	1.45	37	0.83	318	0.24	3994	0.42
Bihar	30004	0.57	304	0.39	28542	0.56	60015	0.36	33	0.74	1462	1.12	13674	1.44
Himachal Pradesh	24067	0.46	879	1.13	23579	0.46	161249	0.97	35	0.79	488	0.37	6232	0.66
Assam	20819	0.40	526	0.68	18384	0.36	74145	0.44	13	0.29	2435	1.87	4606	0.48
Nagaland	16325	0.31	15	0.02	16325	0.32	302337	1.81	1	0.02	0	0.00	0	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Kerala	13629	0.26	612	0.79	10763	0.21	103425	0.62	76	1.71	2866	2.20	14918	1.57
Jammu and Kashmir	12626	0.24	621	0.80	12550	0.25	113766	0.68	7	0.16	76	0.06	2074	0.22
Puducherry	11500	0.22	723	0.93	10196	0.20	80876	0.48	19	0.43	1304	1.00	2894	0.30
Goa	10346	0.20	669	0.86	10178	0.20	72176	0.43	37	0.83	168	0.13	3526	0.37
Daman and Diu	10320	0.20	1063	1.37	10220	0.20	119739	0.72	25	0.56	100	0.08	3605	0.38
Meghalaya	9388	0.18	266	0.34	9381	0.18	34278	0.21	3	0.07	7	0.01	207	0.02
Delhi	7002	0.13	530	0.68	6972	0.14	52593	0.32	21	0.47	30	0.02	1652	0.17
Sikkim	3112	0.06	72	0.09	3107	0.06	15437	0.09	1	0.02	5	0.00	204	0.02
Tripura	2436	0.05	38	0.05	2436	0.05	4741	0.03	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Chandigarh	742	0.01	46	0.06	733	0.01	8599	0.05	2	0.05	9	0.01	284	0.03
Arunachal Pradesh	612	0.01	42	0.05	611	0.01	6278	0.04	4	0.09	1	0.00	522	0.05
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	485	0.01	11	0.01	485	0.01	2916	0.02	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Manipur	20	0.00	4	0.01	20	0.00	937	0.01	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Lakshadweep	4	0.00	1	0.00	4	0.00	278	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Mizoram	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Location in more Than One State	406	0.01	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	25	0.56	406	0.31	3617	0.38
Total	5250067	100.00	77815	100.00	5119866	100.00	16694740	100.00	4434	100.00	130201	100.00	949945	100.00

Note. Figures of 3 New States includes those units located in districts originally falling within the respective parent States.

Statement II

List of 123 districts notified by the Ministry of Finance on 7th October, 1997 as industrially backward districts for the purpose of benefits under Section 80-IA of the Income Tax Act, 1961 [w.r.t. Parts (c) and (d) of the Question]

CATEGORY "A" INDUSTRIALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS

Sl.No.	District	State
1	2	3
1.	Godda	Bihar
2.	Gumla	Bihar
3.	Araria	Bihar

1	2	3
4.	Madhepura	Bihar
5.	Dumka	Bihar
6.	Khagaria	Bihar
7.	Kishanganj	Bihar
8.	Palamau	Bihar
9.	Madhubani	Bihar
10.	Jehanabad	Bihar
11.	Saharsa	Bihar
12.	Nawadah	Bihar
13.	Sitamarhi	Bihar

1	2	3
14.	Sahebganj	Bihar
15.	Aurangabad	Bihar
16.	East Champaran	Bihar
17.	Purnia	Bihar
18.	Siwan	Bihar
19.	Vaishali	Bihar
20.	Lohardagga	Bihar
21.	The Dangs	Gujarat
22.	Wayanad	Kerala
23.	Idukki	Kerala
24.	Mandla	Madhya Pradesh
25.	Panna	Madhya Pradesh
26.	Bastar	Madhya Pradesh
27.	Sarcuta	Madhya Pradesh
28.	Chhatarpur	Madhya Pradesh
29.	Gadchiroli	Maharashtra
30.	Phulbani	Orissa
21.	Kalahandi	Orissa
32.	Jalore	Rajasthan
33.	Barmer	Rajasthan
34.	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan
35.	Churu	Rajasthan
36.	Banswara	Rajasthan
37.	Sidharthanagar	Uttar Pradesh
38.	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh
39.	Pratapgarh	Uttar Pradesh
40.	Maharajganj	Uttar Pradesh
41.	Banda	Uttar Pradesh
42.	Basti	Uttar Pradesh
43.	Chamoli	Uttar Pradesh
44.	Uttarkashi	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3
45.	Almora	Uttar Pradesh
46.	Pithoragarh	Uttar Pradesh
47.	Tehri Garhwal	Uttar Pradesh
48.	Malda	West Bengal
49.	West Dinaipur	West Bengal
50.	Murshidabad	West Bengal
51.	Cooch Behar	West Bengal
52.	Bankura	West Bengal
53.	Jalpaiguri	West Bengal
B.	CATEGORY "B" INDUSTRIALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS	
1.	Srikakulam	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Mahbubnagar	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Katihar	Bihar
4.	Bhagalpur	Bihar
5.	Gopalganj	Bihar
6.	Darbhanga	Bihar
7.	West Champaran	Bihar
8.	Saran	Bihar
9.	Bhojpur	Bihar
10.	Samastipur	Bihar
11.	Deoohar	Bihar
12.	Nalanda	Bihar
13.	Gaya	Bihar
14.	Muzaffarpur	Bihar
15.	Rohtas	Bihar
16.	Banaskantha	Gujarat
17.	Sabarkantha	Gujarat
18.	Bidar	Karnataka
19.	Seoni	Madhya Pradesh
20.	Tikamgarh	Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3
21.	Shivpuri	Madhya Pradesh
22.	Balaghat	Madhya Pradesh
23.	Jhabua	Madhya Pradesh
24.	Sidhi	Madhya Pradesh
25.	Vidisha	Madhya Pradesh
26.	Raigarh	Madhya Pradesh
27.	Morena	Madhya Pradesh
28.	Betul	Madhya Pradesh
29.	Rajgarh	Madhya Pradesh
30.	Rajnandgaon	Madhya Pradesh
31.	Sagar	Madhya Pradesh
32.	Beed	Maharashtra
33.	Bolanoir	Orissa
34.	Mayurbhanh	Orissa
35.	Balasore	Orissa
36.	Ganiam	Orissa
37.	Dungarpur	Rajasthan
38.	Dholpur	Rajasthan
39.	Sawai Madhopur	Rajasthan
40.	Tonk	Rajasthan
41.	Nagaur	Rajasthan
42.	Jhalawar	Rajasthan
43.	Sikar	Rajasthan
44.	Hardoi	Uttar Pradesh
45.	Lalitpur	Uttar Pradesh
46.	Hamirpur	Uttar Pradesh
47.	Badaun	Uttar Pradesh
48.	Fatehpur	Uttar Pradesh
49.	Azamgarh	Uttar Pradesh
50.	Etah	Uttar Pradesh
51.	Barabanki	Uttar Pradesh

1	2	3
52.	Etawah	Uttar Pradesh
53.	Deoria	Uttar Pradesh
54.	Ghaziour	Uttar Pradesh
55.	Ballia	Uttar Pradesh
56.	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh
57.	Sitapur	Uttar Pradesh
58.	Jalaun	Uttar Pradesh
59.	Unnao	Uttar Pradesh
60.	Faizabad	Uttar Pradesh
61.	Dehat Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh
62.	Mainpuri	Uttar Pradesh
63.	Gonda	Uttar Pradesh
64.	Farukhabad	Uttar Pradesh
65.	Sultanpur	Uttar Pradesh
66.	Mirzapur	Uttar Pradesh
67.	Mau	Uttar Pradesh
68.	Purulia	West Bengal
69.	Birbhum	West Bengal
70.	Midnapore	West Bengal

Statement III

Details of the Package of Incentives for special category States [w.r.t. Parts (e) and (f) of the Question]

- The following incentives are being offered to the State of Jammu and Kashmir since 14.6.2002 and the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand since 7.1.2003:
 - Capital Investment Subsidy @15% of investment of plant and machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30 lakh;
 - Interest Subsidy @3% on working capital loan for Jammu and Kashmir only;
 - Comprehensive Insurance subsidy of 100% on capital investment for Jammu and Kashmir only;

- 100% excise duty exemption with a sunset clause for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand upto 31.3.2010; and
 - 100% Income Tax exemption for first five years and thereafter @30% for Companies and @25% for other than companies for next five years.
2. The incentive package scheme for the North Eastern States which was being implemented since 1997 has been re-introduced as the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (NEIIP) 2007 w.e.f. 1.4.2007. The new scheme covers, besides the States of North East i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, the State of Sikkim also and extended benefits to the service sector, bio-technology sector and power generation sector upto 10MW. The norms for substantial expansion were relaxed and capital investment subsidy was enhanced from 15% to 30% without any ceiling. The new scheme offers the following special incentives:
- Capital Investment Subsidy @ 30% of the value of plant and machinery, without any upper ceiling;
 - Interest subsidy @ 3% on working capital loan;
 - Comprehensive Insurance subsidy of 100% on capital investment;
 - 100% excise duty exemption; and
 - 100% Income Tax exemption.
3. The above incentive packages are admissible for a period of ten years.
4. The Government is also providing Transport Subsidy to industrial units in the above mentioned States

[English]

Plan for Postal Department

*239. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of post offices and employees in the postal department in the country alongwith the number of extra-departmental employees;

(b) whether the Government has evolved any strategy to make the postal department competitive and effective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The total number of post offices, departmental employees and Gramin Dak Sevaks (previously known as Extra-Departmental Agents) is given below:

Number of post Offices as on 31.03.2008	Number of Departmental employees as on 31.3.2008	Number of Gramin Dak Sevaks as on 31.03.2008
Departmental: 25538	2,18,434	2,76,155
Extra Departmental: 129497		
Total: 1,55,035		

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government have evolved the following strategies to make the Department competitive and effective by streamlining and modernizing postal services:

Mail Services:

- Modernizing mail operations through introduction of Mail Business Offices.
- Improving productivity by reorganization of mail offices.
- Induction of freighter aircraft in 2007 for carriage of mail in the North East Region to expedite mail transmission and delivery.

Premium Services:

- Introduction of competitive pricing for Speed Post under One India One Rate scheme as well as local speed post.
- Induction of technology for effective booking & delivery of speed post articles.
- Web-based Track & Trace of Speed Post articles and bar coding of articles.
- Introduction of e-based services.

Financial Services:

- Improving financial services through computerization of savings bank operations (Sanchay Post)

Technology:

- Utilizing technology for improving productivity in post offices.

- Computerizing and Networking post offices for increased productivity in provision of counter services as well as in back end operatios;

Training:

- Imparting of soft skills training to counter and delivery staff for efficient delivery of services.

Availability of 3-G Spectrum

*240. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment about the availability of Third Generation (3-G) spectrum in the country;

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

(c) whether some concerns have been expressed by telecom operators on the administrative charges proposed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 3-G spectrum;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Circle-wise availability of Spectrum details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) An empowered Group Of Minister (eGOM) has been constituted to look into issues relating to 3G Spectrum Auction which *inter-alia* includes administrative charges on 3G Spectrum.

Statement*Circle-wise availability of Spectrum for 3-G service*

Sl.No.	Service Area	Available 3G Spectrum (in MHZ) as per WPC records
1	2	3
1.	Mumbai	30
2.	Tamil Nadu/Chennai	60

1	2	3
3.	Kolkata	50
4.	Andhra Pradesh	60
5.	Karnataka	60
6.	Kerala	60
7.	Haryana	40
8.	Punjab	35
9.	Maharashtra	30
10.	Bihar	30
11.	Madhya Pradesh	40
12.	Orissa	60
13.	Assam	30
14.	Gujarat	15
15.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	25
16.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	20
17.	Himachal Pradesh	20
18.	North East	5
19.	West Bengal	10
20.	Delhi	15
21.	Rajasthan	0
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	25

Income from Bundling Handsets

1988. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecom has sought clarification from various private telecom companies for not showing income from bundling handsets alongwith the connections, for the purpose of calculating revenue share payable to the exchequer;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total revenue loss during the current year; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir, Department of Telecommunications had sought clarification from Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Essar and Idea Cellular for not showing income from bundling handsets along with the connections, for the purpose of calculating revenue share payable to the exchequer.

(b) The Operators have responded that they are not selling handsets directly and hence there is no revenue earned under this head. The same is being done through handset vendors or their agents.

(c) to (f) The reply of the telecom operators as at (b) is also a subject matter of the special audit. The report is awaited.

Minimum Wages to Agricultural Labourers

1989. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of wages fixed for the agricultural labourers under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to revise the old Act in view of the rising cost of living; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) A statement giving the latest rates of minimum wages to agricultural labourers (Unskilled) State-wise, is Annexed as Statement.

(b) and (c) Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix revise the minimum wages in the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdictions. As per Section 3(1)(b) of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the appropriate Government shall review at such intervals, not exceeding five years, the minimum rates of wages so fixed and revise the

minimum rates, if necessary. Accordingly, the appropriate Governments review/revise minimum wages from time to time, taking into account, *inter alia*, the rise in price levels. Further, in order to protect the minimum wages against inflation, the Central Government and most of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have adopted the system of Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) linked to Consumer Price Index Number of Industrial Workers. The VDA is revised twice a year in the Central sphere effective from 1st April and 1st October.

Statement

Minimum Rates of Wages for Agricultural Workers Fixed by Different States/Union Territory Administrations under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948

Sl.No.	Appropriate Governments	Minimum Wages for Unskilled Agricultural Workers (in rupees per day)
1	2	3
Central Sphere		127.00—142.00
States/Union Territories		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	112.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	80.00
3.	Assam	81.31
4.	Bihar	97.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	72.23
6.	Goa	110.00
7.	Gujarat	100.00
8.	Haryana	147.69
9.	Himachal Pradesh	110.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	66.00
11.	Jharkhand	92.00
12.	Karnataka	107.92
13.	Kerala	72.00 for light work 125.00 for hard work
14.	Madhya Pradesh	105.23

1	2	3
15.	Maharashtra	Zone-I 72.00 Zone-II 70.00 Zone-III 68.00 Zone-IV 66.00
16.	Manipur	72.00
17.	Meghalaya	70.00
18.	Mizoram	103.00
19.	Nagaland	80.00
20.	Orissa	90.00
21.	Punjab	133.11 (Without meal) 117.59 (With meal)
22.	Rajasthan	100.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	80.00
24.	Tripura	85.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	100.00
26.	Uttarakhand	100.00
27.	West Bengal	80.98
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	156.00 (Andaman) 167.00 (Nicobar)
29.	Chandigarh	143.90
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	106.40
31.	Delhi	151.00
32.	Puducherry	
	Puducherry/Karaikal	80.00 (for 6 hours)
	Mahe	160.00 (for hard work done by men in 8 hours)
		120.00 (for light work done by women in 8 hours)

Awareness of Science Education

1990. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to make students aware about the new technologies and inculcate interest in science education right from the primary education onwards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated and utilized for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The syllabi as well as learning materials in the subject of Science have been restructured in a way to enable the students to connect classroom learning to real life situations including use of technology. Many initiatives have been taken by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to inculcate interest in Science Education right from primary stage onwards; *viz.*

(i) Promoting teaching and learning of Science through activity-based methodology.

(ii) Published the documents 'Learning by doing a Compendium of Science Activity' for Class VI and "Science is Doing- a Compendium of Science Activity for Class VII".

(iii) Laying greater emphasis on practical work in the subject of Science at Secondary stage.

(iv) Organizing regional level and national level Science exhibitions for schools affiliated to it.

(v) Promoting Science Enrichment activities like participation in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Junior Science Olympiads by disseminating related information.

(vi) Organizing orientation programmes for science teachers in the country to empower them with emerging trends in making learning of Science more interesting and enjoying.

The National Curriculum Framework - 2005 states that the development of science corners, in schools and providing access to science experimentation kits and laboratories in rural areas are important ways of equitably provisioning for Science learning. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is an important tool for use in science education.

No specific funds have been earmarked for this purpose.

Export of Cashew

1991. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of quantity and value of cashew exported during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the global recession has adversely affected cashew export;

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

(d) the steps being taken to promote export of cashew and the outcome achieved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The details of quantity and value of cashew exported from India during the last three years and the current years are given below:

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Crs.)
2006-07	118540	2455.15
2007-08	114340	2288.90
2008-09	108131	2950.24
2009-10 (April-May)	17035	456.23

The Indian Cashew Industry is facing severe crisis due to the global recession. Since cashew is a non-essential and luxury food item, its consumption has been adversely affected. This has caused a decrease in price of Cashew Kernels. Many large super markets in USA and Europe have closed down due to the recession. During 2008-2009, there was a decrease of 5.4% in the quantity exported compared to that of 2007-2008. During the current year, there was a decrease of 15% in quantity and 6% in value in the exports of cashew kernel.

(d) Export promotion activities by the Minister of Commerce under, MDA, MAI and Brand promotion schemes are being undertaken. The five year plan scheme 'Modernization & Diversification' is being implemented by the Cashew Export Promotion Council to provide assistance to exporters for upgrading their processing facilities and obtaining international quality certification.

Vacant Posts in Labour Courts

1992. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts of presiding officers are lying vacant in Labour Courts and Tribunals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes quota out of these vacant posts, State-wise and category-wise; and

(c) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Some posts of Presiding Officers are lying vacant in Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts (CGIT-cum-LC) set up by the Central Government as per the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 for adjudication of Industrial Disputes arising in the Central Sphere. The details of the State Labour Courts are not maintained in the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

(b) Out of the 22 Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts set up by Central Government in different parts of the country, the posts of Presiding Officers are lying vacant in the following nine CGIT-cum-Labour Courts:

- (i) CGIT-cum-LC, Ahmedabad
- (ii) CGIT-cum-LC, Jaipur
- (iii) CGIT-cum-LC, Mumbai
- (iv) CGIT-cum-LC, Bangalore
- (v) CGIT-cum-LC-II, Dhanbad
- (vi) CGIT-cum-LC-II, Chandigarh
- (vii) CGIT-cum-LC, Kolkata
- (viii) CGIT-cum-LC, Bhubaneswar
- (ix) CGIT-cum-LC, Kanpur

The Presiding Officers are appointed as per Sections, 7, 7A, 7B and 7C of the Industrial Disputes At, 1947. A serving judicial officer is appointed on deputation basis while retired judicial officer on re-employment basis. There is no provision of reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for appointment to the post of Presiding Officer in the Act.

(c) The process of filling up of the vacancies of the Presiding Officers has already been initiated by the Government which is at various stages of process. However, there is a stipulated procedure to be followed for appointment of Presiding Officer and, therefore, a specific time frame cannot be indicated.

Domestic Production of Cement

1993. SHRI S. S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is importing huge quantity of cement from abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to improve the domestic production of cement;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the targets fixed for production for the next three years; and

(e) the steps taken to achieve the targets fixed in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Working Group on Cement Industry for the 11th Plan has projected production of 212.38 million tonnes in 2009-10, 236.16 million tonnes in 2010-11 and 262.61 million tonnes in 2011-2012 by the large cement plants. In order to meet the target, the cement industry has already added 51 million tonnes of capacity in the first two years of the Plan and additional 60 to 70 million tonnes of capacity is likely to be added in the next three years.

Updation of Polytechnic Syllabus

1994. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to update the syllabus of polytechnics;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any projects are there to start new courses based on subjects such as Nano Technology, Bio-Technology, etc. in Polytechnics;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to conduct periodical labour and employment opportunity surveys and courses be started responding to the demand of the labour market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The State Boards of Technical Education regularly update the syllabus of affiliated polytechnics as per requirements of State/ Industry/Market etc. However, the All India Board of Technical Education of AICTE has formed two Sub-Groups to upgrade curriculum and prepared concept paper for growth of polytechnic.

(e) The steps for labour Survey and employment potential are carried out through National Technical Manpower Information System (NTMIS) Scheme with the help of 1 Lead Centre and 20 Nodal Centres located all over the country. The State Government are empowered to start new courses based on local requirements.

Joint Exercise on Border Settlement

1995. SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to sign an agreement with any foreign country on joint defence exercise on border settlement issues; and

(b) if so, the details of the operational process thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Postal Index Number

1996. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to increase the digits in Postal index Number (PIN) in the country;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) No, Sir, There is no proposal to change the existing Pin code. However, a drive has been undertaken to add two digits to the Pin code. This will indicate the Postman Beat. It is limited to only select Post Offices and select large mailers who post thousands of mail pieces on regular basis. It will assist in faster processing of mail in these post offices. It is being gradually implemented.

[Translation]

Balika Shiksha Abhiyan

1997. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to fully implement Balika Shiksha Abhiyan in Adivasi majority and rural areas under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan; and

(b) the targets fixed for covering the children of economically weaker families under the said Abhiyan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Department of School Education & Literacy is not implementing 'Balika Shiksha Abhiyan'. However, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is being implemented throughout the country including in adivasi and rural areas for Universalisation of Elementary Education. Education of girls, especially those belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Minorities, is one of the principal concerns in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. With a view to ensuring focus on disadvantaged children, SSA provides for:

- Adequate infrastructure for elementary schooling in districts with concentration of SC, ST and Muslim minority population.
- Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) in remote sparsely populated regions, which are otherwise ineligible for schools.
- Free textbooks for SC and ST students.

- Provision of Rs. 15 lakhs per district for special innovation activities to support education of SC,ST children and girls.
- Preparation of material in tribal languages and bridge material to transit from home language to school language.
- Establishment of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) in blocks with a concentration of SC,ST and Muslim minority population.

[English]

Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education

1998. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at present, in higher education of the country in comparison to the World GER at present; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase GER during each of the last three years and the results achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Indian higher education is estimated to be about 12.4%, as compared to estimated world average of 26%. In order to achieve the targeted GER of an additional five percent by the end of XI Plan, a substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made for the expansion of higher education, by way of setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, and Schools of Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivizing State Governments for increasing State outlays on higher education and setting up of new colleges in 374 educationally backward districts with GER below the national level through partnership with State Governments are also some of the steps for achieving higher GER. Expansion of Central Educational Institutions covered under the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006 has also been undertaken which aims to increase intake capacity of these institutions by 54%.

[*Translation*]

Technology Transfer Agreement for T-90 Tanks

1999. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has signed Technology Transfer Agreement for the indigenous production of T-90 tanks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time schedule for the actual production of the tanks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The contract for transfer of technology for licensed production of T-90 tanks was signed on 15.2.2001 between Government of India and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise 'State Corporation 'Rosvoorouzhenic' Russian Federation.

(c) Production of T-90 tanks has commenced in Ordnance Factories. So far 186 tanks have been supplied by assembly of Semi-Knocked Down/Completely Knocked Down kits. Supply of T-90 Tanks through indigenous production of components will commence from 2009-2010.

[*English*]

Revenue Earned by Major Ports

2000. ADV. A. SAMPATH:
SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by the Union Government from various major ports through transportation, import and export of goods during each of last three years and current year, port-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has prepared any action plan for all-round development of the major ports so that infrastructural facilities may be provided to exporters/importers;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial assistance provided for the purpose during the said period, port-wise; and

(d) the capacity utilization of various major ports in the country during the said period, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
(a) A statement-I showing details of revenue earned (net surplus) by Major Port Trusts through their various operational activities during the years 2005-06 to 2007-08, is enclosed.

(b) Keeping in view the fact that about 95% by volume and 70% by value of India's international trade is carried on through the maritime transport, the Ministry of Shipping finalized the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) to implement the specific programmes/schemes for the development of the port sector. Under the programme, specific projects to be taken up for implementation over a period upto 2011-12 have been identified. Total investment involved under the Programme is Rs 1,00,339 crores. Out of this, Rs. 55,804 crore is for the Port Sector and the balance is for the Shipping and Inland Water Transport sectors. In the Major Ports, 276 projects covering the entire gamut of activities, namely construction/upgradation of berths, deepening of channels, rail/road connectivity projects, equipment upgradation/modernization schemes and other related schemes for creation of backup facilities have been identified for inclusion in the Programme.

(c) The following ports were given financial assistance as Gross Budgetary support in the last three years:

(Rs. in Crores)				
Sl.No.	Port	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Cochin Port Trust	45.48	100	140
2.	Paradip Port Trust	-	45	-

(d) A statement-II showing capacity utilization of major ports during the years 2006-07 to 2008-09, is enclosed.

Statement I

(Rs. in Crores)				
Sl.No.	Port	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Kolkata	270.65	465.11	529.87
2.	Paradip	191.32	292.32	330.90
3.	Visakhapatnam	155.16	121.88	115.91

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Chennai	158.36	262.78	431.26
5.	Tuticorin	90.39	113.45	115.6
6.	Cochin	29.51	26.66	4.49
7.	New Mangalore	143.68	109.16	126.95
8.	Mormugao	47.35	40.46	39.84
9.	Mumbai	225.5	131.34	191.21
10.	Jawaharlal Nehru	416.93	456.90	677.58
11.	Kandla	200.01	216.24	247.08
Total		1928.86	2236.90	2809.69

*Details for the year 2008-09 is not available.

Statement II

Sl.No.	Port	Capacity Utilisation (%)		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Kolkata	70.37	72.09	65.2
2.	Haldia	97.6	93.34	89.13
3.	Paradip	69.14	75.78	65.37
4.	Vizag	96.38	105.64	104.51
5.	Ennore	82.42	88.95	71.88
6.	Chennai	106.83	107.13	107.76
7.	Tuticorin	87.6	103.52	96.75
8.	Cochin	75.72	55.73	53.68
9.	New Mangalore	77.58	82.8	84.35
10.	Mormugao	114.14	106.29	126.11
11.	Mumbai	103.38	114.08	102.32
12.	Jawaharlal Nehru	85.52	102.76	105.41
13.	Kandla	85.18	102.24	107.64
Total		89.85	95.56	93.53

[Translation]

Employment within Prescribed Period

2001. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the unemployed youth/persons not getting employment despite registering themselves with the employment exchanges longback;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to implement any scheme to provide employment after a prescribed period of registration;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The placement through Employment exchanges has reduced due to emergence of specialized recruiting agencies such as Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), State Public Service Commissions, Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) and also as a result of Supreme Court judgment which gives freedom to employers to advertise their vacancies through print and electronic media to seek nominations from the market also.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Employment exchanges register the jobseekers and sponsor their names against the vacancies notified to them by the employers. They only facilitate interaction between jobseekers and the employers and do not generate employment on their own.

[English]

Ro-Ro Terminal Project

2002. SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from State Government of Gujarat regarding the environmentally sound Ro-Ro terminal project in Gulf of Cambay;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to extend financial support for funding the viability gap of this environment friendly ferry project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
(a) to (d) A proposal from Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board for viability gap funding for Ro-Ro Ferry Service in Gujarat was received in August, 2006. Government of Gujarat requested for grant of Rs. 50 crores under the viability gap funding scheme. The ferry terminals were to be built by a private party that will also operate the ferry service on a monopoly basis. The proposal was considered by the Empowered Institution and it was pointed out that Government of India Grant funds cannot be utilized to support monopoly infrastructure services. The Project Authority was requested to revise the proposal. Revised proposal has not been submitted by the State Government.

Madarsa Modernisation Scheme

2003. SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of applications received from Government of Kerala on Madarsa modernisation scheme during the last two years;

(b) whether there is any provision under which the State Government has to submit the utilization certificate; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The State Government of Kerala had submitted proposals for financial assistance under Madrasa modernization scheme for three years *i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 on 19-02-2009 for an amount of Rs. 306.00 lakh. An amount of Rs. 291.03 lakh was released to Kerala State on 25-03-09 after adjusting unutilized balance of Rs. 14.97 lakh lying with the State Government. As per guidelines of the scheme State Governments receiving assistance should submit progress report and utilization certificate.

[*Translation*]

Functioning of it Companies

2004. SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than fifty percent of the companies working in the field of Information Technology (IT) sector are not registered;

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

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount of loss of revenue due to non-registration of these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) As per the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, it does not keep record of unregistered entities. There is no provision under the Companies Act which force the unregistered bodies to get themselves registered under the Companies Act.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Policy on Widow Pension

2005. SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any policy on widow pension;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether different policies are being followed in different States for widow pension;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to formulate a uniform policy in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Ministry of Rural Development has launched Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) in February, 2009. Under IGNWPS, Rs. 200/- per month is provided to a widow in the age group of 40-64 and belonging to a household living below poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India.

(c) and (d) Different eligibility criteria are followed in different States.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal.

[English]

Export Quality of Mangoes

2006. SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any new guidelines on the export of mangoes to foreign countries especially to America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures being taken to check the contamination of mangoes and improve its quality; and

(d) the names of organizations registered with the Agricultural and Processed Foodproducts Export Development Authority (APEDA) for export of fruits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise

(c) In order to check the contamination and improve the quality of mangoes the Orchards and pack houses are being registered by State Horticulture Departments and APEDA respectively. Fruit from the registered orchards and processed at registered Pack Houses only is being exported post irradiation, to USA. National Plant Protection Organization also conducts inspection of the registered orchards.

(d) The details of 13 pack houses registered with APEDA, for 2009 mango season, for export to USA are as under:-

Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board, Gultekdi, Pune 411037-Post Nachane, Tal/ Dist. Ratnagiri, Maharashtra

Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board, Gultekdi, Pune 411037 - Post Jamsande/Tal Devgad, Dist. Sindhudurg, Maharashtra

Gujarat Agro Pack House Pvt. Ltd., Junagarh, Gujarat

Sachi Export, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Dashai Fruits & Vegetable Pvt. Ltd., Navsari, Gujarat

Krishi Uptadan Mandi Samiti, Lucknow, UP

Kay Bee Exports, Thane, Maharashtra

Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board, Gultekdi, Pune 411037 - Post Jalana/Dist. Jalana, Maharashtra

West Bengal Food Processing & Horticulture Development Corp. Ltd., Kolkatta

Maagrta Exports Ltd., Chennai

Nikko Namdhari Foods Pvt. Ltd., Nashik

Vijaya Laxmi Agro Service Centre, Vijayawada, AP.

Hota Agro Tech Pvt. Ltd., Rajamundhry, AP.

Launch of Pre-Paid Service by MTNL

2007. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) has launched 3G (Third Generation) Jadoo prepaid services for a life time connection;

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

(c) the extent to which subscribers of the said scheme are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has launched 3G Jadoo prepaid service for a life time from 01.06.2009 in Delhi service areas.

The details of the scheme is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Subscriber would be able to avail the following added features:-

1. Video Call
2. Internet surfing on very high speed compatible with a Broadband connection
3. Mobile TV - Live Broadcast
4. Remote Video Monitoring.
5. Video on demand.

Statement

Salient Feature of 3G Jadoo Pre-Paid Service

3G starter Kit:

SIM Charges (One time)	Rs. 300/- (inclusive of tax)
Talk value	Rs 15/-
Validity	Lifetime*
Tariff:	
Local/STD/STD voice calls and SMS	As per the Trump Jeevan Sathi plan
Local Video call:	
a. To own N/W	Rs. 1.80-/min.
b. To other N/W	Rs. 3.00/min.
STD Video Calls	Rs. 3.75/min.
ISD Video Calls	Rs. 30/min.
Data rate	Rs 3/- per MB (pulse of 100kb)

*Lifetime implies till the expiry of license.

To continue the connection, customer will have to make at least Rs. 150/- usage in one month. Voice plan may be converted to any 2G TRUMP plan using conversion coupons.

Existing 2G Customer opting for 3G services will have to pay the following charge and will get the below mentioned tariff:

3G enablement charges (one time to be deducted from the balance)	Rs. 300/- (inclusive of tax)
--	------------------------------

Tariff:

Local/STD/ISD voice calls and SMS	As per the Trump tariff plan existing for the customer
Local Video call:	
a. To own N/W	Rs. 1.80/min.
b. To other N/W	Rs. 3.00/min.
STD Video Calls	Rs. 3.75/min.
ISD Video Calls	Rs. 30/min.
Data rate	Rs 3/- per MB (pulse of 100kb)

As a customer opts for 3G service by giving enablement charges the above mentioned tariff will become applicable. Thus any customer existing will get 3G service as an add-on on his Trump Plan.

Prepaid 3G Data Coupons:

Once a customer opts for 3G services, he can opt for any of the following 3G Data coupons.

Coupon	3G Trial Pack	3G 250	3G 450	3G 750	3G 2500
MRP (inclusive of Tax)	99	250	450	750	2500
Free Data Usage	50 MB	200 MB	500 MB	1GB	Unlimited (with 10 GB-month fair usage cap)
Talk value	4/-	5/-	6/-	7/-	8/-
Validity for free data and free video calls	15 days	30 days	30 days	30 days	30 days
Free Local Video Call (Own N/W) in Minutes	Nil	25 min.	50 Min.	75 min.	150 min.

"Unlimited user plans will have a fair usage policy of 10 GB/month."

HSDPA Service (Optional): All 3G customer will have a option of taking HSDPA card and Data service on HSDPA. The charges of HSDPA service will be provided through a special HSDPA recharge coupon as detailed below:

Particulars	HSDPA recharge coupon
MRP (Rs.)	149/-
Free data download (to be consumed in 30 days)	60 MB
Data charges beyond free limit	@ Rs 10/- per MB if no data coupons used.
Talk value	9/-

Note: The above mentioned data tariff will be applicable only in MTNL Delhi network. After expiry of data card or consumption of free data, the data shall be charged @ Rs 3/- per MB or Rs. 10/- per MB as applicable. Free data usage of coupons shall be additive however higher validity will be available.

All charges in the above mentioned tariff and data charges beyond expiry or consumption of free data will be deducted from the main account balance of the Trump customer. The above 3G data cards are downward compatible *i.e.* it will work with 2G connection but the customer will get the GPRS speed in 2G connection and no video call facility.

Customer willing to buy HSDPA card from MTNL, he will be charged Rs. 5000/- (plus tax as applicable) towards cost of HSDPA card and he will get HSDPA card along with 1GB free download to be used in one month in the form of 750/- 3G data coupon.

Roaming charges:

Video Call Incoming	Rs. 1.80/- per min.
Video Call Outgoing	Rs. 3.00/- per min.
STD video call	Rs. 4.00/- per min.

Subscriber can avail same data tariff charges while using in BSNL/MTNL Mumbai network in all plan without any extra roaming charge for data, however, free download will be available in MTNL Delhi network only. Roaming charges for voice calls/SMS etc. shall be as per 2G Trump plan.

Jodi offer:

New 3G customers (who will purchase the starter kit) will be provided 2G prepaid Trump Jeevansathi (Super saver pack) connection of MRP Rs. 88/- Free as a complementary connection alongwith starter kit. The 2G complementary connection given to the customer may be

provided the facility of making Video calls at the video call rates as specified for 3G plans using compatible handset in 3G network area. The prescribed commercial formalities shall also be completed for the complementary connection.

The above schemes and package shall be available in Eastern Court, Jeevan Tara Building, Jorbagh, CGO, Laxminagar, BCP, Okhla and Nehru Place Sanchar Haat.

The above mentioned 3G pre-paid tariff plan and Jodi offer on 3G pre-paid plans are launched on a promotional basis for 90 days.

The scheme will be implemented *w.e.f.* 01.06.2009 to 29.08.2009.

Benefits of Sixth Pay Commission

2008. SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Defence Estate, including the Cantonment Boards are eligible for benefits of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring them under the Central Government Services Rules; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):

(a) and (b) The officers and staff of the Defence Estates Organisation, who are Central Government employees, are eligible for benefits of the recommendations of the Sixth Pay Commission.

As regards employees of the Cantonment Boards, under the Memorandum of Settlement signed between the Cantonment Board and the All India Cantonment Board Employees Federation on 13.5.1969, the pay scales of Cantonment Board employees in a State are revised *mutatis mutandis* as and when the respective State Governments revise the pay scales of their own employees. Thus, employees of a Cantonment Board would get benefits arising out of the Sixth Pay Commission as and when the Governments of the respective States, in which the cantonments are situated, extend these benefits to their own employees.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Exploitation of Women Domestic Helps

2009. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to protect the women domestic helps in the country including metropolitan cities from exploitation; and

(b) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted to provide social security to the unorganized sector workers including domestic workers. The Act provides for formulation of social security schemes *viz.* life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government. The State Governments will formulate suitable welfare schemes for unorganised sector workers relating to provident fund, employment injury benefit, housing, educational schemes for children, skill upgradation of workers, funeral assistance and old age homes. The occupation of 'domestic work' falls in the State Sector. The service conditions etc. of domestic workers differ from household to household and there is also no direct employer/employee relationship. As such, the Government has not formulated any specific guidelines to regulate their working conditions. However, various labour laws, like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 and the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 are directly or indirectly applicable to these workers.

[*English*]

Minimum Export Price

2010. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details about the system of Minimum Export Price (MEP) announced by the Government; and

(b) the details of the MEP fixed for export of basmati rice, especially from the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Minimum Export Price (MEP) for export of a particular commodity is fixed by the Government when it is in the public interest to allow exports only above certain price. The MEP for basmati rice at present is US \$ 1100 PMT. There is no separate MEP for any particular State.

Problems of Diamond Industry

2011. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian diamond industry is facing constraints due to global slowdown;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to promote and protect diamond industry and their workers alongwith the outcome achieved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Due to the global slowdown, there has been a fall in consumer demand in major export destination markets resulting in accumulation of inventory, delay in realization of export receivables etc. for the Indian diamond Industry. As a result, export of cut and polished diamonds has registered a negative growth.

(c) Some of the measures taken by the Government to promote and protect diamond Industry and their workers are:-

(i) The period of entitlement of the first slab of pre-shipment rupee export credit, available at a concessional interest rate ceiling of the benchmark prime lending rate (BPLR) minus 2.5 percentage points has been extended from 180 days to 270 days.

(ii) The period of entitlement of the first slab of post shipment rupee export credit, available at a concessional interest rate ceiling (not exceeding BPLR minus 2.5 percentage points) have been extended from 90 days to 180 days.

- (iii) Prescribed interest rate as applicable to post shipment rupee export credit (not exceeding BPLR minus 2.5 percentage points) has been extended to overdue bills upto 180 days from the date of advance.
 - (iv) Pre and post shipment rupee export credit have been provided an interest subvention of 2 percent subject to minimum rate of interest of 7% per annum.
 - (v) Additional funds of Rs. 1,100 crore has been provided to ensure full refund of terminal excise duty/Central Sales Tax.
 - (vi) Government back-up guarantee has been made available to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. to the extent of Rs. 350 crore to enable it to provide guarantees for exports to difficult markets/products.
 - (vii) Exporters have been allowed refund of service tax on foreign agent commissions of upto 10 percent of FOB value of exports and refund of service tax on output services while availing of benefits under Duty Drawback Scheme.
 - (viii) RBI has extended a line of credit of Rs. 5,000 crores to EXIM Bank to provide pre-shipment and post shipment credit, in Rupees or Dollars to Indian exporters at competitive rates.
 - (ix) Ceiling rates on export credit in foreign currency has been raised to LIBOR + 350 basis points subject to the condition that the banks will not levy any other charges, *i.e.*, service charge, management charge, etc. except for recovery towards out-of-pocket expenses incurred.
- (ii) Service Tax has been exempted on services received by exporters from goods transport agents and commission agents, where the liability to pay service tax and later claim refund.
 - (iii) Service Tax exemption for other services received by exporters would be operated through the existing refund mechanism based on self-certification of the documents where such refund is below 0.25 per cent of FOB value and certification of documents by a Chartered Accountant for value of refund exceeding the above limit.
 - (iv) Sun-set clauses for the tax holiday (deduction in respect of export profits available under sections 10A and 10B of the Income-tax Act) has been extended by one more year *i.e.* for the financial year 2010-11.
 - (v) Allocation for Market Development Assistance Scheme has been enhanced to Rs. 124 crore.

The above measures have been taken to infuse sufficient liquidity in the system to ensure availability of adequate credit to the industry and support exporters and consequently benefit its workers.

Broadband and Internet Connection to Schools

2012. SHRI SAMEER BHUJBAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make plan for free broadband connection in rural area schools for students;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any plan of the Government to provide internet connection on nominal charges at the residence of students till Post Graduation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is no such proposal at present with the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

- (b) Does not arise.

In the year 2009, the Government has given following incentive to the diamond industry under the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09—

- (i) The threshold limit for recognition of Premier Trading House has been reduced to Rs. 7500 crores from Rs. 10000 crores in export turnover in the previous three years and current year taken together.
- (ii) Surat in Gujarat has been recognized as a Town of Export Excellence.

In the Union Budget 2009-10, following facilities have been extended to the diamond industry-

- (i) Interest subvention of 2% on rupee export credit has been extended to March 31, 2010.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal with the Ministry of Human Resource Development at present. However, there is a Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) scheme of the Department of Telecommunication, to provide wire-line broadband connectivity at subsidised tariff to rural and remote areas, which can be availed of by rural schools and students.

Patent Violation Charges

2013. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Pharma firms are facing patent violation charges in Europe;

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

(c) whether even after India raised concerns with European Union, generic companies in India which export drugs to developing countries through Europe face seizures by Dutch customs; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Yes Madam, there have been instances of seizure of consignments of Indian Generic drugs by Dutch authorities under EC Regulation No. 1383/2003 dt. 22.7.2003 on the grounds that the pharmaceuticals were patented in Europe and thus infringed the rights of patent holders in Europe. India has represented to Dutch Government and EC against this as these products were not violating any patent rights. Neither there were existing patents on them at the place of production nor at the place of destination and there was no proof of products likely to be diverted in European markets.

Withdrawal of Army from J&K

2014. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to withdraw Army from Jammu and Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir); and

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The quantum of troops deployed in the State of Jammu and Kashmir is continuously assessed and reviewed by the Army based on the changing threat perception.

[Translation]

Delayed Payment to Personnel on Peace Keeping Missions

2015. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any outstanding amount against the United Nations on account of deployment of Indian Armed Forces in peace keeping missions and under other heads;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Permanent Mission of India (PMI), New York has intimated that approximately US\$ 85 million was outstanding from the UN for 'UN peacekeeping operations till June 30, 2009. This includes Armed Forces and Police for current and past missions. Reimbursement for UN peacekeeping missions is an on-going process. The claims are settled by the UN after due verification and accounting procedure.

(c) The payment of outstanding dues is constantly pursued with the UN through the Permanent Mission of India, New York and visits by special teams from time to time.

Setting up of Industries in Mineral Rich States

2016. SHRI ARJUN MUNDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union government proposed to promote and set up industries in the States rich in mineral resources; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Government to promote industries in these States for value addition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCHINDIA): (a) and (b) Under the liberalized economic environment, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs based on techno-economic consideration, which in turn depend on the initiatives of the State Government in creating conducive environment by way of providing infrastructural facilities and other incentives.

Further, under the new National Mineral Policy, 2008 announced by Ministry of Mines, Government has enunciated policy measures like assured right to next stage mineral concession, transferability of mineral concessions and transparency in allotment of concessions, in order to reduce delays which are seen as impediments to investment and technology flow in the mining sector in India. The new Mining policy also seeks to develop a sustainable framework for optimum utilization of the country's natural mineral resources for the industrial growth in the country and encourages the user industry to develop long-term linkages with the mineral producing units to ensure uninterrupted supply of the mineral raw material from domestic sources.

[English]

Impact of Pictorial Warning on Beedi Workers

2017. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding mandatory pictorial warning on all tobacco products on the livelihood of poor beedi workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the alternative arrangements made by the Government to protect the poor beedi workers in the country including Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Vocational training programmes are being conducted for providing vocational training to the beedi

workers to enable them to seek alternate source of employment.

Funds for Special Component Plan

2018. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued specific directions to the States to allocate funds for Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Tribals Sub Plan (TSP) for Scheduled Tribes in accordance with their population in respective States;

(b) if so, whether the States have complied with the directions of the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Planning Commission has issued specific guidelines to the States to allocate funds for Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes (SCs) [renamed as Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) in April, 2006] and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) for Scheduled Tribes in accordance with their population in respective States.

(b) to (d) Most of the States earmark funds under SCSP and TSP as per the percentage of SC and ST population in the State. They have also created separate budget Heads and placed SCSP and TSP funds those Heads, and have prioritised schemes for SCSP and TSP.

Import of Coal by MMTC

2019. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has recently enquired from Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC) about the violation of norms and change in tender conditions with regard to import of coal worth Rs. 6000 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to bring about more transparency in MMTC deals and adherence to the Government guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) did not enquire MMTC Limited about the violation of norms and change in tender conditions with regard to import of coal worth Rs. 6000 crores. However, two complaints received in this regard in the Government have been forward to Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) for their advice.

(c) MMTC Limited is governed by all the guidelines of Government/CVC for maintaining transparency in its commercial activities.

Health Insurace Scheme for Employees of Unorganised Sector

2020. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to enact "Law on Workers' Health Insurance" uniform health insurance cover for farmers and workers belonging to unorganised sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted. The Act provides for formulation of social security schemes which, *inter-alia*, include health & maternity benefits for unorganised workers, including agricultural labourers.

The 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007 for providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum to BPL families in the unorganised sector, including agricultural labourers. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008. The salient features of the scheme are as under:

- (i) Smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- to a BPL family of five.
- (ii) All pre-existing diseases to be covered.

(iii) Hospitalisation expenses, taking care of most of the illnesses, including maternity benefit.

(iv) Transportation cost of Rs. 100/- per visit with an overall limit of Rs. 1,000/- per annum.

Safeguard Duty on Imported Steel

2021. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cheaper imports of steel are hurting the Indian manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Directorate General of Safeguards has recommended the imposition of safeguard duty on steel imports to protect the domestic industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) It has been determined in the preliminary findings of the Director General (Safeguards) that the cheaper import of steel, classifiable under Customs tariff heading 7208, is hurting the Indian manufacturers. The notification providing the aforesaid findings was published in the Gazette of India dated 23rd April, 2009.

(c) and (d) The Director General (Safeguards) has recommended the imposition of safeguard duty on import of steel, classifiable under Customs tariff heading 7208, at the rate of 25% for import of said products up to and including the CIF value of US\$ 600 per MT. The recommendations for imposition of safeguard duty were considered by the Standing Board on Safeguards in its meeting held on 11th May, 2009 and it has directed that the Director General (Safeguards) should continue with the investigations, consult all stakeholders as per law, and submit a report to the Board within sixty days. The report submitted by the Director General (Safeguards) on 28th May, 2008 is under consideration before the Standing Board on Safeguards.

Index of Industrial Production

2022. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of index of the industrial production for the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether there has been a slowdown in the industrial production; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Industrial production measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) registered a growth of 1.9 percent during April-May, 2009-10. The growth rates of IIP for the last three years are given in the table below.

Index of Industrial Production

	(Growth in %)
2006-07	11.6
2007-08	8.5
2008-09	2.6
2009-10 (April-May)	1.9

Source: Central Statistical Organisation.

(c) The decline in industrial growth in 2008-09 was primarily due to global economic slowdown, which resulted in demand contraction. The slowdown has affected some of the export-oriented industries in India, such as textiles, handicrafts, leather, and gems & jewellery. Slowdown in the demand for automobiles and its ancillaries, steel etc. has also been seen.

The major reasons of the slowdown, *inter alia*, include contraction in demand particularly in respect of for export oriented industries, adverse conditions for access to external capital, high cost of credit, high cost of inputs, and depressed business confidence.

Setting up of IT Parks

2023. SHRI C. SIVASAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for setting up of Software Technology Parks in the country during the Tenth and Eleventh Five year Plans;

(b) the achievements made in this regard so far,

(c) the reasons for the shortfalls, if any; and

(d) the further action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) and (b) As per Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) there is no target fixed for setting up of Software Technology Parks in Tenth and Eleventh Five year Plans.

STPI has already set up 51 centers across the country. The details of STP centres, state-wise is enclosed as Statement-I.

The list of approved new STPI centers under various stages is enclosed as Statements-II.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statements I

Software Technology Parks of India

Sl.No.	States	STPI Centers
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.		Thirupati
3.		Vijayawada
4.		Vizag
5.		Warangal
6.		Kakinada
7.	Assam	Guwahati
8.	Chhattisgarh	Bhilai
9.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
12.		Jammu

1	2	3
13.	Jharkhand	Ranchi
14.	Karnataka	Bangalore
15.		Hubli
16.		Mangalore
17.		Manipal
18.		Mysore
19.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
21.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad
22.		Nagpur
23.		Nasik
24.		Navi Mumbai
25.		Kolhapur
26.		Pune
27.	Manipur	Imphal
28.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
29.		Rourkela
30.	Puducherry	Puducherry
31.	Punjab	Mohali
32.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
33.		Jodhpur
34.	Sikkim	Gangtok
35.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai
36.		Coimbatore
37.		Madurai
38.		Thirunevelli
39.		Trichy
40.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur
41.		Lucknow
42.		Noida
43.		Allahabad

1	2	3
44.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun
45.	West Bengal	Kolkatta
46.		Durgapur
47.		Kharagpur
48.		Siliguri
49.		Haldia
50.	Bihar	Patna
51.	Meghalaya	Shillong

Statement II*Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi*

Sl.No.	States	STPI Centers
1.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior
2.		Bhopal
3.	Tripura	Agartala
4.	Mizoram	Aizawl
5.	Gujarat	Surat
6.	Jharkhand	Jamshedpur
7.		Dhanbad
8.	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi
9.		Agra
10.	Punjab	Patiala
11.	Karnataka	Gulbarga
12.	Goa	Goa
13.	Orissa	Berhampur

*[Translation]***Investigation into Sukhoi Crash**

2024. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAMESH BAIS:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a team of experts to ascertain the reasons for the first crash of the fighter plane Sukhoi-30 MKI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a team of experts of the Sukhoi company has also been called from Russia for the said purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Each crash of Defence aircraft is investigated through a Court of Inquiry and remedial measures are undertaken accordingly. Besides, two teams of Russian experts have visited India to probe the crash of the Sukhoi 30 MKI aircraft of the Indian Air Force. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers, both indigenous and foreign, is always made to overcome technical defects, if any.

Multi-Product Special Economic Zones

2025. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the multi-product Special Economic Zones (SEZs) approved by the Government and made operational during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up a Committee to identify the problems being faced by the promoters in implementing multi-product SEZs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the proposed Committee is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) A total of 23 multi product SEZs have been accorded formal approval out of which 12 have been notified.

(b) No, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Demand of Indian Export Organisation

2026. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Exports Organisation has made any demand for facilities in the field of export sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IIN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Different Export Organisations like FIED, Export Promotion Councils and Commodity Boards etc. have sent various suggestions/requests for supporting exports. Government and RBI are closely monitoring the economic developments in the country and internationally and have been taking appropriate steps to arrest the decline in exports. Government closely monitors the different export sectors and need based measures are taken keeping in view the financial implications. Measures announced in the form of stimulus packages (including the Trade Facilitation Measures announced in February '09) and in the Budget 2009-10, by the Government, particularly for exporting sector, is given in Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by Government/RBI (Including the Announcement Made in the Budget, 2009-10) to address the Concerns of Exporters Arising out of Present Global Economic Slow Down

(A) Measures taken by the Government:

(1) Interest subvention of 2% provided, till 30.09.2009 has been extended till 31.3.2010, to the following labour intensive sectors for exports:- Textiles (including Handlooms), Handicrafts, Leather, Gems & Jewellery, Marine Products and SMEs;

(2) Additional funds of Rs. 350 crore provided (in December 2008) for Handicraft items etc. in Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY);

(3) Market Linked Focus Product Scheme extended for bicycle parts, Motor Cars and Motor Cycles, Apparels and Clothing accessories, Auto Components etc. for exports from 1.4.09 to 30.09.09;

(4) Rs. 1100 crore provided to ensure full refund of pending claims of CST/Terminal Excise duty/Duty drawback on deemed exports;

- (5) Exporter friendly and the popular Duty Neutralisation Scheme *i.e.*, Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) Scheme extended upto 31st December, 2009;
- (6) DEPB rates for all items where they were reduced in November, 2008, restored to higher rates from retrospective effect;
- (7) Duty Drawback rates on certain items restored to higher rates effective from 1st September, 2008;
- (8) DEPB and Freely Transferable Incentive Schemes allowed without the initial requirement of Bank Realisation Certificate (BRC);
- (9) Export Obligation Period under Advance authorization Scheme enhanced from 24 months to 36 months without payment of composition fee.
- (10) Back-up guarantee made available to ECGC to the extent of Rs 350 crore to enable it to provide guarantees for exports to difficult markets products. ECGC is now been able to widen its coverage;
- (11) Additional funds of Rs 1400 crore provided to the Ministry of Textiles to clear the backlog claims of textile units under Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF);
- (12) MDA Scheme-allocation increased to Rs. 124 crores (increased by 148%);
- (13) Additional items allowed within the existing duty free imports entitlement for the following employment oriented sectors:
- (i) 5 additional items for sports goods sector;
 - (ii) Additional items for leather garments and footwear and textile items.
- (14) Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) abolished;
- (15) Section 10A and 10B related to Sunset clauses for STPI and EOUs schemes respectively extended for the financial year 2010-2011. Anomaly removed in Section 10AA related to taxation benefit of 'unit vis-a-vis assessee';
- (16) Export duty on iron ore fines eliminated, and for lumps, reduced to 5%;
- (17) Some pending issues relating to Service Tax refund on exports-resolved. Some of these are:
- (i) Exemption from Service tax on services linked to exports:
 - (a) On service related to transport of export goods by road from any CFS or ICD to the port or Airport and on service related to transport of export goods by road directly from their place of removal, to an ICD, a CFS, a port or airport;
 - (b) Services provided by Foreign Agent Commission service.
 - (ii) Procedure for refund of service tax simplified by allowing refund on self certification in case refund claim does not exceed 0.25% of FOB value of exports: and certification by Chartered Accountant in case of others;
 - (iii) Time period for filing refund claim increased to 1 year from the date of export (as against half-yearly).
- (18) For Fast Track Resolution of a number of procedural issues thereby reducing delays for the exporters, a Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Finance Secretary including Secretaries of Department of Revenue and Commerce; A number of issues sorted out accordingly;
- (19) Excise duty reduced across the board by 4 per cent. for all products except petroleum products and those products where current rate was less than 4%. Excise Duty was further reduced by another 2% in certain products like Leather etc.;
- (20) The guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises on loans doubled to Rs 1 crore, with a guarantee cover of 50%. The guarantee cover extended by Credit Guarantee Fund Trust increased to 85% for credit facility upto Rs. 5 lakh. The lock-in period for such collateral-free loans reduced.
- (21) An Adjustment Assistance Scheme initiated in December '08 to provide enhanced ECGC cover at 95% to the badly hit sectors, continued till March. 2010;
- (22) To protect the domestic manufacturing industry from dumped/cheap imports. in particular. from China, import restrictions have been imposed

on HR coil. Carbon Black, Polyester Filament Yarn (PFY) and Radial Tyres (Bus & Trucks);

- (23) Mega Handloom clusters in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu and Powerloom cluster in Rajasthan and New Mega clusters for carpets in Srinagar and Mirzapur approved;
- (24) Basic customs duty of 5% on Rough Unworked corals abolished;
- (25) Import duty on naphtha for power sector eliminated;
- (26) CVD on TMT bars and structurals and on cement removed;
- (27) Exemption from basic customs duty on Zinc and Ferro Alloys withdrawn;
- (28) Regular monitoring mechanism:-
- (a) The situation is being regularly monitored at the highest level of Government, so that immediate further corrective measures, can be taken as may be required. In this regard, the Government has constituted the following two High Level Committees which have been deliberating the issue on regular basis:
- (i) An Apex Group chaired by Prime Minister with Finance Minister, Commerce Minister, Deputy Chairman (Planning Commission), RBI Governor;
- (ii) Committee of officers chaired by Cabinet Secretary, including Finance Secretary, Commerce Secretary, Secretary(DIPP), Secretary (Planning Commission)- to meet regularly to look into the suggestions made by Trade and Industry and the respective Administrative Ministries in respect of the current global economic and financial crisis and to recommend action to the Apex Group.
- (b) Department of MSME and Department of Financial Services to jointly monitor on the progress of the meetings of Monthly meeting of State level Bankers' Committee for resolution of credit issues of MSME.

(B) Measures taken by RBI:

- (a) Increase in Liquidity to the banks for improving credit flow, by:
- (i) Reducing CRR, SLR, Repo rate and Reverse Repo rate (from Oct '08, CRR reduced from

9% to 5%, SLR reduced from 25% to 24%, Repo Rate reduced from 7.5 % to 4.75%, and Reverse Repo Rate reduced from 6% to 3.25%).

- (i) Refinance facility to the EXIM Bank for an amount of Rs. 5000 crores for providing pre-shipment and post-shipment credit in Rs. or dollars;
- (ii) A special re-finance facility has been put in place for banks for the purpose of extending finance to exports, micro and small enterprises, mutual funds and NBFCs. Provisioning requirements have been lowered. Export Credit Refinance facility for commercial banks increased to 50% of the outstanding Rupee Export Credit.
- (b) Increase in FOREX Liquidity:
- (i) RBI's assurance for continued selling of foreign exchange (US\$) through banks, to augment supply in the domestic foreign exchange market;
- (ii) To enable banks to profitably lend to exporters in Foreign Exchange, Ceiling rates on export credit in foreign currency has been raised to LBOR + 350 basis points. subject to the condition that the banks will not levy any other charges, *i.e.*, service charge, management charge, etc. except for recovery towards out of pocket expenses incurred.
- (c) Easing of Credit Terms:
- (i) The period of pre-shipment and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit enhanced by 90 days each;
- (ii) Time period of export realization for non-status holder exporters increased to 12 months, at par with the Status holders. This facility which was available upto 03.06.09, has been extended for one more year.
- (iii) PSU Banks, consequent to measures announced by RBI, reduced the margin money on Guarantees for export units;

Land for SEZs

2027. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of agricultural land provided for Sepecial Economic Zones (SEZs) after enactment of SEZ Act;

(b) the areas of waste Government land and private land of farmers which became part of the said SEZs during the last three years; and

(c) the details of operational SEZs, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Land is a State subject. Land for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) is procured as per the policy and procedures of the respective State Governments. State Governments have been advised that in case of land acquisition for SEZs, first priority should be for acquisition of waste and barren land and if necessary single crop agricultural land has to be acquired to meet the minimum area requirements, especially for multi-product SEZs, the same should not exceed 10% of the total land required for the SEZ. The Board of Approval on SEZs only considers those proposals, which have been duly recommended by the State Government. As per information made available by the developers in respect of 381 SEZs, 823% of land is waste/barren/dry/industrial, 15% of land is single crop and 2.7% of land is double crop.

(c) A statement giving state-wise distribution of formally approved and notified SEZs is enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise Distribution of approved Special Economic Zones

State	Formal approvals	Notified SEZs
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	103	68
Chandigarh	2	2
Chhattisgarh	1	-
Delhi	1	-
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4	-
Goa	7	3
Gujarat	50	27

1	2	3
Haryana	46	30
Himachal Pradesh	-	-
Jharkhand	1	1
Karnataka	52	27
Kerala	24	11
Madhya Pradesh	14	5
Maharashtra	111	55
Nagaland	2	1
Orissa	10	6
Puducherry	1	-
Punjab	10	2
Rajasthan	8	7
Tamil Nadu	69	51
Uttar Pradesh	34	16
Uttarakhand	3	2
West Bengal	25	11
Grand Total	578	325

Captive use Policy at Ports

2028. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS*
LALAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to introduce Captive Use Policy at the major ports in the country is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the names of the said ports;

(c) the details of the users entitled to use the ports under the said policy;

(d) the basis on which rights will be granted under the said policy; and

(e) the number of people likely to be granted rights to use each port thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
 (a) to (e) The policy for Captive Use at the Major Ports is at present under consideration in the Ministry. It will be applicable to all Major Ports under the administrative control of the Ministry of Shipping. The details of the policy will be available after it is finalised.

Unemployed Youths

2029. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:
 SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM
 WAKCHAURE:
 SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
 DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
 DR. MIRZA MEHBOOB BEG:
 SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey to assess the number of unemployed persons/youths in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of educated and uneducated rural and urban persons including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes registered with the employment exchange during each of the last three years and the current year, separately, State-wise;

(c) the number of such persons/youths provided employment during the said period, State-wise, year-wise and category wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to create additional avenues/opportunities for employment in the country including Jammu and Kashmir during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period;

(e) whether the number of registered unemployed persons are increasing despite creation of additional employment opportunities; and

(f) If so, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken by the Government to check this phenomenon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) Yes, Madam. Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial Labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation and last such survey was conducted during 2004-05.

(b) Statements indicating State-wise number of educated and uneducated job seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, and also rural and urban job seekers including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward classes registered with employment exchanges as on 31.12.04, 31.12.05 and 31.12.2006 is given Statement-I, II, III, and IV respectively.

(c) Statement indicating State-wise details of employment provided to different categories of job seekers including youth through employment exchanges for the years 2004, 2005 and 2006 are given at Statement-V and VI.

(d) Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at creating 58 million job opportunities in the country including Jammu and Kashmir. The additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated in the services and manufacturing sectors, in particular, labour intensive manufacturing sectors such as food processing, leather products, footwear, and textiles, and service sectors such as tourism and construction. Economic growth in different sectors is normally accompanied by growth in employment opportunities. Government of India has also been implementing various employment generation and poverty alleviation programmes. Some of the important ones are Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

(e) No, Madam. Annual rate of growth of placement effected through employment exchanges during the last five years from 2004 to 2008 was 18.13 per cent as compared to the negative annual rate of growth of 0.67 per cent in the number of job seekers registered with employment exchanges during the same period.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement I

State-wise number of educated and uneducated job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges in the country as on 31st December during the years

(In thousand)

State/UT	Educated			Uneducated		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1666.7	1698.7	1576.7	865.1	728.9	841.9
Arunachal Pradesh	14.4	15.4	15.1	8.2	9.7	15.1
Assam	1026.6	1224.0	1214.0	605.4	536.8	629.2
Bihar	813.6	1107.8	1461.9	753.7	354.0	285.2
Chhattisgarh	784.6	864.1	904.5	117.3	124.4	146.4
Delhi	491.8	501.3	385.3	144.4	170.1	171.6
Goa	83.1	86.2	87.3	17.6	14.6	14.5
Gujrat	790.6	742.3	709.4	136.2	112.3	92.1
Haryana	779.1	883.1	940.5	153.3	181.6	179.9
Himachal Pradesh	703.5	689.5	591.2	166.3	221.8	174.8
Jammu and Kashmir	61.1	75.0	69.9	51.3	41.0	35.7
Jharkhand	838.8	682.8	843.3	555.0	526.1	410.9
Karnataka	1235.8	1026.6	861.8	332.2	291.7	281.7
Kerala	3083.0	3040.9	3219.4	669.4	587.7	557.9
Madhy Pradesh	1592.8	1695.0	1584.1	438.0	465.9	422.0
Maharashtra	3289.8	2931.3	3054.5	1101.3	1060.5	597.7
Manipur	292.7	342.8	375.6	165.0	189.6	204.3
Meghalaya	23.4	24.3	20.9	13.9	13.7	11.2
Mizoram	16.9	20.4	26.4	18.0	14.0	18.5
Nagaland	26.6	25.8	25.8	17.4	18.5	16.8
Orissa	745.4	717.5	755.9	111.6	115.7	135.4
Punjab	367.9	358.4	434.4	109.4	104.7	19.9
Rajasthan	615.1	615.0	619.5	179.0	178.6	160.1
Sikkim*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	3020.9	2485.4	3046.9	1485.6	1195.8	1211.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tripura	162.2	175.7	199.2	215.7	224.0	228.0
Uttarakhand	261.8	319.4	398.4	50.9	59.5	65.7
Uttar Pradesh	1479.6	1463.9	2752.4	418.1	407.4	358.2
West Bengal	3819.0	3911.0	4276.0	3177.2	3380.9	3426.3
Andaman and Nicobar	18.3	18.2	19.9	20.3	20.8	20.1
Chandigarh	36.2	31.2	29.8	28.4	24.8	22.2
Dadra and Nagar Hevali	2.5	3.3	4.2	4.0	3.2	2.3
Daman and Diu	4.5	4.5	4.8	5.4	6.1	6.1
Lakshadweep	6.3	6.3	7.8	4.8	4.9	3.4
Puducherry	159.1	161.4	174.4	4.6	10.0	7.8
Grand Total	28313.7	27948.5	30691.1	12144.0	11399.2	10774.9

Note: @less than 50.

Figure may not tally due to rounding off.

*No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

Statement II

State-wise number of rural and urban job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges in the country as on 31st December during the years

(In thousand)

State/UT	Rural			Urban		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1498.6	1532.3	1516.7	1033.2	895.4	901.9
Arunachal Pradesh	@	2.1	2.4	22.6	23.0	27.8
Assam	1083.4	992.6	1183.6	548.5	768.2	659.6
Bihar	1061.1	982.7	1116.1	506.2	479.0	631.0
Chhattisgarh	548.7	611.6	651.7	353.3	376.9	399.2
Delhi	100.9	104.9	112.1	535.3	566.4	444.8
Goa	70.0	70.0	71.5	30.7	30.9	30.3
Gujarat	512.8	494.6	465.3	414.0	360.1	336.2
Haryana	579.0	655.5	701.2	353.3	409.2	419.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Himachal Pradesh	750.1	804.9	674.2	119.7	106.4	91.8
Jammu and Kashmir	53.5	54.3	44.1	58.9	61.7	61.5
Jharkhand	927.8	744.6	771.9	465.9	464.3	482.3
Karnataka	710.1	609.1	544.2	857.9	709.1	599.3
Kerala	2961.5	2824.2	3034.1	791.0	804.4	743.2
Madhya Pradesh	1114.9	1230.4	1058.4	915.9	930.5	947.7
Maharashtra	2226.8	2273.3	2025.1	2164.3	1718.4	1627.1
Manipur	333.1	449.5	354.4	124.7	82.9	225.5
Meghalaya	15.5	14.4	13.7	21.8	23.6	18.4
Mizoram	6.3	5.4	7.0	28.7	29.0	37.9
Nagaland	13.2	14.3	16.2	30.8	30.0	26.4
Orissa	575.2	544.1	628.3	281.8	289.1	263.0
Punjab	246.2	246.8	241.9	231.1	216.3	212.4
Rajasthan	384.6	328.7	420.5	409.5	464.9	359.1
Sikkim*	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu	2295.0	1784.1	2129.2	2211.5	1897.1	2129.6
Tripura	210.8	213.2	222.0	167.1	186.6	205.2
Uttarakhand	164.9	230.3	312.0	147.9	148.5	151.5
Uttar Pradesh	985.8	975.7	1667.7	911.9	895.7	1442.9
West Bengal	4014.9	4077.2	4352.6	2981.3	3214.6	3349.7
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.0	0.0	0.0	38.6	39.0	40.0
Chandigarh	11.7	11.5	@	52.9	44.5	52.0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6.5	6.5	6.5	-	-	0.0
Daman and Diu	3.1	3.1	3.1	6.8	7.5	7.8
Lakshadweep	11.1	11.2	11.2	-	-	0.0
Puducherry	21.1	22.3	24.7	142.6	149.1	157.5
Total**	23498.0	22925.5	24384.2	16959.5	16422.3	17081.8

*No Employment is functioning in this State.

@figure less than fifty.

Figure may not tally due to rounding off.

Statement III

Total number of educated job seekers of special categories of applicants during the period 2004, 2005 and 2006

(in thousand)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Scheduled Caste			Scheduled Tribe			Other Backward Classes		
		2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	374.8	396.0	382.9	120.1	106.4	118.5	729.9	724.5	773.3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.0	0.4	0.0	3.2	8.7	11.6	0.0	0.1	0.1
3.	Assam (R)	48.6	65.6	79.2	76.7	106.5	103.8	137.9	167.9	155.2
4.	Bihar (P)	154.4	134.1	164.2	6.9	12.4	12.0	399.2	393.6	451.4
5.	Chhattisgarh	80.3	89.1	91.8	141.5	157.9	173.9	114.2	129.3	133.3
6.	Delhi	79.8	83.4	68.0	7.4	7.4	6.5	16.3	17.8	15.9
7.	Goa	2.3	2.6	2.9	0.9	1.9	3.1	6.7	7.4	8.5
8.	Gujrat	133.3	134.1	130.7	106.4	101.0	102.5	8.7	7.9	8.4
9.	Haryana	95.5	106.5	114.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.1	16.4	18.4
10.	Himachal Pradesh	135.1	146.7	138.8	19.0	13.1	22.8	39.1	43.5	39.5
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.6	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	1.7	1.2	1.2
12.	Jharkhand	99.7	91.5	100.3	160.9	131.7	141.5	198.1	182.4	201.1
13.	Karnataka	193.3	169.6	155.7	47.7	38.5	36.5	35.1	27.7	27.3
14.	Kerala	348.7	305.9	328.0	22.2	17.2	18.1	924.4	1375.9	1585.5
15.	Madhy Pradesh	221.5	237.0	211.1	127.7	143.1	140.1	206.8	238.4	237.4
16.	Maharashtra	537.5	474.8	466.1	132.9	119.9	110.7	668.8	536.8	597.2
17.	Manipur	2.9	3.4	3.7	66.6	80.0	89.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
18.	Meghalaya	0.1	0.1	0.1	14.7	6.8	17.4	0.2	0.1	0.1
19.	Mizoram	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.9	9.4	26.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
20.	Nagaland	0.2	0.2	0.3	26.0	25.3	25.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
21.	Orissa	154.7	147.4	160.8	93.0	104.6	115.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
22.	Punjab	94.7	94.6	141.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.2	5.6	6.6
23.	Rajasthan	93.0	98.1	98.3	76.1	80.8	84.7	134.4	151.6	161.1
24.	Sikkim*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
25.	Tamil Nadu	688.1	420.0	631.6	12.0	6.9	7.4	1304.0	801.9	921.0
26.	Tripura	27.6	30.8	34.8	18.5	21.5	26.6	8.7	1.1.3	14.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
27.	Uttarakhand	42.1	48.0	57.9	7.8	9.2	10.7	18.4	21.9	28.9
28.	Uttar Pradesh	279.8	264.9	400.8	3.0	3.0	3.7	289.8	275.8	512.4
29.	West Bengal	419.0	445.0	497.9	24.5	34.0	86.1	99.0	129.0	117.7
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
31.	Chandigarh	6.3	4.0	3.6	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4
32.	Dadra and Nagar Hevali	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.9	0.9	2.4	0.1	0.0	0.1
33.	Daman and Diu	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.3
34.	Lakshadweep	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.1	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
35.	Puducherry	15.2	15.1	16.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	25.6	24.9	48.2
Grand Total		4330.9	4011.2	4484.6	1342.7	1357.1	1500.4	5385.9	5293.9	6065.0

*No Employment Exchanges IS functioning to this State.

Statement IV

Total number of uneducated job seekers of special categories' of applicants during the period 2004, 2005 and 2006

(in thousand)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Scheduled Caste			Scheduled Tribe			Other Backward Classes		
		2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	192.0	196.6	196.8	32.8	34.6	19.7	186.9	243.5	184.9
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.9	0.5	0.9	8.9	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
3.	Assam (R)	54.2	47.6	32.7	115.8	97.5	96.7	89.7	89.5	96.5
4.	Bihar (P)	54.8	54.8	28.7	10.7	5.4	5.1	122.9	47.2	105.3
5.	Chhattisgarh	23.1	22.6	25.9	37.0	34.4	36.7	13.3	13.9	25.0
6.	Delhi	9.8	14.8	18.4	1.8	2.4	3.3	2.1	4.2	7.2
7.	Goa	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.4	1.7	1.1
8.	Gujarat	42.3	35.4	29.0	5.8	12.5	2.4	10.0	1.2	0.9
9.	Haryana	63.1	66.7	71.8	0.0	0.5	0.0	7.8	8.4	9.9
10.	Himachal Pradesh	42.2	39.8	0.2	4.2	14.8	5.6	4.4	4.6	10.4
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.1	4.3	4.9	0.3	0.2	1.0	-0.4	0.1	0.1
12.	Jharkhand	97.3	52.2	64.5	96.0	75.7	34.5	108.1	106.6	100.5
13.	Karnataka	76.5	66.8	57.2	15.9	12.5	11.4	11.6	16.0	14.3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14.	Kerala	179.3	223.0	214.7	8.7	13.3	13.2	720.4	308.5	133.7
15.	Madhy Pradesh	86.1	89.4	82.6	161.4	162.2	60.8	43.0	57.6	59.4
16.	Maharashtra	156.0	211.7	165.5	34.0	48.9	37.3	133.9	260.8	150.8
17.	Manipur	3.7	3.9	4.0	68.3	73.0	81.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
18.	Meghalaya	0.0	0.0	0.0	13.9	23.4	10.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
19.	Mizoram	0.0	0.0	0.0	24.6	30.7	16.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
20.	Nagaland	0.0	0.1	0.0	17.3	17.4	17.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
21.	Orissa	5.7	18.9	24.0	13.9	7.1	3.4	70.5	75.0	75.8
22.	Punjab	52.1	49.3	3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.3	0.7	0.4
23.	Rajasthan	46.3	43.7	37.5	15.7	15.8	15.4	32.0	28.4	23.6
24.	Sikkim*	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
25.	Tamil Nadu	386.0	535.3	360.7	1.8	6.1	6.1	1120.4	1208.8	1302.7
26.	Tripura	37.1	36.1	38.3	46.9	48.5	49.4	3.2	2.6	2.4
27.	Uttarakhand	6.5	11.0	13.7	1.4	0.6	0.5	2.2	3.2	4.8
28.	Uttar Pradesh	132.8	112.7	107.4	2.0	1.6	2.2	61.8	67.4	54.7
29.	West Bengal	377.5	393.8	370.6	135.7	131.3	79.0	68.9	63.7	87.2
30.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0
31.	Chandigarh	8.1	8.9	8.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.3	0.7	0.8
32.	Dadra and Nagar Hevali	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0
33.	Daman and Diu	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
34.	Lakshadweep	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.4	7.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
35.	Puducherry	1.6	1.7	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
Grand Total		2139.2	2342.1	1963.7	875.5	872.2	616.9	2819.4	2615.7	2452.5

*No Employment Exchanges IS functioning in this State.

Statement V

State-wise placement effected through employment exchanges in the country during 2004,2005 and 2006

Sl. No.	States	Placement (In thousand)					
		All Categories			Women		
		2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.4	1.7	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	@	@	@	0.	-	@
3.	Assam	0.2	0.4	1.1	@	0.1	0.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Bihar	0.1	@	0.1	@	@	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.9	2.2	2.5	0.1	0.5	0.6
6.	Delhi	0.3	0.1	0.2	@	@	0.1
7.	Goa	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2
8.	Gujarat	64.9	92.9	99.0	6.1	9.6	7.8
9.	Haryana	3.4	3.5	3.1	0.3	0.4	0.3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	1.0	1.7	1.8	0.2	0.2	
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	@	-	@	-	-
12.	Jharkhand	0.7	2.7	1.6	0.2	0.5	0.2
13.	Karnataka	1.6	1.7	2.3	0.5	0.4	0.6
14.	Kerala	7.5	9.7	10.0	3.2	5.0	5.3
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1.6	1.7	1.9	0.1	0.1	0.1
16.	Maharashtra	12.8	15.0	13.9	3.2	3.2	3.0
17.	Manipur	-	0.3	0.1	-	-	0.1
18.	Meghalaya	@	@	@	@	@	@
19.	Mizoram	@	-	@	@	-	@
20.	Nagaland	@	@	@	@	@	@
21.	Orissa	1.3	2.0	1.0	0.4	0.3	0.2
22.	Punjab	2.7	2.1	3.3	0.4	0.3	0.6
23.	Rajasthan	3.4	7.7	4.1	0.4	1.0	0.5
24.	Sikkim*	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	13.2	15.3	9.7	4.3	7.4	4.8
26.	Tripura	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1
27.	Uttarakhand	1.5	2.1	3.1	0.4	0.4	0.4
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1.7	1.6	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
29.	West Bengal	10.1	7.3	13.1	3.2	2.0	4.6
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
31.	Chandigarh	0.3	0.2	0.3	@	@	0.1
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	@	-	-	-	-	-
33.	Daman and Diu	@	@	@	@	-	-
34.	Lakshadweep	@	-	-	@	-	-
35.	Puducherry	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.4
Total**		132.6	173.2	171.0	24.5	32.4	31.3

Note. @ less than 50.

**Figure may not tally due to rounding off.

*No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

Statement VI*State-wise placement effected through employment exchanges in the country during the year*

Sl.No.	States	Placement (In thousand)								
		Schedule Caste			Schedule Tribe			Other Backward Classes		
		2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	@	@	0.5	0.2	0.2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	@	-	-	@	-	-	@	-
3.	Assam	@	0.3	@	@	@	@	@	@	@
4.	Bihar	@	@	@	@	@	-	@	@	@
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.1	@	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
6.	Delhi	@	@	@	@	@	@	@	0.2	@
7.	Goa	@	@	@	@	@	@	0.1	@	0.1
8.	Gujarat	5.1	6.0	4.3	4.4	6.7	5.7	0.1	0.7	0.1
9.	Haryana	0.3	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	@	@	@
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.1	0.2	0.3	@	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Jharkhand	@	@	0.1	0.1	@	@	@	0.1	@
13.	Karnataka	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
14.	Kerala	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2.5	3.2	3.2
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.1
16.	Maharashtra	2.6	1.7	1.7	1.6	0.7	0.6	2.9	2.1	2.3
17.	Manipur	-	@	@	-	@	@	-	-	-
18.	Meghalaya	-	@	-	@	@	-	@	2	-
19.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Nagaland	-	-	-	@	@	-	-	-	-
21.	Orissa	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	@
22.	Punjab	0.3	0.2	0.5	-	-	-	@	@	@
23.	Rajasthan	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.5	1.2	1.5	1.1
24.	Sikkim*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Tamil Nadu	1.8	3.1	1.3	0.1	0.1	@	4.2	4.5	2.0
26.	Tripura	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	@	0.1	@	@	@

1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9	10
27.	Uttarakhand	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.1	@	@	0.2	0.2	0.3
28.	Uttar Pradesh	0.5	0.4	0.2	@	@	@	0.4	0.3	0.2
29.	West Bengal	1.7	1.2	2.1	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.7
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	-	-	-	-	-	@	@	-	-
31.	Chandigarh	0.2	0.1	0.1	-	@	@	-	@	@
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33.	Daman and Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	@
34.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.	Puducherry	-	0.1	@	-	-	@	0.1	0.2	0.3
Total**		16.0	17.1	13.7	8.3	10.0	8.9	13.7	14.3	11.2

Note: @ less than 50.

**Figure may not tally due to rounding off.

*No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.

[English]

SEZs for IT and ITES Sector

2030. SHRI M.B. RAJESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Information Technology (IT), Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) Special Economic Zones (SEZs) approved so far alongwith the land allotted against them;

(b) the investment made in these SEZs and employment created so far; and

(c) the details of total quantum and value of exports done from SEZs in IT and ITES Sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) A total of 192 IT/ITES SEZs have been notified involving an area of 5089 hectare approximately.

(b) An investment of about Rs. 29,809 crores has been made and employment for 1,06,209 persons has been generated in the IT/ITES SEZs.

(c) Export of about Rs. 12,328 crores has been made from IT/ITES SEZs as on 31st March, 2009.

Assistance to Disabled Persons

2031. SHRI PURNMASI RAM:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH;

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of disabled persons in the country as on date;

(b) whether only a small fraction of the disabled persons have been provided assistance under assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliance Scheme;

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

(d) the steps taken to expand the coverage of the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) There are 2.19 crore persons with disabilities as per the Census 2001 in the country.

(b) and (c) The following number of beneficiaries were provided assistance under the Scheme for the last three years:-

Financial Year	No. of beneficiaries (in lakhs)
2006-07	3.07
2007-08	2.24
2008-09	2.80 (estimated)

The number of beneficiaries covered depends on the allocation/release of funds under the Scheme for each year.

(d) The steps taken to increase the coverage of beneficiaries under the Scheme include district-wise allocation of funds and efforts to increase the number of Implementing Agencies to deliver the services.

Development of Ports

2032. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments regarding development of ports in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for pendency of these proposals and the time by which such proposals are likely to be finalised by the Union Government;

(d) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested to the Union Government to develop some ports as a Joint Venture;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(f) whether the Union Government has identified some prospective minor ports handling substantial coastal cargo in the country; and

(g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
(a) to (g) Under the Indian Ports Act, 1908, responsibility for development of Non-Major Ports vests with the respective State Government. The development of Non-Major Ports may be taken up by the State Government themselves.

Grants to NGOs

2033. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) received grants from the Government alongwith the number of NGOs out of the above being run by the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs);

(b) the funds allocated and released by the Government and National Backward Financial and Development Corporation to various States under various schemes for the welfare of SCs and OBCs during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and scheme-wise;

(c) whether all the States have utilised the said funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the said period, State/UT-wise and scheme-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps taken to ensure proper utilization of funds by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Total number of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which received grants under various schemes of the Ministry during 2008-09 is 1669. Financial assistance is provided to NGOs running projects for SC and OBC beneficiaries. The Ministry does not go into the caste composition of the members of the Management Committee of NFOs, which are either Societies or Trusts.

(b) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Outstanding Dues of MTNL/BSNL

2034. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Union and State Government offices and other subscribers owe sizeable dues to Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total outstanding dues against the said organizations as on date;

(c) whether due to non-recovery of these outstanding dues, MNTL and BSNL have gone into losses; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union and State Government offices and other subscribers owe sizeable dues to MTNL and BSNL.

(b) The details of the outstanding against these departments as on 30.04.2009 is as follows:-

(Amount in Rs. Crores)

	State Governments	Central Governments	Defence	Other Subscribers	Total
BSNL	144.60	90.25	29.44	4484.67	4748.96
MTNL*	2.89	14.26	3.01	1159.68	1179.84

*For GSM and CDMA, MTNL does not compile these figures category-wise.

(c) BSNL and MTNL have not incurred any losses since their formation.

(d) The details of steps taken/being taken by BSNL and MTNL are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Steps taken/being taken by BSNL and MTNL

Following steps have been taken/are being taken by BSNL and MTNL to recover the outstanding amount:-

- (1) Automatic payment reminders are issued through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) to persuade the customers to make payment before disconnection of their telephones.
- (2) Phones are disconnected as per the prescribed schedule in case of non payment of dues by customers. This is followed by permanent closure of telephone and adjustment of security deposit against the outstanding dues.
- (3) Unit-wise and year-wise targets are fixed for recovery/liquidation of outstanding dues and

progress in this regard is closely monitored at the Corporate level and suitable instructions are issued from time to time to field units for improving the recovery of dues.

- (4) Recovery Agents are employed for making recoveries.
- (5) Various discount/incentive schemes are launched for recovery of outstanding from defaulting subscribers.
- (6) Legal proceedings wherever required are initiated against the defaulters for recovery of dues.
- (7) BSNL has requested various State Government to amend their respective land revenue Acts, so that outstanding telephone dues of BSNL can be recovered as land revenue areas.
- (8) MTNL is implementing a Revenue Assurance program to maximize the revenue billing and revenue realization. It has also deployed a reputed firm to conduct Revenue Assurance Audit of its landline interconnect billing process. Convergent billing system is also being introduced by MTNL for improving recovery of dues.

Students going Abroad

2035. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether a large number of Indian students are going abroad for studies every year causing a huge outflow of capital from the country;

(b) if so, the exact number of Indian students allowed to go abroad for studies in the past three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government has any plans to upgrade the Indian Universities and faculties at par with the International ranking and to check outflow of capital; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D.

PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No separate information is available in respect of Indian students pursuing higher education abroad. There are no restrictions on cross-border students' mobility and such mobility can be owing to a variety of reasons such as affordability, access to bank loans, exposure to foreign societies, aptitude for particular branches of studies, inability to gain admission to top Indian institutions due to capacity limitation, etc. Another reason could be the interest among students to join some of the universities in the world which have a long history of education and research spread over centuries.

(c) and (d) Upgrading the quality of Indian higher educational institutions and faculty is a continuous process. A substantial increase in Plan allocation has been made in the XI Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of World Class Universities, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture. Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivizing State Governments for increasing State outlays on higher education, strengthening of science based research in universities, frequent updating of curricula, introduction of semester system, faculty improvement programme and other reforms are also being implemented in the XI Plan for improving the quality of higher educational institutions and faculty.

[Translation]

Uniform Fee Structure

2036. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to fix uniform fee structure in all Government and Private technical and higher educational institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which uniform fee structure is likely to be implemented in all educational institutes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Projects Sanctioned to NGOs under NLM

2037. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

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

(a) the details of the projects sanctioned by the Government to Non-Governmental organisations (NGOs) and private partners under National Literacy Mission (MLM) during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) whether performance of such NGOs/private partners involved in the Mission has been reviewed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the NGOs/private partners whose performance has been found unsatisfactory;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the special efforts made by the Government to reduce the gap between gender literacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The number of projects sanctioned to NGOs (state-wise during the last three years and current year is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. NGOs are subjected to periodic reviews including external evaluation.

(d) and (e) At present no action is contemplated against the above said NGOs.

(f) In order to reduce the gender gap, the National Literacy Mission is being recast to have prime focus on the literacy of women.

Statement

The details of NLM projects sanctioned to NGOs in the year 2006-07 to 2008-09 and current financial year.

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
		JSS	SRC	NGO	JSS	SRC	NGO	JSS	SRC	NGO	JSS	SRC	NGO
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	1	—	—	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	1	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Delhi	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	1	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9.	Haryana	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Kerala	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Madhya Pradesh	7	—	2	3	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Maharashtra	1	—	—	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Orissa	3	—	1	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
21.	Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Uttar Pradesh	8	—	1	3	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
26.	Uttarakhand	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	West Bengal	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Puducherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		26	1	7	23	—	—	50	—	—	—	—	—

National Child Labour Project

2038. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce any scheme to give reward/honour to those persons/Non-Governmental Organisations who are engaged in rescue of the child labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of child labourers rescued and rehabilitated under National Child Labour Project Scheme, since its inception, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHR HARISH RAWAT):

(a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 5.21 lakh children have been mainstreamed into formal education system under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme, State-wise and year-wise details available from 1996-97 to 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of No. of children mainstreamed.

Name of States	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	Total
1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh	5600	7368	14584	16538	21508	27829	27451	32,959	19,345	12,927	39,774	4,853	849	231,585
Bihar	-	-	2,931	-	-	353	4,210	3,441	-	2,545	1,151	-	-	14,631
Chhattisgarh	245	193	231	330	693	653	595	822	549	1737	1436	899	0	8,383
Jharkhand	155	386	690	3,821	640	617	1,336	2,388	480	3,885	90	-	-	14,488
Karnataka	0	0	0	603	560	2113	2131	2343	1803	1950	1615	2547	345	16,010
Madhya Pradesh	65	80	36	30	56	211	590	781	1254	1319	3329	0	0	7,751
Maharashtra	85	1425	1473	1734	1850	294	0	353	0	0	600	0	9	7,823
Orissa	484	1055	5333	6589	7516	11003	11640	10521	7619	9478	3611	0	0	74,849

1	2	3	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Rajasthan	328	361	26	98	258	1737	1613	2976	2756	1559	0	0	0	11,712
Tamil Nadu	654	1499	2295	3672	3813	4226	7276	7912	5301	7500	6265	224	0	50,637
Uttar Pradesh	370	620	638	1066	1826	1536	8458	2080	3248	3452	2705	5911	18423	50,333
West Bengal	97	658	797	2281	1462	2399	4669	2496	3429	5876	1432	0	0	25,596
Punjab	0	0	0	0	8	38	114	768	455	889	1150	0	0	3,422
Sub-Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,205
Grand Total	8083	13645	29034	36762	40190	53009	70083	69,840	46239	53117	63158	14434	19626	521,425

[English]

International Market of Vanilla

2039. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of vanilla production in the country and the number of farmers involved therein during the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details with regard to International and Domestic price of vanilla during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the demand of vanilla in the International market has been coming down;

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

(e) the steps being taken to help vanilla farmers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The details are given below:

Year	Production (in Tonnes)	Estimated number of farmers	Domestic price (Rs/kg)	International price (US\$/Kg.)
2005-06	188	21530	1703.89	32.11
2006-07	233	19000	1596.00	27.74
2007-08	180	17530	887.50	18.89
2008-09	168	16750	875.27	20.42

(c) No, Madam.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

International Size Shipyards

2040. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to set up two International Size Shipyards—one each on East Coast and West Coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Committee consultant has been constituted/appointed to identify the suitable locations for this purpose;

(d) if so, the recommendations of the Committee consultant thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(e) whether the Union Government is considering to set up another such shipyard in Gujarat; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) to (d) National Maritime Development Programme envisages setting up of two international size shipyards, one on the East Coast and another on the West Coast of India. A Committee was set up to identify suitable land, one on East Coast and one on West Coast of India for setting up an international size shipyard and to suggest fiscal and other incentives to encourage

investments in shipbuilding in India. The Report of the Committee has been received. The Committee's 'major recommendations include setting up of two international size shipyards, providing subsidy for shipbuilding and announcement of fiscal regime sustainable for the next 15 years to commence the process of putting shipbuilding and ship repair as a sector for a major 'development and growth.

Government of India nominated Mumbai Port Trust and Ennore Port Limited to function as the Nodal Agencies for setting up of shipyards on the West Coast of India and the East Coast of India respectively. The nodal agencies *viz.* Ennore Port Limited and Mumbai Port Trust have been authorized to appoint Consultants who, *inter alia*, would identify 3 or 4 alternative sites each for setting up of shipyard on West Coast and East Coast of India respectively and also suggest optimal locations with detailed justification. The commencement of the project depends on the outcome of the recommendations of the Consultants.

(e) and (f) Maritime States including Gujarat were requested by this Ministry to identify suitable locations for setting up of international size shipyards, one each on the East Coast and West Coast of India respectively. Certain locations have been suggested by some of the Maritime States including Gujarat. Details of States and sites proposed by State Governments is annexed as Statement.

Statement

The Maritime States were requested by this Ministry to identify suitable location for setting up of international size shipyards, one each on the East Coast and West Coast of India respectively, with the following basic requirements:

- (i) The minimum land requirement of 1000-1500 acres and waterfront of about 2.5 Kms. in length;
- (i) Water draft of 10 to 12 metres;
- (iii) The site location for the proposed shipyards to have good rail and road connectivity;
- (iv) Contiguity to a Major Port situated within the State.

In response, the following locations have been suggested by the Maritime States:

Sl.No.	Name of State	Site Proposed/Response of the State Government
1.	Government of Karnataka	Tadri Port (Kundle Beach) and Honne Beach under Belekeri Port
2.	Government of Kerala	Poovar in Thiruvananthapuram District on Kerala-Tamil Nadu Border
3.	Government of Orissa	(i) Nuagarh (Astaranga) Distt. Puri (ii) Palur, Distt. Ganjam (iii) Gopalpur Port at Arjipalli, Chatrapur, Distt. Ganjam (iv) Bahuda Muhana (Sonepur), Distt. Ganjam
4.	Government of Andhra Pradesh	Vodarevu in Prakasam District
5.	Government of West Bengal	No specific site proposed as yet.
6.	Government of Gujart	Government of Gujrat has proposed a few stretches such as Salaya, Jodiya, Mundra, Chanch and Pipavav and Tuna.

Upon receipt of the proposals from the State Governments, further information/clarifications have been sought by the Ministry from the respective State Governments.

International Students Centre

2041. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an international students centre in each Central University Campus in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian Missions abroad are also to be involved in this initiative; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The report of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Welfare of Foreign Students in India submitted by the Director General, Indian Council

for Cultural Relations, envisages, *inter alia*, that each Central University should establish and strengthen an International Students Centre headed by a full-time senior officer or faculty member and that Indian Missions abroad should issue Visas on production of confirmed admission letters duly signed by the Director, International Students Centre or by the International Students Adviser. Pursuant to this Ministry's request, the University Grants Commission has since advised all the Central Universities to take further action in the matter.

[*Translation*]

Upgradation of Employment Exchanges

2042. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade all employment exchanges; and

(b) if so the details thereof along with the time by which such are likely to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The employment exchanges being the first contact point for the unemployed youth play a vital role in proper adjustment of the job seekers. The fulfillment of this objective to some extent, depends on how fast the dissemination of information at the employment exchanges is done. The National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) has, therefore, identified employment exchanges as one of the Mission Mode Project (MMP). The introduction of e-Governance is to help in providing speedy and easy access to employment related information to job seekers and employers. The MMP aims to progressively support all employment exchanges in the country to make effective use of Information Technology in various activities of employment services.

In view of the above, the Ministry of Labour & Employment in consultation with Department of Information Technology (DIT) has engaged National Institute for Smart Government (NISG), as Principal Consultant for the execution of Mission Mode Project on Employment Exchanges.

The timeline for completion of the project is 36 months effective from 15th December, 2008. The project

is proposed to be implemented in two stages. Stage-I implementation will cover five selected States, namely, Haryana, Rajasthan, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Assam; and the remaining States will be covered in Stage-II.

[*English*]

Inadequate Medical Facilities in ESI Hospitals/Dispensaries

2043. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of medical and diagnostic facilities available in the Employees' State Insurance hospitals/dispensaries at present in the country;

(b) whether these facilities are adequate and satisfactory;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether complaints have been received regarding shortage of life saving medicines, poor maintenance of hospitals/dispensaries and lack of proper medical treatment of beneficiaries, etc. during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESIS) provides medical and diagnostic facilities in the system of Allopathy and AYUSH which includes Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homeopathy and yoga through its hospitals and dispensaries in the country. Further, ESI medical scheme provides all the three levels of medical care i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary medical care including super speciality medical care services. Under the ESI Corporation full.

Medical care is available to its beneficiaries which includes preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitation services. Various facilities available are:

- Health education
- Family welfare services
- Immunization services
- HIV and AIDS control services

- Outpatients, inpatients, emergency medical services
- Diagnostic laboratory and radiological services
- Antenatal, natal and post natal services
- Occupational health services
- Super speciality services including specialized investigations
- Physical and vocational rehabilitation
- Ambulance services
- Artificial aids and appliances such as spectacles, dentures, hearing aids, artificial limbs, etc.
- Drugs and dressings.

(b) and (c) The facilities available through ESI Hospitals and dispensaries are generally satisfactory. The facilities which are not available in ESI Hospitals and dispensaries are provided to the ESI beneficiaries through tie up arrangement with reputed Government and private hospitals and diagnostic centres which include super speciality/tertiary medical care services.

(d) and (e) Some complaints are received from time to time. ESIC has taken several steps for improving the medical care services under the ESIC, which are as under:-

- *Revolving fund scheme*: To cut down delays in provision of super speciality treatment, supply of drugs and dressings and repair & maintenance of equipments, ESIC has set up revolving fund with the consent of State Government. Under this scheme the payment is made by ESIC against the valid sanction of the State Government out of the money kept with the State Medical Commissioner office of ESI Corporation.
- *Model Hospital Scheme*: ESI Corporation has taken a decision to set up one hospital in each State as Model Hospital. At present, ESIC has set up Model Hospitals in 18 States. These hospitals are being upgraded as per norms and standards laid down by ESI Corporation. The expenditure on Model Hospitals is fully borne by ESI Corporation.
- ESI Scheme is implemented directly by ESI Corporation in new geographical areas.

- ESI Corporation has written to the State Governments to give their consent for handing over the ESI Scheme to ESI Corporation.
- *Zonal Super Speciality Hospitals*: Four Super speciality hospitals have been proposed to be set up in four zones i.e. South, East, West and North zone. In the first phase, super speciality hospital is proposed to be set up at Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad for South Zone and the foundation stone for the same has already been laid and construction work is to be started shortly.
- *Central Rate Contract for Allopathic & Ayurvedic Drugs*: To ensure uniformity in the supply of good quality drugs, ESIC is formulating Rate Contract for drugs following transparent bidding procedure and strict eligibility criteria which are provided to the States for adoption.
- *Norms and Standards*: ESIC has formulated norms and standards for staff and equipments for smooth functioning of hospitals and dispensaries.
- *Decentralization*: Powers have been delegated to the State Medical Commissioners for sanction of equipments, release of advance on account payments and repair & maintenance of equipments.
- *Occupational Disease Centre*: ESI Corporation has set up five occupational disease centres at Basaidarapur (New Delhi), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Kolkata (West Bengal), Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Indore (Madhya Pradesh) for prevention, early detection and diagnosis of occupational diseases amongst ESI beneficiaries. Special emphasis is being given for prevention of occupational diseases in insured persons working in hazardous Industries.
- *Preventive Health Services*: To strengthen promotive and preventive health services under ESI medical scheme, ESI Corporation has allocated a separate budget of Rs. 20/- per IP family unit per annum. This will help in prevention of diseases like diabetes, Hypertension, HIV/AIDS and also promote healthy life styles amongst beneficiaries.
- *Expenditure on Super Speciality Treatment*: To provide cashless and hassle free medical

services, ESI Corporation has taken a decision for bearing the super speciality expenditure directly w.e.f. 01.08.2008. For this tie up arrangements have been made directly by ESIC with reputed and Government/private hospitals for speciality investigations and services.

- *IVF Treatment*: ESI Corporation is providing artificial re-production and IVF treatment facilities to insured persons.
- *Expansion of Ayush Facilities*: ESI Corporation is expanding provision of AYUSH facilities in ESI Hospitals and dispensaries as per the local requirements of the area. For promoting the same, the total expenditure on provision of AYUSH facilities in the first five years is fully borne by ESI Corporation.
- *Patient Satisfaction Survey*: ESI Corporation has undertaken patient satisfaction survey in ESI Hospitals by independent agencies and is taking various actions based on the findings of the survey for improving the medical care facilities in ESI Hospitals.
- *Grading and ISO Certification of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries*: ESI Corporation is getting its hospitals and dispensaries graded by reputed organizations. Further action has been initiated for getting ISO certification in respect of hospitals and dispensaries.
- *IT enablement of ESI Institutions*: To provide quick and hassle free medical care services, ESI Corporation has undertaken a plan for IT enablement of ESI Hospitals and dispensaries.
- *Starting of Medical Education Institution*: As apart of initiative for overcoming the shortage of medical manpower and improving the services in ESI Hospitals, ESI Corporation has undertaken a project for starting medical colleges, nursing colleges, dental colleges and training school for other para medical staff in ESIC/ESI Hospitals. In the first phase, it is proposed to set up 11 Medical Colleges and 12 Post Graduate Medical Sciences and Research in the existing ESI Hospitals having 300 beds in the States.
- *Change in the pattern of reimbursement of medical care expenditure to the States*: ESI Corporation has taken a decision to reimburse the administrative expenditure incurred

by the State Governments on actual basis without ceiling subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. This will ensure State Governments to post the medical and para medical staff in ESI Hospitals and dispensaries as per norms and standards of ESI Corporation and will help in providing proper medical care facilities to ESI beneficiaries. Further, the ceiling on medical care reimbursement to the States is being increased from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1200/- w.e.f. 01.04.2009.

- *Hospital Development Committees*: Hospital Development Committees have been constituted in all ESI Hospitals and have been given adequate administrative and financial powers for taking decisions for improvement in medical care facilities in hospitals and adjoining dispensaries.

Broadening of National Old Age Pension Scheme

2044. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to broadbase the National Social Assistance Programme, National Old Age Pension Scheme and National Family Benefit Scheme:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the benefits provided to the beneficiaries under the said schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) The scope of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) has been expanded in the last two years with the following steps taken by the Government. The eligibility criteria for grant of old age pension has been modified in November, 2007 from 'one who is 65 years or higher and a destitute to 'one who is 65 years or higher and living below the poverty line'. With this modification, National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) has been renamed as Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and the coverage has increased from 87 lakh beneficiaries in 2006-07 to 154 lakh beneficiaries at present.

Two more schemes, namely Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme (IGNWPS) for BPL widows in the age group of 40-64 years and 'Indira Gandhi National

Disability Pension Scheme' (IGNDPS) for BPL Persons with severe or multiple disability in the age group of 18-64 years have been introduced under NSAP in February, 2009. However, no modification has been made in respect of National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and Annapurana Scheme. Thus, NSAP at present comprises of five schemes namely IGNOAPS, IGNWPS, IGNDPS, NFBS and Annapurna.

(c) The central assistance under the three pension schemes namely IGNOAPS, IGNWPS and IGNDPS is Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary and the State have been urged to contribute equal amount. Under NFBS Rs. 10,000 is provided to a BPL family in the event of death of a 'primary bread winner' in the age group of 18-64 years. Under Annapurna Scheme 10 Kgs. of foodgrain are provided to persons who were eligible for old age pension but could not be covered under NOAPS.

[Translation]

Central University Status to State Universities

2045. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to convert some State Universities into Central Universities;

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

(c) the number of proposals received from the State Governments, including Uttar Pradesh in this regard; and

(d) the difference between a Central University and World Class University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) In pursuance of Government's decision to establish, during the 11th Plan, a Central University in each of such States which did not have a Central University, three State Universities, namely Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyala, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), Hemawati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar (Uttarakhand), and Dr. Harisingh Gaur University, Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) have been recently converted into Central Universities. All the States, except Goa, have now at least one Central University. The State of Uttar Pradesh has already four Central Universities.

(d) Universities aiming at world class standards would act as exemplars for other universities, including Central Universities, in benchmarking standards of teaching and research to those prevailing in the best universities in the world.

Delay in Telecom Projects

2046. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether many communication projects are lagging behind their schedule resulting in huge cost overruns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check delays in completion of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir. However, some projects are awarded through tenders on turnkey basis due to which there is no escalation in their cost in case the projects are not completed in time. Further, most of the projects are put in commercial use as soon as critical requirements are met. However, closure of such projects gets delayed due to some pending issues.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Development of Leather Industry

2047. SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made for the development of leather industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified the problems being faced by this industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. The Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted for development of the Leather Sector under the Chairmanship of Member (Industry), Planning Commission was assigned the task to review the status of the Indian leather industry and to suggest

further measures for its growth in terms of production and exports during the Eleventh Five Year Plan Period and also to prepare a report on Leather and Leather Goods Industry for the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has identified that the challenges before the Indian Leather Industry are capacity inadequacy, raw material base, environmental issues, availability of the human resources and inadequate investment. In order to address these issues the Central Government has approved 11 sub-schemes under Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP) for implementation during the 11th Five Year Plan period with emphasis on infrastructure development, capacity building, human resource development, investment promotion and addressing environmental issues for the leather industry. The details of these sub-schemes are as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Sub-scheme under ILDP	Allocation for 11th Five year plan (Rs. in crores)
1.	Integrated Development of Leather Sector	253.43
2.	Leather Complex, Nellore	29.00
3.	Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI), Fursatganj	7.17
4.	Footwear Complex, Chennai	3.00
5.	Saddlery Development	10.00
6.	Support to Artisan	40.00
7.	Human Resource Development	60.00
8.	Up gradation and Establishment of Institutional facilities	300.07
9.	Environment Initiatives	200.00
10.	Mission Mode	10.00
11.	Establishment of Training Centre in Madhya Pradesh	24.85
Total		937.52

[English]

Social Security Scheme for Unorganised Workers

2048. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be please to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to launch a social security scheme for unorganised workers including construction workers;

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

(c) the occupations are likely to be included under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
(a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Government launched the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) for Below Poverty Line (BPL) families (an unit of five) in the unorganised sector, including construction workers, on 01.10.2007 and the scheme became operational w.e.f. 01.04.2008. The salient features of the scheme are as under:

- (i) Smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- to a BPL family of five.
- (ii) All pre-existing diseases to be covered.
- (iii) Hospitalisation expenses, taking care of most of the illnesses, including maternity benefit.
- (iv) Transportation cost of Rs. 100/- per visit with an overall limit of Rs. 1,000/- per annum.

The scheme has been extended to all building and other construction workers who are registered under the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, 1996.

[Translation]

Private Public Partnership

2049. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS*
LALAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government is formulating a policy to set up schools with joint partnership of private and public sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main articles of association in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Central Government has decided to set up 6000 Model Schools at the block level at the rate of one school per block. 2500 of these schools are envisaged to be set up under Public Private Partnership. Modalities of setting up these schools in PPP mode are yet to be finalized.

[English]

Special Drive under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2050. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch any special drive/scheme under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to bring the remaining out-of-school children into the system and to bridge infrastructure gaps and improve the quality of education in school;

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

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to give special assistance to those States who have implemented the SSA scheme satisfactorily; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) follows a holistic approach to improve the quality of elementary education, and subject to certain norms provides for:-

- Opening of new primary schools
- Upgradation of Primary schools to upper primary schools
- Construction of school buildings
- Construction of additional classrooms to improve the student classroom ratio
- Recruitment of additional teachers to improve the pupil-teacher ratio
- In-service training of the teachers and training of untrained teachers

- Provision of text books
- Learning Enhancement Programme
- Remedial Teaching
- School and Teacher grant
- Regular academic support to the school through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres to improve the quality of classroom practices.

Besides, efforts are made to address the interests of children with special needs, out of school children and those living in SC/ST and minority concentration districts. A variety of interventions have been implemented for bringing out of school children to school. These include *inter alia*, the Education Guarantee Centres (EGS), Residential Bridge Courses and Non-Residential Bridge Courses.

(c) and (d) Under SSA, funds are released to States/UTs in accordance with the approved financial sharing pattern between the Centre and States, as per Annual Work Plans and Budgets (AWP&B) approved by SSA's Project Approval Board (PAB) every year.

Target for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

2051. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set any target period of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) including for girl education in the country during Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds likely to be invested to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The overall goals of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are universal access and retention, bridging of gender and social category gaps in elementary educations and achieving significant enhancement in learning levels of children. During the 11th Plan period a provision of Rs. 71,000 crore has been made as central share for this programme.

[*Translation*]

Modernisation and Upgradation of ITIs

2052. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Industrial Training Institute(ITIs) modernised and upgraded in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons trained during the said period therefrom, state- wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up more ITIs during Eleventh Plan Period; and

(d) If so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
(a) and (b) 1000 ITIs have been taken up for upgradation

during the last three years, out of which 400 are under the World Bank assisted Vocational Training Improvement Project and 600 under the scheme of upgradation of 1396 ITIs through Public Private Partnership. State-wise detail are enclosed as Statement. In the current year 300 ITIs are proposed to be taken up for modernisation and upgradation under the scheme of upgradation of 1396 ITIs through Public Private Partnership.

The total number of trainees trained during each of the last three years will depend upon the number of trade unit located therein. Under the scheme trade sector is taken up for upgradation which normally admits 100 trainees per annum per trade sector.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) Government proposes to set up 1500 new ITIs in Public Private Partnership throughout the country. 'In principle' approval from the planning commission has been obtained. Detailed Project Report including locational details is under preparation in consultation with various stakeholders.

Statement

State-wise allocation - Upgradation of 400 ITIs under World Bank assisted Vocational Training Improvement Project (VTIP) and 600 ITIs under the scheme 'Upgradation of 1396 Government ITIs through Public Private Partnership (PPP)'

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of ITIs under World Bank assisted Vocational Training Improvement Project (VTIP)			No. of ITIs under Public Private Partnership		G. Total
		ITIs taken up upgradation in 06-07	ITIs taken up upgradation in 07-08	ITIs taken up for upgradation in 08-09	ITIs taken up for upgradation in 07-08	ITIs for upgradation in 08-09	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5	7	13	20	36	81
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	-	-	1	-	-	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	1	-	1	1	3
4.	Assam	4	3	-	6	5	18
5.	Bihar	2	4	2	4	4	16
6.	Chhattisgarh	4	6	8	12	10	40
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Daman and Diu	-	-	1	-	-	1
9.	Delhi	1	1	1	-	2	5
10.	Goa	1	1	5	-	-	7
11.	Gujarat	15	14	-	19	22	70
12.	Haryana	5	6	5	13	13	42
13.	Himachal Pradesh	1	7	3	9	11	31
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	3	5	6	5	21
15.	Jharkhand	1	-	2	2	2	7
16.	Karnataka	6	10	14	26	26	82
17.	Kerala	3	1	3	5	5	17
18.	Lakshadweep	-	1	-	-	-	1
19.	Madhya Pradesh	7	9	12	21	16	65
20.	Maharashtra	15	30	42	62	55	204
21.	Manipur	-	1	1	-	-	2
22.	Meghalaya	-	-	1	-	-	2
23.	Mizoram	-	1	-	-	2	3
24.	Nagaland	-	-	1	-	1	2
25.	Orissa	4	1	4	4	3	16
26.	Puducherry	-	1	-	-	-	1
27.	Punjab	2	13	12	20	19	66
28.	Rajasthan	5	5	-	17	15	42
29.	Sikkim	1	0	-	-	-	1
30.	Tamil Nadu	5	6	6	12	5	34
31.	Tripura	-	1	-	1	1	3
32.	Uttar Pradesh	7	7	2	25	18	59
33.	Uttarakhand	1	5	4	10	10	30
34.	West Bengal	3	5	2	4	12	26
35.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	1	-	1
Total (Year-wise)		100	150	150	300	300	
Total (Scheme-wise)			400		600	1000	

Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas

2053. SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

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

(a) the number of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of students enrolled in said Vidyalayas, State-wise;

(c) the number of minority, dalit and backward students enrolled in said Vidyalayas, State-wise;

(d) whether ratio of minority girl students is very low in these Vidyalayas;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government proposes to set up large number of new model schools of higher secondary level

and contemplates to discontinue the disbursement of funds to States which could not open such schools; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) 2573 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) have been sanctioned in the country. A State-wise list of KGBVs sanctioned and girls enrolled therein category-wise is enclosed as Statement.

(d) and (e) 479 KGBVs are set up in minority concentration blocks having a 25% Minority population. The enrolment of Minority girls in these blocks is 24.5%.

(f) and (g) Central Government has decided to set up one Model Schools of higher secondary level in each of the 6,000 blocks in the country as benchmark of excellence. An amount of Rs. 12,750 crore has been allocated for the scheme during the 11th Five year Plan. First phase of the programme to set up 2,500 model school in Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) through State Government has been launched in 2008-09.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	Total No. of KGBV's sanctioned	Total no. of Girls enrolled in KGBVs					Total
			SC	ST Girls	OBC Girls	Muslim Girls	BPL Girls	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	395	6170	9121	9461	1207	2789	28748
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	36	0	3600	0	0	0	3600
3.	Assam	26	61	600	263	516	734	2174
4.	Bihar	391	13405	1597	6919	3920	2258	28099
5.	Chhattisgarh	93	1457	4857	1862	43	60	8279
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0	0	0	0	49	49
7.	Delhi	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Gujarat	63	202	1240	1893	105	77	3517
9.	Haryana	9	224	0	188	453	183	1048
10.	Himachal Pradesh	10	147	94	4	20	143	408
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	79	188	586	88	2144	187	3193
12.	Jharkhand	198	2744	8006	3705	1066	2022	17743

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13.	Karnataka	64	2167	816	1366	396	884	5629
14.	Madhya Pradesh	200	3795	9614	4935	305	586	19235
15.	Maharashtra	36	488	1281	622	37	432	2860
16.	Manipur	1	0	81	0	0	0	81
17.	Meghalaya	2	0	102	0	0	0	102
18.	Mizoram	1	0	94	5	0	1	100
19.	Nagaland	2	0	100	0	0	0	100
20.	Orissa	157	3304	6459	2762	79	308	12912
21.	Punjab	3	24	0	26	0	1	51
22.	Rajasthan	200	3600	4236	4644	819	884	14183
23.	Tamil Nadu	54	753	658	1464	22	5	2902
24.	Tripura	7	2	345	2	1	0	350
25.	Uttar Pradesh	454	11044	327	9505	2565	6305	29746
26.	Uttarakhand	26	395	63	185	62	226	931
27.	West Bengal	64	917	785	287	259	294	2542
Grand Total		2573	51287	54662	50186	14019	18428	188582

[English]

Implementation of SAFTA

2054. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) has become operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries which have agreed to implement SAFTA; and

(d) the reponse of Pakistan regarding implementing SAFTA especially *vis-a-vis* India and the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) has become operational from 1st July 2006.

(c) All member countries of SAARC namely India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Afghanistan have agreed to implement SAFTA.

(d) Pakistan has implemented SAFTA. In its Notification for SAFTA tariff reductions, Pakistan stipulated that Imports from India would continue to be as per their positive list (list of items allowed to be imported from India). India maintains that this constitutes a derogation of SAFTA, since no reservations are permitted under Article 23 of the SAFTA Agreement.

Incentives to Telecom Service Providers

2055. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to give incentives for Telecom Service Providers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also any proposal to replace prevailing multi-levy regime with a single tax regime;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it will result in shortfall to the Government in form of revenue; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does no arise in view of (a) above.

(c) A Committee was constituted to study the structure of taxes and levies in telecom sector and the Committee examined the issue of Single tax regime but recommended to continue with the existing tax regime. The recommendations of the Committee were accepted by the Government.

(d) to (f) Do not arise in view of (c) above.

Creation of Anti-Counterfeiting Regime

2056. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has raised concerns with Chinese Government over the issue of fake Chinese drugs, being sold in Nigeria under 'Made in India' lable;

(b) if so, the details thereof and efforts being made to improve India's brand image in Africa;

(c) whether India has been resisting proposal for creation of properly streamlined transnational anti-counterfeiting regime; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, India has lodged a strong protest with concerned Chinese authorities over the issue of fake Chinese drugs being sold in Nigeria under the 'Made in India' label but produced in China, with a request to take strict action against such unscrupulous elements.

(c) and (d) Anti Counterfeit Trade Agreement (ACTA) is a plurilateral agreement which is yet to be finalized and India is not a party to these negotiations.

[Translation]

NGO's Involvement in Education Programme

2057. SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds have been completely utilised by the NGOs in various education programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any misuse of funds has been detected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Utilization of funds is an ongoing process. Under the various schemes, funds are released to NGOs with the stipulation that the funds should be utilized within the prescribed time limit.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Revised Integrated Housing Scheme, 2005

2058. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated, released and utilised under Revised Integrated Housing Scheme, 2005 during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the details of houses constructed and provided to beedi workers during the said period, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether there is lack of education, health, sanitation and other basic facilities in the housing colonies constructed under the said scheme for beedi workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the appropriate measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) and (b) A total number of 18750, 38322 and 23398 houses for the beedi workers were sanctioned during 2006-07, 2007-08 & 2008-09 respectively under the Revised Integrated Housing Scheme, 2005 for Beedi Workers, etc. Year-wise and State-wise details of houses

sanctioned, funds allocated and released during last three years from 2006-07 to 2008-09 is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. The Government has not sanctioned/constructed any housing colony for beedi workers under the Revised Integrated Housing Scheme, 2005.

Statement

Under 'Revised Integrated Housing Scheme (RIHS), 2005' during Last Three Years under the Beedi Workers Welfare Funds (BWWF)

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the State/District	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Funds Allocated No. of Houses sanctioned	Released & Spent Funds Allocated, Released & Spent	Funds Allocated, No. of Houses sanctioned	Released & Spent Funds Allocated, Released & Spent	Funds Allocated, Proposals Received for No. of Houses	Released & Spent Funds Allocated, Released & Spent
Andhra Pradesh	11,485	3308.00	6679	1684.60	9056	2656.80
Assam	91	18.20	Nil	Nil	-	-
Chhattisgarh	Nil	Nil	420	84.00	-	-
Gujarat	Nil	Nil	27	5.40	Nil	Nil
Karnataka	1,160	353.40	Nil	Nil	949	167.80
Kerala	Nil	Nil	1854	284.40	608	157.20
Madhya Pradesh	225	45.00	3284	656.80	1950 (Including Chhattisgarh)	423.00 (Including Chhattisgarh)
Maharashtra	129	25.80	9327	2088.43	1339	428.87
Orissa	1,634	384.60	1552	310.40	1748	523.60
Rajasthan	03	0.60	148	29.60	945	220.20
Tamil Nadu	2,898	615.60	271	Nil	341	526.00
Uttar Pradesh	128	25.60	504	100.80	537	131.20
West Bengal	168	33.60	13068	2613.60	5025	1108.00
Bihar	678	159.40	62	12.40	949	167.80
Jharkhand	151	30.20	1126	129.57	820	316.00
Tripura	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	53	10.60
Grand Total	18,750	5000.00	38322	8000.00	23398	6756.87

Note: The amount of funds released also includes 2nd instalment of subsidy of Rs. 20,000/- per tenement released in respect of houses reached at roof level under RIHS, 2005.

*[Translation]***Bharat Shiksha Kosh**

2059. SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE: Will the Minister or HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to review the working of the 'Bharat Shiksha Kosh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any strategy to keep a tab on the source and end use of funds by Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not the reasons therefor; and

(f) the total funds/donations/contribution received so far from abroad by the Kosh and spent for imparting octter education, year-wise and scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Bharat Shiksha Kosh (BSK) is registered in NCT Delhi as a society under Societies Act. 1860 to supplement the State funding in education with funding from private and corporate sector, societies and individuals etc. BSK has, however, not been able to attract funds from private sources. The total contribution to BSK since its inception comes to Rs. 1,22,65,534/- (Rs. 1.00 Crore Government contribution, Rs. 22,60,883/- as contribution from Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti and Rs. 1651/- from individual donors). In view of the poor response to the BSK from private and corporate sector, BSK has been dissolved in 2008.

(c) to (e) The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are fully Govt. funded institutes whose accounts are duly audited by the C&AG every year. Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the IITs are laid on the Tables of both the Houses of Parliament.

(f) No funds/donations/contributions have been received from abroad by BSK, since its inception in 2002.

*[English]***India as Education Hub**

2060. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to make India an education hub during the last three years till date; and

(b) the efforts made by the Government alongwith the allocation made for developing world class infrastructure in the country in this regard during the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Eleventh Five Year plan envisages the setting up of 30 Central Universities including 14 world class universities, 8 new Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 7 new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), 10 new National Institutes of Technology (NITs), 3 Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), 20 Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) and 2 new Schools of Planning and Architecture (SPAs).

No separate allocation has been made for infrastructure development. The details of the funds allocated under Plan Head for the Department of Higher Education during the last three years and current year are as under:-

	(Rs. in crores)
2006-2007	Rs. 2530.50
2007-2008	Rs. 6483.00
2008-2009	Rs. 7600.00
2009-2010	Rs. 9600.00

Review of Performance of Ordnance Factories

2061. SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of ordnance factories in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the targets set and achievements made by each ordnance factory, including the ordnance factory at Saintala, Bolangir during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the production capacity of the factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The performance of Ordnance Factories is regularly

reviewed by the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) and the Ministry of Defence at various levels. A production review meeting is held by OFB once in two months in which the performance of ordnance factories is reviewed in detail. The overall performance is reviewed by the Ministry of Defence at various levels. There are also steering committees at the Ministry's level and working groups at the OFB level for reviewing the progress of major projects such as MBT Arjun, Ordnance Factory, Nalanda, Ordnance Factory, Korwa and the Pinaka Rocket Project.

(c) The factory-wise targets and achievements for the last 3 years including Ordnance Factory, Bolangir are detailed in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Ordnance Factory Board has recently worked out production capacity of Ordnance Factories based on long term requirement of ammunitions and armoured vehicles projected by Indian Army. Action has been taken to augment capacity for production by positioning plant and machinery and manpower to meet the requirement.

Statement

Issue value of Ordnance Factories (Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Factory	2008-2009		2007-2008		2006-2007	
		Revised Estimate	Actual	Revised Estimate	Actual	Revised Estimate	Actual
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Ammunition Factory Khadki, Pune	406.83	480.24	435.22	459.77	467.96	450.37
2.	Cordite Factory Aruvankadu	133.75	137.52	121.33	110.65	60.90	77.22
3.	High Explosives Factory, Khadki, Pune	123.37	120.38	92.52	95.22	66.86	65.91
4.	Ordnance Factory Khamaria	818.68	833.53	675.95	692.87	623.67	644.64
5.	Ordnance Factory Bhandara	151.18	137.07	170.05	159.75	131.63	129.77
6.	Ordnance Factory Varangaon	235.13	251.12	233.05	251.01	185.33	196.72
7.	Ordnance Factory Chanda	1260.63	1047.66	774.05	857.70	773.19	763.71
8.	Ordnance Factory Bolangir	498.81	512.97	488.62	472.51	354.50	362.18
9.	Ordnance Factory Itarsi	181.76	148.58	99.95	110.26	87.49	70.41
10.	Ordnance Factory Dehu Road, Pune	212.63	194.65	181.36	180.82	133.52	143.84
11.	Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur	247.81	297.43	244.16	255.81	234.28	216.54
12.	Rifle Factory Ishapore	253.26	185.93	213.90	219.89	254.19	258.38

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Gun & Shell Factory, Cossipore	358.84	332.76	286.23	288.12	237.04	193.06
14.	Ordnance Factory, Kanpur	365.06	334.59	219.08	261.67	208.59	244.41
15.	Small Arms Factory, Kanpur	165.37	170.16	135.57	170.51	160.63	162.85
16.	Ordnance Factory Dum Dum	76.78	76.79	70.15	74.83	57.18	61.69
17.	Ordnance Factory Tiruchirapalli	133.45	135.46	137.30	134.77	169.39	158.86
18.	Field Gun Factory, Kanpur	113.79	114.54	98.77	106.56	98.91	93.21
19.	Vehicle Factory Jabalpur	678.96	708.18	1100.54	1101.54	735.28	732.38
20.	Grey Iron Foundry, Jabalpur	77.14	78.16	65.00	68.65	44.50	28.77
21.	Metal & Steel Factory, Ishapore	200.60	201.58	212.34	162.36	156.08	172.49
22.	Ordnance Factory, Ambarnath	370.69	369.63	353.29	343.83	229.87	252.61
23.	Ordnance Factory Katni	124.86	129.38	151.22	171.37	105.50	115.62
24.	Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar	126.91	126.04	132.82	134.89	93.55	99.67
25.	Ordnance Factory Bhusawal	71.65	69.14	59.64	58.26	58.92	53.50
26.	Machine Tool Prototype Factory Ambarnath	120.00	116.08	122.45	102.67	91.94	89.12
27.	Ordnance Cable Factory Chandigarh	23.91	28.35	26.04	22.25	10.50	17.99
28.	Ordnance Factory Ambajhari	670.43	599.51	512.34	486.16	363.95	362.58
29.	Heavy Alloy Penetrator Project, Tiruchirapalli	90.67	94.62	62.47	53.58	61.97	41.30
30.	Ordnance Factory Dehradun	80.63	66.33	81.21	71.84	64.16	70.54
31.	Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi	1306.64	1252.80	1104.22	1113.55	1329.45	1081.45

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32.	Ordnance Factory Project Medak	420.90	346.36	326.40	353.96	250.00	259.92
33.	Engine Factory Avadi	187.33	178.43	163.48	154.95	118.75	118.62
34.	Opto-Electronics Factory, Dehradun	276.68	227.39	186.23	157.05	82.31	74.81
35.	Ordnance Equipment Factory Kanpur	261.22	266.31	208.52	225.85	227.25	240.46
36.	Ordnance Clothing Factory Shahjahanpur	156.56	143.06	138.47	135.62	159.24	161.39
37.	Ordnance Parachute Factory, Kanpur	94.19	100.72	83.19	82.38	86.00	89.88
38.	Ordnance Clothing Factory Avadi	94.28	87.54	75.85	71.66	93.78	88.99
39.	Ordnance Equipment Factory Hazaratpur	46.97	44.11	33.39	32.50	42.91	47.34
Grand Total		11218.35	10745.10	9891.49	10007.64	8711.15	8493.20

Note: (1) The issue value includes issues to all Indentors *i.e.* Army, Navy, Air-force, MHA, ODD CT & Export & IFD.
(2) 2008-2009 actual value is based on 14th CCO2.

Promotion of Marine Research

2062. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI BAVALIA:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to encourage/promote Marine Research in the country including Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN):
(a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the House.

Licence Fee for Telecom Operators

2063. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to discontinue the existing variable licence fee structure for

telecom operators and replace it with a uniform rate for all types of services;

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

(c) the manner and extent to which these moves are likely to check the leakage of revenues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) A committee has been constituted by DoT to review the Licence fee rates structure in order to simplify the license fee structure and remove any possible arbitrage in rate structure.

(c) Leakage of revenue will be checked by reducing the possibility of Arbitrage and thereby minimizing instances of wrong booking of revenue.

Investment by Foreign Companies in West Bengal

2064. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign companies who have made investment in different fields in West Bengal under new economic reforms during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the impact of the investment policy; and

(c) the details of investment made by the said companies in the State during the last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) During the last three years, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been made in 184 companies in the State of West Bengal. A statement indicating company-wise FDI made in West Bengal during the last three years is enclosed.

Government has put in place a liberal and investor-friendly policy on FDI under which FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route in most sectors/activities. As per the extant policy, the FDI inflows in West Bengal have shown an increasing trend during the last three years. The details of year-wise FDI inflows in West Bengal from 2006-07 to 2009-10 (April 2009) is as under:

(Amount in million)			
Sl. No.	Year Apr-Mar	FDI in Rs.	FDI in US\$
1.	2006-07	2,632.60	57.89
2.	2007-08	17,9553.46	453.19
3.	2008-09	20,894.62	489.17
4.	2009-10 (upto April 2009)	3.22	0.06

Statement

*Company-wise Details of FDI Inflows From April 2006 to March 2009 RBI Regional Office-Kolkata
(States Covered West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands)*

(Amount in million)					
Sl.No.	Name of Indian Company	Country	Name of Foreign Collaborator	Amount of FDI	
				(in Rs)	(in US\$)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Weilburger Coatings (i) Pvt. Ltd.	Australia	Weilburger Lacke Handesllschaft	15.50	0.36
2.	Mohata Softwares Pvt. Ltd.	Australia	Mohata Pty. Ltd.	0.60	0.01
3.	Saregama Regency Optimedia Pvt. Ltd.	Australia	Regency Media Pvt. Ltd.	11.94	0.28
4.	Saregama Regency Optimedia Pvt. Ltd.	Australia	Regency Media Pvt. Ltd.	5.92	0.15
5.	Weilburger Coatings (India) Pvt. Ltd.	Austria	Weilburger Lacke Hand	4.80	0.12
6.	Vinsa Electricals Pvt. Ltd.	Cayman Island	Eight Capital Master Fund Ltd.	83.00	1.78
7.	Adhunik Metalicks Ltd.	Cyprus	Clear Water Capital Partners Cyprus Ltd.	1,000.01	25.17
8.	New Kolkata Intl. Dev. P. Ltd.	Cyprus	Sunwall Ltd. Ergoline Ltd. Bright Equity	89.90	2.10
9.	Eden Real Estates P. Ltd.	Cyprus	Betoking Alpha Business	255.32	6.48
10.	Mahabharat Motor Manufacturing Co.	Cyprus	Dalerna Ltd.	7.32	0.19
11.	Silverline Tapes Manufacturing P. Ltd.	Chile	Wu Kun Liang	6.74	0.16
12.	The Structural Waterproofing Co. P. Ltd.	France	Chryso Sas	38.41	0.78

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	The Structural Waterproofing Co. P. Ltd.	France	Chryso Of	11.16	0.28
14.	Family Credit Ltd. Technopolish	France	Societe General Consumer Finance Co.	336.60	8.47
15.	The Structural Waterproofing Co. P. Ltd.	France	Chryso Sas	25.00	0.63
16.	Srei International Finance Ltd.	France	BNP Paribas Leasing Group (BPLG)	7,750.00	183.98
17.	Ferra Indica (CRAFT) Pvt. Ltd.	France	Ferra Indica SARL	4.00	0.09
18.	Terra Indica (Craft) P. Ltd.	France	Tara Indica	2.95	0.07
19.	IMS Maco Services P. Ltd.	Germany	IMS Mass Systems GMBH	3.00	0.06
20.	Deutsche Maschinen India Pvt. Ltd.	Germany	Maschin Fabrik Herkules	0.28	0.01
21.	Witzenmann (I) P. Ltd. Hydra (I) Flex P.	Germany	Witzenmann GMBH	16.81	0.42
22.	Deutsche Maschinen India Pvt. Ltd.	Germany	Machinenfabrik Herkules Hans Thoma GMBH	0.82	0.02
23.	Hiller Decanters (I) P. Ltd.	Germany	Hiller GMBH	0.70	0.02
24.	Mahabharat Motor Manufacturing Co.	Hongkong	Bright Equity Group Ltd.	17.80	0.45
25.	Mahabharat Motor Manufacturing Co.P.Ltd.	Hongkong	Bright Equity Group Ltd.	39.16	0.86
26.	Carbon Management Consulting P. Ltd.	Hongkong	Carbon Management Consulting Ltd.	2.88	0.07
27.	Mahabharat Motor Manufacturing Co. P. Ltd.	Hongkong	Bright Equity Group Ltd.	46.83	0.91
28.	Rajarhat Infrdev. Pvt. Ltd.	Hongkong	Harakrishna Dayaram & Ashok Uttamc	15.94	0.39
29.	Carbon Management Consulting Pvt. Ltd.	Hongkong	Carbon Managements Consulting Ltd.	1.52	0.03
30.	Hunger Hydraulic	Hungary	Walter Hunger INTL.GMBH	0.10	0.00
31.	Tathya Dot Com Pvt. Ltd.	Ireland	Patrick J Baird	12.55	0.27
32.	Tanla Solutions Ltd.	Japan	Manish Govind Punjabi	0.01	0.00
33.	Tata Metalicks Kubota Pipes Ltd.	Japan	Kuboto Corpn. Metal One Corpn.	73.50	1.82
34.	Tata Metalicks Kubota Pipes Ltd.	Japan	Kubota Corp.	184.60	4.31
35.	Somang Beauty Clinic Pvt. Ltd.	Korea (South)	Jong Min On	0.04	0.00
36.	Hansol Garments (P) Ltd.	Korea (South)	Yoo Boungh Wha	0.44	0.01
37.	Somang Beauty Clinc Pvt. Ltd.	Korea (South)	Hyun Goo Back	0.06	0.00
38.	Somang Beauty Clinic Pvt. Ltd.	Korea (South)	Tae Sug Yun	0.04	0.00
39.	Somang Beauty Clinic Pvt. Ltd.	Korea (South)	H G Back	0.22	0.00
40.	Somang Beauty Clinic Pvt. Ltd.	Korea (South)	T S Yun	0.18	0.00
41.	Hans Family Food P. Ltd.	Korea (South)	Jung Kyo Han	0.12	0.00
42.	Capstone Hotels P. Ltd.	Korea (South)	Young Ook Bae	0.04	0.00
43.	Mohima Consultancy P. Ltd.	Korea (South)	Dae Hun Moon	0.01	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
44.	Jky Turbo Technology P. Ltd.	Korea (South)	Seung Taikim Eung IL Yqon	0.10	0.00
45.	Capstone Hotels Pvt. Ltd.	Korea (South)	Byong Ki Kim	0.09	0.00
46.	Daniell Engg. (I) Ltd.	Luxembourg	Industrielle Bateiligung	59.78	1.47
47.	Daniell Engg. (I) Ltd.	Luxembourg	Industrielle Betellung BA	59.78	1.36
48.	Mardec R.K. Latex P. Ltd.	Malaysia	Mardec INTL. SDN BHD	0.26	0.01
49.	Mardec R.K. Latex P.Ltd.	Malaysia	Mardec INTL. SDN BHD	1.60	0.04
50.	Eden Real Estates P. Ltd.	Mauritius	Tafalgar Investment (Mauritius)	6.67	0.17
51.	Ordyn Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	Marchmont INTL. Finance Ltd.	22.09	0.54
52.	Ordyn Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	Arbor Investments Ltd.	13.23	0.32
53.	Mahakali Developers Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	Blessing Investments Ltd.	17.29	0.42
54.	Jai Balaji Industries Ltd.	Mauritius	CVC II Clivent Rosehill Ltd.	2,714.76	67.83
55.	JMT Auto Ltd.	Mauritius	Bach Ltd.	77.00	1.89
56.	IVIZ Techno Solutions P. Ltd.	Mauritius	IDG Ventures (I) LLC	0.11	0.00
57.	Vertical Leap (I) Ltd.	Mauritius	Holbrook Court Cumberland Business	0.10	0.00
58.	Technopolis Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	Banyan Real Estate Company	222.97	5.53
59.	Sree Ganesh Jewellery House Ltd.	Mauritius	Credit Suisse Pe Asia Investment Ltd.	800.00	18.63
60.	River Bank Holding Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	K2A Commercial Ltd.	1,176.00	27.39
61.	Green Cross Therapeutics Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	TCG Lifesciences Mauritius Ltd.	4.97	0.11
62.	Titagarh Wagons Ltd.	Mauritius	Goya Ltd.	72.00	1.56
63.	Gallant Metal Ltd.	Mauritius	KLL Ltd.	7.32	0.17
64.	Intelligent Infrastructure Ltd.	Mauritius	New Verseon P. Equity Ltd.	150.00	3.68
65.	Eastek Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	Eastern Holidays	2.95	0.06
66.	Tita Garh Wagons Ltd.	Mauritius	21 Captial PCC	247.50	5.32
67.	TCGA Research Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	TCG Life Scinecnes Mauritius Ltd.	1.36	0.03
68.	Mcnally Bharat Engg. Co. Ltd.	Mauritius	Indiaman Fund Mauritius Ltd. & Six Other	307.55	6.61
69.	Ramrupai Balaji Steels Ltd.	Mauritius	The Indiaman Fund (Mauritius) Ltd	33.00	0.73
70.	Ramrupai Balaji Steels Ltd.	Mauritius	Venus Capital Management INC	5.50	0.12
71.	Ramrupai Balaji Steels Ltd.	Mauritius	Venus Series Trust A/CITF Mauritius	5.50	0.12
72.	Ramrupai Balaji Steels Ltd.	Mauritius	Seahaven Investment (Maruitius) Ltd.	11.00	0.24
73.	Ramrupai Balaji Steels Ltd.	Mauritius	TAIB Bank BSC (C)	31.90	0.71
74.	Thiess Minecs India Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	Thiess (Mauritius) PTY Ltd	0.90	0.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
75.	Austral Coke & Projects Ltd.	Mauritius	Somerset India Fund	537.04	11.04
76.	Forum IT Park Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	K2B Commercial Ltd.	890.09	18.23
77.	Eden Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	Mauritius	Trafalgar Investment Mauritius Ltd.	34.60	0.71
78.	MHA IMEX Overseas Pvt. Ltd.	Maldives	Hussain Abdulla & Bros.	4.11	0.10
79.	US Infotech Pvt. Ltd.	NRI	Harimohan Saraff	5.25	0.11
80.	Aston Infosultuons Pvt. Ltd.	NRI	B Kejriwal	0.50	0.01
81.	Ambo Exports Ltd.	NRI	Leonine Commercial	16.46	0.35
82.	Carrit Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	NRI	M/s Embark PTE Ltd.	0.65	0.01
83.	Aston Infosultuons Pvt. Ltd.	NRI	S Kejriwal	0.50	0.01
84.	AMO Agro Products Ltd.	NRI	Mr. Gobind Ram Podder	63.45	1.38
85.	MHA IMEX Overseas P. Ltd.	NRI	Hussain Abdulla	4.79	0.10
86.	Paco Allen Auto Pvt. Ltd.	NRI	Mr. Robin Hunter	35.71	0.88
87.	Great Eastern Energy Corporation	NRI	Certain NRIs and Foreign Companies	461.54	10.27
88.	Magma Leasing Ltd.	Netherlands	Nederlandse Financierings NV	210.92	4.69
89.	Mittal Steel (I) Ltd.	Netherlands	Mittal Steel (I) Ltd.	79.67	2.02
90.	Snow Lion Foods Pvt. Ltd.	Oman	Mr. Taizoon F Khorakiwala	37.92	0.93
91.	Essel Mining Industries Ltd.	Singapore	Surya Abha Investement PTE.	14,960.00	378.62
92.	Abacus Consultants P. Ltd.	Singapore	Ocean Rich Trading Investement Ltd.	22.13	0.55
93.	Cordlife Sciences (I) P. Ltd.	Singapore	Cygenics Singapore P. Ltd.	15.92	0.40
94.	Cordlife Science India Pvt. Ltd.	Singapore	Cordlife Services (s) PTE Ltd.	8.73	0.19
95.	Abacus Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	Singapore	Ocean Rich Trading Investment Ltd.	7.79	0.18
96.	DSS Software P. Ltd.	Singapore	Mountain Path PTE Ltd.	2.11	0.05
97.	Interminable Commodity Management (I) Ltd.	Singapore	Marsi (India) International Ltd.	2.24	0.05
98.	Ambo Agro Products Ltd.	Singapore	Gobind Ram Poddar	12.43	0.29
99.	Ambo Agro Products Ltd.	Singapore	Agritrade INTL. PTE Ltd.	12.50	0.30
100.	Cordlife Sciences (I) P. Ltd.	Singapore	Cygenics Singapore PTE	2.58	0.06
101.	Performance Marketing Ltd.	Singapore	Chuapwey Chan, Lee Sau Kin Eric	2.33	0.05
102.	Interminable Commodity Management (I) P. Ltd.	Singapore	Marsi International Ltd.	2.17	0.05
103.	Carrit Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	Singapore	Embark Pte Ltd.	0.91	0.02
104.	Mahabharat Motor Mafing. Co.P.Ltd.	Singapore	Dalema Ltd.	71.48	1.47
105.	Mahabharat Motor Manufacturing Co. P. Ltd.	Singapore	Dalema Ltd.	20.01	0.39

1	2	3	4	5	6
106.	Apollo Gleneagles Hospital Ltd.	Singapore	Gleneagles Development PTE Ltd.	15.02	0.33
107.	SRK Mining Services (I) P. Ltd.	South Africa	SRK Consulting	0.65	0.02
108.	Alam Tannery (P) Ltd.	Switzerland	Stein Hoft Europe AG	0.01	0.00
109.	Alam Tannery (P) Ltd.	Switzerland	Stein Hoft Europe AG	185.85	4.09
110.	Alam Tannery (P) Ltd.	Switzerland	Stein Hoft Europe AG	0.13	0.00
111.	Rawmet Ferrous Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Switzerland	IMR Metallurgical Resources AG	17.99	0.39
112.	Satva Jewellery and Design Ltd.	Switzerland	Pascal Vincent Vaucher SA	1.10	0.03
113.	Mahakali Developers Pvt.Ltd.	U.A.E.	Ashish Mahajan	24.14	0.59
114.	Mahakali Developers Pvt. Ltd.	U.A.E.	Ashish Mahajan	5.23	0.13
115.	Kolkata Systems Suport P. Ltd.	U.A.E.	Kerosinc Dubai INTL. Financial	0.27	0.01
116.	Ordyn Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	U.A.E.	M R Srinivasan	1.00	0.02
117.	Ordyn Technologies Pvt. Ltd.	U.A.E.	M R Srinivasan	4.37	0.11
118.	Frontier Textiles Pvt. Ltd.	U.A.E.	Mohammed Kassam	2.15	0.05
119.	Kolkata Izsez Pvt. Ltd.	U.A.E.	Mr. Murarri Lal Jalan	5.00	0.11
120.	Kolkata Izsez Pvt. Ltd.	U.A.E.	Mr. Murarri Lal Jalan	35.00	0.78
121.	Gorica Auto (I) Ltd.	U.A.E.	FBXB Ltd.	1.00	0.02
122.	SRK Mining Services (I) P. Ltd.	U.K.	Stiffen Robert Son & Kristen	0.55	0.01
123.	SRK Mining Services (I) P. Ltd.	U.K.	SRK Consulting UK Ltd.	0.65	0.02
124.	Artevea Digital (I) P. Ltd.	U.K.	Artevea Digital Ltd.	0.50	0.01
125.	MSR IT Solution P. Ltd.	U.K.	M S Research Ltd.	0.29	0.01
126.	SRK Mining Services (I) P. Ltd.	U.K.	Stefen Robertson & Kristen (Global) Ltd.	0.45	0.01
127.	Pandrol Rahee Technologies P. Ltd.	U.K.	Pandrol INTT. Ltd.	0.92	0.02
128.	Neurologic Infotech P. Ltd.	U.K.	Manoj Sharma	8.25	0.18
129.	Bokel Investment Ltd.	U.K.	CBM Investment Ltd.	17.61	0.39
130.	Radiance Software P. Ltd.	U.K.	Gurg Consulting Ltd.	5.00	0.11
131.	Suoificio Linea Italia (I) Pvt Ltd.	U.K.	Bell Crest Ventures Ltd.	31.73	0.68
132.	Bokel Investment Ltd.	U.K.	CBM Investments Ltd.	11.09	0.24
133.	BOC Global Support Services Pvt Ltd.	U.K.	BOC Holdings	34.50	0.77
134.	BOC Global Support Services Pvt Ltd.	U.K.	BOC Holdings	0.50	0.01
135.	Everett (India) Pvt. Ltd.	U.K.	Ubique Systems	3.73	0.09
136.	Eden Real Estates P. Ltd.	U.K.	Michel John Ezra	0.32	0.01

1	2	3	4	5	6
137.	Pandrol Rahee Technologies P. Ltd.	U.K.	Pandrol International Ltd.	1.93	0.05
138.	Saregama Regency Optimedia P.Ltd.	U.K.	Regency Media PTY Ltd.	9.47	0.24
139.	BOC (I) Ltd.	U.K.	The BOC Group PLC	5,973.00	139.49
140.	Saregama Regency Optimedia P. Ltd.	U.K.	Regency Media PTY Ltd.	14.21	0.36
141.	Mahakali Developers Pvt. Ltd.	U.K.	Vinod Bhandari	45.98	1.13
142.	Normans Martin Brokers Pvt.Ltd.	U.K.	MBG International Ltd.	21.90	0.54
143.	Digital Domain (I) P. Ltd.	U.K.	Sanjoy Dey, Farffels	2.00	0.05
144.	Stoplift Infotech India Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Malay Kundu	0.08	0.00
145.	Bhaskar Steel and Ferro Alloys Ltd.	U.S.A.	Sumit Kr. Agarwal	117.00	2.60
146.	Bhaskar Steel and Ferro Alloys Ltd.	U.S.A.	Shashi Kant Agarwal	122.07	2.72
147.	Nexgen Technology Services Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Nexvisionix	0.22	0.00
148.	Micron Maschinen and Agrotech (P) Ltd.	U.S.A.	Dipak Singupta	1.23	0.03
149.	Ramrupai Balaji Steels Ltd.	U.S.A.	53 NRIs	0.73	0.02
150.	United Conveyor Corpn (I) P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	United Conveyor Corpn.	200.86	3.92
151.	Outsourcebiz (I) P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Ashok Kumar Basu	0.10	0.00
152.	Nited Conveyor Corporation India P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	United Conveyor Corporation	170.00	3.50
153.	Great Eastern Energy Corporation	U.S.A.	Certain NRIs and Foreign Companies	280.83	6.25
154.	Steris (I) P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Steris Asia Pacific INC	6.43	0.16
155.	United Nanotech Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	NEI Corp.	2.50	0.06
156.	Mahakali Developers Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Sudes Gupta & Surinder Gupta	4.58	0.11
157.	Himachal SKI Village Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Nicholas Charles James Miles	12.90	0.32
158.	Adapt International Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Adapt Corpn.	0.10	0.00
159.	Foster Wheeler Bengal P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Foster Wheeler Bengal USA Corporation	22.41	0.46
160.	Foster Wheeler Bengal P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Foster Wheeler Bengal USA Corporation	0.01	0.00
161.	Foster Wheeler Bengal P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Foster Wheeler Bengal P. Ltd.	41.92	0.86
162.	United Nantech Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	NEI Corporation	5.00	0.12
163.	CBF Components Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	CBF Manufacturing LLC	0.38	0.01
164.	Devita Engg. (India) Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	SED LL FADI LLC	0.15	0.00
165.	Parabolic Drugs Ltd.	U.S.A.	Winshuttle	2.01	0.05
166.	Axiom Estates Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Mr. Manoj Nathwani	15.66	0.37
167.	Walking Stick Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Anindya Datta	0.05	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
168.	Maco Corporation (India) Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Narendra Patel & Prafulla Patel	1.34	0.03
169.	SB3 Software Solutions Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Surajit Bose	1.86	0.04
170.	Pasari Koplavitch	U.S.A.	Mr. Warren Stephen Kay	6.60	0.15
171.	Xponse IT Services Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Steven Mahana	1.59	0.03
172.	United Nanotech P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	NEI Corpn.	2.50	0.06
173.	Carrit Solutions P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Embark P. Ltd.	0.46	0.01
174.	Adapt International Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Adapt Corpn	2.42	0.06
175.	Verseon Laboratories P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Verseon LLC	0.10	0.00
176.	Tathya Dot Com. Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Mr. Patrik Baird	3.83	0.08
177.	Rajlakshmi Cotton Mills Pvt. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Rajlakshmi Cotton Mills Pvt. Ltd.	1.50	0.03
178.	Geoindia Solutions P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Jonathan Paul	0.40	0.01
179.	Steris (India) P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	Steris Asia Pacific INC.	2.91	0.06
180.	United Nanotech P. Ltd.	U.S.A.	NEI Corpn.	2.50	0.06
181.	Bonsai Network India Pvt. Ltd.	British Virginia	Eppix Network India Pvt. Ltd.	55.23	1.38
182.	Kolkata West International Ltd.	British Virginia	Beyond Limit INTL Ltd.	224.49	5.33
183.	Mahabharat Motor Manufacturing Co. P. Ltd.	British Virginia	Universal Success Enterprises Ltd.	6.81	0.15
184.	Mahabharat Motor Manufacturing Co.	British Virginia	Universal Success ENTP Ltd.	28.81	0.73
Grand Total Rs. million				41,480.67	1,000.26

**International Container Transshipment
Terminal at Vizhinjam**

2065. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has resubmitted the proposal to the Union Government regarding construction of Deep Water International Container Transshipment Terminal at Vizhinjam;

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

(c) the time by which construction work on said project is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Industries in West Bengal

2066. SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of industries in West Bengal as compared to other States;

(b) the number of such cities in West Bengal where new economic reforms are not being implemented;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any new policy to set up industries in the zero-industry areas of West Bengal on priority basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M.

SCINDIA): (a) The percentage of industries set up in State of West Bengal from 1991 till date as compared to other States is 5.51 per cent.

(b) to (d) Under the liberalized industrial policy, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs based on techno-economic considerations, which in turn depends on the initiatives of the State Governments in creating a conducive environment by way of providing infrastructural facilities and other incentives. The Central Government supplements their efforts to the extent possible.

Setting up of Shipbuilding Yards

2067. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up shipbuilding yards under public private partnership in the country including Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which such yards are likely to be completed and operationalised, State-wise; and

(c) the extent to which additional job opportunities are likely to be created in the country including backward region?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (c) National Maritime Development Programme envisages setting up of two international size shipyards, one on the East Coast and another on the West Coast of India. Maritime States including Kerala were requested by this Ministry to identify suitable locations for setting up of international size shipyards, one each on the East Coast and West Coast of India respectively. Certain locations have been suggested by some of the Maritime States including Kerala. Details of States and sites proposed by State Governments is annexed as Statement.

Government of India nominated Mumbai Port Trust and Ennore Port Limited to function as the Nodal Agencies for setting up of shipyards on the West Coast of India and the East Coast of India respectively. The nodal agencies *viz.* Ennore Port Limited and Mumbai Port Trust have been authorized to appoint Consultants who, *inter alia*, would identify 3 or 4 alternative sites each for setting up of shipyard on West Coast and East Coast of India respectively and also suggest optimal locations with detailed justification. The commencement of the project depends on the outcome of the recommendations of the

Consultants. It is expected that approximately 5000 job opportunities are likely to be created in the country upon setting up of international size shipyards.

Statement

The Maritime States were requested by this Ministry to identify suitable location for setting up of international size shipyards, one each on the East Coast and West Coast of India respectively, with the following basic requirements:

- (i) The minimum land requirement of 1000-1500 acres and waterfront of about 2.5 Kms in length;
- (ii) Water draft of 10 to 12 metres;
- (iii) The site location for the proposed shipyards to have good rail and road connectivity;
- (iv) Contiguity to a Major Port situated within the State.

In response, the following locations have been suggested by the Maritime States:

Sl.No.	Name of State	Site Proposed/Response of the State Government
1.	Government of Karnataka	Tadri Port (Kundle Beach) and Honne Beach under Belekeri Port
2.	Government of Kerala	Poovar in Thiruvananthapuram District on Kerala-Tamil Nadu Border
3.	Government of Orissa	(i) Nuagarh (Astaranga), Distt. Puri (ii) Palur, Distt. Ganjam (iii) Gopalpur Port at Arjipalli, Chatrapur, Distt. Ganjam (iv) Bahuda Muhana (Sonepur), Distt. Ganjam
4.	Government of Andhra Pradesh	Vodarevu in Prakasam District
5.	Government of West Bengal	No specific site proposed as yet.
6.	Government of Gujarat	Government of Gujarat has proposed a few stretches such as Salaya, Jodiya, Mundra, Chanch and Pipavav and Tuna.

Upon receipt of the proposals from the State Governments, further information/clarifications have been sought by the Ministry from the respective State Governments.

Upgradation of Syllabus of ITIs

2068. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to upgrade and update the existing syllabus of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) courses and to start new courses based on subjects such as Nano-Technology, Bio-Technology etc. in ITI's;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to conduct periodical survey of the available employment opportunities and to start market oriented courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) and (b) Upgradation and updation of the syllabi of trades of ITIs is done regularly with the approval of National Council for Vocational Training to take care of technological changes taking place in the industry. During last five years, syllabi of 36 trades have been revised and 53 new trades introduced to take the total to 112 trades.

New courses in ITIs are introduced on request of industry sectors, as per their skilled manpower requirement in that sector. So far, no proposal has been received for introduction of training courses in ITIs in Nano-Technology & Bio-Technology.

(c) Government has set up National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) with responsibility to constitute Sector Skills Councils (SSCs). Functions of SSCs include identification of skill gaps, preparation of Skill Development plans and establishment of well structured sector specific Labour Market Information System to assist planning and delivery of training.

Export of Seafood Items

2069. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of seafood items have been reduced in the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) have taken any steps to promote the export of seafood items; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome achieved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Export of marine products from India growth in the US\$ earnings as can be seen from the table below:-

Particulars	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	CAGR*
Quantity (in Thousand MTs)	461.33	512.16	612.64	541.70	602.84	6.91%
Value (in Rs. Cr.)	6,646.69	7,245.30	8,363.53	7,620.92	8,607.94	6.68%
Value (in US\$ Million)	1,478.48	1,644.21	1,852.93	1,899.09	1,908.63	6.59%

*CAGR= Compounded Annual Growth Rate 2008-09=over 2004-05

(c) and (d) Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) have taken following steps to increase production and export of seafood items from India:

(i) With the objective of improving aquaculture National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) was established at Kakinada for providing extension services to farmers of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa & Karnataka;

(ii) A Mission Mode Programme in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Orissa has been launched to expand aquaculture;

(iii) MPEDA is also targeting development of new technologies in aquaculture such as specific "pathogen" free broodstock development and domestication of shrimp;

(iv) Aquatic Quarantine facility for use, when *L. vennamei* broodstock is imported, is being set up under Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Aquaculture (RGCA); and

(v) Recently organic freshwater prawn was farmed and cultivated for the first time in the world in Kerala.

Exports of Gems and Jewellery

2070. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of gems and jewellery have declined in the last year;

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

(c) the foreign exchange earned from the exports of gems and jewellery during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote exports in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Export of gems & jewellery during the period April-March 2008 registered a growth of 23.33% over the same period in 2007. However, as per latest data available, export of gems and jewellery has declined by 3.7% during the period April-February 2009 over the same period in 2008. The main reason for this decline is fall in consumer demand in major export destination markets.

(c) The foreign exchange earned from export of gems & jewellery during the last three years are as under:-

(In million US Dollars)

Sl.No.	Year	Value
1.	2006-07	15964.52
2.	2007-08	19688.31
3.	2008-09 upto Feb. 2009	17193.54

(Source: DGCI&S)

(d) Some of the steps taken by the Government to promote exports in this sector are:-

- (i) The period of entitlement of the first slab of pre-shipment rupee export credit, available at a concessional interest rate ceiling of the benchmark prime lending rate (BPLR) minus 2.5 percentage points has been extended from 180 days to 270 days.
- (ii) The period of entitlement of the first slab of post shipment rupee export credit, available at

a concessional interest rate ceiling (not exceeding BPLR minus 2.5 percentage points) have been extended from 90 days to 180 days.

- (iii) Prescribed interest rate as applicable to post shipment rupee export credit (not exceeding BPLR minus 2.5 percentage points) has been extended to overdue bills upto 180 days from the date of advance.
- (iv) Pre and post shipment rupee export credit have been provided an interest subvention of 2 percent subject to minimum rate of interest of 7% per annum.
- (v) Additional funds of Rs. 1,100 crore has been provided to ensure full refund of terminal Excise Duty/Central Sales Tax.
- (vi) Government back-up guarantee has been made available to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. to the extent of Rs. 350 crore to enable it to provide guarantees for exports to difficult markets/products.
- (vii) Exporters have been allowed refund of service tax on foreign agent commissions of upto 10 percent of FOB value of exports and refund of service tax on output services while availing of benefits under Duty Drawback Scheme.
- (viii) RBI has extended a line of credit of Rs. 5,000 crores to EXIM Bank to provide pre shipment and post shipment credit, in Rupees or Dollars to Indian exporters at competitive rates.
- (ix) Ceiling rates on export credit in foreign currency has been raised to LIBOR + 350 basis points subject to the condition that the banks will not levy any other charges, i.e., service charge, management charge, etc. except for recovery towards out-of-pocket expenses incurred.

In the year 2009, the Government has given following incentive to the trade under the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09—

- (a) STCL Limited, Diamond India Limited, MSRC Limited, Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council and Star Trading Houses (for gem and jewellery sector) have been added under the list of nominated agencies for the purpose of import of precious metals.
- (b) Import restriction on worked coral have been removed.

- (c) Authorised person of Gem & Jewellery Units in EOU have been allowed personal carriage of gold in primary form upto 10Kgs in a financial year subject to RBI and Customs guidelines.
- (d) The threshold limit for recognition of Premier Trading House has been reduced to Rs. 7500 crores from Rs. 10000 crores in export turnover in the previous three years and current year taken together.
- (e) Surat in Gujarat has been recognized as a Town of Export Excellence.

In the Union Budget 2009-10, following facilities have been extended to the sector—

- (a) Interest subvention of 2% on rupee export credit has been extended to March 31, 2010.
- (b) Service Tax has been exempted on services received by exporters from goods transport agents and commission agents, where the liability to pay service tax is *ab initio* on the exporter. An exporter will not be required to first pay the tax and later claim refund.
- (c) Service Tax exemption for other services received by exporters would be operated through the existing refund mechanism based on self-certification of the documents where such refund is below 0.25 per cent of FOB value and certification of documents by a Chartered Accountant for value of refund exceeding the above limit.
- (d) Sun-set clauses for the tax holiday (deduction in respect of export profits available under sections 10A and 10B of the Income-tax Act) has been extended by one moe year i.e. for the financial year 2010-11.
- (e) Import duty on Rough Corals has been abolished.
- (f) Excise Duty on Branded Jewellery has been abolished.
- (g) Allocation for Market Development Assistance Scheme has been enhanced to Rs. 124 crore.

[*Translation*]

GDP on Higher Education

2071. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) incurred on higher education during the last three years; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Government to make available higher education to the common and poor people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The percentage of Gross Domestic Project (GDP) incurred on higher education during last three years is 0.49, 0.51 and 0.56 during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 respectively.

(b) There has been nearly nine times increase in public outlays during 11th Plan as compared to 10th Plan. This increased outlay is meant for creating new institutions, strengthening existing institutions and improving quality all of which contribute towards higher education for the common masses including the poor among them. In addition, the Central Educational Institution (Reservation in Admission) Act 2006, provides reservation for students belonging to SC,ST and OBC categories. A scheme to provide interest subsidy for the period of moratorium to students, belonging to Economically weaker sections, on the educational loan taken by them under the Education Loan Scheme of Indian Banks' Association for pursuing professional studies in India, is also under consideration of the Government.

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

2072. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to merge the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) A consortium of consultants led by M/s ICICI Securities, appointed by the Government to advise and aid the Government in restructuring of MTNL and BSNL for achieving higher synergies in their operations, has suggested some options

for restructuring. Since the enabling conditions for the suggested options are not appropriate enough to lead to a successful merger and considering the complexity of the issues involved, the restructuring of BSNL and MTNL has been put on hold for the time being.

Affiliation of Universities by UGC

2073. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Universities affiliated to the University Grants Commission are running campuses outside their domain; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such Universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) University Grants Commission has received complaints about some privately funded State Universities, established by enactments of State Legislatures, operating campuses outside the jurisdiction of the concerned State. All such Universities have been advised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to stop their operations, if any, beyond their territorial jurisdiction whether off-campus, study centers, affiliation to colleges or centers operating through franchises, which would be violative of the decision of the Supreme Court of India in the matter of Prof. Yash

Pal Vs. State of Chhattisgarh and others [W.P.(C)No.19/2004] dated 11.2.2005.

Export of Onion

2074. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the export of onion and other perishable items during the last three years and the current year alongwith the foreign currency earned out of such exports;

(b) whether the Government has lifted ban on the export of some of the perishable items keeping in view the interest of the farmers;

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

(d) whether there has been a decline in export of these items and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government to encourage export of these items especially processed food items and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The details of export of onions and other perishable products for the last three years are given below:

Quantity in MT/Value in Rs. lakhs

	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09 (Apr. 08-Jan.09)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Onions	1378373	116331	1008606	103578	1261327	131428
Other Veg.	276825	43314	350235	48949	415271	55154
Total Veg.	1655198	159645	1358841	152527	1676598	186582
Walnuts	5063	11804	6716	16208	4273	11155
Mangoes	79061	14194	54351	12742	78137	14915
Grapes	85898	30193	96964	31783	58228	19300
Other fruits	177638	30997	207701	30453	208909	34229
Total Fruits	347660	87188	365732	91186	349547	79599
Total F&V	2002858	246833	1724573	243713	2026145	266181

Source: APEDA based on DGCIS

(b) to (d) All perishable products are feely exportable under the Foreign Trade Policy in vogue. Export of Onion is canalized through NAFED and 11 other State Government Agencies. NAFED armounces a Minimum Export Price (MEP) every month and all export of onions is subject to MEP. The information given above reveals that there is no decline in export of perishables products. Vegetables, though, during 2007-08 recorded a marginal decline over 2006-07 which is attributable to high domestic prices.

(e) The Government has been coordinating with the export promotion agencies such as Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Export Inspection Council (EIC) by providing necessary technical inputs and financial assistance. APEDA through its schemes for Infrastructure Development Scheme for Quality Development, Scheme for Market Development and the Scheme for Research & Development has been making efforts to gain market access for fruits and Vegetables, processed food items, etc. The efforts have resulted in growth in export of these products.

[*English*]

Gramin Dak Sewaks

2075. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gramin Dak Sewaks presently working in various parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to regularize the services of Gramin Dak Sewaks and to grant them the status and privileges of Central Government employees; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Number of Gramin Dak Sewaks working in various parts of the country as on 31.03.2008 is 2,76,155. The State-wise information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) There is no proposal for regularizing the services of Gramin Dak Sewaks and to grant them the status and privileges of Central Government employees.

(c) The Gramin Dak Sewaks are part-time workers who are engaged for three hours to maximum five hours per day. They are governed by separate set of Conduct and Employment Rules called GDS (Conduct & Employment) Rules, 2001 which are non-Statutory Rules not framed under Article 309 of the Constitution. The Apex Court has held that the Gramin Dak Sewaks are holders of the Civil Post but are outside the regular Civil Service.

Statement

State-Wise List of Number of Gramin Dak Sewaks as on 31.03.2008

Sl. No.	State	No. of Gramin Dak Sewaks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26311
2.	Assam	8593
3.	Bihar	14795
4.	Chhattisgarh	5504
5.	Delhi	328
6.	Gujarat	15324
7.	Haryana	4180
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6326
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2698
10.	Jharkhand	6099
11.	Karnataka	14519
12.	Kerala	11829
13.	Madhya Pradesh	14262
14.	Maharashtra	20751
15.	North Eastern States	7078
16.	Orissa	16425
17.	Punjab	6037
18.	Rajasthan	14643
19.	Tamil Nadu	23251
20.	Uttar Pradesh	32389
21.	Uttarakhand	6153
22.	West Bengal	18660
	Total	276155

Production of Rail Coaches in BEML

2076. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) proposes to increase the production of rail coaches; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the production plan for the current year and the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current year 2009-2010, BEML Ltd. plan to produce 500 rail coaches. During the years 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, the Company plans to produce 600, 700 and 750 nos. of rail coaches respectively.

Payment of DA to Beedi Workers

2077. SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tobacco companies are not paying the revised Dearness Allowance (DA) to the beedi workers in the country including Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government against such companies to protect the interests of said workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) As intimated by the State of Andhra Pradesh, minimum wage including DA is being paid to beedi workers. However, in the States of Karnataka & Kerala it has been reported that some of the small beedi manufacturers who have not signed the Tripartite settlement are not paying revised Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) to the beedi workers.

(c) Concerned State Government has to take action against the defaulters for non-payment of VDA under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

Setting up of Ports at Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2078. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up ports in Andaman and Nicobar Islands under the Major Ports Trust Act, 1963;

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

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which such ports are likely to be set up and commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (d) With a view to meet the development needs of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, a need has been felt to re-organize the port set-up of the Islands and:

(i) declare the Andaman and Nicobar set of Islands as Major Port; and

(ii) establish the Andaman and Nicobar Port Trust as a corporate body.

The details of the proposal are being worked out and the contemplated reorganization shall be effected as soon as the necessary approvals are obtained.

[Translation]

Share of BSNL in Telecom Sector

2079. SHRI ANJANKUMAR M. YADAV:
SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in telecom services in the country at present;

(b) whether the share of BSNL in telecom services is declining;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Sir, the percentage share of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in telecom services in the country as on 31.5.2009 in respect of Wireline and Wireless is 76.90% and 12.91% respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Decline in Market share of BSNL in wireline and wireless segment is due to fierce competition with numerous private telecom service providers viz. Bharti, Reliance, Vodafone, Tata and Idea etc.

(d) During 2009-10, BSNL has planned to provide 16.5 millions telephone connections. With this addition and further improvement in telecom services, BSNL is likely to retain its market share.

[English]

Business Schools

2080. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government for establishing business schools in the country;

(b) the number of business schools duly approved by AICTE functioning in the country as on date, location-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the assistance received from the foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As per the information given by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the norms & standards for setting up of new technical institutions including Business Schools in the country are specified in the Approval Process Handbook of the AICTE.

(b) The details of Business Schools approved by AICTE is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No financial assistance is being received from the foreign countries for running Business Schools in the country.

Statement

Number of Business Schools approved by AICTE as on 30.6.2009

Region	State	NOI	Intake
1	2	3	4
Central	Madhya Pradesh	92	8968
	Chhattisgarh	12	1270
	Gujarat	87	7880

1	2	3	4	
Eastern	Mizoram	0	0	
	Sikkim	1	60	
	Orissa	53	4289	
	West Bengal	33	2815	
	Tripura	0	0	
	Meghalaya	0	0	
	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	
	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	
	Assam	9	405	
	Manipur	1	30	
Northern	Nagaland	0	0	
	Jharkhand	9	1065	
	Bihar	13	1225	
	Uttar Pradesh	323	26096	
	Uttaranchal	33	2407	
	North-West	Chandigarh	2	120
		Haryana	90	10115
		Jammu and Kashmir	9	620
		New Delhi	38	6660
		Punjab	73	8640
Southern	Rajasthan	95	9195	
	Himachal Pradesh	10	630	
	Andhra Pradesh	324	28270	
	Puducherry	1	60	
	Tamil Nadu	184	14050	
South-West	Karnataka	141	10932	
	Kerala	49	3475	
Western	Maharashtra	256	30044	
	Goa	2	240	
	Daman & Diu, Dadra, Nagar Haveli	0	0	
Total		1940	179561	

Export Policy for Agro Products

2081. SHRI P. BALRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether export-friendly policy is expected to affect the demand for agricultural products;

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

(c) the details regarding demand supply situation of agricultural products in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Policy regarding export of agricultural products is formulated after considering the demand, supply and price situation in the country; and

(c) The Dept. of Agriculture has not assessed the State-wise demand, supply situation. The Working Group of Planning Commission on 11th Plan has projected demand and supply of important agricultural crops during the 11th Plan as follows:-

Crop	2008-09		2011-12	
	Projected Demand	Projected Production	Projected Demand	Projected Production
Rice	92.87	95.34 (99.37)	98.79	104.21
Wheat	72.72	76.21 (77.63)	77.36	83.61
Coarse Cereals	35.90	34.57 (38.67)	38.19	35.75
Pulses	17.51	14.43 (14.18)	19.91	15.73
Foodgrains	219.00	220.55 (229.85)	234.26	239.30
Sugarcane	275.91	296.88 (289.23)	322.54	305.51
Oilseeds	47.43	26.32 (28.13)	53.39	27.53

Figures in brackets are the actual production estimates as per 3rd Advance Estimates.

Mid-day Meal Scheme

2082. SHRI SARVEY SATYANARAYANA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is involving the Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) people in the mid-day meal scheme for transforming the rural landscape;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) envisages active participation of community including that of SCs STs through Gram Panchayat/ Sabha, Village Education Committee, Parent Teacher Association, School Mangement and Development Committee, Mother's Committee, which are expected to monitor the (i) regularity, wholesomeness, quality of meal, (ii) cleanliness in cooking/serving of mid-day meal and (iii) social & gender equity in serving mid-day meal. The MDMS also envisages the involvement of Self Help Groups with large membership of poor women including that of SCs and STs in the procurement, cooking and distribution process. The MDMS also impresses upon States/UTs for preference being given to cooks/helpers belonging to SCs/STs. As per information furnished by States/UTs, during 2008-09 out of about 15.68 lakh cooks engaged under the MDMS 3.31 lakh (21.10%) cooks are from Scheduled Castes and 2.52 lakh (16%) cooks are from Scheduled Tribes.

Delay in Defence Procurement

2083. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in defence procurements despite a fast-track system for procurement being in place;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the impact thereof on defence capabilities of the country; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the defence procurements?

THE MNISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) Procurement for approved requirements of Armed Forces in terms of capability sought within the timeframes prescribed, is done by optimally utilizing allocated budgetary resources. This is a continuous process undertaken in accordance with the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). Delays, however, do

occur due to several reasons such as insufficient and limited vendor base, non-conformity of the offers to the Request for Proposal (RFP) conditions, field trials, complexities in contract negotiations, etc. The Fast Track Procedure covers only urgent operational requirements foreseen as imminent or for a situation in which a crisis emerges without prior warning. Armed Forces of the country are fully equipped to meet any eventuality.

On the basis of experience gained during implementation, the DPP-2006 was reviewed and the DPP-2008 has incorporated important provisions to expedite the procurement procedure. These measures are: (i) Maximum time stipulation has been incorporated for issuance of RFP within two years of accord of Acceptance of Necessity (AON); (ii) Extension of time for submission of offers has been restricted to eight weeks; (iii) Once L-1 vendor has been identified, normally there would be no need for any further price negotiations; and (iv) Increased delegation of financial powers has been accorded to Services Headquarters. DPP-2008 has come into effect from 1.9.2008.

Cross Border Trade

2084. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has operationised cross border trade with Pakistan, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh through land route; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the quantum and value of trade, during the last three years, country-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The details of trade in the last three years from different Land Custom Stations (LCSs) is given below:-

(Rs. In Lakhs)

S.No	Country	Year		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (April 08-Jan. 09)
		Total	Total	Total
1.	Pakistan	101525.72	118888.51	136882.06
2.	China	9280.117	15085.57	23415.56
3.	Mayanmar	723.47	1862.06	697.75
4.	Bangladesh	434045.31	769555.51	465502.32

Source: DGCI&S

Setting up of New Offices of IWAI

2085. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) offices are functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal for opening of new IWAI offices in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (c) Indian Waterways Authority of India has following offices in various States:

Uttar Pradesh—3 (Allahabad, Varanasi and Noida);

Bihar—2 (Patna and Bhagalpur);

West Bengal—2 (Kolkata and Farakka);

Kerala—1 (Kochi); and

Assam—1 (Guwahati).

IWAI offices are opened in the country as and when necessary to carry out the development and regulation of National Waterways.

Coverage of Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana

2086. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to cover all Below Poverty Line (BPL) families under Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made any action plan for implementation of said scheme in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated and released by the Government for the said purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)

which was launched on 01.10.2007 and became operational w.e.f. 01.04.2008 has been extended to all the estimated 6 crore BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganised sector from the year 2009-10. The estimated 6 crore BPL families are, however, likely to be covered in five years.

(d) The premium under RSBY is shared between Central Government and State Governments in the ratio of 75:25 and in case of State of North East Region and Jammu and Kashmir, the sharing of premium is in the ratio of 90:10. An amount of Rs. 250 crore and Rs. 350 crore has been allocated during the financial year 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively for release of Centre share of premium. A Statement showing the State-wise Central share of premium released is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Central share released (in Rs.)	
		2008-09	2009-10 (upto 15.07.2009)
1.	Gujarat	22,56,43,646	8,77,13,545
2.	Punjab	1,60,45,480	1,75,47,369
3.	Uttar Pradesh	29,72,89,638	
4.	Tamil Nadu	1,61,08,518	51,94,092
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1,75,31,335	1,02,64,953
6.	Haryana	13,42,64,136	13,88,56,236
7.	Delhi	2,15,06,857	
8.	Bihar	4,75,14,027	6,73,02,319
9.	Kerala	13,71,09,248	12,98,74,247
10.	West Bengal	2,51,50,320	1,54,32,877
11.	Jharkhand	5,23,92,456	
12.	Maharashtra	89,44,299	6,21,67,217
Total		99,94,99,960	53,43,52,855

[Translation]

Setting up of Industry Units

2087. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of big and medium public sector industrial units set up in various States particularly in the backward and rural regions as on date, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the programme formulated for the current financial year in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the Department of Public Enterprises, there are 242 Central Public Sector Enterprises functioning in different States/Union Territories. The statewise details of these units are available in Volume-I (Appendix-III) of Public Enterprises Survey 2007-08, which was laid in Parliament on 25.2.2009. The same is also available in Department of Public Enterprise's website namely www.dpe.nic.in.

[English]

Upgradation of Transport Fleet of IAF

2088. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to upgrade AN-32 transport fleet of Indian Air Force (IAF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the life span of AN-32 aircraft will be enhanced by the upgradation;

(d) the details of the expenditure likely to be incurred on the upgradation; and

(e) the time by which the upgradation process is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A contract for upgradation of AN-32 aircraft has been signed with State Foreign Trade Enterprise Spetstechno export (STE), Ukraine on 15th June 2009 for total technical life extension (TTLE), overhaul and re-equipment of AN-32 aircraft in the IAF fleet.

(c) to (e) The calendar life of AN-32 aircraft will be enhanced from 25 years to 40 years. The expenditure likely to be incurred on the project is 397.7 million US Dollars. The upgradation process is scheduled to be completed between 2009-17.

*[Translation]***SC/ST Vacancies in Kendriya Vidyalayas**

2089. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms/policy guidelines governing the principles of conversion of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) backlog of vacancies into general category in respect of recruitment of principals in Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs);

(b) whether such incidence of conversion of SC/ST vacancies of principals into general category occurred in the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan follows the Government of India's rules/policy guidelines regarding filling up of SC/ST backlog vacancies.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Export Target**

2090. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO:
SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the export target fixed for the current financial year;

(b) whether even 70 per cent of the target has not been achieved as the financial year is coming to an end;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) During the announcement of Annual Supplement of the Foreign Trade Policy, 2008-09 on 11.4.2008. Government fixed a merchandise export target of US \$ 200 Billion for the year 2008-09, which was revised to US \$ 175 Billion. The achievement was US \$ 168 Billion. The predominant reason for decline in exports is the impact of Global economic slowdown. Government and RBI are closely monitoring the economic developments in the country and internationally. The Government announced a number of measures in the Stimulus packages to arrest the decline in exports. Additional measures have also been announced in Budget 2009-10. Measures announced so far, particularly for export sector, are given in Statement enclosed.

Statement

Steps Taken by Government/RBI (Including the Announcement made in the Budget, 2009-10) to Address the Concerns of Exporters Arising out of Present Global Economic Slow Down

Measures taken by the Government:

- (1) Interest subvention of 2% provided, till 30.09.2009 has been extended till 31.3.2010, to the following labour intensive sectors for exports:-
Textiles (including Handlooms), Handicrafts, Leather, Gems & Jewellery, Marine Products and SMEs;
- (2) Additional funds of Rs. 350 crore provided (in December 2008) for Handicraft items etc. in Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY);
- (3) Market Linked Focus Product Scheme extended for bicycle parts, Motor Cars and Motor Cycles, Apparels and Clothing accessories, Auto Components etc. for exports from 1.4.09 to 30.09.09;
- (4) Rs. 1100 crore provided to ensure full refund of pending claims of CST/Terminal Excise Duty/Duty drawback on deemed exports;
- (5) Exporter friendly and the popular Duty Neutralisation Scheme i.e., Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) Scheme extended upto 31st December, 2009;

- (6) DEPB rates for all items where they were reduced in November, 2008, restored to higher rates from retrospective effect;
- (7) Duty Drawback rates on certain items restored to higher rates effective from 1st September, 2008;
- (8) DEPB and Freely Transferable Incentive Schemes allowed without the initial requirement of Bank Realisation Certificate (BRC);
- (9) Export Obligation Period under Advance authorization Scheme enhanced from 24 months to 36 months without payment of composition fee;
- (10) Back-up guarantee made available to ECGC to the extent of Rs. 350 crore to enable it to provide guarantees for exports to difficult markets/products. ECGC is now been able to widen its coverage;
- (11) Additional funds of Rs. 1400 crore provided to the Ministry of Textiles to clear the backlog claims of textile units under Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF);
- (12) MDA Scheme-allocation increased to Rs. 124 crores (increased by 148%);
- (13) Additional items allowed within the existing duty free imports entitlement for the following employment oriented sectors:
- (i) 5 additional items for sports goods sector;
 - (ii) Additional items for leather garments and footwear and textile items;
- (14) Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) abolished;
- (15) Sections 10A and 10B related to Sunset clauses for STPI and EOUs schemes respectively extended for the financial year 2010-2011. Anomaly removed in Section 10AA related to taxation benefit of unit *vis-a-vis* assessee;
- (16) Export duty on iron ore fines eliminated, and for lumps, reduced to 5%;
- (17) Some pending issues relating to Service Tax refund on exports-resolved. Some of these are—
- (i) Exemption from Service tax on services linked to exports:
 - (a) On service related to transport of export goods by road from any CFS or ICD to the port or Airport and on service related to transport of export goods by road directly from their place of removal, to an ICD, a CFS, a port or airport;
 - (b) Services provided by Foreign Agent Commission service;
 - (ii) Procedure for refund of service tax simplified by allowing refund on self certification in case refund claim does not exceed 0.25% of FOB value of exports; and certification by Chartered Accountant in case of others;
 - (iii) Time period for filing refund claim increased to 1 year from the date of export (as against half-yearly);
- (18) For Fast Track Resolution of a number of procedural issues thereby reducing delays for the exporters, a Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Finance Secretary including Secretaries of Department of Revenue and Commerce; A number of issues sorted out accordingly;
- (19) Excise duty reduced across the board by 4 per cent, for all products except petroleum products and those products where current rate was less than 4%. Excise Duty was further reduced by another 2% in certain products like Leather etc.;
- (20) The guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises on loans doubled to Rs. 1 crore, with a guarantee cover of 50%. The guarantee cover extended by Credit Guarantee Fund Trust increased to 85% for credit facility upto Rs. 5 lakh. The lock-in period for such collateral-free loans reduced;
- (21) An Adjustment Assistance Scheme initiated in December, 2008 to provide enhanced ECGC cover at 95% to the badly hit sectors, continued till March, 2010;
- (22) To protect the domestic manufacturing industry from dumped/cheap imports, in particular, from China, import restrictions have been imposed on HR coil, Carbon Back, Polyester Filament Yarn (PFY) and Radial Tyres (Bus & Trucks);
- (23) Mega Handloom clusters in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu and Powerloom cluster in Rajasthan

and New Mega clusters for carpets in Srinagar and Mirzapur approved;

- (24) Basic customs duty of 5% on Rough/Unworked corals abolished;
- (25) Import duty on naphtha for power sector eliminated;
- (26) CVD on TMT bars and structurals and on cement removed;
- (27) Exemption from basic customs duty on Zinc and Ferro Alloys withdrawn;
- (28) Regular monitoring mechanism:-
- (a) The situation is being regularly monitored at the highest level of Government, so that immediate further corrective measures, can be taken as may be required. In this regard, the Government has constituted the following two High Level Committees which have been deliberating the issue on regular basis:
- (i) An Apex Group chaired by Prime Minister with Finance Minister, Commerce Minister, Deputy Chairman (Planning Commission), RBI Governor;
- (ii) Committee of officers chaired by Cabinet Secretary, including Finance Secretary, Commerce Secretary, Secretary (DIPP), Secretary (Planning Commission)—to meet regularly to look into the suggestions made by Trade and Industry and the respective Administrative Ministries in respect of the current global economic and financial crisis and to recommend action to the Apex Group.
- (b) Department of MSME and Department of Financial Services to jointly monitor on the progress of the meetings of Monthly meeting of State level Bankers' Committee for resolution issues of MSME.
- (ii) Re-finance facility to the EXIM Bank for an amount of Rs. 5000 crores for providing pre-shipment and post-shipment credit in Rs. or dollars;
- (iii) A special re-finance facility has been put in place for banks for the purpose of extending finance to exports, micro and small enterprises, mutual funds and NBFCs. Provisioning requirements have been lowered. Export Credit Refinance facility for commercial banks increased to 50% of the outstanding Rupee Export Credit.
- (b) Increase in FOREX Liquidity:
- (i) RBIs assurance for continued selling of foreign exchange (US\$) through banks, to augment supply in the domestic foreign exchange market;
- (ii) To enable banks to profitably lend to exporters in Foreign Exchange, Ceiling rates on export credit in foreign currency has been raised to LIBOR + 350 basis points, subject to the condition that the banks will not levy any other charges, i.e., service charge, management charge, etc. except for recovery towards out of pocket expenses incurred.
- (c) Easing of Credit Terms:
- (i) The period of pre-shipment and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit enhanced by 90 days each.
- (ii) Time period of export realization for non-status holder exporters increased to 12 months, at par with the Status holders. This facility which was available upto 03.06.09, has been extended for one more year.
- (iii) PSU Banks, consequent to measures announced by RBI, reduced the margin money on Guarantees for export units.

(B) Measures taken by RBI:

- (a) Increase in Liquidity to the banks for improving credit flow by:
- (i) Reducing CRR, SLR, Repo Rate and Reverse Repo Rate (from Oct., 08, CRR reduced from 9% to 5%, SLR reduced from 25% to 24%, Repo Rate reduced from 7.5% to 4.75%, and Reverse Repo Rate reduced from 6% to 3.25%);

Coverage of Social Welfare Schemes

2091. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the workforce in the unorganised sector are not covered under various social welfare schemes implemented for unorganised workers;

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

(c) whether International Labour Organisation (ILO) study has indicated that India needs to invest merely 4 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to provide social security to all its citizens;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to cover all the workforce engaged in the unorganised sector under various social welfare schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government has constituted Welfare Fund for certain occupations in the unorganised sector, like Beedi, Cine and certain Non-Coal Mine workers. Under these Welfare Funds, welfare schemes, providing for health care, housing and education to the children etc. have been formulated. State Governments have also constituted certain occupational specific welfare funds.

(c) The Social Security Policy Briefings paper entitled "Can low income countries afford basic social security?" published by the Social Security Department of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) gives a projected 3.9 percent domestically financed expenditure of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of India to provide social security to its citizens.

(d) and (e) Recognising the need for social security, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the Central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers.

For providing smart card based cashless health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum to BPL families in the unorganised sector, the 'Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana' was launched on 1st October, 2007. The scheme became operational from 01.04.2008.

To provide death and disability cover to rural landless households between the age group of 18 to 59 years, the Government launched the "Aam Admi Bima Yojana".

Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme provides for old age pension to all citizens above the age of 65 years and living below the poverty line.

Setting up of JNVs

2092. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories for setting up of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) in their respective States/UTs during the last three years;

(b) the status of these proposals;

(c) the number of proposals approved by the Government so far; and

(d) the time by which the pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The details of the number of proposals received from the State Governments/Union Territories for setting up of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) during the last 3 years are as follows:

Year	No. of proposals received
2006-07	14
2007-08	12
2008-09	16
Total	42

(b) and (c) As against these 42 proposals, JNVs have been sanctioned in 37 districts.

(d) The sanctioning of a new Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya depends on the receipt of a viable proposal from the State/UT Government including provision of temporary accommodation to run the Vidyalayas in the first few years and to provide required land free of cost for construction of permanent building.

Review of SEZ Act

2093. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some deficiencies have been noticed in the operation of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to amend the SEZ Act, 2005; and

(d) if so, the details of the changes proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) In terms of SEZ Act, 2005, main objectives of the SEZ Scheme are:

- (i) Generation of additional economic activity.
- (ii) Promotion of exports of good and services.
- (iii) Promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources.
- (iv) Creation of employment opportunities.
- (v) Development of infrastructure facilities.

In addition to seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005, formal approval has been accorded to 578 proposals out of which 325 SEZs have been notified. An investment of Rs. 1,08,903 crore has been made and direct employment for 3,87,439 persons has been generated in SEZs. Total export of Rs. 99,689 crore has been made from SEZs during the financial year 2008-09 registering a growth of 50% over the exports for the year 2007-08. The Development Commissioners and Approval Committees of SEZs continuously monitor the operation of SEZs. Corrective steps as warranted are taken under the provisions of SEZ Act and Rules.

(c) and (d) Currently there is no proposal to amend the SEZ Act, 2005.

Redressal Mechanism

2094. SHRI C. SIVASAMI:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce telephone and mobile services in all the remote and scheduled areas in the country including Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any grievance redressal mechanism to resolve/redress the problems faced by the subscribers of rural areas in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to introduce telephone and mobile services in all the remote areas of the country including those in Tamil Nadu, Government is taking the following steps:-

- (i) Subsidy support is being provided by Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) for installation of Individual Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 1,685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the country including 24 SDCAs of Tamil Nadu, where cost of providing telephones is more than the revenue earned. As on 31.05.2009, about 64.6 lakh RDELs have been provided in the country including 2.7 lakh lines in Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) Subsidy support is also being extended by USOF for setting up of 7,440 Shareable Infrastructure Sites in the country including 325 towers in Tamil Nadu for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas, where there is no existing fixed wireless or mobile coverage. Out of these, 5,624 towers in the country including 283 towers in Tamil Nadu have already been commissioned under this scheme as on May, 2009. The remaining towers are likely to be commissioned by September, 2009. Besides, USOF is also likely to launch shortly second phase of setting up 10,128 additional towers including 101 towers in Tamil Nadu to cover the remaining uncovered rural and remote areas.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per Telecom Consumers Protection and Redressal of Grievances Regulations, 2007 (3 of 2007) of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), each telecom service provider has following three tier grievance Redressal mechanism:-

- (i) Call Centre Level.
- (ii) Nodal Authority Level.
- (iii) Appellate Authority Level.

The complainant should initially approach call centre for resolution of his grievance. The Call Centre should resolve his grievance within 3 days in case of faulty telephones. In case complainant is not satisfied with

grievance resolution at call centre level, he may approach Nodal Officer who is supposed to resolve the grievance within 10 days in case of faulty Telephones. In case complainant is not satisfied with action/reply of Nodal Officer, he may approach Appellate Authority who should decide the case within 30 days of receipt of complaint/appeal.

[Translation]

Export of Iron Ore and Fruits

2095. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to whom iron-ore and fruits were exported during the last three years alongwith the quantities and the export price thereof;

(b) whether the Government has accorded priority to the export of iron-ore despite growing domestic demand whereas adequate steps are not being taken to enhance the export of fruits and vegetables;

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

Benchmark and spot prices of iron ore export are as under:

Year	Benchmark Price				Soot Price - Range	
	Baila Lumo	Doni Lump	Baila Fines	Doni Fines	Iron Ore Fines	
2006-07	59.08	57.08	45.83	45.83	51-65	
2007-08	64.68	62.50	50.19	50.19	65-157	
2008-09	127.10	122.82	90.28	90.28	52-145	

Note. (1) Benchmark prices are finalized for the full year and as such there is no change during the year. (2) Spot prices are for 63.5/63% Fe grade iron ore fines. These price change on transaction to transaction as also for different ports during the year. (3) Spot prices for lumps are not available.

The details regarding export of fruits to various countries during the last three years are available on the websites www.commerce.gov.in, dgciskol.nic.in and www.apeda.com. The Summary of fruits exports is given below:

Qty: MTs. Val : Rs. Lakhs

Product	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09*	
	Qty	Val	Qty	Val	Qty	Val
Manaoes	79061	14194	54351	12742	78137	14915
Grapes	85563	30059	96723	3171	58228	19300
Walnuts	5063	11804	6716	16208	4273	11155
Other Fresh fruits	177638	30997	207701	30453	209747	35185
Total	347325	87054	365491	62574	350385	80555

*Data for April'08-Jan'09 only. Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCIS).

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) Country-wise export of iron ore during the last three years *i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 (provisional) is as under:

Country	(Quantity in Lakh tonnes)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (Provisional)
China	801.60	919.82	978.48
Japan	86.32	77.03	54.29
South Korea	19.08	17.63	9.86
Europe	20.69	16.18	7.55
Others	10.21	12.04	8.47
Total	937.90	1042.70	1058.65

Source. Goa mineral Ore Exporters Association (GMOEA), Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), MMTC Limited.

(b) to (d) Government has not assigned any inter-se priorities amongst various commodities for exports. Iron ore export and Fruits & Vegetable export are entirely different. In respect of Fruit and Vegetable export there are a number of incentive schemes for development of infrastructure, promotion of Agri Export Zones, opening of market access, participation in international trade fairs and financial assistance for (a) infrastructure Development for setting up sorting/grading facilities, pack houses, effluent treatment plants, water softening plants, intermediate storage sheds etc (b) Quality Development for purchase of laboratory testing equipment, implementation of quality management systems like ISO/HACCP/TNC/BRC/TOM etc (c) Market Promotion: for brand publicity through advertisement and packaging (d) Research & Development: for getting export Oriented need based research conducted (e) Transport Assistance: to subsidize freight so as to make the produce cost competitive in global market and (f) Marketing Development Assistance: for participation in international trade fairs. Accordingly the Fruits and Vegetables exports have persistently grown in the last few years—between 2007-08 and 2008-09 export of fruits has grown by 47.88% in quantity terms and 50.66% in value terms and growth in vegetable export is 64.73% and 51.85% respectively during the same period. On the other hand nearly 90% of iron ore exported is that of fines which have no domestic market. There are no schemes to encourage iron ore export; rather the rail freight on iron ore is differentially far higher than domestic freight and there is 5% ad valorem export duty on iron ore lumps.

[English]

EPF Deposit

2096. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defaulting units, establishments and employers in depositing the Provident Fund with

the authority collected from the workers and employees during each of the last three years and current year alongwith the total amount involved therein, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has taken any action to recover the such amount;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount recovered from them during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take stringent action against such defaulters apart from the steps already being taken; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) The number of defaulting establishments (un-exempted sector) as on 31st March, 2007, 2008 and 2009 was 72554, 80083 and 75582 respectively. This includes the establishments which have defaulted in remittance of employee's share of contribution. The State-wise details of defaulters and the amounts due pertaining to above said period are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Recovery of dues is effected in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. This includes attachment of bank accounts, movable/immovable properties, arrest of defaulters, etc.

(c) The details of amounts recovered during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Besides launching of prosecution under Section 14 of Act against defaulters, complaints are also filed under Section 406/409 of Indian Penal Code against those establishments which deduct employees' share but fail to remit the same to Employees' Provident Fund Organisation.

Statement I

State-wise details of number of defaulting establishments (un-exempted) and amounts due (year ending on 31st March)

State	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	No. of defaulters	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of defaulters	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of defaulters	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	11556	11929.91	12112	11531.02	11295	12120.73
Bihar	1406	5360.21	1837	5258.71	1706	5514.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chhattisgarh	727	4274.49	737	3076.12	647	2939.93
Delhi	775	2372.85	765	2906.08	927	3029.83
Goa	258	276.37	323	329.14	287	343.65
Gujarat	4370	6577.99	5435	7380.09	3972	12367.50
Haryana	1702	3930.11	2448	4455.64	2093	5710.92
Himachal Pradesh	118	259.43	132	787.13	165	844.04
Jharkhand	1165	2429.26	661	2062.85	513	2445.10
Karnataka	2143	10144.29	5641	10914.28	5535	11261.52
Kerala	3602	11938.89	3539	15538.83	3790	14730.20
Madhya Pradesh	2892	14098.11	3297	21839.96	3627	18078.05
Maharashtra	6169	30208.89	6051	44263.43	5642	46267.35
N.E. Region	715	3234.46	768	2663.35	778	2530.88
Orissa	2844	19547.60	2970	18583.17	2755	18365.04
Punjab	5413	7360.60	6294	7112.86	6678	7166.87
Rajasthan	2516	4033.41	1100	4611.28	1010	4514.63
Tamil Nadu	17766	21357.11	18878	25670.50	17568	25489.75
Uttarakhand	312	749.44	98	633.43	100	698.71
Uttar Pradesh	3274	10733.08	3914	9271.09	3992	13347.65
West Bengal	2831	12949.70	3083	12952.25	2502	11794.13
Total	72554	183766.20	80083	211841.21	75582	219561.08

Statement II*Details of amount recovered from establishments during the last three years*

State	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	5695.57	5116.16	4852.07
Bihar	1161.67	332.67	438.36
Chhattisgarh	1764.22	2148.46	2052.24
Delhi	1465.09	1835.04	664.15
Goa	432.94	597.43	579.98

1	2	3	4
Gujarat	8233.96	10668.35	4877.80
Haryana	4453.16	1577.75	3544.58
Himachal Pradesh	666.05	246.68	205.28
Jharkhand	1668.62	611.36	1176.65
Karnataka	7687.36	15721.67	10487.91
Kerala	5498.94	4858.52	6193.46
Madhya Pradesh	2460.48	7959.78	10931.29
Maharashtra	11674.46	7541.90	11121.22
N.E. Region	2508.86	1288.49	1016.41
Orissa	5980.69	3089.89	3344.82
Punjab	6654.17	1849.61	1816.88
Rajasthan	825.14	1133.51	1128.45
Tamil Nadu	9706.22	8226.66	10516.24
Uttarakhand	199.93	186.80	81.64
Uttar Pradesh	2755.48	1817.04	1800.42
West Bengal	8539.49	4451.86	3808.41
Total	90032.50	81259.63	80638.26

[*Translation*]

Rehabilitation of Physically Challenged and Old Age Persons

2097. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started a rehabilitation programme for the physically challenged persons, lepers, old age persons;

(b) if so. the details thereof: and

(c) the amount allocated by the Government for the said rehabilitation programme during the last three years and current year scheme-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Important rehabilitation

schemes/programme being implemented by the Government for the physically challenged persons, leprosy affected persons and old age persons are summed up as follows:

- (i) Under the Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aid and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme, assistance is provided to the needy disabled persons in procuring and fitment of aids and appliances to their physical, social and psychological rehabilitation.
- (ii) Under Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), funds for the welfare of persons with disability are provided to the non-governmental organizations for projects like Special Schools for Disabled, Vocational Training Centres, Half Way Homes, Community Based Rehabilitation Centres, Early Intervention Centres, Early Intervention Centres for Disabled, Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured Persons, etc.

- (iii) Under the new scheme of Incentives to the Employers in Private Sector for providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities, effective from 01 April 2008, the employer's contribution for Employee's Provident Fund (EPF) and Employee's State Insurance (ESI), for providing employment to physically challenged persons in the private sector, with a monthly salary upto Rs. 25,000/-, is provided for 3 years, by the Government.
- (iv) Under the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) (PwD) Act, 1995, funds are released for providing rehabilitation services.
- (v) National leprosy Eradication Programme is being carried out for the medical rehabilitation of leprosy affected persons.
- (vi) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation provides financial assistance in the form of concessional credit to persons with

disabilities for their education and to set up self employment ventures.

- (vii) Seven National Institutes located in various parts of the country provide rehabilitation services for persons suffering from different types of disabilities
- (viii) Under the Integrated Programme for Older Persons, the quality of life of older persons is improved by providing assistance to non-Governmental organizations for projects for basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and recreation of older persons.

(c) State-wise allocation of funds is not made under ADIP, DDRS, National Institutes, Scheme for implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, Integrated Programme for Older Persons and NHFDC schemes. A Statement indicating State-wise allocation for rehabilitation under National Leprosy Eradication Programme is at Statement-I. Scheme-wise allocation for other schemes is at Statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise allocation for Rehabilitation under National Leprosy Eradication Programme

Sl.No.	State/UT	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	21.14	10.35	35	25.00
2.	Karnataka	10.74	12.15	24.66	21.47
3.	Tamil Nadu	16.41	13.5	24	27.75
4.	Kerala	18.45	6.3	9.8	8.85
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.30	6.30	24.7	6.95
6.	Himachal Pradesh	3.19	5.4	8.4	5.50
7.	Punjab	7.5	9	12	10.50
8.	Delhi	4.92	4.05	8	7.83
9.	Haryana	7.34	9	13.3	9.50
10.	Uttarakhand	4.15	5.85	7.9	15.00
11.	Uttar Pradesh	14.43	31.5	45.6	70.00
12.	Rajasthan	17.02	14.85	21	14.60
13.	Gujarat	10.76	11.25	17.5	21.05

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Maharashtra	26.56	15.3	84.3	50.00
15.	Goa	0.55	0.45	1	1.85
16.	Madhya Pradesh	12.22	21.6	33.6	35.40
17.	Chhattisgarh	9.59	8.9	22	19.15
18.	Bihar	13.71	17.1	30	36.15
19.	Jharkhand	17.64	9.9	6.07	23.08
20.	Orissa	15.77	13.5	29.68	42.75
21.	West Bengal	20.71	8.55	18	38.10
22.	Assam	6.15	10.35	12.15	16.40
23.	Meghalaya	1.11	3.15	3.8	3.50
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.72	7.2	8	7.70
25.	Manipur	0.46	3.6	2.61	4.00
26.	Nagaland	1.57	3.6	4	5.18
27.	Mizoram	0.6	3.45	5	4.32
28.	Tripura	10.01	1.71	2.5	2.20
29.	Sikkim	0.91	1.8	2	2.20
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0.38	1.35	1.9	1.30
31.	Lakshadweep	0.02	0.45	1	0.50
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.34	0.45	1	0.50
33.	Daman and Diu	0.05	0.9	1.5	0.50
34.	Puducherry	0.36	1.8	2.3	1.30
35.	Chandigarh	0.15	0.45	1	1.45
Total		272.2	275.06	525.12	541.03

Statement II

Scheme-wise allocation of funds during last three years and current year for important rehabilitation oriented schemes for the physically challenged persons, leprosy affected persons and old age persons

Scheme/Programme	Year-wise allocation of fund (Rs. in Crore)			
	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10
1	2	3	4	5
ADIP	71.20	70.00	79.00	79.00
DDRS	90.00	77.00	70.00	76.00

1	2	3	4	5
Medical Rehabilitation of Leprosy Affected Persons	2.72	2.75	5.25	5.41
Integrated programme for Older Persons	28.00	22.00	22.00	22.00
National Institutes	43.50	47.28	47.00	49.00
National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation	5.50	10.00	18.00	9.00
Scheme for Implementation of PwD Act	16.00	18.00	20.00	20.00
Incentives to the Employers in Private Sector for providing Employment to Persons with Disabilities	-	-	15.00	15.00
Total	256.92	247.03	276.25	275.41

Improvement in Primary Education

2098. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve the primary education in the country in 100 days; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As part of the programme to be implemented by the Government during the first 100 days, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2008 as envisaged under Article 21-A of the Constitution is proposed to be enacted. The Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 15th December, 2008. The enactment of this Act would lead to significant reform in the elementary education system and would ensure universalization of elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality.

Export Oriented Units

2099. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the norms adopted by the Government for setting up of Export Oriented Units (EOUs);

(b) whether the Government is planning to extend tax exemption on hundred per cent EOUs for another three years as demanded by the industry.;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken by the government to protect the interests of hundred per cent EOUs in the wake of ongoing slowdown in western markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) As per the provisions of Para 6.6(d) of the Foreign Trade Policy only projects having a minimum investment of Rs. 1 crore in plant and machinery can be set up under Export Oriented Unit (EOU) scheme. This condition does not apply to proposals for Handicrafts, Agriculture, Floriculture, Aquaculture, animal Husbandry, Information Technology, Services, Brass Hardware and Handmade jewellery sectors. The Board of Approval (BOA) can also allow establishment of EOUs with a lower investment criteria on a case to case basis. Proposals for setting up units for manufacturing of goods and services and undertaking to export their entire production [except permissible sale in Domestic Tariff Area (DTA)] are considered by Development Commissioner/Board of Approval taking into account certain requirements viz., residence proof in respect of

individual/partnership firms of all Directors/Partners, Income Tax return of all the promoters for the last three years, Experience of the promoters, Inspection of the project site by an Officer etc.

(b) to (d) In the Union Budget 2009-2010, income tax exemption to EOUs, under Section 10B of the Income Tax Act, has been extended for one year (till 31.3.2011).

(e) Sunset clause under Section 10B of the Income Tax Act, has been extended by one year, interest subvention on pre and post shipment rupee export credit extended up to 31.3.2010, procedure for refund of service tax on the export of goods simplified and exemption from service tax granted to identified services.

[English]

Academic Reform/Semester System in Universities

2100. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:
SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:
DR. K.S. RAO:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has recently proposed any academic reforms in the Higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce semester system in University education and allow students to make their own choices regarding the specialised courses and the institutions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission has proposed academic reforms including introduction of semester system along with choice based credit system, reforms in examination and assessment procedures, admission process and curriculum development in Universities. However, universities have academic autonomy to consider the suggestion for implementation according to their requirements. The Central Universities Act, 2009 [25 of

2009] establishing new Central Universities provides for academic reforms, including semester system and choice based credit system in section 6 thereof. The Government have accorded a high priority to extending academic reforms to other Central Universities also.

Interview for Pre-School Admission

2101. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:
SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA:

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

(a) whether most of the pre-schools conduct a series of entrance exams for the kids before admitting them in their institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether there is any law to ban interview of children seeking admission in schools; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) Education is a concurrent subject and school education is primarily within the purview of the State Governments. The information about entrance examination for admission in pre-primary schools of States/UTs is not centrally monitored. It is for the concerned State Governments to regulate the matter.

Setting up of IIIT and IIITA

2102. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended setting up of new Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIT) and Indian Institute of Information Technology Academy (IIITA) in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of places selected for the purpose location-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the contributions of the State Government and the Union Government in the expenditure to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Planning Commission has given 'in principle' approval to the broad outlines of the proposal of this Ministry to set up new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. The cost of new IIITs will be shared by the Central Government, State Governments and Private partners. The location for the new IIITs are yet to be decided.

SEZs in Kerala

2103. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) operational in the State of Kerala alongwith the proposals, if any, for setting up more SEZs in the State;

(b) the details of approved and pending applications for setting up SEZs in Kerala alongwith the reasons for pendency;

(c) whether the Government has received any request from the Government of Kerala for change in norms of SEZs policy due to shortage of vacant land in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A total of 24 proposals have been accorded formal approval under the SEZ Act, 2005 in the State of Kerala, out of which 11 have been notified. The list of notified SEZs is available in the website: www.sezindia.nic.in. A total of 15 proposals for setting up of SEZs in Kerala are pending for consideration of Board of Approval due to non-receipt of requisite clarification/documents/State Government recommendations.

(c) and (d) The requirements of minimum area of land for a class or classes of SEZ has been prescribed in the SEZ Rules. Special dispensation has been provided for the Union Territories and State of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Sikkim,

Jammu and Kashmir and Goa. The Government of Kerala requested that the restrictions of acquired land may not apply when the SEZ is proposed to be directly developed by a Government or Government agency. This has not been agreed to.

Delivery Schedule of Defence PSUs

2104. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the items produced by each of Defence Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of these undertakings;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these undertakings are maintaining delivery schedule;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the efficiency of these undertakings on corporate lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) The major production areas of each of the Defence PSUs are as under:-

(i) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	Aircraft and Avionics
(ii) Bharat Electronics Ltd.	Communication and Electronics
(iii) BEML Ltd.	Mining equipment, Defence vehicles, Rail and Metro coaches
(iv) Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	Missiles
(v) Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.	Alloys and special Metals
(vi) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd.	Warship Building
(vii) Mazagon Dock Ltd.	Warship Building
(viii) Goa Shipyard Ltd.	Warship Building

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

The performance is being reviewed regularly by the Raksha Mantri, Apex Steering Committees, the Board of Directors in addition to the mechanism of signing MOUs between the Defence Public Sector Undertakings and the Government on a yearly basis.

(d) and (e) While these undertakings make efforts to maintain delivery schedules, in certain cases delays do take place on account of reasons like design changes, necessary mid-course correction due to long gestation period, timely non-availability of some high-tech components and the stringent all weather trials/inspections by the users.

(f) In order to increase the efficiency of DPSUs on corporate lines, they have been delegated powers in accordance with the Navaratna and Mini Ratna status accorded to them as under:

(i) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	Navaratna Companies
(ii) Bharat Electronics Ltd.	
(iii) BEML Ltd.	
(iv) Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	
(v) Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.	
(vi) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd.	Mini Ratna Companies
(vii) Mazagon Dock Ltd.	
(viii) Goa Shipyard Ltd.	

In addition to the above, modernization/upgradation plans have also been envisaged by these companies to meet the demand of our defence forces.

[Translation]

Right to Education at Secondary Level

2105. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make right to education at secondary level compulsory in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal at present. However, a new centrally sponsored scheme Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) for universalisation of access to secondary education and improvement of its quality was launched in March, 2009. The scheme envisages enhancing enrollment at secondary stage by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, and removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers. Rs. 20,120 crore has been earmarked for the scheme during the 11th Five Year Plan, and Rs. 1353.98 crore has been provided in the budget for 2009-10.

Impact of MNCs on Unemployment

2106. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has been conducted by the Government regarding the impact of Multinational companies (MNCs) on unemployment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) No study/survey at all India level has been conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment to assess the impact of entry of Multi-National companies (MNCs) on unemployment problem.

[English]

Job Loss in Export Units

2107. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has warned about the job losses in export units in the country;

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

(c) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) India Programme has undertaken a study on 'Impact of Global Slowdown on India's Exports and Employment'. The study has not yet been completed by UNCTAD India Programme.

(c) Government is closely monitoring the situation arising out of decline in India's exports and its impact on employment. The stimulus measures announced by the Government to revive demand are given in Statement enclosed.

Statement

Steps Taken by Government/RBI to Address the Concerns Arising out of Present Global Economic Slow Down

(A) Measures taken by the Government:

- (1) Interest subvention of 2% provided, till 30.9.2009, to the following labour intensive sectors for exports:-
Textiles (including Handlooms), Handicrafts, Leather, Gems & Jewellery, Marine Products and SMEs;
- (2) Additional funds of Rs. 350 crore provided (in December 2008) for Handicraft items etc. in Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY);
- (3) Market Linked Focus Product Scheme extended for bicycle parts, Motor Cars and Motor Cycles, Apparels and Clothing accessories, Auto Components etc. for exports from 1.4.09 to 30.09.09;
- (4) Rs. 1100 crore provided to ensure full refund of pending claims of CST/Terminal Excise duty/Duty drawback on deemed exports;
- (5) Exporter friendly and the popular Duty Neutralisation Scheme i.e., Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) Scheme extended upto 31st December, 2009;
- (6) DEPB rates for all items where they were reduced in November, 2008, restored to higher rates from retrospective effect;
- (7) Duty Drawback rates on certain items restored to higher rates effective from 1st September, 2008;

- (8) DEPB and Freely Transferable Incentive Schemes allowed without the initial requirement of Bank Realisation Certificate (BRC);
- (9) Export Obligation Period under Advance authorization Scheme enhanced from 24 months to 36 months without payment of composition fee;
- (10) Back-up guarantee made available to ECGC to the extent of Rs. 350 crore to enable it to provide guarantees for exports to difficult markets/products. ECGC is now been able to widen its coverage;
- (11) Additional funds of Rs. 1400 crore provided to the Ministry of Textiles to clear the backlog claims of textile units under Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF);
- (12) Export duty on iron ore fines eliminated, and for lumps, reduced to 5%;
- (13) Some pending issues relating to Service Tax refund on exports-resolved. However many issues remain un-resolved;
- (14) For Fast Track Resolution of a number of procedural issues thereby reducing delays for the exporters, a Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Finance Secretary including Secretaries of Department of Revenue and Commerce; A number of issues sorted out accordingly;
- (15) Excise duty reduced across the board by 4 per cent, for all products except petroleum products and those products where current rate was less than 4%. Excise Duty was further reduced by another 2% in certain products like Leather etc.;
- (16) The guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and Small Enterprises on loans doubled to Rs. 1 crore, with a guarantee cover of 50%. The guarantee cover extended by Credit Guarantee Fund Trust increased to 85% for credit facility upto Rs. 5 lakh. The lock-in period for such collateral-free loans reduced;
- (17) To protect the domestic manufacturing industry from dumped/cheap imports, in particular, from China, import restrictions have been imposed on HR coil, Carbon Black, Polyester Filament Yarn (PFY) and Radial Tyres (Bus & Trucks);

- (18) Import duty on naphtha for power sector eliminated;
- (19) CVD on TMT bars and structurals and on cement removed;
- (20) Exemption from basic customs duty on Zinc and Ferro Alloys withdrawn;
- (21) Regular monitoring mechanism:

(a) The situation is being regularly monitored at the highest level of Government, so that immediate further corrective measures, can be taken as may be required. In this regard, the Government has constituted the following two High Level Committees which have been deliberating the issue on regular basis:

(i) An Apex Group chaired by Prime Minister with Finance Minister, Commerce Minister, Deputy Chairman (Planning Commission), RBI Governor;

(ii) Committee of officers chaired by Cabinet Secretary, including Finance Secretary, Commerce Secretary, Secretary (DIPP), Secretary (Planning Commission)—to meet regularly to look into the suggestions made by Trade and Industry and the respective Administrative Ministries in respect of the current global economic and financial crisis and to recommend action to the Apex Group.

(b) Department of MSME and Department of Financial Services to jointly monitor on the progress of the meetings of Monthly meeting of State level Bankers' Committee for resolution of credit issues of MSME.

(B) Measures taken by RBI:

- (a) Increase in Liquidity to the banks for improving credit flow, by:
- (i) Reducing CRR, SLR, Repo Rate and Reverse Repo Rate (from Oct. '08, CRR reduced from 9% to 5%, SLR reduced from 25% to 24%, Repo Rate reduced from 7.5% to 4.75%, and Reverse Repo Rate reduced from 6% to 3.25%);
- (ii) Refinance facility to the EXIM Bank for an amount of Rs. 5000 crores for providing pre-shipment and post-shipment credit in Rs. or dollars;

(iii) A special re-finance facility has been put in place for banks for the purpose of extending finance to exports, micro and small enterprises, mutual funds and NBFCs. Provisioning requirements have been lowered. Export Credit Refinance facility for commercial banks increased to 50% of the outstanding Rupee Export Credit.

(b) Increase in FOREX Liquidity:

(i) RBI's assurance for continued selling of foreign exchange (US \$) through banks, to augment supply in the domestic foreign exchange market;

(ii) To enable banks to profitably lend to exporters in Foreign Exchange, Ceiling rates on export credit in foreign currency has been raised to LIBOR + 350 basis points, subject to the condition that the banks will not levy any other charges, i.e., service charge, management charge, etc. except for recovery towards out of pocket expenses incurred.

(c) Easing of Credit Terms:

(i) The period of pre-shipment and post-shipment Rupee Export Credit enhanced by 90 days each;

(ii) Time period of export realization for non-status holder exporters increased to 12 months, at par with the Status holders. This facility which was available upto 03.06.09, has been extended for one more year;

(iii) PSU Banks, consequent to measures announced by RBI, reduced the margin money on Guarantees for export units.

(C) Recent Steps Announced in Budget 2009-10:

(1) MDA Scheme-allocation increased to Rs. 124 crores (increased by 148%);

(2) Interest subvention of 2% on pre-shipment credit for 7 specified sectors extended beyond 30.9.09 till 31st March, 2010;

(3) An adjustment assistance scheme initiated in December, 2008 to provide enhanced ECGC cover at 95% to the badly hit sectors continued till March, 2010;

(4) Mega Handloom clusters in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu and Powerloom cluster in Rajasthan and New Mega clusters for carpets in Srinagar and Mirzapur approved;

- (5) Fringe Benefit Tax (FBT) abolished;
- (6) Sections 10A and 10B related to Sunset clauses for STPI and EOUs schemes respectively extended for the financial year 2010-11. Annually removed in Section 10AA related to taxation benefit of 'unit *vis-a-vis* assessee';
- (7) Additional items allowed within the existing duty free imports entitlement for the following employment oriented sectors:
- (i) 5 additional items for sports goods sector;
 - (ii) Additional items for leather garments and footwear and textile items;
- (8) Basic customs duty of 5% on Rough/ Unworked corals abolished;
- (9) Service Tax—Following changes have been made:
- (i) Exemption from Service Tax on services linked to exports:
 - (a) On service related to transport of export goods by road from any CFS or ICD to the port or Airport and on service related to transport of export goods by road directly from their place of removal, to an ICD, a CFS, a port or airport;
 - (b) Services provided by Foreign Agent Commission service. - (ii) Procedure for refund of service tax simplified by allowing refund on self certification in case refund claim does not exceed 0.25% of FOB value of exports; and certification by Chartered Accountant in case of others.
 - (iii) Time period for filing refund claim increased to 1 year from the date of export (as against half-yearly).

[Translation]

Armed Forces Tribunal

2108. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has established the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) for the redressal of grievances of armed forces personnel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition of the AFT and the time by which it is likely to be functional;

(d) the number of cases of armed forces personnel pending in various courts;

(e) whether all the cases pending in different courts will be transferred to AFT;

(f) the extent to which the disposal of cases/pending cases will be speeded up;

(g) whether the Government proposes to set up AFT in all the States of the country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof alongwith the locations where the tribunal is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (h) The Government have decided to establish an Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) for the adjudication or trial of disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointments, enrolment and conditions of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act, 1950, the Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950 and also to provide for appeals arising out of orders, findings or sentences of Courts Martial held under the said Acts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Tribunal shall have both the original and appellate jurisdiction in regard to the service matters. The Tribunal shall also have appellate jurisdiction on verdicts of Courts Martial.

The Chairperson of the Tribunal is a former Judge of the Supreme Court. In addition, it will have 15 Administrative Members and 14 Judicial Members in the Principal Bench and the Regional Benches. The Tribunal shall commence functioning from the date of issuance of the notification by the Government.

A total number of approximately 10249 cases filed by the Armed Forces personnel are pending in various courts in the country.

Every suit or other proceedings pending before any court including High Court or other authority on a subject matter over which the Tribunal has jurisdiction in terms

of the provisions of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, would be transferred to the Tribunal. It is expected that the setting up of the Tribunal will result in speedy dispensation of justice to the Defence Services personnel. There is no proposal to set up AFT Bench in all the States of the country.

[English]

Indian Institutes of Technology

2109. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian Institutes of Technology functioning in the country, location and State-wise; and

(b) the total seats in these Institutions at present, IIT-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) State-wise locations of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the number of under-graduate seats available on the basis of the result of IIT-JEE: 2009 are shown below:-

Sl.No.	Indian Institutes of Technology	No. of seats available
1.	IIT - Bombay Maharashtra	746
2.	IIT - Delhi Delhi	721
3.	IIT - Madras Tamil Nadu	713
4.	IIT - Kanpur Uttar Pradesh	702
5.	IIT - Kharagpur West Bengal	1138
6.	IIT - Guwahati Assam	498
7.	IIT - Roorkee Uttarakhand	1013
8.	IIT - Hyderabad Andhra Pradesh	120
9.	IIT - Bhubaneswar Orissa	120
10.	IIT - Gandhinagar Gujarat	120
11.	IIT - Rajasthan Rajasthan	120
12.	IIT - Ropar Punjab	120
13.	IIT - Patna Bihar	120
14.	IIT - Indore Madhya Pradesh	120
15.	IIT - Mandi Himachal Pradesh	120

Basic Facilities in Schools

2110. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the District Information System of Education about availability of basic facilities in elementary schools in States during the past two years;

(b) whether most of the Government elementary schools in States in the country do not have toilets, drinking water facilities; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to address these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the findings of the District Information System of Education (DISE) about the availability of basic facility in elementary schools during the last two years, the position of coverage of toilets and drinking water facilities is as follows:

Year	Common Toilets	Girls Toilet	Drinking Water
2006-07	58.13%	42.58%	84.89%
2007-08	62.67%	50.55%	86.75%

(c) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), several activities have been undertaken to improve infrastructure gaps which includes, *inter alia*, construction of school buildings, additional classrooms, toilets and drinking water facilities etc. The needs of basic facilities like toilets and drinking waters at elementary schools is also met in convergence with other Schemes like Total Sanitation Campaign and PHED.

Working Hours Norms for Workers

2111. SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of workers/labourers are made to work more than the prescribed time-limit as per the labour laws;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring any bill in this regard to discourage and penalise such practice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) and (b) No such data is maintained Centrally. However, suitable provisions exist under the Factories Act, 1948 and the Mines Act, 1952 prescribing the working hours for a worker. There are penalty provisions under both the Acts for any violation in this regard.

(c) and (d) Adequate penalty provisions already exist in the Factories Act, 1948 and the Mines Act, 1952 for such violations.

[*Translation*]

Unemployed Women

2112. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated, uneducated, skilled, unskilled, self-employed and unemployed women at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the employment opportunities for women have increased during each of the last three years and the current year;

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

(d) the funds allocated, released and utilized for the purpose during the said period, State-wise and year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) State wise number of educated, uneducated and total number of women job seekers, all of whom may not necessarily been unemployed, as on 31.12.2006 is given in the enclosed Statement-I. Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial Labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation and last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per the latest survey, self employed women as on usual status basis was estimated at 90.5 million during 2004-05. State-wise estimated number of self employed women for major states as per usual status basis is given in the enclosed Statement-II. In the latest survey of National Sample Survey Organisation conducted during 2004-05, information was collected about the skill profile of the

youth only (15-29 years) as to whether they had or were undergoing any formal training and number of women in the age-group of 15-29 who received/were receiving formal and non-formal vocational training combined together was estimated at 12.6 million in the country during 2004-05.

(b) and (c) Number of women Job seekers provided employment through employment exchanges during the years 2006, 2007 and 2008 was 31.3, 46.5 and 51.9 thousand, respectively, showing an increasing trend.

(d) One of the monitorable targets for the Eleventh Plan is to ensure that at least 33 Percent of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of all Government Scheme's are women and girl children. Some of the Important schemes for Employment Generation being Implemented in the country are Prime Minister's Impeachment Generation Programme (PMEGP); Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY); Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and Support to Training and Employment Programme for women (STEP). State-wise total funds released including for women and expenditure incurred during the last three financial years for NREGS and Margin money disbursed to women under Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) (subsumed into PMEGP during 2008-09), SJSRY and SGSY is given in the enclosed Statement-III, IV, V, and VI.

Statement I

State-wise number of educated, uneducated and total women job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchange in the country as on 31st December 2006

(in thousand)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Women job-seeker		
		Educated	Uneducated	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	499.2	123.2	622.4
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.8	4.5	9.3
3.	Assam	273.7	149.4	423.1
4.	Bihar	189.3	21.0	210.3
5.	Chhattisgarh	186.9	21.9	208.8

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Delhi	154.0	28.9	182.9
7.	Goa	31.7	1.3	33
8.	Gujarat	166.2	8.2	174.4
9.	Haryana	175.9	46.4	222.2
10.	Himachal Pradesh	229.6	30.6	260.2
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	16.0	0.5	16.5
12.	Jharkhand	103.8	28.1	131.9
13.	Karnataka	184.5	95.6	280.1
14.	Kerala	1832.0	359.5	2191.5
15.	Madhy Pradesh	325.4	57.2	382.6
16.	Maharashtra	613.2	158.9	772.1
17.	Manipur	135.2	24.9	160.1
18.	Meghalaya	9.8	3.1	12.9
19.	Mizoram	12.1	4.7	16.8
20.	Nagaland	9.7	1.9	11.6
21.	Orissa	191.2	21.7	212.9
22.	Punjab	128.5	5.2	133.7
23.	Rajasthan	88.3	18.1	106.4
24.	Sikkim*			
25.	Tamil Nadu	1266.1	582.5	1848.6
26.	Tripura	73.1	84.0	157.1
27.	Uttarakhand	88.2	1.0	89.2
28.	Uttar Pradesh	677.9	18.7	696.6
29.	West Bengal	1133.0	966.4	2099.4
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	8.6	4.4	13
31.	Chandigarh	7.2	5.6	12.8
32.	Dadra and Nagar Hevali	1.5	0.4	1.9
33.	Daman and Diu	1.1	1.8	2.9
34.	Lakshadweep	3.0	0.5	3.5
35.	Puducherry	80.1	0.3	80.4
	All India	8901.2	2879.9	11781.1

*No Employment Exchanges is functioning in this State.
Total may not tally due to rounding off.

Statement II

*State-wise estimated number of self employed women
on usual status basis during 2004-05*

(in million)

Sl.No.	Major States	Self employed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.73
2.	Assam	1.79
3.	Bihar	2.88
4.	Chhattisgarh	2.31
5.	Gujarat	4.72
6.	Haryana	2.22
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1.36
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1.07
9.	Jharkhand	2.87
10.	Karnataka	4.74
11.	Kerala	2.08
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5.55
13.	Maharashtra	8.37
14.	Orissa	3.37
15.	Punjab	2.46
16.	Rajasthan	8.83
17.	Tamil Nadu	5.19
18.	Uttar Pradesh	15.21
19.	Uttarakhand	1.38
20.	West Bengal	4.11
21.	Delhi	0.13
	States Total	88.37
	All India	90.95

Statement III*Financial and Physical Performance of NREGS from 2006-07 to 2009-10(May09)*

(in crore)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		Central Release	Expenditure	Central Release	Expenditure	Central Release	Expenditure	Central Release	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1025.41	680.20	1371.05	2083.75	3219.10	2963.90	914.38	609.28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	14.51	2.21	12.65	3.04	29.49	23.55	0.00	0.11
3.	Assam	265.51	592.53	521.75	549.15	958.72	953.80	132.59	234.48
4.	Bihar	548.31	712.76	467.08	1052.23	1388.19	1316.48	178.14	245.21
5.	Chhattisgarh	718.51	668.82	1144.16	1401.83	1664.49	1434.48	204.18	179.63
6.	Gujarat	74.34	85.85	59.16	81.84	164.19	196.15	134.66	44.07
7.	Haryana	35.89	35.95	48.41	52.35	136.57	109.88	13.13	5.67
8.	Himachal Pradesh	46.68	39.40	127.54	125.65	409.75	332.28	65.38	45.22
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	41.36	34.54	70.71	42.00	104.73	87.72	38.66	4.82
10.	Jharkhand	558.55	711.55	650.69	1062.54	1805.80	1341.72	214.41	130.85
11.	Karnataka	248.51	248.30	252.98	236.51	398.51	357.87	115.74	40.32
12.	Kerala	37.40	27.90	69.01	83.37	198.87	224.55	137.34	21.10
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1909.44	1862.69	2602.80	2891.73	4061.12	3551.67	1001.94	749.55
14.	Maharashtra	218.16	174.61	29.24	189.07	187.56	356.65	76.93	91.10
15.	Manipur	16.93	20.26	61.84	62.76	365.41	320.90	59.25	11.70
16.	Meghalaya	32.25	21.12	59.19	50.91	78.03	89.49	31.33	8.23
17.	Mizoram	20.24	16.43	33.43	42.01	1.51.94	164.56	68.59	3.52
18.	Nagaland	9.10	14.58	44.00	23.98	268.06	272.31	84.21	18.15
19.	Orissa	783.80	733.47	536.96	579.57	878.44	599.34	82.74	18.35
20.	Punjab	34.46	25.00	29.72	30.04	67.75	72.05	12.37	5.39
21.	Rajasthan	780.41	693.06	1056.00	1477.34	6521.57	6164.40	2080.54	1196.80
22.	Sikkim	6.92	2.62	6.30	11.86	40.97	41.49	18.62	6.35
23.	Tamil Nadu	184.09	151.64	516.09	516.42	1401.27	1004.06	177.00	263.24
24.	Tripura	27.55	45.08	170.16	208.60	460.37	490.77	144.11	17.32
25.	Uttar Pradesh	569.15	779.67	1665.90	1898.25	3933.90	3582.82	1260.82	388.74

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
26.	Uttarakhand	44.71	48.50	110.04	95.75	101.16	135.79	64.77	15.63
27.	West Bengal	388.69	394.63	882.63	1004.35	922.75	940.38	373.60	216.02
28.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0.00	0.00	1.35	0.00	7.03	3.28	0.00	0.64
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.45	0.01	0.00	0.52
30.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Goa	0.00	0.00	1.14	0.00	6.18	2.39	0.00	0.10
32.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	2.62	1.79	0.00	0.34
33.	Puducherry	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	4.19	1.36	0.00	0.00
34.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.45	0.00	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		8640.86	8823.36	12604.68	15856.89	29939.60	27137.88	7685.43	4572.48

Statement IV

State/Union Territory (UT)-wise details of margin money provided under REGP during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08

Sl.No.	State/UTS	Margin money disbursed to women entrepreneurs (Rs. Lakh)		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chandigarh	1.05	0	2.70
2.	Delhi	7.36	9.31	5.24
3.	Haryana	516.13	202.74	889.27
4.	Himachal Pradesh	293.34	432.0	623.23
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	241.73	183.26	368.30
6.	Punjab	242.79	533.6	1074.65
7.	Rajasthan	796.59	700.97	1123.44
8.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	50.62	0.0	10.45
9.	Bihar	155.57	194.03	294.75
10.	Jharkhand	104.16	34.25	77.76
11.	Orissa	240.1	316.66	444.27
12.	West Bengal	546.02	634.53	1846.63
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	43.33	149.88
14.	Assam	288.71	515.20	441.48

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Manipur	9.52	38.40	18.12
16.	Meghalaya	76.85	84.18	193.97
17.	Mizoram	185.53	313.08	621.51
18.	Nagaland	83	97.67	202.17
19.	Tripura	49.18	39.21	110.48
20.	Sikkim	38.55	45.44	65.69
21.	Andhra Pradesh	1963.35	2049.51	3212.18
22.	Karnataka	492.32	727.28	901.54
23.	Kerala	464.98	472.6	415.46
24.	Lakshadweep	4.75	0.0	1.58
25.	Puducherry	5.3	13.34	44.27
26.	Tamil Nadu	371.63	451.01	1104.71
27.	Goa	30.06	31.22	33.82
28.	Gujarat	272.48	288.33	278.19
29.	Maharashtra	462.01	510.49	817.48
30.	Chhattisgarh	393.99	333.58	516.93
31.	Madhya Pradesh	323.15	529.08	820.47
32.	Uttarakhand	92.13	135.57	231.96
33.	Uttar Pradesh	682.54	797.73	1363.90
Total		9485.49	10757.60	18306.48

Note: Rural Employment Generation Programme and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna have been subsumed in Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme with effect from 01-04-2008

Statement V

Statement showing statewise central share Allocated/Released and Expenditure during 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY)

(in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09			2009-10
		Tentative Allocation*	Funds Released	Expenditure Reported	Tentative Allocation*	Funds Released	Expenditure Reported	Tentative Allocation*	Funds Released	Expenditure Reported	Tentative Allocation*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1938.99	2295.94	2295.94	2058.41	2058.41	2058.42	3115.78	4327.22	1773.79	3390.53
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	93.36	46.68	73.14	148.64	14864	0	222.53	0	0	207.85

1	2	3		4		5					
3.	Assam	1234.44	368.27	94.78	1974.81	1974.81	1957.81	2956.48	2947.9	385.27	2956.05
4.	Bihar	1173.65	586.83	23.5	1225.54	1225.54	586.83	1855.09	1980.98	0	1790.24
5.	Chhattisgarh	698.46	698.46	305.34	741.48	741.48	492.38	1122.37	637.36	413.84	1075.14
6.	Goa	18.79	0	4	73.29	0	1.12	110.94	0	0	90.56
7.	Gujarat	894.65	894.65	908.74	958.18	958.18	975.69	1450.38	1548.8	156.53	1501.44
8.	Haryana	171.67	571.67	683.8	361.47	553.03	800.2	547.14	1334.27	321.98	585.34
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9.24	9.24	32.74	7.7	7.69	20.09	11.64	12.43	12.62	12.15
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	15.61	849.38	9.06	105.86	105.86	88.69	160.24	0	17.17	120.93
11.	Jharkhand	391.11	0	0	480.9	480.9	0	727.93	0	0	728.91
12.	Karnataka	1416.98	1416.98	945.41	2410.37	2410.37	2102.72	3648.54	4896.14	2319.3	3524.71
13.	Kerala	639.22	639.22	639.22	629.74	629.74	263.17	953.22	1017.91	0	948.13
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1888.35	2388.35	1848.27	3120.18	3120.18	3050.94	4722.97	5043.48	2847.07	4087.96
15.	Maharashtra	3276.34	3776.34	2851.33	5944.5	5944.5	6885.97	8998.1	9608.72	7439.96	8075.96
16.	Manipur	342.32	0	106.1	297.28	297.28	116.97	445.06	445.71	65.11	461.88
17.	Meghalaya	176.35	97.65	71.18	254.81	254.81	4.72	381.48	190.74	0	369.51
18.	Mizoram	233.4	533.4	233.4	233.58	233.58	116.79	349.7	350.2	174.85	369.51
19.	Nagaland	145.23	145.23	145.23	191.11	191.11	191.11	286.11	286.53	143.06	277.13
20.	Orissa	808.97	808.97	460.97	1099.33	1099.33	730.39	1664.03	1776.95	931.06	1476.59
21.	Punjab	136.63	135.71	54.9	159.24	159.24	23.25	241.04	120.52	39.53	358.93
22.	Rajasthan	852.93	852.93	568.21	1832.21	1832.21	563.62	2773.39	1574.91	455.94	2623.52
23.	Sikkim	20.75	10.38	23.03	42.47	115.77	52.85	63.58	63.67	0	46.19
24.	Tamil Nadu	1591.51	1891.51	1891.51	2650.59	2650.59	1938.27	4012.17	4284.44	0	3817.38
25.	Tripura	254.15	127.08	131.8	297.28	297.28	264.38	445.06	248.84	0	461.88
26.	Uttrakhand	187.91	93.96	232.38	350.61	350.61	51.01	530.71	566.72	0	488.7
27.	Uttar Pradesh	3566.49	4566.49	5045.32	4545.23	4545.23	3649.91	6880.05	8846.94	3881.97	6462.43
28.	West Bengal	1063.13	1063.13	807.59	1205.19	1205.19	894.1	1824.27	1948.07	1477.54	1940.44
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	55.79	0	19.75	43.55	0	20.03	43.55	0	5.25	37.5
30.	Chandigarh	104.61	0	98.31	58.06	0	64.47	58.06	0	6.82	78.52
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6.97	0	15.2	25.81	0	9.47	25.81	0	0	17.58
32.	Daman and Diu	11.62	0	0	22.58	0	0	22.58	0	0	16.41
33.	Delhi	165.37	0	30.98	92.2	0	56.81	92.2	0	1.25	93.34
34.	Puducherry	25.63	0	126.41	7.8	100	89.14	7.8	7.8	0	6.66
Total		23610.62	24868.45	20777.54	33650	33691.56	28121.32	50750	54067.25	22869.91	48500

*Tentative allocation made in proportion to urban to urban poverty incidence in the States/UTs.

Statement VI*Financial progress under SGSY during 06-07 to 09-10 upto May'09*

Sl.No.	State/UT	2006-07			2007-08			2008-09			2009-10		
		Allocation	Release	Utilization of Funds	Allocation	Release	Utilization of Funds	Allocation	Release	Utilization of Funds	Allocation	Release	Utilization of Funds
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7847.60	8453.19	9010.51	11973.59	12034.53	12376.54	14155.17	12732.45	12387.32	14516.00	4380.78	481.42
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	376.60	220.00	215.00	664.59	336.82	198.90	812.27	402.44	178.98	757.33	98.84	11.86
3.	Assam	9785.43	8716.08	9156.20	17268.43	16155.80	15080.79	21105.85	21421.05	18765.16	19666.67	6102.22	1173.96
4.	Bihar	18664.40	152136.93	15523.33	28484.23	14283.84	15114.73	33674.05	27154.31	20168.92	34532.00	7746.52	3892.16
5.	Chhattisgarh	4146.15	4127.78	4677.29	6325.60	6252.53	6529.53	7478.12	7279.19	6919.11	7669.33	2300.80	394.16
6.	Goa	66.67	58.33	61.50	100.00	80.78	65.99	166.67	112.26	79.43	200.00	48.85	8.74
7.	Gujarat	2955.60	2939.97	2846.60	4507.08	4458.95	4351.63	5328.27	5275.25	5179.56	5464.00	1751.22	194.18
8.	Haryana	1739.89	1739.90	1857.92	2651.60	2573.77	2685.00	3134.72	3043.32	2997.98	3214.67	1021.95	143.95
9.	Himachal Pradesh	731.64	625.17	630.01	1116.68	985.82	854.83	1320.15	1292.66	1325.12	1353.33	424.12	36.73
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	905.51	909.82	864.95	1382.05	1070.58	933.71	1633.87	1398.78	879.40	1676.00	302.16	11.55
11.	Jharkhand	7037.36	6021.33	6037.02	10739.89	9912.28	8138.72	12696.71	11984.14	9974.35	13021.33	3906.40	408.13
12.	Karnataka	5926.68	5486.64	5723.25	9041.76	8878.10	9879.54	10689.17	10369.48	10414.87	10961.33	3819.19	239.19
13.	Kerala	2660.72	2649.95	2717.76	4057.01	3980.49	3932.09	4796.20	4762.15	4721.34	4918.67	1534.03	245.77
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8885.40	8750.47	9316.78	13556.08	12998.44	13182.35	16026.00	1596.14	16858.66	16433.33	5419.08	735.90
15.	Maharashtra	11713.11	11655.34	12608.68	17873.35	17271.04	18237.64	21131.20	20620.91	21571.10	21668.00	6667.55	1332.13
16.	Manipur	656.01	307.35	218.57	1157.65	208.32	217.54	1414.92	379.07	264.16	1318.67	0.00	12.26
17.	Meghalaya	734.97	360.00	366.38	1297.01	548.52	531.38	1585.23	306.76	245.65	1477.33	97.19	45.94
18.	Mizoram	170.08	155.25	139.56	300.13	293.31	256.97	366.83	338.95	352.29	341.33	102.40	21.02
19.	Nagaland	504.16	314.97	272.37	889.68	431.78	148.42	1087.39	646.88	298.29	1013.33	304.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	8972.97	8984.68	8611.11	13695.32	13002.89	11694.96	16189.28	16478.21	14818.29	16604.00	4981.19	60.96
21.	Punjab	846.97	838.20	1103.27	1288.65	1234.30	1316.40	1523.44	1336.30	1109.00	1562.67	468.79	112.51
22.	Rajasthan	4500.95	4309.02	4825.90	6865.71	6763.57	6054.31	8116.64	8074.34	7549.05	8324.00	2541.57	179.18
23.	Sikkim	188.29	201.22	211.35	332.29	303.93	282.19	406.13	433.36	316.77	378.67	113.60	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	6939.21	6939.21	7342.13	10587.28	10587.26	10807.08	12516.29	12516.32	12055.51	12836.00	5566.07	360.57
25.	Tripura	1184.45	1433.49	1205.83	2090.21	2346.60	2340.01	2554.72	2259.69	2472.55	2380.00	725.31	58.69
26.	Uttar Pradesh	26870.16	26549.70	26142.53	41007.51	39196.55	36606.60	48479.07	47692.46	40455.09	49714.67	16128.76	2311.91
27.	Uttarakhand	1414.68	1414.69	1399.53	2158.99	2158.12	2004.98	2552.35	2552.34	2305.16	2617.33	785.21	32.16
28.	West Bengal	9974.33	8368.96	9165.29	15219.63	13091.33	12645.70	17992.64	16396.13	13735.25	18452.00	5177.92	717.86

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	25.00	0.00	6.10	25.00	6.25	5.38	25.00	0.00	8.18	25.00	0.00	2.33
30.	Daman and Diu	25.00	0.00	0.50	25.00	0.00	-	25.00	0.00	-	25.00	0.00	-
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	25.00	12.50	3.09	25.00	0.00	-	25.00	0.00	2.04	25.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Lakshadweep	25.00	0.00	5.07	25.00	0.00	25.33	25.00	12.50	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Puducherry	100.00	150.00	154.19	150.00	150.00	98.25	200.00	250.00	131.41	250.00	100.00	0.00
Total		146600.00	137907.12	142419.56	226882.00	201596.48	196597.47	269233.33	253216.83	228539.96	273422.00	82615.69	13225.20

[English]

Special Package for Creation of Job Opportunities

2113. SHRI K.S. RAO:
DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide special package to various sectors including labour-intensive sectors for maintaining production level of units to provide enough job opportunities to workers/labourers rendered jobless due to economic recessions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
(a) and (b) In order to counter the negative effects of the global slowdown on Indian economy, Government has provided three stimulus packages in the form of tax relief to boost demand and increase expenditure on public projects to create employment and public assets. The RBI took a number of monetary easing and liquidity enhancing measures to facilitate flow of funds from the financial system to meet the needs of productive sectors. The fiscal stimulus at 3.5% of GDP at current market prices for 2008-09 amounts to Rs. 1,86,000 crore. The budget estimates for 2009-10 provide for a total expenditure of Rs. 10,20,838 crore consisting of Rs. 6,95,689 crore towards non-plan and Rs. 3,25,149 crore towards plan expenditure. The fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP is projected at 6.8% compared to 2.5% in 2008-09 (BE).

In addition to the three stimulus packages, the Union Budget 2009-10 has also announced many measures to help the export sector which include, among others, the following:

- (i) Extension of the adjustment assistance scheme to provide enhanced Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) cover at 95% to badly hit sector upto March 2010;
- (ii) Enhancement of allocation to Market Development Assistance Scheme by 148%;
- (iii) Interest subvention of 2 per cent to the labour intensive sectors extended to 31.3.2010;
- (iv) Flow of credit at reasonable rates to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs);
- (v) Mega Handloom clusters in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu and Powerloom cluster in Rajasthan and New Mega clusters for carpets in Srinagar and Mirzapur approved;
- (vi) Sections 10A and 10B related to Sunset clauses for STPI and EOUs schemes respectively extended for the financial year 2010-11. Anomaly removed in Section 10AA related to taxation benefit of 'unit *vis-a-vis* assessee';
- (vii) Additional items allowed within the existing duty free imports entitlement for the following employment oriented sectors:
 - (a) 5 additional items for sports goods sector;
 - (b) Additional items for leather garments and footwear and textile items;

(viii) Measures related to service tax which include, among others, exemption from service tax on following services linked to exports:

- (a) Service related to transport of export goods by road from any CFS or ICD to the port or airport and on service related to transport of export goods by road directly from their place of removal, to an ICD, a CFS, a port or airport;
- (b) Services provided by Foreign Agent Commission service.

Stimulus Package for Expansion of Shipping Fleet

2114. SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any targets for expansion of shipping fleet during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated a stimulus package to help and encourage shipping companies in buying marine assets;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the effective steps taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) and (b) The Eleventh Plan document on Shipping & IWT sector envisages the under noted target for the expansion of Indian Shipping fleet in three scenarios:

	Target
(i) Scenario-1 (Conservative)	10 million GT.
(ii) Scenario-2 (Modest)	12 million GT.
(iii) Scenario-3 (Optimistic)	15 million GT.

(c) and (d) Although, in the liberalization era Govt. is not committed to providing soft loan for acquisition of ships but on account of the current financial meltdown on the request of Ministry of Shipping and at the behest of Finance Ministry, Indian Banks' Association had constituted a Working Group to examine the proposed

extension of credit facilities to Shipping companies in India for purchase of ships. Indian Banks' Association has recently advised that they have no role to play in the matter and the Shipping Company should take up the matter with the individual banks.

(e) The Government has been taking various steps from time to time for the growth of Indian tonnage. These include:-

The Government of India has formulated the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP). It is a comprehensive programme aimed at various issues that need to be addressed to bring holistic growth in the Indian Shipping Industry. Under the NMDP, Shipping Corporation of India, only Public Sector Shipping Company is in the process of acquiring a total of 76 new vessels with a total outlay of Rs. 15,000 crores, to be completed in phases till end 2011-12. Of these, 6 ships have already been delivered, orders have been placed for construction of 30 vessels and remaining 40 vessels are planned for acquisition during the remaining 11th Plan period.

The Government has introduced tonnage tax regime in India since the year 2004 by which the tax outgo for Indian Shipping companies has been brought in the line with International Standard. Further, the liberalized policy on ship acquisition has been introduced and acquisition of all types of ships has been brought under Open General License (OGL). Besides, 100% FDI has been permitted in ship acquisition and registration formalities of newly acquired ships have been simplified.

New System in Secondary Education

2115. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to adopt a new system in secondary education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the prevailing secondary education system in the country; and

(d) Whether the Government has consulted and sought views of different State Education Boards in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No such specific assessment has been done.
- (d) and (e) Do not arise.

Education for Tribal People

2116. SHRI R. DHUVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pre-primary schools, primary schools, secondary schools, senior secondary schools and degree colleges for imparting education to the tribal people functioning in forest areas in various States;

(b) whether there is any professional/technical institutions or job oriented training schools in tribal areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any shortage of teachers in all these institutions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof the action contemplated to overcome such shortages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will laid on the Taable of the House.

Modernisation and Expansion of Major Ports

2117. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI KALIKESH NARAYAN SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated, released and utilized for the modernisation and expansion of major ports during each of the last three years and the current year, port-wise;

(b) whether additional cargo berths are proposed to be constructed at these ports including Paradeep Port;

(c) if so, the estimated cost of the expansion of such berins; and

(d) the time by which the expansion works are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
(a) The modernisation and expansion of the major ports is primarily done through the internal and extra budgetary resources and, *inter-alia*, include construction of berths/jetties, mechanization of existing berths through procurement, replacement and upgradation of port equipment. Many of the projects are also funded through Public Private Partnership route. However, Government Budgetary Support is given to a few major ports for undertaking dredging, rail connectivity projects etc.

(b) to (d) Yes, Madam. In Paradip Port, the following three projects for expansion are proposed to be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs. 1457 crores through the PPP model.

- (i) Development of Deep Draught Iron Ore Berth.
- (ii) Development of Deep Draught Coal Berth.
- (iii) Construction of Multipurpose Cargo Berth for handling clean cargo including containers.

These projects are to be completed within 30-36 months from the date of award of concession. At present, the Concession Agreement for Deep Draught iron ore berth has been signed.

[Translation]

Self-employment to Unemployed Youths

2118. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide self-employment to unemployed youths and the skilled youths;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which employment to all the unemployed youths are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented Urban

Poverty Alleviation Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis, with effect from 01.12.1997. The scheme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under employed poor, to help them set up self employment ventures and also through providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) has been comprehensively revamped with effect from 2009-2010.

The Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), since 1.4.1999. SGSY is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 75:25 cost sharing basis between the Centre and the States. Under this Scheme, financial assistance is provided to members of BPL families for creating income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and subsidy. Salient features of the scheme, Inter-alia, include organization of the beneficiaries into Self Help Groups (SHGs), their capacity building, training, selection of key activities, planning of activity clusters, provision of infrastructure, technology and marketing support. Special projects with innovative approaches for self employment generation are also sanctioned to validate alternative strategies.

The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is implementing the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) which was launched in August, 2008. The programme directly creates self-employment by providing credit linked subsidy for setting up of micro enterprises. The scheme is for implementation from 2008-09 to 2012-13 with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4735 crore towards margin money and Rs. 250 crore towards backward and forward linkages with the target for generation of 37.37 lakh employment opportunities.

(c) As per the most recent quinquennial surveys of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on employment and unemployment, the unemployment rate on Current Daily Status (CDS) basis has increased from 7.3% in 1999-2000 to 8.3% in 2004-05. However, employment opportunities have also increased from 338.19 million in 1999-2000 to 384.91 million in 2004-05. The growth rate in employment has been estimated at 1.25 per cent per annum during the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000, which has gone up to 2.62 per cent per annum during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05. The 11th Plan Document projects that about 58 million employment opportunities are likely to be generated during 11th Plan Period.

[English]

Annual Survey of Education Report

2119. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Annual Survey of Education Report revealed that flagship Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan making rapid strides;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of annual survey conducted so far;

(c) whether there is considerable decline in the percentage of out of school children in the age group of 6-14;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage; and

(e) the concrete steps taken by the Union Government to reduce the percentage of out of school children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Annual Survey of Education Report (ASER) is brought out annually by Pratham—a Non-Governmental Organisation. This organisation has conducted four sample surveys till now. ASER, 2008 bring out following points:

- Learning levels of standard I and II *i.e.* percentage children who can read letters, words or more—75.4%.
- Percentage children standard I and II who can recognize numbers (1 to 9) or more—75.7%
- Learning levels of standard 3-5 *i.e.* percentage children who can read level 1 (standard 1 text) or more—66.6%.
- Learning levels of standard 3-5 *i.e.* percentage children who can do subtraction or more—54.9%.

ASER, 2008 also reports that there are 4.3% out of school children.

(e) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for strengthening of school infrastructure, access to schools,

educational incentives, additional support through National Programme of Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and residential facilities at upper primary level under Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya Scheme (KGBV). Further, to target SC and ST children, interventions, *inter-alia*, free text books, remedial teaching and innovation are provided. The Mid Day Meal Scheme provides for cooked meals to schools children, helping in improving retention.

[*Translation*]

Misuse of Funds by NGOs

2120. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which have been provided financial assistance

under various schemes being run by the Ministry in Kerala during the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and amount-wise;

(b) the names of the NGOs found involved in irregularities such as misuse of funds etc. during the said period; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against these NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The details of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which have been provided financial assistance under various schemes being run by the Ministry in Kerala during the last three years and the current year are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No NGOs were found involved in irregularities.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

The details of Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) which have been provided financial assistance under various schemes being run by the Ministry in Kerala during the last three years and the current year

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1.	Scheme for Free Coaching to SCs and OBCs	0	0	1	4.72	1	3.59	0	0
2.	Grant in aid To Organisations working for Scheduled Castes	0	0	2	17.33	1	1.29	0	0
3.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of AIDS/Appliances (ADIP)	0	0	2	14.30	0	0	0	0
4.	Integrated Programme for Older Persons	2	5.00	1	2.22	0	0	0	0
5.	Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse	19	123.15	16	121.62	19	156.86	0	0
6.	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme	68	363.69	47	237.18	44	378.40	2	11.71
7.	General Grant in Aid for Social Defence	1	2.84	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		90	494.68	69	397.37	65	540.14	2	11.71

*[English]***Cement Plants**

2121. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation has any proposal to set up two cement plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and locations identified and the estimated capacity and cost of each of the projects; and

(c) the time by which the new cement plants are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited through its subsidiary NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. (NVVN Limited) has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) & Request for Qualification (RFQ) to set up cement grinding plants at NTPC's power plants at Ramagundam (Andhra Pradesh), Sipat (Chhattisgarh), Barh (Bihar), Kahalgaon (Bihar), Badarpur (Delhi), and Rihand (Uttar Pradesh) in joint venture with 26% equity participation by NVVN Limited and 74% equity participation with management control by strategic partner. Proposals were received from three parties for two stations, *i.e.*, Badarpur (Delhi) and Barh (Bihar) with estimated capacity of 1.5 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) each. Based on highest evaluated points of the bids, M/s. Shree Cement Ltd. and M/s. Birla Corporation have emerged as successful bidders for Badarpur and Barh respectively.

(c) Estimated Time of setting up of cement grinding plants after formation of Joint Venture Company, at Badarpur is 16 months and that at the Barh is 30 months.

Development of Ports Under NMDP

2122. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to commission 276 port development projects under National Marine Development Programme (NMDP) during Eleventh Plan Period;

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

(c) the effective steps taken thereon alongwith the achievements made therein?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The details of the projects are given below:

Project Type	Number of Projects
Deepening of Channels/Berths, etc.	25
Construction/Re-construction of Berths/Jetties, etc.	76
Procurement of equipment, etc.	52
Rail and Road Connectivity work	45
Others	78
Total	276

(c) The projects are monitored regularly and up to 30.06.2009, 43 projects have been completed.

*[Translation]***Adverse IMP Act of Fruit Imports**

2123. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fruit growers of the country are getting adversely affected by the imports of apple and other fruits under the open general licence;

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

(c) whether any survey of study has been conducted to assess the adverse impact of fruit imports of domestic fruit growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Fruits are classified under Chapter 8 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and imports items 2004-09. Import of the items classified under this Chapter

is free. However, all imports in the country are subject to payment of applicable custom duties. Restrictions on Import were removed by the Government in 2001.

There has been no formal study to assess the impact of fruit imports on domestic fruit growers. However, the Government is monitoring import of certain sensitive commodities in the country on a monthly basis. Import of a number of fruits is also included in this list. Import of fruits included in the sensitive list increased by 43.51 % in 2008-09 as compared to the previous year.

Mid-day Meal Scheme

2124. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is reviewing the mid-day meal scheme regularly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any monitoring system has been developed by the Government for monitoring the benefits of this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the benefits accrued from the implementation of the monitoring system; and

(e) the details of the successful implementation of the scheme and the expenses incurred thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Central Government is reviewing the implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) regularly through Regional and National level meetings with focus on coverage, quality, safety, regularity and transparency. Critical issues are brought to the notice of States/UTs for necessary corrective actions to further improve the quality of implementation of MDMS. During 2008-09 four Regional Meeting were held on 4.7.2008, 15.10.2008, 06.11.2008, 29.11.2008 at Shillong, Bangalore, New Delhi, Ahmedabad respectively. Review of the MDMS was made in National Level meetings held on 1.8.2008 and 6.2.2008 at New Delhi. The performance of the States/UTs is also reviewed through the Half-yearly reports of the 42 Monitoring Institutions, Quarterly Progress Reports received from States/UTs. In-depth review of the implementation of MDMS is also made

during Mid-Day Meal — Project Approval Board meetings held to approve Annual Work Plan and Budget of the States/UTs every year.

(c) Besides the above, monitoring at the National level, the following Monitoring Mechanism has been developed for monitoring at various levels:

- (i) The local level monitoring is done on daily basis through the representatives of Gram Panchayats/ Gram Sabhas, members of Village Education Committee (VECs), Parent
- (ii) Teacher Associations (PTAs), School Management & Development Committees (SMDCs) as well as Mothers' Committees who are required to monitor the (a) regularity and wholesomeness of the mid day meal served to children, (b) cleanliness in cooking and serving of the mid day meal, (c) timeliness in procurement of good quality ingredients, fuel, etc, (d) implementation of varied menu, (e) social and gender equity. All schools and centres are required to display information on (a) quantity of food grains received, date of receipt (b) quantity of food grains utilized (c) other ingredients purchased, utilized (d) number of children given mid day meal (e) daily menu (f) roster of Community Members involved in the programme.
- (iii) Officers of the State Government! UTs belonging to the Departments of Revenue, Rural Development, Education and other related sectors, such as Women and Child Development, Food, Health are required to inspect schools and centres where the programme is being implemented. It has been recommended that 25% of primary schools/EGS & AIE centres are visited every quarter.
- (iv) States/UTs have been advised to constitute District Level Committees comprising public representatives (MPs, MLAs) to monitor the implementation of MDMS in Districts. The senior-most Member of Parliament present in the meeting is to chair this meeting.
- (v) States and Union Territories are required to develop a dedicated mechanism for public grievance redressal, which should be widely publicized and made easily accessible.
- (vi) State Level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee headed by Chief Secretary to oversee the

implementation of the Programme in the State/ UT.

- (vii) 1.8 per cent of the total cost of foodgrain, cooking cost and transportation of foodgrain, is provided to States/UTs for Monitoring Management & Evaluation of the Scheme.

(d) The benefits accrued from the implementation of MDMS, as brought out by various independent

evaluation studies include inter alia enhancement in enrollment and attendance, especially of girls and SC/ST children, narrowing of social distance among children so as to foster social harmony, and improvement in scholastic achievement etc.

(e) The State-wise details of the expenditure incurred during the year 2008-09 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Cost of foodgrains (Payment to FCI)	Cooking cost			Transportation	MME	Total Recurring Central Assistance	Kitchen Sheds @Rs. 60,000/-		Kitchen Devices @Rs. 5,000/-		Total (Col. 11+13)	Grand Total (Col.3+9+14)
			Pry.	U.Pry.	Total				Unit	Amount	Unit	Amount		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9(6+7+8)	10	11	12	13	14	15
Non-NER States														
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3513.96	4408.62	2095.24	6503.86	321.51	165.29	6990.66					0.00	10504.62
2.	Bihar	9185.56	15166.87	3726.11	18892.98	2754.50	786.47	22433.95	31078	18646.80	4777	238.85	18885.65	50505.17
3.	Chhattisgarh	6122.00	5924.23	4596.95	10521.18	292.99	266.23	11080.40	26727	16036.20	30774	1538.70	17574.90	34777.30
4.	Goa	81.61	252.96	262.21	515.17	24.41	7.13	546.71					0.00	628.32
5.	Gujarat	2298.86	10318.35	3467.60	13785.95	736.86	270.92	14793.73	9303	5581.80			5581.80	22674.39
6.	Haryana	1849.41	3252.14	2496.22	5748.36	292.78	44.05	6085.19					0.00	7934.60
7.	Himachal Pradesh	990.65	1379.44	1595.69	2975.13	275.44	75.42	3325.99	11298	6778.80	7163	358.15	7136.95	11453.59
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	1946.81	2749.30	774.25	3523.55	360.11	30.12	3913.78					0.00	5860.59
9.	Jharkhand	9403.35	5774.16	1798.34	7572.50	300.05	316.32	8188.87	4510	2706.00			2706.00	20298.22
10.	Karnataka	6337.13	11831.31	8944.83	20776.14	944.77	146.45	21867.36					0.00	30204.49
11.	Kerala	4812.11	4948.51	5492.62	10441.13	585.15	174.51	11200.79					0.00	16012.90
12.	Madhya Pradesh	11361.36	20845.38	8411.94	29257.32	1816.66	630.74	31704.72	29268	17560.80	5869	293.45	17854.25	60920.33
13.	Maharashtra	15924.15	26415.77	9195.03	35610.80	2828.70	1171.76	39611.26	38048	22828.80			22828.80	78364.21
14.	Orissa	8063.10	7444.28	4820.12	12264.40	783.51	194.02	13241.93	18749	11249.40	10977	548.85	11798.25	33103.28
15.	Punjab	2655.13	3631.46	3757.93	7389.39	398.14	187.06	7974.59	12822	769320			7693.20	18322.92
16.	Rajasthan	7945.17	5033.30	4337.51	9370.81	471.28	239.36	10081.45	47581	24034.12			24034.12	42060.74
17.	Tamil Nadu	5250.66	11942.02	8075.01	20017.03	981.04	510.21	21508.28	3804	2282.40	8526	426.30	2708.70	29467.64
18.	Uttarakhand	2719.97	2153.89	1431.11	3585.00	690.64	82.10	4357.73			6127	306.35	306.35	7384.05
19.	Uttar Pradesh	26312.19	25947.09	12731.40	38678.49	3134.92	730.33	42543.74	19199	11519.40	46999	2349.95	13869.35	82725.28
20.	West Bengal	10041.12	3308.95	7480.85	25789.80	150.80	127.88	26068.48	36958	22174.80			22174.80	58284.40
Total		138814.31	172728.03	95490.96	283218.99	18144.25	6156.37	307519.61	289345	169092.52	121212	6060.60	175153.12	621487.04

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9(6+7+8)	10	11	12	13	14	15
UTs with legislature														
21.	Delhi	887.52	3115.97	2250.75	5366.72	165.55	168.44	5700.71					0.00	6588.23
22.	Puducherry	126.50	172.34	170.04	342.38	17.28	6.71	366.37	92	55.20			55.20	548.07
	Total	1014.01	3288.31	2420.79	5709.10	182.83	175.15	6067.08	92	55.20	0	0	55.20	7136.29
UTs without legislature														
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	82.31	77.38	68.33	145.71	7.33	3.71	156.75	276	165.60			165.60	404.56
24.	Chandigarh	43.42	146.58	141.12	287.70	15.93	8.10	311.73	111	23.34			23.34	378.49
25.	Dadrs and Nagar Haveli	29.47	102.38	38.55	140.93	6.92	3.57	151.42					0.00	180.89
26.	Daman and Diu	16.48	44.07	22.53	66.60	3.29	1.68	71.57					0.00	88.05
27.	Lakshadweep	0.00	12.33	5.92	18.25	0.89	0.46	19.59					0.00	19.59
	Total	171.68	382.74	276.45	659.19	34.36	17.52	711.06	387	188.94	0	0.00	188.94	1071.68
NER States														
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	724.17	342.18	219.71	561.89	39.59	13.97	615.55					0.00	1339.72
29.	Assam	2809.86	8897.74	7178.90	16076.64	1472.66	268.01	17817.31	10048	6028.80		0.00	6028.80	26655.97
30.	Manipur	538.52	607.32	326.53	933.85	129.70	5.93	1069.48				0.00	0.00	1607.99
31.	Meghalaya	796.92	353.38	581.72	935.10	27.27	17.61	979.98	1294	776.40		0.00	775.40	2553.30
32.	Mizoram	250.89	330.79	370.15	700.94	56.19	19.58	776.71	901	540.60		0.00	540.60	1568.20
33.	Nagaland	317.53	608.38	163.60	771.98	57.97	20.89	850.84	22	13.20		0.00	13.20	1181.57
34.	Sikkim	121.22	177.76	138.58	316.33	18.16	5.65	340.13	59	35.40		0.00	35.40	495.75
35.	Tripura	646.67	1412.91	813.46	2226.37	163.06	37.08	2426.51	722	433.20		0.00	433.20	3506.38
	Total	6205.77	12730.46	9792.65	22523.10	1964.70	388.71	24876.51	13046	7827.60	0	0.00	7827.60	38909.88
	Grand Total	146205.77	189129.53	107980.85	312110.38	20326.14	6737.75	339174.26	302870	177164.26	121212	6060.60	183224.86	668604.89
	Or Say, Rs. in Crore	1462.06	1891.30	1079.81	3121.10	203.26	67.381	3391.74		1771.64		60.61	1832.26	6686.05

Including Rs. 1.97 crore [Rs. 0.69 crore for Professional Services to Ed. CIL etc., Rs. 1.28 Crore for Advertisement and Publicity and Rs. 0.0044572 crore under TA/DA to non-officials].
Total Expenditure: Rs. 6688.02 Cr.

[English]

Disturbance by Use of Mobile Phones

2125. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether increasing use of mobile phones at various public places creates much disturbance to others;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any mobile ethics and directed the telecom operators to comply with same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the violation of code?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (d) Considering a petition for imposition of certain reasonable restrictions on the use of mobile phone, the Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions, in its Report dated 26.02.2009, *inter-alia*, recommended for making it obligatory for the service providers and mobile manufactures to create adequate awareness amongst the people about proper usage of

mobile phone. Accordingly, the Government has issued necessary instructions to Mobile Phone Service Providers on 19.06.2009 & to Mobile Phone Manufacturers on 25.06.2009 making it obligatory on their part to create adequate awareness amongst the people about proper usage of mobile phones and to ensure supply of literature in English and regional language prescribing mobile phone etiquettes wherever a customer purchases a mobile hand set and procures a SIM card.

Synergy Between HRD and ST Ministry

2126. SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is establishing a synergy between the Human Resource Development (HRD) and Science Technology (S&T) Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the strategy adopted by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) is the highest advisory body to advise the Central and State Governments in the field of education. Hon'ble HRM is Chairman and MOS (HRD) is Vice Chairperson of the CABE. Minister of Science & Technology is one of the representatives of Government of India on the Board of CABE along with Ministers of Information and Broadcasting, Health and Family Welfare, Labour, Social Justice and Empowerment, Tribal Affairs, Youth Affairs and Sports, Panchayati Raj and Minister of State for Women & Child Development. Further, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology is the permanent invitee. The meeting of CABE normally takes place in a year and the board in depth discusses the policy pertaining to education including issues relating to Science & Technology. The last (55th) meeting of CABE was held on 10th February 2009.

Shifting of Visakha Shipping Harbour

2127. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to shift Visakha Shipping Harbour to other place; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to shift the Visakhapatnam Shipping harbour. However, the fishing harbour which is in the same area is recommended for shifting to a suitable alternative location on grounds of security.

Medical Colleges under ESIC

2128. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has decided to start Medical Colleges, Nursing Colleges and Para Medical Training Colleges/Schools;

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

(c) whether request has been received from Kerala for sanctioning such Medical Colleges under ESIC;

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

(e) the expenditure likely to be incurred for construction of such colleges, State-wise; and

(f) the time by which the construction work are likely to be started and completed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The ESI Corporation has decided to start Medical Colleges and Nursing Colleges and Para-medical Training Colleges/Schools in the States, wherever the scheme is in implementation, to meet the shortage of staff of Medical as well as para-medical categories of staff with an aim to improve the standards of Medical Care facilities to the insured persons and their families. The details of the proposed Medical Institutions are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The ESI Corporation has decided to start Medical College at ESI Hospital, Paripally, Kollam. Foundation stone has been laid and further action is in progress.

(e) and (f) The expenditure likely to be incurred can be assessed only after getting estimates from the concerned agency. Normally the construction period of projects is 24 months from the date of start.

Statement*Proposed ESI Medical Institutions in the Country*

Sl.No.	States	Institutions	Attached ESI Hospital
1.	Andhra Pradesh	PGIMSR Medical Collage	Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad
2.			Dental College Nacharam, Hyderabad
3.	Bihar	Medical College	Hospital to be set up in Patna
4.	Gujarat	- Medical College	Dental College Naroda, Ahmedabad
5.		PGIMSR	Bapu Nagar, Ahmedabad
6.	Haryana	Medical College	ESI Hospital, NH-3, Faridabad,
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Medical College	Hospital to be set up in Mandi
8.	Karnataka	PGIMSR Medical College	Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore
9.		PGIMSR	Indira Nagar, Bangalore
10.	Kerala	Medical College	Paripally, Kollam
11.			Dental College Ezhukone, Kollam
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Medical College	Dental College Nanda Nagar, Indore
13.	Maharashtra	PGIMSR Medical College	Mulund & Thane, Mumbai
14.		PGIMSR	Andheri (East) Mumbai
15.		PGIMSR	Parel, Mumbai
16.			Dental College Vashi, Navi Mumbai
17.	New Delhi	PGIMSR Medical College	Basaidarapur, New Delhi
18.			Dental College Rohini, Delhi
19.	Punjab		Dental College Bharat Nagar, Ludhiana
20.	Rajasthan	Medical College	Hosp. to be set up in Alwar
21.	Tamil Nadu	PGIMSR Medical College	K.K. Nagar, Chennai
22.		PGIMSR	Ayanavaram, Chennai
23.		Medical College	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
24.	Uttar Pradesh		Dental College Pandu Nagar, Kanpur
25.	West Bengal	PGIMSR Medical College	Dental College Joka, Kolkata
26.		Medical College	Baltikuri, Kolkata
27.		PGIMSR	Manicktala, Kolkata

Ship Attacked and Hijacked by Sea Pirates

2129. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian ships attacked and hijacked by Sea-pirates during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the details of loss of life and properties as a result thereof, year-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Union Government to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) Though there have been some attempts, no Indian ship has been hijacked by sea pirates during the last three years. However, Somali pirates hijacked three Indian dhows in 2009.

(b) No loss of life has been reported in the above-mentioned cases. However, the pirates had beaten up the crew members and stolen the radio equipment, diesel, food and personal belongings of crew members including mobile phones, articles purchased for their families, food items etc.

(c) The Indian Navy has commenced patrolling the seas in approaches to the Gulf of Aden from 23rd October, 2008. The Directorate General of Shipping also issues advisories to the ship-owners' informing them of Indian Navy patrolling plan in order to avoid attacks from pirates.

Setting up of Territorial Navy

2130. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish Territorial Navy on the lines of Territorial Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan to utilize the services of experienced people associated with fishing and other activities?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Indian fishing community is regularly sensitized to provide inputs for any suspicious vessel or boat that does not belong to the fishing community of that area.

Encroachment on National Waterway No. 3

2131. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has provided assistance for development and operation of new Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) terminal at Muttam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the IWAI has conducted any survey for removal of encroachments from National Waterway No. 3 (NW-3);

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the increase/decrease in encroachments during each of the last three years and the current year;

(e) the details of cargo movement from NW-3 during the said period, year-wise; and

(f) the capacity of vessels that can navigate safely through the said waterway?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN):

(a) and (b) No, Madam. Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Madam. Does not arise.

(e) Cargo movement on NW-3 for last three years is as under:

2006-07	10.23 lakh tonne
2007-08	6.73 lakh tonne
2008-09	7.66 lakh tonne

(f) Self propelled vessels of 350 tonne capacity can navigate in NW-3.

Cases of Phising/Identity Theft over Internet

2132. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a rise in the number of cases of phising/identity theft over the Internet over a period of time;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the reports available over internet a rise in the Phishing/Identity theft cases has been observed during past two years.

(b) As per the information tracked by, and reported to Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), Department of Information Technology, a total of 392 cases in the year 2007, 604 in the year 2008 and 312 cases during January-June, 2009 pertaining to Phishing have been handled by CERT-In.

(c) The Government has taken several steps for preventing Phishing/Identity theft over the Internet, these are:

- (i) CERT-In has published several white papers on countering Phishing/Identity theft Attacks and these have been widely circulated. All the Banks, Financial Institutions, Government Departments/ Ministries, their subordinate offices and public sector undertakings have been advised to implement the countermeasures for preventing phishing attacks.
- (ii) CERT-In issues advisories to prevent occurrence of phishing/identity theft incidents and also conducts security workshops and training programs on regular basis to enhance user awareness.
- (iii) CERT-In provides immediate incident response to the phishing/identity theft cases being reported by various organizations.
- (iv) CERT-In is a Global Research Partner of Anti Phishing Working Group (APWG) and develops security best practices, Phishing detection tools and creates user awareness to counter Phishing Attacks.
- (v) The Information Technology (Amendment) Act, 2008 provides legal framework to address the issues connected with phishing/identity theft.

Export of Wheat and Rice

2133. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has permitted export of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the objective of banning the export of wheat and rice in the past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The export of Wheat and Non Basmati Rice is not freely permitted currently. The export of Basmati Rice is regulated as per the conditions stipulated vide DGFT Notification No. 38(RE-2007)/2004-2009 dated 15.10.2007 read with Notification No. 93 (RE-2007)/2004-2009 dated 01.04.2008 and Notification No. 83 (RE-2007)/2004-2009 dated 27.01.2009.

(c) The objective of banning of export of Wheat and Rice was to ensure their domestic availability at affordable prices.

FDI in Retail Sector

2134. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is reviving its policy on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in retail sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has assessed its impact on Indian small shopkeepers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis through inter-Ministerial consultations. As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted in retail trade, except in Single Brand product retailing where FDI up to 51% is permitted, with prior Government approval and subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Products to be sold should be of 'Single Brand' only;

- (ii) Products should be sold under the same brand internationally; and
- (iii) 'Single Brand' product-retailing would cover only products which are branded during manufacturing.

Retail is a labour intensive sector and is the second largest employer after agriculture. Government is fully committed to securing the legitimate interests of all stakeholders engaged in the retail business. Government also fully recognises the need to ensure that small retailers are not adversely affected by the growing organised retail and that there is no adverse effect on employment. There is no proposal to change the current policy on Retail Trade.

(c) and (d) Government had instituted a study on the subject "Impact of large domestic retailers on unorganised retail" through Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), Main findings of the ICRIER study are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Findings and Recommendations of ICRIER

The real GDP is expected to grow at 8-10 per cent per annum in the next five years. As a result, the consuming class with annual household incomes above Rs. 90,000 is expected to rise from about 370 million in 2006-07 to 620 million in 2011-12. Consequently, the retail business in India is estimated to grow at 13 per cent annually from US\$ 322 billion in 2006-07 to US\$ 590 billion in 2011-12. The study shows:

- The unorganized retail sector is expected to grow at about 10 per cent per annum with sales rising from US\$ 309 billion in 2006-07 to US\$ 496 billion in 2011-12.
- Given the relatively weak financial state of unorganized retailers, and the physical space constraints on their expansion prospects, this sector alone will not be able to meet the growing demand for retail.
- Hence, organized retail which now constitutes a small four per cent of total retail sector is likely to grow at a much faster pace of 45-50 per cent per annum and quadruple its share in total retail trade to 16 per cent by 2011-12.
- This represents a positive sum game in which both unorganized and organized retail not only coexist but also grow substantially in size.

- The majority of unorganized retailers surveyed in this study, indicated their preference to continue in the business and compete rather than exit.

The Empirical Basis

The study comprised of survey of all segments of the economy that could be affected by the entry of large corporates in the retail business. The findings are based on a survey of 2020 unorganized small retailers across 10 major cities; 1318 consumers shopping at both organized and unorganized retail outlets; 100 intermediaries; and 197 farmers. In addition, a "control sample" survey was done of 805 unorganized retailers who are not in the vicinity of organized retail outlets in four metro cities.

Detailed interviews were also carried out for 12 large manufacturers, 20 small manufacturers and six established modern retailers.

The study contains an extensive review of international retail experience, particularly from the major emerging market economies.

Main Findings

Impact on Unorganized Retailers

- Unorganized retailers in the vicinity of organized retailers experienced a decline in their volume of business and profit in the initial years after the entry of large organized retailers.
- The adverse impact on sales and profit weakens over time.
- There was no evidence of a decline in overall employment in the unorganized sector as a result of the entry of organized retailers.
- There is some decline in employment in the North and West regions which, however, also weakens over time.
- The rate of closure of unorganized retail shops in gross terms is found to be 4.2 per cent per annum which is much lower than the international rate of closure of small businesses.
- The rate of closure on account of competition from organized retail is lower still at 1.7 per cent per annum.

- There is competitive response from traditional retailers through improved business practices and technology upgradation.
- A majority of unorganized retailers is keen to stay in the business and compete, while also wanting the next generation to continue likewise.
- Small retailers have been extending more credit to attract and retain customers.
- However, only 12 per cent of unorganized retailers have access to institutional credit and 37 per cent felt the need for better access to commercial bank credit.
- Most unorganized retailers are committed to remaining independent and barely 10 per cent preferred to become franchisees of organized retailers.

Impact on Consumers

- Consumers have definitely gained from organized retail on multiple counts.
- Overall consumer spending has increased with the entry of the organized retail.
- While all income groups saved through organized retail purchases, the survey revealed that lower income consumers saved more. Thus, organized retail is relatively more beneficial to the less well-off consumers.
- Proximity is a major comparative advantage of unorganized outlets.
- Unorganized retailers have significant competitive strengths that include consumer goodwill, credit sales, amenability to bargaining, ability to sell loose items, convenient timings, and home delivery.

Impact on Intermediaries

- The study did not find any evidence so far of adverse impact of organized retail on intermediaries.
- There is, however, some adverse impact on turnover and profit of intermediaries dealing in products such as, fruit, vegetables, and apparel.
- Over two-thirds of the intermediaries plan to expand their businesses in response to increased business opportunities opened by the expansion of retail.

- Only 22 per cent do not want the next generation to enter the same business.

Impact on Farmers

- Farmers benefit significantly from the option of direct sales to organized retailers.
- Average price realization for cauliflower farmers selling directly to organized retail is about 25 per cent higher than their proceeds from sale to regulated government *mandi*.
- Profit realization for farmers selling directly to organized retailers is about 60 per cent higher than that received from selling in the *mandi*.
- The difference is even larger when the amount charged by the commission agent (usually 10 per cent of sale price) in the *mandi* is taken into account.

Impact on Manufacturers

- Large manufacturers have started feeling the competitive impact of organized retail through price and payment pressures.
- Manufacturers have responded through building and reinforcing their brand strength, increasing their own retail presence, 'adopting' small retailers, and setting up dedicated teams to deal with modern retailers.
- Entry of organized retail is transforming the logistics industry. This will create significant positive externalities across the economy.
- Small manufacturers did not report any significant impact of organized retail.

Policy Recommendations

On the basis of the results of the surveys and the review of international retail experience, the study makes the following major recommendations:

1. Modernization of wetmarkets through public-private partnerships.
2. Facilitate *cash-and-carry* outlets, like Metro, for sale to unorganized retail and procurement from farmers, as in China.
3. Encourage co-operatives and associations of unorganized retailers for direct procurement from suppliers and farmers.

4. Ensure better credit availability to unorganized retailers from banks and micro-credit institutions through innovative banking solutions.
5. Facilitate the formation of farmers' co-operatives to directly sell to organized retailers.
6. Encourage formulation of "private codes of conduct" by organized retail for dealing with small suppliers. These may then be incorporated into enforceable legislation.
7. Simplification of the licensing and permit regime for organized retail and move towards a nationwide uniform licensing regime in the states to facilitate modern retail.
8. Strengthening the Competition Commission's role for enforcing rules against collusion and predatory pricing.
9. Modernization of APMC markets as modelled on the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Safal market in Bangalore.

Follow-up action on the ICRIER Report

- The ICRIER Report has been forwarded to the State Government and Secretaries of the Central Government Ministries.

[Translation]

National Literacy Mission

2135. SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:
SHRI MANISH TEWARI:

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

- (a) whether the National Literacy Mission is proposed to be recast as National Female Literacy Mission;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the illiterate males would form a part of the mandate of the recast Mission;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether there is any plan/scheme to educate the illiterate males;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the time by which 100 per cent literacy target is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to recast the National Literacy Mission to focus on literacy of women. Action has already been initiated to recast the Mission and seek necessary approvals.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. The prime focus of the Mission would be on women and they would constitute the major component of its clientele. However, males would not be excluded from its ambit.

(g) The Government have fixed the target of achieving 80% literacy by 2012.

Tobacco Board

2136. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details regarding composition and mandate of Tobacco Board set up under the Tobacco Board Act, 1975;
- (b) the norms laid down for selection of Board members;
- (c) the extent to which the Board has been able to achieve the objectives as outlined in the Act;
- (d) whether any study has been conducted in the recent past to assess the performance of the Board; and
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon for planned development of Tobacco Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) As per Sub-Section 4 of Section 4 of Tobacco Board Act, 1975, the Tobacco Board has following composition:-

- (i) A Chairman to be appointed by the Central Government under clause (a).
- (ii) Three members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected by the Lok Sabha and one by the Rajya Sabha under clause (b).

(iii) Eight members to be appointed by the Central Government under clause (c) to represent respectively:-

- Ministries of Central Government dealing with Agriculture, Commerce, Finance and Industrial Development.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- The Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka.

(iv) Two members to be appointed by the Central Government by rotation in the alphabetical order, to represent the Governments of tobacco growing states other than the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka under clause (d).

(v) Not more than ten members to be appointed by the Central Government from amongst growers of tobacco, dealers and exporters (including packers) of tobacco and tobacco products, manufacturers of tobacco products and from amongst persons who, in the opinion of the Central Government are experts in tobacco marketing or agricultural economics under clause (e).

Provided that the number of members under this clause from amongst the growers of tobacco shall not exceed six.

(vi) The Agriculture Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, Department of Rural Development, ex-officio under clause (f).

(vii) The Executive Director, ex-officio under clause (g).

The mandate of Tobacco Board set up under the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 is to provide for the development under the control of Union of the Tobacco Industry.

(b) The norms laid down for selection of the Board members prescribed under Chapter II of the Tobacco Board Rules 1976 which provides that the Central Government may make such consultations as it thinks

fit before appointing members to be appointed under the provisions contained in clause (c), (d) and (e) of Sub-Section 4 of Section 4. Provided that while appointing members to represent growers of tobacco under clause 'e' of Sub-Section 4 of Section 4; the Government shall appoint only registered growers as members. Provided further that atleast two such members shall be from small or marginal growers.

(c) The objectives of the Tobacco Board are to regulate and to dispose of the virginia tobacco to ensure better remunerative prices to tobacco growers and the overall development of the tobacco sector. The Tobacco Board has successfully made to realize an all time high average prices for the tobacco growers of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Apart from it, export of tobacco and tobacco products have increased by 188% and 4015% in terms of quantity and value respectively in 2008-09 from 1974-75.

(d) In the recent past, the Government has not conducted any study to assess the performance of the Board.

(e) does not arise.

Setting up of New Offices of EPF Commissioner

2137. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of norms followed for setting up of new offices of Employee's Provident Fund (EPF) Commissioner;

(b) the number of complaints received regarding violation of such norms during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) The opening of New Offices is governed by the parameters recommended by National Productivity Council and approved by the Executive Committee of Central Board of Trustees (EPF). The norms have been formulated keeping in view concentration of Industries, expected workload in accounts as well as compliance

with a view to maximize efficient and effective delivery. Executive Committee, Central Board of Trustees (EPF) is competent to consider such proposals for opening of offices in Employee's Provident Fund Organisation.

(b) No complaints have been received/reported regarding violation of such norms.

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

[English]

Establishments under EPFO

2138. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether only a fraction of the total workforce of the country has covered under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF);

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring more establishments under the purview of the Employee's Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
(a) and (b) Employee's Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is applicable only to those establishments which fulfil the conditions of coverage prescribed under the Act i.e. establishments which employ 20 or more employees and are engaged in any activity falling under the notified Schedule of industries or class of establishments. Also, only those co-operative societies which employ 50 or more persons and working without the aid of power are coverable under this Act. As such, only part of total workforce of the country working in these establishments is covered under the Employee's Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. As on 31.03.2009, approximately 449 lakh workers were covered by Employee's Provident Fund Organisation.

(c) New Industries and class of establishments are notified from time to time and it is a continuous process. So far, 186 industries/class of establishments have been notified.

[Translation]

Traffic Handling Capacity at Major Ports

2139. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of traffic handled by major ports in the country during each of the past three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the growth rate of traffic at these ports during the said period, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the major ports in the country are facing problems in handling growing traffic;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to augment the traffic handling capacity at all major ports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
(a) and (b) The information of traffic handled and growth rate of traffic by Major Ports during each of the past three years and the current year, State-wise are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government has already launched the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) involving a total investment of Rs. 1,00,339 crores. In the Port sector, the total anticipated investment is Rs. 55,804 crores for 276 projects covering the entire gamut of activities namely, construction/up-gradation of berths, deepening of channels, rail/road connectivity projects, equipment up-gradation/modernization schemes and other related schemes. To address the huge requirement of investment required for development of berths, etc. in the Ports, private sector investment is required. To attract and encourage private sector investment in the Port sector, the Government of India has finalized model Request for Qualification (RFQ), Request for Proposal (RFP) and Model Concession Agreement (MCA) to ensure uniformity and transparency in the bid process. New guidelines for upfront fixation of tariff have also been issued for berths and terminals to be bid out to private operators so that prospective bidders are aware of the projected revenue flows from the concerned project.

Statement*Traffic Handled at Major Ports/State wise during past three years and current year (upto June)***1. Traffic at Major Ports State-wise**

(In 000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	Port (State)	Traffic Handled			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (up June)
1.	Kolkata (West Bengal)	12596	13741	12428	2894
2.	Haldia (West Bengal)	42454	43588	41623	8285
3.	Paradip (Orissa)	38517	42438	46412	14169
4.	Visakhapatnam (A.P.)	56385	64597	63908	16724
5.	Ennore (Tamil Nadu)	14714	11563	11500	2919
6.	Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	53414	57154	57491	14139
7.	Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu)	18001	21480	22011	5686
8.	Cochin (Kerala)	15257	15810	15228	3579
9.	New Mangalore (Karnataka)	32042	36019	36691	9025
10.	Mormugao (Goa)	34241	35128	41681	12498
11.	Mumbai (Maharashtra)	52364	57038	51876	12904
12.	Jawaharlal Nehru (Maharashtra)	44815	55838	57281	14961
13.	Kandla (Gujarat)	52982	64920	72225	18807
Total		463782	519314	530355	136589

2. Growth Rate of Traffic at Major Ports

Sl.No.	Port (State)	Traffic % change over previous year		
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Kolkata (West Bengal)	16.56	9.09	-9.56
2.	Haldia (West Bengal)	0.28	2.67	-4.51
3.	Paradip (Orissa)	16.33	10.18	9.36
4.	Visakhapatnam (A.P.)	1.05	14.56	-1.07
5.	Ennore (Tamil Nadu)	16.86	7.92	-0.54
6.	Chennai (Tamil Nadu)	13.05	7.00	0.59
7.	Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu)	5.03	19.33	2.47

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Cochin (Kerala)	9.87	3.6	-3.68
9.	New Mangalore (Karnataka)	(-)6.99	12.41	1.87
10.	Mormugao (Goa)	8.06	2.59	18.65
11.	Mumbai (Maharashtra)	18.5	8.93	-9.05
12.	Jawaharlal Nehru (Maharashtra)	18.45	24.6	2.58
13.	Kandla (Gujarat)	15.41	22.53	11.25
Total		9.49	11.97	2.13

Shortage of Light Combat Aircraft

2140. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such aircraft available in the Air Force at present; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide more such aircraft to the Air Force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (d) Government constantly review the security environment and necessary steps are taken to induct appropriate equipment and to make other arrangements for adequate defence preparedness. A contract for procurement of one squadron of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) configuration from M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has been signed by Government in March, 2006. The LCA are likely to be inducted into the Indian Air Force from 2010-2011 onwards. Additional squadrons may be inducted on achievement of final operational clearance.

Committee on Spectrum

2141. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Committee on Spectrum has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details to the recommendations thereof;

(c) whether the recommendations of the committee have been accepted by the Government;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the main recommendations not accepted by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (e) The Committee for "Allocation of Access (Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM)/Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) Spectrum and Pricing" has submitted its Report on 13th May, 2009. The recommendations of the Committee have wider implications on Telecom Sector and to public at large. The issues on which the committee has given its recommendations were deliberated in details by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) also while giving its recommendations on "Review of licence terms and conditions and capping of number of access providers" on 28th August, 2007. Therefore, 7th July, 2009, the Government has sought recommendations of TRAI on the recommendations/comments of the Report.

[English]

Data of Mentally Retarded Children

2142. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has assessed the data of mentally retarded children, blinds, deaf and dumb and persons suffering from loco-motor disability in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any special plan has been prepared for these disabled;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds provided to State Governments during the last three years and the current year; and

(f) the steps taken for the welfare of these disabled children/people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) and (b) Details of persons with various disabilities, as per Census 2001, are as below:-

Visual Disability	1,06,34,881
Speech Disability	16,40,868
Hearing Disability	12,61,722
Locomotor Disability	61,05,477
Mental Disability	22,63,821
Total	2,19,06,769

This includes 77.32 lacs children with disabilities.

(c) and (d) Under the Eleventh Five Year Plan, a provision of Rs. 1900 crore has been made for schemes relating to empowerment of persons with disabilities. The Schemes cover various aspects of rehabilitation of persons with disabilities such as provisions of aids and appliances, early intervention, education & vocational training and for providing a barrier-free environment. There are three major schemes for rehabilitation - the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) which provides assistance for a wide variety of projects including education and vocational training; the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) and the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, under which centres providing comprehensive rehabilitation services and projects for creation of a barrier free environment are supported. Funds under the Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) Scheme are also provided for giving aids and appliances to children with disabilities under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

(e) The Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS), Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/Appliances (ADIP) and the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 are Central Sector schemes, where funds are released to Government Institutions/Non-government Institutions/Centres/Organizations and not to State Governments. However, under the Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, there is a provision for release of funds to the State Governments. Under the Scheme, Rs. 143.17 lacs and Rs. 185.56 lacs were released to the State Governments in the year 2007-08 & 2008-09 respectively.

(f) The following steps have been taken for the welfare of persons including children, with disabilities:-

(i) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995; the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992 and National Trust Act, 1999 have been enacted.

(ii) The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2006 focuses on prevention of disabilities, rehabilitation measures, self employment, barrier free environment etc.

(iii) Details of Schemes implemented for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities are given in reply to paras (c) & (d) above.

(iv) Seven National Institutes have been set up to provide services, develop man power and conduct research on matters relating to disabilities.

(v) The National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation has been set up for providing assistance to take up economic activities by the persons with disabilities.

Minimum Wages for Domestic Helps

2143. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to fix minimum wages for domestic helps;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which such wages are likely to be fixed;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued any instructions/directions to States and Union Territories for the welfare of the domestic helps; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both Central and State Governments are the appropriate Governments to fix/revise minimum wages in the scheduled employments in Central and State sphere respectively. Since domestic helps/workers fall under the purview of State sphere, some of the State Governments, as appropriate Governments, have notified their minimum rates of wages. On the basis of information available, a statement giving minimum rates of wages fixed for 'domestic helps/workers' in the concerned States/Union Territories is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 has been enacted to provide social security to the unorganized workers including domestic helps/workers. The Act provides for formulation of social security schemes *viz.* life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government. Domestic helps/workers also derive benefits from applicability of various labour laws like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 etc.

Statement

Minimum Rates of Wages for Domestic Helps/Workers Fixed by Different States/Union Territory Administrations under The Minimum Wages Act, 1948

Sl.No.	States/Union Territories	Minimum Wage (In Rs. Per day)
State Sphere		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100.00
2.	Bihar	93.11
3.	Karnataka	85.94
4.	Rajasthan	81.00
5.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	106.40

Violation of Indian Air Space

2144. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Air Space was recently violated by the United States Cargo plane carrying military goods;

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

(c) the enquiry conducted into this matter; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) On 19th June, 2009, an AN-124 aircraft belonging to Volga Dnepr Airlines of Russia, hired by United States Air Force violated Indian airspace and was asked to land at Mumbai International airport. Physical search of the aircraft was carried out by the Indian Air Force. Comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures are in place to counter such airspace violations. Close integration between the Indian Air Force and the concerned civil authority agencies is maintained.

India-Chile FTA

2145. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)/Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Chile;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether both the countries have signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) in the areas of renewable energy, education, use of outer-space for peaceful purposes and geology and mineral resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. India and Chile had signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in March, 2006. The Agreement came into effect from 17th August, 2007 in Chile and from 11th September, 2007 in India. Under this PTA, India has offered tariff preferences on 178 tariff lines (*i.e.* items) at the 8 digit level to Chile with margin of preference (MoP) ranging from 10% to

50% and Chile has offered tariff preferences on 296 tariff lines to India at the 8 digit level with MoP ranging from 10% - 100%. Major items covered by Indian offer list under the PTA are meat and fish, wood and plywood articles, chemicals, some industrial products, leather products, newsprint and paper etc. Major items covered by Chile's offer list under the PTA are textile and clothing, some industrial products, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, leather products, footwear etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. During the visit of the Hon'ble President of Chile to India in March 2009, following four Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed between India and Chile on 17th May, 2009 at New Delhi.

- I. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of New and Renewable Energy.
- II. Exchange Programme between India and Chile on Cooperation in the field of Education.
- III. Agreement on Cooperation in the Exploration and Utilization of Outer Space for peaceful purposes.
- IV. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources.

Approvals for SEZs

2146. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to simplify the norms for speedy approval of SEZs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which the proposed norms are likely to be implemented;
- (d) whether the Government is also proposing penal action against the developers who fail to comply with the guidelines; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) to (c) The SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006 provide for procedures for approval of SEZ proposals. At the zone level, the Approval Committee

headed by the Development Commissioner of the zone seeks to provide all possible facilitation to SEZ developers/SEZ units. There is also a provision of Single Window Clearance in the SEZ Act, 2005. All State Governments have been advised to put in place the Single Window Clearance mechanism for SEZ developers/SEZ units for various types of clearances.

(d) and (e) The Letter of Approval issued to the Developer for setting up of SEZ is liable to be suspended in case of violation of any of the terms and condition stipulated therein.

Opening of KVs Centres

2147. SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to conduct a survey for opening of new centers of Kendriya Vidyalayas in the country to facilitate rural and backward children;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, location and State-wise; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Opening of a Kendriya Vidyalaya (KV) depends on receipt of a viable proposal from the sponsor *i.e.* State Government, Central Ministry, Public Sector Undertaking etc. who need to commit free land & temporary accommodation, availability of adequate number of students of specified categories, approval of competent authority and availability of funds etc.

Strengthening of Maritime University

2148. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to strengthen the Indian Maritime University;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of courses as well as the intake of seats in the university; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To strengthen Indian Maritime University approvals for funds are being sought through Expenditure Finance Committee for Plan and recurring expenditure.

(c) and (d) New courses in B.Tech in Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering, MBA in Port and Shipping Management, MBA in International Transportation and Logistics and P.G. Diploma in Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering have been introduced. Plans for introducing more courses are under formulation. The intake of seats in existing courses in Institutes subsumed in Indian Maritime University are being increased to implement the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2007.

Introduction of Languages in Kendriya Vidyalayas

2149. SHRI MUKESH BHAIRAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to introduce teaching of foreign languages like French, German and Chinese in all Kendriya Vidyalayas functioning in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) It has been decided to introduce foreign languages like French, German, Chinese, Japanese and Spanish in the Kendriya Vidyalayas from the session 2009-2010 onwards provided 15 or more students opt for any foreign language of their choice in any school.

Vacant Posts in KVs

2150. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether large number of posts of different categories are lying vacant in various Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) in the country;

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

(c) whether new appointments have been made against the vacant posts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken for the early filling up of all vacant posts in KVs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) As on 1.7.2009, 4496 posts in different categories in various Kendriya Vidyalayas were vacant as against the sanctioned strength of 51473.

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

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. KVS has forwarded the dossiers of 362 candidates selected recently for the post of Post-Graduate Teachers in various subjects for issuance of offers of appointment by the Regional Offices.

(f) The Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan fills up these vacancies through direct recruitment as well as by promotion from time to time through regular annual exercise. Till the vacant posts are filled by regular recruits, the Vidyalaya Management Committee is compenent to engage part time contractual teachers.

Statement

Vacancy Lying in Various Kendriya Vidyalayas in the Country

Sl.No.	Category	No.of posts sanctioned	No.of posts vacant as on 1.7.2009
1	2	3	4
1.	Principal	908	30
2.	Vice-Principal	469	45
3.	Head Master	657	172
4.	Post Graduate Teacher	8560	857
5.	Trained Graduate Teacher	11016	905

1	2	3	4
6.	Primary Teacher	13118	729
7.	Misc. Category	5113	725
8.	Non-teaching staff (inclusive of 3137 posts of Gr. D for outsourcing)	11632	1033
Total		51473	4496

Trade with China

2151. SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of China's share in Indian imports and exports during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether a recent study has revealed a growth in import of Chinese manufactured goods;

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

(d) whether Chinese imported goods such as toys, dairy products and mobiles are freely available in Indian markets despite the ban imposed on such products;

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

(f) the steps being taken to increase exports to China and the outcome achieved thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The details of China's share in Indian imports and exports during the last three years is as indicated below:-

Year	China's % share in overall Indian imports	China's % share in Indian Exports
2005-06	7.29	6.56
2006-07	9.40	6.56
2007-08	10.78	6.65
2008-09 (Apr-Feb)	9.8	4.59

(b) and (c) No such study has been conducted by the Department of Commerce. However, import from China from 2000-01 to 2008-09 (Apr.-Feb.) has increased about 20 times.

(d) and (e) The goods imported prior to imposition of ban/application of mandatory standards may be presented for sale in the country subject to applicable domestic laws/regulations applicable on the sale.

(f) The government is pursuing with the Chinese side greater market access as also undertaking trade promotion activities for our products such as agricultural products, basmati rice, pharmaceuticals etc. Indian companies have participated in trade fairs in China to enhance awareness about Indian products.

[*Translation*]

Opening of New Educational Institutes

2152. SHRI SAJJAN VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Madhya Pradesh Government for opening of new educational institutes in the State;

(b) if so, the salient features and the present status thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has offered to provide land free of cost for the said purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The details of proposals received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and the status of action taken by the Central Government are as under:

Sl.No.	Proposal	Status
1	2	3
1.	Establishment of 200 Model Schools in Educationally Backward Blocks under the recently launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Model Schools'	Proposal has been referred back to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh as availability and location of the land for setting up of Model Schools was not indicated in the proposal.

1	2	3
2.	Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has received a proposal from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for opening of 11 Kendriya Vidyalayas(KVs) during the last 3 years.	6 KVs have already become functional, the proposals of 3 are under consideration and 2 proposals were incomplete.
3.	Proposal for establishment of Polytechnics in 21 Districts, for which financial assistance is to be provided during the 11th Plan period.	Out of 21 Districts, 14 Districts have already been provided the first installment to the tune of Rs. 2.00 crore each.
4.	Proposal for opening of one State Institute of Educational Management and Training (SIEMAT) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.	This was discussed in the Project Approval Board's (PAB) meeting held on 11.4.2009. The PAB agreed to setting up of the same subject to State Government's Cabinet approval.

Muslim Education

2153. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up any Committee to report on education facility to the Muslims:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any report has been submitted to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations made in the report by the Committee;

(e) whether the Government is formulating any action on the basis of those recommendations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister's High Level Committee on the Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community was set up in March, 2005 under Shri Justice (Retd.) Rajindar Sachar. The said Committee submitted its Report to the

Central Government in November, 2006. In Chapter 12 of its report, the Sachar Committee made certain recommendations emerging out of its findings on the educational status of the Muslim community in India. A summary of the said recommendations is given in the enclosed Statement-I. The Ministry of Human Resource Development set up, under the Chairmanship of Shri M.A.A. Fatmi, the then Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, a High Level Committee for preparing a plan of action on matters concerning education contained in the recommendations of the Justice Sachar Committee. The plan of action suggested by the Fatmi Committee is given in the enclosed Statement-II. In pursuance of the said plan of action, the Central Government has taken initiatives for the educational advancement of the Muslim minority community. A gist of the same is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

1. Need for collecting data and creating a National Data Bank for the various Socio-Religious Communities in respect of their status.
2. Five-yearly monitoring of the status and regular monitoring in the interim.
3. Removing the wide spread perception of discrimination and strengthening of legal provisions.
4. Increasing participation of minorities in various public authorities right from the grass-roots level.
5. Developing a Diversity Index (DI) in respect of institutions in order to mainstream the minorities and induce greater diversity, including allocation of grants to colleges and universities by the UGC linking it to the extent of diversity, developing programmes for sensitizing staff, including appropriate curriculum for this purpose in teacher's education, organizing remedial classes and providing public spaces for minorities.
6. Sharper focus on school education, scanning content in school textbooks for reflection on social diversity and purging material that promote religious intolerance.
7. Create local community study centres for students.
8. Setting up of high quality government schools in areas of Muslim concentration.

9. Exclusive schools for girls in 9th to 12th standards.
10. Mapping of areas with Urdu speaking population and provision of primary education in such areas.
11. State funding of institutions may be linked to the criteria of admissions for the educationally backward.
12. Provision of hostel facilities at reasonable cost for students from minority communities at Taluka HQs and educational centres.
13. Appointment of more para-teachers from among the Muslims.
14. Removing distortions in the three-language formula to accommodate Urdu teachers in the Hindi-speaking States.
15. Opening high quality Urdu medium schools where there is demand and also ensuring that quality textbooks are available.
16. Introduction of Urdu as an optional subject in all States with substantial Urdu-speaking population.
17. Madarsas are not alternatives, but complementary to regular schools; academic equivalence should be established so that students in the Madarsa system can move over to the mainstream institutions of higher education.
18. Qualification from Madarsas should be recognized for eligibility to participate in examinations for recruitment to public posts.
19. Review and revamp the Madarsa Modernization Scheme before expanding it.

Statement II

1. The valuable inputs received from participants, viewed in the light of the findings and recommendations of the Justice Sachar Committee lead the HLC-MHRD to suggest a multi-pronged strategy in the XIth Plan.
2. The Committee endorses the broad consensus emerging out of the meetings with the Members of Parliament and other stakeholders that no single strategy would work in ensuring that the problem of educational backwardness of Muslims is addressed adequately and effectively.

3. The multi-pronged strategy would have to be different for different regions of the country due to the different stages of their educational development. Within the same region, the strategy must accommodate the aspirations of the different socio-economic groups within the Muslim community. It must also take in to account the religious sensibilities and gender issues, while at the same time ensuring that our efforts lead to promotion of mainstreaming and inclusive education.
4. The Committee's recommendations include specific, sector-wise points of action, several of which will require investment in the XIth Plan, as also more general issues which need action and resolution in the longer run. All the recommendations do not require an immediate outlay of funds, though it would be natural to expect that over time additional funds would be required.

General Recommendations:

5. A purely territorial approach in which administrative units such as blocks or districts are identified for the purposes of schemes would not work, because substantial segments of the Muslim population are at risk of being left out, particularly in elementary schooling. It has been conveyed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs that there are 576 CD Blocks with more than 25% Muslims, 724 with more than 20% Muslim population, 784 with more than 10% Muslims and 275 townships with more than 20% Muslim population. These numbers include the States/UT where minority communities are in a majority—Jammu and Kashmir (87 Blocks with 20% or more Muslims and 88 with more than 10% Muslims), Lakshadweep (all 9 Blocks with more than 10%) Meghalaya (2 Blocks with more than 10% Muslims and 1 with more than 20%) and Punjab 2 Blocks with more than 10% Muslim population and 1 with more than 25% Muslims). It is recommended that statistics in respect of villages and Panchayats as well as municipalities or urban local bodies with concentration of Muslim population (graded on the basis of percentage of population) should be prepared for mapping educational institutions and meeting the institutional gaps. It is learnt that National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies has undertaken work of this nature and this must be explored.

6. For the purposes of educational programmes among Muslims, it is important that no distinction is made between under-developed and less developed areas (which is one of the criteria for identifying Minority Concentration Districts), as the Justice Sachar Committee has shown that Muslims are, in general, disadvantaged in access to education.
7. Statistics on enrolment and other relevant indices should be maintained by the MHRD - under elementary and secondary schooling by the NUEPA and for Higher Education by the NUEPA/UGC.
8. During the XIth Five year Plan, the National Book Trust (NBT) could be assisted for a major project in translation of popular textbooks into Urdu. The NCERT as well as the NCPUL could be partners in the venture and the work, stupendous to say the least, could be shared between the three bodies.
9. The Committee also recommends that all educational institutions should have a uniform policy of observing the festivals of all faiths, with appropriately planned events.

Literacy and Adult Education:

10. There are 88 districts where the Muslim population is more than 20% 57 of these have a female literacy rate lower than the national average (54.2%). All 88 districts should form the focus of attention under a special literacy campaign during the XIth Plan. The demand for literacy among Muslims would have to be met imaginatively, and the beneficial elements of a focused literacy campaign through social mobilization utilizing the services of community leaders and other opinion makers, especially reputed non- government organizations, would have to be leveraged to make any dent in the illiteracy among Muslims. Special honorarium or rewards should be given to volunteers who participate in the campaigns. An estimated Rs. 750 crores would be the requirement under the XIth Plan for organizing the various activities in mobilizing the Muslim masses for literacy and adult education. A special mobilization drive should be launched under the TLC linking vocational skills with literacy.
11. Jana Shikshan Sansthan have been sanctioned in 29 MCDs out of the 88 Districts with more than 20% population of Muslims. JSSs should

be sanctioned in the remaining districts, on condition that the MCBs with more than 20% Muslims are covered by the sub-centres. Similarly, JSS already sanctioned in these districts should extend their sub-centres to such Blocks.

Primary Education:

12. As on December 2006, there were 388 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas (KGBVs) sanctioned in the MCBs. It is recommended that there should be one KGBV in each MCB, and all MCBs covered in the XIth Plan period. Each KGBV should have the option of opening an Urdu medium section with upto 40 girls per section. MHRD may consider setting up KGBVs in urban areas in which priority would be given to smaller towns with Muslim concentration.
13. Madarsas and Maktabas, which come forward for assistance under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan's guidelines, should be covered under the XIth Plan period.
14. The guidelines of SSA would be amended in the XIth Plan to enable additional "girls only" upper primary schools to be opened in villages with a substantial Muslim population in blocks with more than 20% population of Muslims.
15. Primary education in the mother tongue is not only a Constitutional imperative but is also widely recognized as an essential foundation for comprehensive schooling. This has been reiterated in National Curriculum Framework, 2005 (NCF). This Committee recommends that in the MCBs, in case there are students under the SSA who want to study in their mother tongue of Urdu, expenditure on additional teachers for teaching in Urdu medium should be permitted. Any such step will require the availability of additional teachers and the Central Government should launch a scheme for giving incentives to State governments for recruiting Urdu teachers.

Secondary Education:

16. A scheme should be set in place by which financial grants are provided to establish secondary/senior secondary schools (VIII to XII) exclusively for girls in 724 MCBs, where schools

exclusively for girls, established, maintained or aided by the Government, do not exist within a radius of 5 kms. Unless not feasible, such schools should be set up in such clusters where the concentration of Muslim population is the maximum. Apart from the above, efforts should be made to open combined co- education Secondary/Senior Secondary schools in 275 towns having more than 20% Muslim population. Even in urban areas, as far as practicable, such schools should be set up in Mohallas and colonies which have the maximum concentration of Muslims. Such schools should be managed by the appropriate Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) or Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), as the case may be, through local School Management Committees. These School Management Committees should have adequate representation of people who have established credentials and experience in education and related welfare activities among Muslims in the MCDs. The said schools, which could appropriately be called 'Multicultural Schools', will be open to all children. While lands for establishing such schools will be given free of cost by PRIs and ULBs in collaboration with State Governments, appropriate seed money will be provided by the Central Government for creation of infrastructure and recurring matching grant will be provided by the Central Government. These schools should be affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education. The Department of School Education and Literacy should prepare a detailed plan with due attention to the management and governance structure of the schools. It is expected that it would cost about Rs. 1 crore to start each such school with classes 8th-12th and an annual recurring cost, with about 30 teachers, would be approximately Rs. 60 lakh.

17. A concerted effort needs to be made to engage more women teachers in co- educational schools.
18. The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) situated in MCDs and having Urdu as mother tongue, should introduce a section in classes VI to VIII stage for students desirous of studying in Urdu medium. Correspondingly, the capacity of hostels in the JNVs would need to be expanded during the XIth Plan period. A similar

exercise should also be undertaken by the DIETs in the 88 MCDs.

19. There are 23 JNVs with Urdu being offered as a language upto the secondary level. Out of these, 11 JNVs are in the 88 MCDs. This facility should be extended to JNVs in the remaining MCDs where Urdu is the mother tongue. Financial provision for this should be made during the XIth Plan Period.
20. KVS may consider the feasibility of including a new category of socially and educationally backward classes including minorities to the existing priorities prescribed for admission to the Kendriya Vidyalayas.
21. The NCERT is being assisted to make available and design contents in the Urdu language and for producing textbooks by commissioning textbook writers from amongst competent academicians. These books should be made available in time and the NCERT should put these textbooks also on its web site as has been done in the case of the other textbooks. In the case of Urdu medium textbooks, the NCERT should liberally give its copyright to state governments and their bodies.
22. The NCERT promote and undertake research on learning difficulties faced by children in MCDs with particular reference to the relevance of the learning materials, the processes of teaching-learning transactions, etc. among Muslim children.
23. The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) has initiated an advocacy programme for spreading Distance and Open Learning among Muslims with the active and voluntary involvement of Madarsas. The Committee recommends that this awareness programme among Madarsas should be stepped up and the NIOS should be appropriately strengthened for effective outreach.
24. The NIOS has also started translation of all vocational content in Urdu, which would be useful for the expansion of the vocational programme under the Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme in the relevant Blocks. The NIOS should also develop innovative vocational content of courses suitable for addressing the needs of the youth in the relevant Blocks.

25. The scheme for introduction of modern subjects in Madarasas volunteering to seek such help, should be revised to include vocational subjects. The scheme should be incorporate one-time assistance for non-recurring expenditure and additional remuneration for engaging suitably qualified experts for imparting vocational education. The weaknesses of the present scheme, in which salary for only two teachers are provided, should be addressed. The one time grant for books and teaching aids at Rs. 7000 each per Madarsa is also inadequate. It is understood that the MHRD has proposed a revised scheme for Madarasas for the XIth Plan. While retaining the scheme as voluntary, the proposed revisions may include vocational education and linking with the NIOS and the State Open Schools, besides increasing the assistance towards teachers' salary, library, etc. Assistance should also be provided for computer laboratories and for other necessary infrastructure.
26. Block Institutes of Teacher Education should be established in MCBs, with an Urdu section where needed. These Institutes should be impart pre-service and in-service teacher training for primary, upper primary as well as secondary level teachers (D.Ed/B.Ed) for meeting the shortage of teachers in these districts.

Higher Education:

27. The National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) should establish a Centre for the Study of Issues in Minority Education, which should be funded by the MHRD.
28. The Justice Sachar Committee has proposed that a Diversity Index (DI) be developed for institutions. This committee recommends that the UGC should work out such an index for ranking institutions based on which the Commission's development grants can be given. The Committee recommends that a detailed scheme be formulated for the purpose of giving such development grants on the basis of the diversity index.
29. The University Grants Commission should provide special assistance to State and Central Universities, Deemed Universities and other institutions of higher learning with a high DI as reflected in high enrolment of students belonging to educationally backward minorities that cater to the Muslim population and are recognized under section 2(f) and 12B of the UGC Act. Hostel facilities for girl students in all identified MCDs could be assisted during the XIth Plan.
30. The University Grants Commission should address the issue of access to higher education for the Muslims (who according to the Justice Sachar Committee number just 1 in 25 at the undergraduate level and a meagre 1 in 50 at the Post Graduate level) as well as the issue of quality of higher education in institutions serving the Muslim population. It is recommended that the UGC should provide development grants to colleges located in MCBs in rural areas and smaller towns. The assistance should be utilized for building hostels, strengthening infrastructure and other facilities. These Muslim minority institutions of higher learning established in terms of Art 29 (1) of the Constitution should be taken up for priority recognition by the UGC under section 2(f) and 12B of the UGC Act, 1956.
31. Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has more than 28,000 students on its rolls. The Committee feels that the University may examine the feasibility of expanding its capacity without lowering its standards so as to increase access to good quality higher and professional education. According to an estimate suggested to the Committee by the Vice Chancellor of AMU, an amount of Rs. 1153.55 crore would be needed for the purpose. The Committee recommends substantial assistance to the University by the Government of India to create adequate infrastructure and other facilities as may be proposed by the competent authority of the University, to meet this objective.
32. Assistance should be provided to MANUU to address the critical issues highlighted by the Justice Sachar Committee. These include lack of quality school education, paucity of technical and vocational training. We recommend that MANUU should establish Polytechnics, Community Polytechnics, Vocational Training Institutes as also institutions such as colleges for teaching Unani Medicine, Pharmacy and Nursing, which would also have a positive

bearing on public health issues among the Muslim community. It may be mentioned here that all these initiatives are possible under the provisions of the MANUU Act, 1997. The University had initially submitted an estimate of Rs. 272 crore for its expansion plans and subsequently revised it to Rs. 500 crore for the XIth Plan period. The Committee recommends substantial assistance should be provided to the University by the Government of India to enable them to take up the proposed expansion of their activities. The MANUU should also be assisted in setting up a National Urdu Library to facilitate research and reference.

33. The Committee appreciates the initiative taken by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in setting up Centres for the Studies in Social Exclusion in some Universities. The Committee recommends that the UGC should also establish Centres for the Study of Minority related issues in at least one University in every State and in the Central Universities.

Vocational Education:

34. At least one Community Polytechnic could be established during the XIth Five year Plan in each MCS.

Other issues

35. During the discussions the Committee had with Members of Parliament, Intellectuals, Non-Governmental Organisations and members of the public, many suggestions were made which were in the purview of other Ministries. These are being taken up by the MHRD appropriately with the relevant Ministries. A few of the important issues that have a direct bearing on education of the Muslim minority are as follows:

Early Childhood Care and Education:

36. Recognising that the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) is concerned with the establishment of Aanganwadis, the Committee suggests that the Ministry of WCD may consider to establish on priority, Aanganwadis in villages/Panchayats and urban wards with more than 20% population of Muslims where Aanganwadis do not exist at present. It is possible that this has already been planned for under the ongoing Universalisation of ICDS.

Higher Education:

37. At present the coaching and pre-examination facilities are directed at employment and public services. It has been suggested that pre-examination coaching is made available to Muslim students to prepare them for competitive examination for admission in prestigious institutions of higher and professional education, as also centres to train Muslim candidates to appear in competitive exams of the Public Service Commissions, banks etc. The existing infrastructure available with secondary schools and colleges in localities of Muslim concentration should be encouraged to provide facilities for operating common study centres for students after the regular teaching hours. In this regard the regard the Committee feels that existing UGC scheme needs to be revamped. The Ministry of Minority Affairs, which is the nodal Ministry, may like to consider this suggestion. The MHRD (Department of School Education and Literacy) and the UGC could provide all assistance needed in this regard. The Committee took note of the good work being done by the Jamia Hamdard through its Hamdard Study Circles and suggests that such study circles could be encouraged in other parts of the country.
38. Recognising that the Ministry of Minority Affairs is concerned with issues relating to many aspects related to minority welfare, the Committee suggests that the Ministry may consider introducing a suitable scholarship programme for the Muslim students for studying abroad on the lines of the Dr. Ambedkar Scholarship for the Scheduled Caste students for overseas studies, to be awarded, on merit-cum-means basis to students getting admission to prestigious institutions.

Financial Assistance for the girl student:

39. This Committee suggests that the Ministry of Minority Affairs may consider the creation of an appropriately named public fund for educating educationally backward Muslim girls right from schooling to higher and professional studies through scholarships, etc. including transportation and fee assistance.

Statement III

1. NUEPA brings out analytical report on elementary education in India every year with the help of school based data collected through District Information System of Education (DISE), since 2006-07 DISE has started tracking enrolment of Muslim children.

Against 13.43% Muslim population, the share of Muslim children enrolled at primary & upper primary level reported in DISE for the year 2007-08 is 10.49% & 8.54% respectively which has increased from 9.4% & 7.5% respectively at primary & upper primary level respectively in 2006-08. The estimated number of Muslim out of school children has decreased from 21 lakh (2005) to 9.4 lakh (2008), *i.e.* from 9.97% to 3.43% of 6-14 years Muslim children population. The guidelines on maximizing school access to Muslim children and location of schools, especially upper primary schools in Panchayat/villages/ Mohallas with substantial Muslim population were reiterated to the States vide letters dated 15th February, 2008 and 26th February, 2008 respectively. Further this issue was discussed in the State Education Secretaries & SPD conference on 31 st July, 2008. 88 districts with concentration of Muslim population were specifically targeted for maximising school access and eliminating infrastructure gaps through opening of 2507 new Primary Schools and 4465 Upper Primary Schools; construction of 36592 additional classrooms and recruitment of 23103 teacher. Also, 458 KGBV have been sanctioned in these 88 districts.

2. NCERT has completed Phase-I, II and III of Textbooks for teaching of Urdu language for classes I to XII. It has signed an MOU with Jamia Millia Islamia for preparation of Urdu versions of textbooks. Various programmes taken up by NCERT during the year 2008-09 which have bearing on identifying and removing learning problems of children from Muslim community include orientation programme for Managers and Principals of minority managed institutions, Development of strategies for education of linguistic minorities, Capacity Building of Key Functionaries for Implementation of VET in Minority Institutions, Development of teacher's manual in Urdu for Secondary and

Senior Secondary Stages, Development of audio and audio-visual programmes in Urdu for Secondary Stage, "Shoara (Poets) Ki Aawaj", Development of audio/video programme in Urdu, Orientation of Urdu language teachers on new teaching/learning material developed as a follow up to N.C.F. 2005 for Primary stage, Orientation of key resource persons in Urdu at secondary stage, Three Day National Seminar on new trends in teaching-learning of Urdu, A study of the Maktabas and Madrasas of Southern States of India from a Gender Perspective, Training Programme for Teacher Educators from Institute of Advanced Studies in Education (IASE) on Action Research related to Gender Issues with Focus on Upliftment of Muslim Girls and Training Programme on NCF 2005 for Institutions run by Minority Communities with focus on Multilingualism.

3. The States were again urged vide letter dated 25.9.08 of Department of School Education & Literacy, MHRD to cover out of school children going to madarasas/ maqtabas. 7828 recognised madarasas/maqtabas covering 10.1 lakh muslim children and 4040 unrecognised madarasas/ maqtabas covering 1.6 lakh Muslim children under Education Guarantee Scheme/ Alternative Innovative Education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
4. Under an existing scheme "Appointment of Language Teachers", 100% Central assistance is given to States for salary and honoraria to Urdu teachers - one in each school. 1926 teachers were appointed under the scheme during 2007-08.
5. At present 221 Jan Shikshan Sansthan have been sanctioned in the country, including 26 JSS sanctioned in Minority Concentration District.
6. The report of the Experts Committee has been accepted by the Ministry and a New central sponsored scheme "Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas" has been launched incorporating the suggestions of the Expert Committee with an allocation of Rs. 325. crores in the Xth plan. The recommendations of the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Chairman, CBSE for proposing National Level Mechanism for grant of equivalence to Madrasa qualification have been

accepted and Notification has been issued. A new centrally sponsored scheme of financial assistance for Infrastructure Development of Privately managed elementary/secondary/senior secondary schools set up by minorities has been launched with an allocation of Rs. 125.00 crores during XIth Plan.

7. Centre for Professional Development of Urdu Medium Teachers has been set up at three Central Universities viz. AMU, JMI and MANUU. The centre at JMI has organized eight programmes covering 300 teachers from Delhi, Rajasthan and Haryana. MANUU has organized twelve programmes and has trained 1803 teachers (50% of whom are Madrassa teachers) during the same period. The AMU has conducted three Refreshers Courses for Primary/Secondary school teachers of Aligarh District and has covered 100 teachers.
8. A study is being completed by the National University for Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA) to identify causal factors for low enrolment of Muslim minorities at secondary level of education.
9. In the Budget for 2009-10, an allocation of Rs. 25.00 crore each has been proposed for the Murshidabad and Mallapuram campuses of Aligarh Muslim University.
10. Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in its XI Plan proposal envisages (11) Model Schools, (7) Polytechnic Courses, (3) College of Teacher Education, a College of Pharmacy and Research Centre, a College of Unani Medicine & Research and Hospital, and a College of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences. This is subject to availability of funds during the XI Plan.
11. The UGC has approved the guidelines for establishment of centres in universities for study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy and also approved/sanctioned the above scheme in 35 universities (*i.e.* 13 Universities during 2006-07 and 22 universities during 2007-08) and released Rs. 14.00 crores so far as per guidelines.

[English]

ESI Scheme for Unorganised Workers

2154. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to extend the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) Scheme to the unorganised workers;

(b) if so, the details and features thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 applies to non-seasonal power using factories employing 10 or more persons and non-power using factories and some specified establishments such as shops, hotels and restaurants, cinemas and preview theatres, road-motor transport undertakings and newspaper establishments employing 20 or more persons. The Act mostly applies to workers in the organized sector. However, there is a proposal to permit the BPL workers registered under the "Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana" to utilise the medical facilities from designated ESI Hospitals on payment of user charges.

Community Colleges

2155. SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government and the Indra Gandhi National Open University for setting up of New Community Colleges in the country alongwith the aims and objectives of such community colleges;

(b) whether the Government has decided to set up new community colleges in the various parts of the country;

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

(d) the funds allocated for each community colleges during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The XI Plan document as endorsed by the National Development Council (NDC) has envisaged setting up of additional community colleges as well as supporting the existing ones for capacity building and training cost. The objective of these colleges is to provide education which aims at skill development in a flexible environment. Details of the proposal are being worked out.

Scholarship to SCs/STs Students

2156. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enhance scholarship amount of SCs/STs students in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(b) if so, the details thereof from class I to XII;

(c) whether the scholarship of SCs/STs students are getting delayed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) There is no scheme of awarding scholarship to students belonging to SC/ST categories in Kendriya Vidyalayas.

Computers for Visually Impaired Students

2157. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi University has provided talking computers for the benefit of visually impaired students during admissions this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of students could avail of this facility;

(d) whether this facility can also be introduced in other Universities in the country for the benefit of students; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by University of Delhi, two computers with screen reading software have been installed which enable the visually impaired candidates to obtain the admission related information.

(c) The facility was availed by about 400 candidates.

(d) and (e) The Universities are autonomous bodies and this facility can also be introduced by them subject to their requirement and availability of resources.

Appointment of Celebrities in Territorial Army

2158. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the aim, objects and strength of the Territorial Army;

(b) whether the Government proposes to confer the position of Lieutenant Colonel and other ranks on celebrities and appoint them in Territorial Army;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the celebrities on whom the high ranks of Territorial Army are proposed to be conferred?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The Territorial Army is a voluntary and part-time army of civilians, who are not professional soldiers, to relieve the regular Army of static duties and to assist in aid to civil administration in situations of natural calamities, maintenance of essential services and to provide units for the regular Army as and when required.

(b) to (d) Honorary rank in Territorial Army is granted to a person who has rendered service of a high order to the Indian Union or rendered signal service to any of the Armed Forces or has taken a special interest in fostering the development of any of the Armed Forces.

Reforms in DRDO

2159. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI LALJI TANDON:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the Report of Dr. P. Ramarao Committee, constituted to recommend reforms in the functioning of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the roadmap for implementation of the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY):
(a) to (c) The Rama Rao Committee submitted its report to the Government on 5th March 2008. The Government has recently constituted a committee headed by Defence Secretary to look into the responses and suggestions made by various stake holders, on the recommendations of the Rama Rao Committee.

Shortfall in Utilisation of Funds for Education

2160. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism in place to monitor utilisation of funds granted to State for implementation of various schemes;

(b) whether complaints have been received about shortfall in utilization of funds earmarked for education under different schemes by the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to ensure full and proper utilisation of funds by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Funds granted to States for implementation of various schemes are being monitored through a multilevel mechanism which includes audit by Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Accountant General of the respective States, annual audit by independent Chartered Accountants, concurrent financial reviews through independent professional bodies, National Level and State Level Committees.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Technical and Non-Technical Institutions

2161. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM
WAKCHAURE:

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

(a) the norms adopted by the Government for selection of backward and rural areas for establishing educational institutions;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open some technical and non-technical educational institutions for poor families in the backward and rural areas in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the places selected for setting up these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) There is a proposal to launch a new scheme with Central-State funding for establishment of one model degree college in each of the 374 identified educationally backward districts having Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) lower than the national GER. Subject to approval of the scheme, one-third of the estimated capital cost of each college, limited to Rs. 2.67 crores, shall be provided by the Central Government.

A new scheme has been approved to provide one time financial assistance to the state governments for establishment of new polytechnics in unserved and underserved districts with the financial assistance of the Central Govt. to the tune of Rs. 12.30 crores per polytechnic in 300 districts. It is also proposed to provide financial assistance of Rs. 3.00 crore per polytechnic under PPP Mode.

[English]

Discrimination against Dalit Children

2162. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI P. LINGAM:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY:
SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI:
DR. ANUP KUMAR SAHA:
SHRI SAKTI MOHAN MALIK:

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

(a) whether the recent report by National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights Dalit Arthik Adhikar Andolan and supported by United Nations Children Emergency Fund

has revealed that Dalit Children face discrimination of various kinds in schools leading to high drop outs in this category;

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

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The ministry has not received the final report of the study to understand discrimination against Dalit children in the schooling process.

Bonded Labourers

2163. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY:
SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of bonded labourers at present in the country including backward, rural and tribal areas, State-wise;

(b) whether any scheme has been chalked out for their liberation and rehabilitation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of bonded labourers freed and rehabilitated by the Government and Voluntary Organisations during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) As per the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, identification, release and rehabilitation is the responsibility of State Governments. The State-wise number of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated during last few years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

(a) and (c) In order to assist the States in rehabilitation of released bonded labourers, a Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme for rehabilitation of Bonded

Labour is in operation since May, 1978. Under the Scheme, assistance is provided @ Rs. 20000/- per bonded labour which is equally shared by Central and State Government concerned. The number of bonded labourers released and rehabilitated during the last three years, State-wise are as under:

Name of the States	Number of Bonded Labourers released and rehabilitated during the year:			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (up to 30.06.09)
Bihar	-	150	409	-
Haryana	-	9	-	-
Madhya Pradesh	-	192	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	104	277	80	-
West Bengal	93	88	54	-

[Translation]

Brahmos Missile

2164. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to modify/re-design the Brahmos Missile so as to augment its striking capabilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds allocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) An improved version (Block-II) with upgraded software providing variety of capabilities to suit engagement of land-based targets (Army Version) has already been developed and test fired successfully in March 2009.

[English]

Investment in Telecom Sector

2165. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY:
SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of foreign investors who have come forward to invest in the Telecom Sector during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is planning to make some foreign telecom companies its strategic partners;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has taken the cognizance of long term impact of such strategic partnership;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which the telecom sector is likely to be improved by enhancing the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) ceiling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) The total number of Foreign Investors who have come forward to invest in the Telecom Sector during the last three years including the current year are as under:

Year	Total number of Investors
2006-07	53
2007-08	44
2008-09	61
2009-10 (upto April 2009)	09
Total	167

(b) No such proposal is in process at present.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

(f) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) brings in Capital and Technology, which are essential for qualitative and quantitative growth of the Telecom industry. The present FDI ceiling for telecom sector is 74%.

Regulate the Functions of Major Ports

2166. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to set up Regulatory Authority to Regulate the functioning of major ports along with coastline of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such Authority is likely to be set up;

(c) whether this authority is likely to replace Major Port Trusts in the Country;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the main mandate of this authority; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to monitor the performance standards of the ports authorities and the private operators?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):

(a) to (e) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, Ministry of Shipping was formed to examine the role of Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP), Mumbai, *vis-a-vis* its performance regulation, the organizational structure and the statutory framework for the purpose of strengthening of Tariff Authority for Major Ports. The Committee has finalized the draft Major Ports Regulatory Authority Bill, 2009 and the same has been hosted on the website for inviting comments/views of the various stakeholders on the proposed Act. The Bill, if enacted by Parliament, will be a successor to the provisions currently enshrined in the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 in so far as the working of Tariff Authority for Major Ports is concerned. No final decision on the issue has yet been taken.

Corporal Punishment in School

2167. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMVAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports of violence on children in the form of corporal punishment are on the increase in the recent past;

(b) whether the National Commission for Protection of Child Right has written to all the State Governments and sought reports about the steps taken by the school authorities to curb such activities against the children; and

(c) if so, the response of the various State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights had issued directions in August 2007 to all the States regarding action to be taken by the schools to arrest corporal punishment and directed to submit the action taken in this regard. The Ministry of Human Resource Development, at the behest of the National Commission for protection of Child Rights had also written to the State Governments in December 2007 to prohibit corporal punishment in all schools under the jurisdiction of the State Government in the spirit of national policy on education.

Package for Export Sector

2168. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Rs. 325 crore package is proposed to be unveiled for leather and textile export sectors; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) During the announcement of supplement to Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009 on 26.2.2009, a package of Rs. 325 crores for promoting exports of leather products and apparel was announced. Under this promotional package, exports to USA and European Union from 1.4.2009 to 30.9.2009 are eligible for Duty Credit to @ 2% under Market Linked Focus Product Scheme of the Foreign Trade Policy. It is estimated that out of Rs. 325 crores, approximately Rs. 290 crores will go to the apparel sector and Rs. 35 crores to the leather products sector.

Investment of EPF Funds

2169. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to allow Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) to be invested in financial market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes 26 per cent Foreign Direct Investment in management of pension

funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Employees' Provident Funds are invested under the pattern prescribed by the Government on the recommendations of Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund. Funds are invested in Central/State Government securities, as guaranteed by the Government, bonds of Public Sector Undertakings, private sector bonds, State development loans which have an investment grade rating. So far, Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund have not recommended for investment in equity market.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration for foreign direct investment in managing the pension fund under Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

Post Matric Scholarship to SCs/STs Students

2170. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

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

(a) whether there is any decision to impose the condition of sixty per cent marks as a criterion for eligibility for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) students for post-matric scholarships in professional institutions;

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

(c) if so, the number of such scholarships issued to the said students during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether any representation have been submitted for scrapping the above proposal;

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

(f) whether the Government proposes to revise the income ceiling limit and the rate of Post Matric Scholarship for SCs/STs students; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There is no such proposal with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment or the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) and (g) The income ceiling has been revised from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 1.08 lakh with effect from 1st April, 2007 for eligibility under Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme for ST students administered by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. There is no proposal for increasing the rates of post matric scholarships for ST students. A proposal for revision of scholarship rates and income ceiling for post matric scholarships Scheme for SC students is under consideration of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Development of Inland Waterways

2171. SHRI A. SAMPATH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various State Governments including Government of Kerala has submitted proposals to the Union Government regarding development of its inland waterways;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (c) In 10th Plan (April 2002 to March 2007) there was a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Inland Water Transport (IWT). In this scheme grant of 100% to North Eastern States and 90% to other States was provided by the Central Government to the respective States for development of IWT. States had submitted proposals under this scheme during the 10th Plan out of which 35 projects were sanctioned by the Central Govt. from time to time. State-wise details of these 35 projects are enclosed as Statement. This scheme has been discontinued from 1.4.2007. For North Eastern Region however, this has been classified as a Central Sector Scheme. Other States have been informed that the development of inland waterways may appropriately be taken up in the Annual Plans of the States by providing suitable allocations to IWT sector.

Statement

Statement showing the list of projects received/ sanctioned for the various States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of projects received from states	Projects Sanctioned by Govt.	
			Nos.	Cost
1.	Assam	15	4	1482.56
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	75.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	-	-
4.	Bihar	12	4	115.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	-	-
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1	117.40
7.	Gujarat	1	-	-
8.	Goa	5	1	109.00
9.	Karnataka	8	1	56.70
10.	Kerala	21	1	362.22
11.	Maharashtra	13	8	2983.48
12.	Madhya Pradesh	6	3	861.74
13.	Manipur	1	1	280.33
14.	Mizoram	1	-	-
15.	Orissa	2	2	214.70
16.	Tripura	1	1	46.60
17.	Tamil Nadu	5	-	-
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2	1	10.00
19.	West Bengal	12	5	3883.32
20.	Nagaland	1	1	75.6
Total		110	35	10673.65

Setting up New ITIs for Women/Girls

2172. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open more Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) for Women/Girls in the country including Gujarat;

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

(c) the time by which the said institutes are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Madam. New ITIs are set up by the State Governments according to their requirement. However, based on the Action Plan of the Task Force on 'Convergence and Coordination of Government Programmes for Gender Equality and Fighting Social Evils' set up by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, State Governments have been advised to initiate action to open more ITIs for Women.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Application for Patents

2173. SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a large number of applications for patenting;

(b) if so, the details thereof for each of the last three years and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to create more posts of patent examiners to cope up with voluminous work pressure and to modernise the existing patent machinery;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new posts are likely to be filled up and the patent office modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Indian Patent Office has received a large number of patent applications during the last three years. The details of patent applications received and the patents granted by the Indian Patent Office during the last three years are given below:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Patent Applications filed	28,940	35,218	36,877
Patents Granted	7,539	15,261	18,230

(c) to (e) The Government has approved implementation of the scheme for "Modernisation and Strengthening of Intellectual Property Offices" during the 11th Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12). The scheme provides for creation of more posts of Examiners of Patents & Designs and for modernisation of the infrastructure of the Patent Office. The salient components of the scheme are, *inter alia*, development of physical infrastructure, recruitment of human resources, computerisation and creation of awareness. The details of the scheme are available on the website of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, namely, <http://dipp.nic.in>.

Strike of Port Workers

2174. SHRI RAJAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any incidence of strike by some port workers has taken place recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the estimated loss incurred by the Government as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to redress the grievances of port workers?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) In protest against implementation of National Industrial Tribunal Award on Manning Scales, some sections of workers had gone on strike in Major Ports of Visakhapatnam Port, Mormugao Port and Cochin Port. As reported by Visakhapatnam Port Trust, no loss was caused to the Port as most of the operations are mechanical and cargo was handled as usual. However Mormugao Port Trust has reported an estimated throughput loss of about 5 lakh tonnes resulting in a revenue loss of about one crore rupees. Cochin Port Trust has also reported that 9231 mandays were lost in addition to Rs. 1.75 lakhs (approx.) which the Port may be required to refund as berth hire charges to the shipowners.

(c) There is no reason for grievance of Port workers on account of implementation of National Industrial Tribunal Award as the Award of the National Industrial Tribunal is binding on both parties *viz.* the Management and the Workers. In this connection Secretary (Shipping) had also held a meeting with the Chairmen of all Major

Port Trusts and a view was taken to implement the Award by all Major Ports and subsequently, if required, local adjustments may be permitted.

Rubber Parks In Kerala

2175. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing rubbers parks in the country and the operational status thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up more rubber parks in the State of Kerala;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the proposed rubber park is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): (a) The details of the existing rubber parks in the country and their operational status are given below:

(i) The Rubber Park at Irapuram near Kochi in Kerala is completed and operational.

(ii) The Rubber Park at Budhjungnagar in West Tripura district in Tripura is under construction.

(b) There is no proposal at present to set up more rubbers parks in Kerala.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Spiritual Poems Translated into all Languages

2176. SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to translate the poetic works of Subrahmanya Bharathi and Sree Narayana Guru into all other Indian languages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): This is not the subject matter of Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Ministry of Culture has informed that Sahitya Akademi, an autonomous organization under it, has published the works of Subrahmanya Bharathi in Hindi, English, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu languages. No work of Sree Narayana Guru has been published by the Sahitya Akademi.

Construction of Scorpene Submarines

2177. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of Scorpene submarines at Mazagon Docks Limited in Mumbai is running behind the schedule;

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

(c) the details of time and cost overrun of the Project;

(d) the resultant likely impact on the underwater combat capabilities of Indian Navy;

(e) the original time schedule for the delivery of the first scorpene submarine; and

(f) the revised time schedule for delivery of all the submarines to Navy?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (f) Construction on the first, second and third submarine commenced in December 2006, December 2007 and August 2008 respectively. As per the contract signed with Mazagaon Docks Limited (MDL), first submarine is scheduled to be delivered in December 2012 and thereafter, one each every year till December 2017. On account of some teething problems, absorption of technology and delays in augmentation of industrial infrastructure and procurement of MDL purchased materials (MPM), slippage in the delivery schedule is expected. Delay in scheduled delivery of submarines is likely to have an impact on the envisaged submarine force levels.

Strengthening of Maritime Security

2178. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy has been designated as an authority responsible for overall maritime security;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Indian Navy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) With a view to strengthening coastal security and surveillance, Government has designated Indian Navy as the authority responsible for overall maritime security. Indian Navy and Coast Guard have increased surface and air surveillance and patrolling along with other measures to strengthen coastal security. Assistance of State marine police and other agencies are taken as required.

[Translation]

Upgradation of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries

2179. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:
SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospitals and dispensaries functioning at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to upgrade and modernise some ESI hospitals and dispensaries in the country;

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

(d) the number of such hospitals and dispensaries running in rented accommodation, State-wise;

(e) the details of the funds spent on these hospitals and dispensaries during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(f) the number of labourers/workers benefited from these hospitals and dispensaries during the said period alongwith the facilities provided to them, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) Details are furnished as per enclosed Statement-I.

(b) and (c) Upgradation and modernisation of ESI hospitals and dispensaries is a continuous process. ESI Corporation has taken many initiatives in this regard. Details are furnished as per enclosed Statement-II.

(d) Details are furnished as per enclosed Statement-III.

(e) Details are furnished as per enclosed Statement-IV.

(f) Details are furnished as per enclosed Statement-V. The workers were provided promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services.

Statement-I

Infrastructure of Hospitals and Dispensaries

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Hospitals	No. of dispensaries
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	135
2.	Assam	1	27
3.	Bihar	3	19
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	1	02
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	12
6.	Delhi	4	51
7.	Goa	1	09
8.	Gujarat	12	98
9.	Haryana	05	57
10.	Himachal Pradesh	01	10
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	01	08
12.	Jharkhand	03	25
13.	Karnataka	09	114
14.	Kerala	13	137
15.	Madhya Pradesh	07	42
16.	Maharashtra	14	72
17.	Meghalaya	-	02
18.	Orissa	06	49
19.	Puducherry	01	15
20.	Punjab	07	70
21.	Rajasthan	05	72
22.	Tamil Nadu	09	190
23.	Uttar Pradesh	16	130
24.	Uttarakhand	-	12
25.	West Bengal	14	39
Total		144	1397

Statement II*Initiatives taken to upgrade and modernise ESI hospitals/dispensaries.*

- **Revolving fund scheme:** To cut down delays in provision of super specialty treatment, supply of drugs and dressings and repair & maintenance of equipments, ESIC has set up revolving fund with the consent of state government. Under this scheme the payment is made by ESIC against the valid sanction of the state government out of the money kept with the State Medical Commissioner office of ESI Corporation.
- **Model Hospital Scheme:** ESI Corporation has taken a decision to set up one hospital in each State as Model Hospital. At present, ESIC has set up Model Hospital in 18 States. These hospitals are being up graded as per norms and standards laid down by ESI Corporation. The expenditure on Model Hospitals is fully borne by ESI Corporation.
- ESI Scheme is implemented directly by ESI Corporation in new geographical areas.
- ESI Corporation has written to the State Governments to give their consent for handing over the ESI Scheme to ESI Corporation.
- **Zonal Super Speciality Hospitals:** Four Super specialty hospitals have been proposed to be set up in four zones *i.e.* south, East, West and North zone. In the first phase, super specialty hospital is proposed to be set up at Sanath Nagar, Hyderabad for South Zone and the foundation stone for the same has already been laid and construction work is to be started shortly.
- **Central Rate Contract for Allopathic” Ayurvedic Drugs:** To ensure uniformity in the supply of good quality drugs, ESIC is formulating Rate Contract for drugs following transparent bidding procedure and strict eligibility criteria which are provided to the states for adoption.
- **Norms and Standards:** ESIC has formulated norms and standards for staff and equipments for smooth functioning of hospitals and dispensaries.
- **Decentralization:** Powers have been delegated to the State Medical Commissioners for sanction of equipments, release of advance on account payments and repair & maintenance of equipments.
- **Occupational Disease Centre:** ESI Corporation has set up five occupational disease centre at Basaidarapur (New Delhi), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Kolkata (West Bengal), Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Indore (Madhya Pradesh) for prevention and early detection and diagnosis of occupational diseases amongst ESI beneficiaries. Special emphasis is being given for prevention of occupational diseases in insured persons working in hazardous industries.
- **Preventive Health Services:** To strengthen promotive and preventive health services under ESI medical scheme, ESI Corporation has allocated a separate budget of Rs. 20/- per IP family unit per annum. This will help in prevention of diseases like diabetes, Hyper tension, HIV/AIDS and also promote healthy life styles amongst beneficiaries.
- **Expenditure on Super Specialty Treatment:** To provide cashless and hassle free medical services, ESI Corporation has taken a decision for bearing the super specialty expenditure directly *w.e.f.* 01.08.2008. For this tie up arrangements have been made directly by ESIC with reputed and Government/private hospitals for specialty investigations and service.
- **IVF Treatment:** ESI Corporation is providing artificial re-production and IVF treatment facilities to insured persons.
- **Expansion of Ayush Facilities:** ESI Corporation is expanding provision of AYUSH facilities in ESI Hospitals and dispensaries as per the local requirements of the area. For promoting the same, the total expenditure on provision of AYUSH facilities in the first five years is fully borne by ESI Corporation.
- **Patient Satisfaction Survey:** ESI Corporation has under taken patient satisfaction survey in ESI Hospitals by independent agencies and is taking various actions based on the findings of the survey for improving the medical care facilities in ESI Hospitals.
- **Grading and ISO Certification of ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries:** ESI Corporation is getting its hospitals and dispensaries graded by reputed organizations. Further action has been initiated for getting ISO certification in respect of hospitals and dispensaries.

- **IT enablement of ESI Institutions:** To provide quick and hassle free medical care services, ESI Corporation has undertaken a plan for IT enablement of ESI Hospitals and dispensaries.
- **Starting of Medical Education Institution:** As apart of initiative for over coming the shortage of medical manpower and improving the services in ESI Hospitals, ESI Corporation has under taken a project for starting medical colleges, nursing colleges, dental colleges and training school for other para medical staff in ESIC/ESI Hospitals. In the first phase, it is proposed to set up 11 Medical Colleges and 12 Post Graduate Medical Sciences and Research in the existing ESI Hospitals having 300 beds in the States.
- **Change in the pattern of reimbursement of medical care expenditure to the States:** ESI Corporation has taken a decision to reimburse the administrative expenditure incurred by the State Government on actual basis without ceiling subject to fulfilment of certain conditions. This will ensure State Governments to post the medical and para medical staff in ESI Hospitals and dispensaries as per norms and standards of ESI Corporation and will help in providing proper medical care facilities to ESI beneficiaries. Further, the ceiling on medical care reimbursement to the States is being increased from Rs. 1000/- to Rs. 1200/- w.e.f. 01.04.2009.
- **Hospital Development Committees:** Hospital Development Committees have been constituted in all ESI Hospitals and have been given adequate administrative and financial powers for taking decisions for in provement in medical care facilities in hospitals and adjoining dispensaries.

Statement III

Number of Esi Hospitals and Dispensaries in Rented Buildings

Sl.No.	Name of State	Hospitals	Dispensaries
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh		104
2.	Assam		25

1	2	3	4
3.	Bihar		15
4.	Chandigarh Admn.		01
5.	Chhattisgarh		09
6.	Delhi		06
7.	Goa		4
8.	Gujarat		58
9.	Haryana		18
10.	Himachal Pradesh		09
11.	Jammu and Kashmir		03
12.	Jharkhand		23
13.	Karnataka		62
14.	Kerala		91
15.	Madhya Pradesh		19
16.	Maharashtra	4*	52
17.	Meghalaya		02
18.	Orissa		38
19.	Puducherry		13
20.	Punjab		20
21.	Rajasthan		38
22.	Tamil Nadu		121
23.	Uttar Pradesh		105
24.	Uttarakhand		12
25.	West Bengal		20
Total		4*	868

*Buildings owned by Govt. of Maharashtra

Statement IV

State wise Expenditure on Provision of Medical Care

Sl.No.	State	Expenditure on Medical Care (Rs. in lakh)		
		2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7280.10	9560.55	13443.21
2.	Assam	386.92	64.58	507.33

1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	446.01	434.52	446.71	14.	Karnataka	5434.65	5137.10	6822.19
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	268.74	319.80	337.7	15.	Madhya Pradesh	3332.47	3756.61	3249.96
5.	Chhattisgarh	316.72	284.87	381.41	16.	Maharashtra	10907.86	11596.3	11129.02
6.	Delhi	8938.83	9619.23	16724.41	17.	Orissa	1232.82	1479.10	1579.74
7.	Gujarat	6223.31	6091.49	6962.8	18.	Meghalaya	27.41	30.87	33.62
8.	Goa	570.70	575.30	668	19.	Punjab	4051.56	4529.86	4780.57
9.	Haryana	3587.56	3745.93	4610.41	20.	Puducherry	659.25	1293.72	671.73
10.	Himachal Pradesh	292.73	230.67	244.21	21.	Rajasthan	2554.11	2929.54	3177.23
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	97.93	148.30	165.73	22.	Tamil Nadu	8387.83	9060.08	9035.57
12.	Jharkhand	541.29	568.28	631.45	23.	Uttar Pradesh	5703.62	4971.57	7246.97
13.	Kerala	4139.65	5549.30	5595.06	24.	Uttarakhand	112.11	164.91	196.69
					25.	West Bengal	7349.04	9190.43	10656.98

Statement V

Number of Labourers/Workers Benefited from provided Medical Services in ESI Hospital and Dispensaries during last three years.

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2005-06		2006-07		2007-08	
		IPs	Families	IPs	Families	IPs	Families
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1931255	2299290	1720339	2024335	2030811	3738007
2.	Assam	33836	28884	35622	32550	-	-
3.	Bihar	59091	55228	51153	63403	54518	65589
4.	Chandigarh Admn.	84360	74568	93798	67974	96450	76962
5.	Chhattisgarh	138354	172875	145428	176469	123456	147753
6.	Delhi	1907233	2746858	1877749	2813666	1958114	2875035
7.	Gujrat	1288410	1870454	1322899	1805675	1224987	1670175
8.	Goa	117330	125729	-	-	147974	155459
9.	Haryana	742298	1073123	843320	1136842	930082	1228088
10.	Himachal Pradesh	64104	-	2059	1311	1940	1404
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	44990	25768	47299	25169	36048	33533
12.	Jharkhand	93987	101750	104777	204566	106886	119376

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13.	Karnataka	1021413	1157439	1034086	1192626	1090668	1192594
14.	Kerala	1825526	1381086	1960078	1608567	2118343	1289875
15.	Madhya Pradesh	648265	4610934	520863	824239	660123	860947
16.	Maharashtra	679693	769263	727856	828186	708214	755574
17.	Meghalaya	1382	1178	1179	842	1419	962
18.	Orissa	378879	438789	366832	446735	358427	429408
19.	Puducherry	150654	138700	167573	142358	156964	129384
20.	Punjab	677323	697982	641101	655854	512870	583432
21.	Rajasthan	944471	1250516	977255	1335496	1015504	1390756
22.	Tamil Nadu	3063888	2142997	3258596	4575668	3295499	4315708
23.	Uttar Pradesh	625664	820115	650515	816069	280462	364269
24.	Uttarakhand	32062	41542	39687	42307	-	-
25.	West Bengal	934273	1198223	1032679	691735	-	-

[English]

Vacant Seats in Educational Institutions

2180. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI T.R. BAALU:
SHRI P. LINGAM:

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

(a) the policy laid down for filling up the reserved seats in educational institutes under the administrative control of the Ministry, in case of non-availability of candidates in the required category;

(b) whether there were not adequate number of qualified candidates to fill up reserved seats on offer for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Physically Challenged and about 50% of the seats remained vacant in various educational institutions including Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Management;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether some of such vacant seats were transferred to general category; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The policy of reservation is as per the provisions of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006. Section 3 of the Act provides 15% reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), 7.5% for Scheduled Tribes (STs) and 27% of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) exempting those CEIs which qualify under Section 4 of the Act thereof. In the matter of IA No 3 of 2008 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 35 of 2007, the Supreme Court directed on 14.10.2008 that the maximum cut off marks for OBC should be 10% below the cut off marks of general category candidates and the vacant seats may be filled up by other eligible students. In accordance with the order of the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued directions vide OM No. 1-1/2008-(III)U.I (A) dated 17th October, 2008 to all Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) to ensure that seats reserved for OBCs are filled by other eligible students only if they are vacant after

admitting all eligible OBC students excluding the 'creamy layer' and the maximum cut-off marks for OBCs is to be kept 10% below the cut off marks for general category candidates. In order to prevent seats remaining unfilled without compromising on merit, the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) offer preparatory courses to candidates belonging to the SCs/STs categories who are found deficient in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) conducted each year. These candidates are accommodated in the succeeding academic session. This method followed by the IITs since 1984-85 has helped in nearly all seats meant for SCs and STs to be filled fully.

[*Translation*]

Renke Commission

2181. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has constituted a Bal Krishna Renke Commission for nomadic tribes;

(b) if so, whether the Renke Commission has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein; and

(d) the time by which said recommendations are likely to be accepted and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (d) The Commission submitted its report to the Government on 2.7.2008. The recommendations of the Commission are under consideration.

Spying Cases in Armed Forces

2182. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is increase in the spying cases in Armed Forces;

(b) if so, the number of such cases registered during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the details of the countries/foreign organizations involved in such activities;

(d) the number of people arrested and punished during the said period; and

(e) the steps taken to strengthen intelligence machinery to check spying activities effectively?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The number of spying cases registered, arrests made and persons convicted during the last three years and upto date are given in the table below:-

Services	Year 2006-2009 (till date)		
	Number of cases registered	Number of serving personnel	Number of serving personnel convicted/Dismissed.
Combined for Services	8	7	9

Pakistan based intelligence Organizations have been identified for involvement in spying activities against India.

In addition to regular security checks, regular security review is carried out with a view to sensitize the environment for making security apparatus foolproof. Regular Awareness Programmes are also being conducted to sensitize all members of Armed Forces and their families regarding the threat perception and modus operandi being adopted by the adversaries.

[*English*]

National Skill Development Council

2183. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted National Skill Development Council with a corpus of funds of Rs. 30,000 crore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main objectives of this council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Government has set up Prime Minister's National Council on Skill Development under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister to review the

spectrum of skill development efforts for policy direction. The functions of the above Council are as under:

- (i) Lay down broad Policy objectives, strategies, financing and governance models to promote skill development;
- (ii) Review progress of activities relating to skill development periodically and provide mid-course corrections, including changes in part or whole of current schemes under implementation;
- (iii) Orchestrate Public Sector/Private Sector initiatives in a framework of collaborative action.

The Council has not been assigned any corpus of funds.

Expansion of Educational Infrastructure

2184. SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any guidelines to allow Indian Universities and Government run institutions to run business abroad to fund higher education for the poor back home and to expand the educational infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to expand the educational infrastructure in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The XIth Five Year Plan outlay on Higher Education is nearly 10 times of the actual expenditure under the Xth Five Year Plan with such priorities as are going to significantly increase the access to higher education along with equity and excellence in our universities and colleges. 15 new Central Universities (including the conversion of three State Universities into Central Universities) have been established with effect from 15.1.2009 in hitherto uncovered States. 14 National Universities with world class standards are proposed to be set up during XIth and XIIth plan period. A new scheme for assisting the State Universities/State Governments for establishing a model college in each

of the 374 districts which have a Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) lower than the national level, is under consideration. Eight new IITs in the country have been set up. A proposal to set up Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) in the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Mode is under consideration in the Ministry of Human Resource Development during the XIth Five Year Plan. The XIth Five Year Plan envisages establishment of eight IIMs in the country. A new Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely "National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology" has been launched by the Government to leverage the potential of ICT, in teaching and learning process.

Health and Safety of Employees

2185. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a national policy on occupational safety and health at workplace to ensure employees' health and safety;

(b) if so, the details and salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to make it mandatory both for public and private sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The Government of India has declared the National Policy on Safety, Health and Environment at Workplace on 20th February, 2009. The salient features of the National Policy are as under:-

(i) It recognizes safe and healthy working environment as a fundamental human right.

(ii) It aims at enhancing the well-being of the employees and the society at large by eliminating work related injuries, diseases, etc.

(iii) It enumerates the goals to be achieved and brings into focus the objective of continuous reduction in the incidence of work related injuries and diseases.

(iv) It describes the action programme with nine key strategies *i.e.* Enforcement, Development, Skills development, Data collection, Practical guidance and incentives.

(v) It also provides for regular review at least once in five years.

(c) and (d) The National Policy is applicable to all the branches of economic activity in the country. The employers, employees, Government departments and all other stakeholders are required to adhere to the principles enshrined in the Policy.

Comprehensive Legislation for Agricultural Workers/Labourers

2186. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
PROF. RANJAN PRASAD YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of male and female agricultural workers/labourers at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide employment to all agricultural workers/labourers in the country throughout the year;

(c) whether the Government proposes to bring a comprehensive legislation to provide the social security and protect the interests of agricultural workers/labourers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):

(a) A Statement showing the number of agricultural workers (Male, Female) State-wise is enclosed.

(b) There are various schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government to agricultural workers/labourers. Some such schemes are: Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana; Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana; Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme ensures livelihood security to the households in rural areas by providing a guarantee of wage employment for at least 100 days in a financial year to every rural household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

(c) and (d) Recognising the need for social security for unorganised workers, including agricultural workers, the Government has enacted the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008. The Act provides for constitution of National Social Security Board at the Central level and State Social Security Boards at the State level which shall recommend formulation of social security schemes for unorganised workers, including agricultural workers.

Statement

State-wise male and female agricultural workers

(Source: Census 2001)

S.No.	Name of the State/UTs	Number of Agricultural Labourers		
		Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6453741	7378411	13832152
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10329	8511	18840
3.	Assam	832508	431024	1263532
4.	Bihar	8730251	4687493	13417744
5.	Chhattisgarh	1262559	1828799	3091358
6.	Goa	15970	19836	35806
7.	Gujarat	2509651	2652007	5161658

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Haryana	717133	561688	1278821
9.	Himachal Pradesh	55658	38513	94171
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	190339	56082	246421
11.	Jharkhand	1485322	1365975	2851297
12.	Karnataka	2620927	3606015	6226942
13.	Kerala	1078354	542497	1620851
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3518368	3882302	7400670
15.	Maharashtra	4924034	5891228	10815262
16.	Manipur	49918	63702	113630
17.	Meghalaya	90888	80806	171694
18.	Mizoram	12775	14008	26783
19.	Nagaland	15985	14922	30907
20.	Orissa	2587196	2411908	4999104
21.	Punjab	1104140	385721	1489861
22.	Rajasthan	1055332	1468387	2523719
23.	Sikkim	8762	8238	17000
24.	Tamil Nadu	4256360	4381270	8637630
25.	Tripura	162640	113492	276132
26.	Uttar Pradesh	8245599	5155312	13400911
27.	Uttarakhand	190494	69189	259683
28.	West Bengal	5080236	2282721	7362957
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	4043	1126	5169
30.	Chandigarh	461	102	563
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	5429	9286	14715
32.	Daman and Diu	347	976	1323
33.	Delhi	11224	4549	15773
34.	Lakshadweep	00	00	00
35.	Puduchery	42117	30134	72251
Total		57329100	49446230	106775330

*Figures exclude Mao Maram, Paomata an Purul sub-divs. of Senapati District in Manipur State as census results were cancelled due to administrative and technical reasons.

Allocation of Funds for Residential Colleges

2187. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated funds for the residential colleges to under the administrative control of Centre Universities during the last three years;

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

(c) the amount utilized so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Do not arise, as there are only two types of colleges—Constituent Colleges and Affiliated Colleges—under the Central Universities. No colleges under the Central Universities have been termed as 'residential colleges'.

Leadership Development Centre in HAL

2188. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a world class leadership development centre in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bangalore and other parts of the country, including the State of Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU): (a) and (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has a Management Academy at Bangalore to impart management education to officers. A new campus for the Academy has been approved by the Board to come up at Bangalore. HAL has no plans to construct a leadership development centre in any other part of the country.

Funding of Schemes for SCs/STs and OBCs

2189. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of budget allocation made under various schemes for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) during the last three years;

(b) whether funds allocated to the Ministry is found inadequate for financing the aforesaid scheme;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Ministry in this regard;

(d) whether budgetary allocation for the Ministry is also being revised for such schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) Details of budget allocation made under various schemes for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (e) The Ministry has requested for suitable enhancement in the XI Plan outlay for its various schemes.

Statement

Budget allocation made under various programmes/ schemes for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs)

(Rs. in crore)

Programme/Schemes	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
I. Scheduled Castes	1133.50	1450.50	1685.50
II. Scheduled Tribes	1656.90	1719.71	2121.00
III. Other Backward Classes	86.99	149.50	202.50

[Translation]

Wireless Telephone Connections

2190. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:
SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of wireless telephone subscribers is reducing continuously in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor and the number of reduced subscribers during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether the Government has taken any step to increase the number of wireless telephone;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total number of Landline and Mobile connections of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)IBharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the country, State-wise including Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(e) The total number of Landline and Mobile connections of MTNL and BSNL (including Kerala) as on 31.5.2009 are 825.74 lakh and 81.27 lakh respectively. Circle-wise detail is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Circle-wise detail of Landline and Wirelss connections as on 31.05.2009

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Total No. of Landline (Fixed) Connections	Total No. of Wireless subscribers
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	19066	85605
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2185985	3554950
3.	Assam	346636	1001415
4.	Bihar	962758	2251579
5.	Chhattisgarh	226098	930741
6.	Gujarat	1897453	2652405
7.	Haryana	824498	1875259
8.	Himachal Pradesh	369859	960203
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	237162	939056
10.	Jharkhand	414850	866238
11.	Karnataka	2147325	2890910

1	2	3	4
12.	Kerala	3448613	3161155
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1090156	2193383
14.	Maharashtra	2950524	4073358
15.	North East-I	206414	392371
16.	North East-II	128345	439025
17.	Orissa	624022	1731462
18.	Punjab	1327663	2954127
19.	Rajasthan	1458470	3170014
20.	Tamil Nadu	2056777	3674936
21.	Uttarakhand	295660	835120
22.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	1392533	6259330
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	990905	1919268
24.	West Bengal	999284	2000792
25.	Kolkatta TD	1363049	1629967
26.	Chennai TD	1011867	1155922
	Total BSNL	28975972	53598591
27.	MTNL Mumbai	2030027	2479224
28.	MTNL Delhi	1529078	2089045
	Total MTNL	3559105	4568269

[English]

Accreditation Authority for Higher Educational Institutions

2191. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute an independent authority on the pattern of Crisil and ICRA for assessment and accreditation of higher educational institutions in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) A proposal to constitute an independent authority for accreditation of higher educational institutions in under consideration of Government.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of IIITs

2192. SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received from the State Governments for providing adequate land for setting up of new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) in their States;

(b) the status thereof alongwith the name of places identified for the purposes, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the work regarding setting up of these institutes likely to be start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Proposals from State Governments including Nagaland, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Mizoram, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Haryana, etc have been received, offering land and other facilities for setting up of new Indian Institutes of Information Tehcnology (IIITs) in their States. Locations for new IIITs are yet to be decided. The process for setting up of new IIITs is already underway with the 'in principle'

approval of the Planning Commission to set up new Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) under Public Partnership (PPP) mode having been conveyed.

Improving the Standards of Primary Education

2193. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated by the Government to improve the standard of primary education in the country;

(b) the State-wise and gender-wise percentage of children who remained deprived of primary education during the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme was launched in 2001-02 to universalize elementary education. SSA has made significant progress in achieving its goals of universal access and retention, bridging gender and social category gaps in education and improving learning levels. 98% of the rural population has access to primary schools and Gross Enrolment Ration (GER) has increased from 96.3 in 2001-02 to 111.24 in 2006-07. In the case of girls GER has increased from 86.9 to 107.84 for the same period. Dropout rate at primary level has declined from 39.03 in 2001-02 to 25.43 in 2006-07. In the case of girls dropout rate has declined from 39.88 to 26.56 for the same period. A state-wise statement is enclosed.

Statement

Improving the Standards of Primary Education

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Primary (Classes I-V)												Gender parity Index 2001-02	Gender Parity Index 2006-07
		Gross Enrolment Ratio						Dropout Rates							
		2001-2002			2006-2007			2001-2002			2006-2007				
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1.	Andhra Pradesh	104.71	103.22	103.97	96.33	96.60	96.47	42.62	43.46	43.03	23.66	24.38	24.02	0.99	1.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	125.03	103.84	114.43	143.62	129.29	136.60	49.46	50.16	49.77	30.90	29.75	30.38	0.83	0.90

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3.	Assam	127.18	107.42	117.43	97.63	99.23	98.42	46.63	51.18	48.64	45.66	42.79	44.27	0.84	1.02
4.	Bihar	95.45	61.19	78.70	106.34	82.32	94.67	60.70	63.11	61.64	49.65	54.10	51.63	0.64	0.77
5.	Chhattisgarh*	124.24	108.13	116.12	127.18	119.13	123.19				23.07	27.57	25.27	0.87	0.94
6.	Goa	68.58	57.66	62.86	121.58	117.53	119.62	3.48	8.12	5.73	-13.42	3.08	-5.48	0.84	0.97
7.	Gujarat	132.82	111.16	122.29	127.93	111.30	120.12	27.21	22.13	25.05	21.71	30.10	25.66	0.84	0.87
8.	Haryana	76.33	76.54	76.43	86.56	90.18	88.21	30.49	30.53	30.51	11.54	6.62	9.31	1.00	1.04
9.	Himachal Pradesh	99.16	81.87	90.01	113.16	113.00	113.08	15.22	18.17	16.68	6.06	7.50	6.75	0.83	1.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	102.43	78.07	89.85	105.82	100.27	103.14	32.16	25.38	29.27	13.70	11.01	12.48	0.76	0.95
11.	Jharkhand*	100.51	76.34	88.56	117.82	105.41	111.70				40.51	43.44	41.86	0.76	0.89
12.	Karnataka	116.80	108.57	112.74	108.45	105.48	106.99	23.86	23.87	23.87	12.09	11.64	11.87	0.93	0.97
13.	Kerala	85.87	85.11	85.50	93.06	93.80	93.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.99	1.01
14.	Madhya Pradesh	119.82	102.16	111.24	153.71	146.90	150.41	29.24	29.96	29.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.85	0.96
15.	Maharashtra	110.57	105.86	108.27	116.06	110.98	113.61	6.08	8.77	7.37	-0.39	5.80	2.55	0.96	0.96
16.	Manipur	108.24	90.77	99.13	166.71	160.40	163.61	27.67	26.37	27.06	44.37	47.07	45.69	0.84	0.96
17.	Meghalaya	117.79	107.60	112.42	183.16	180.49	181.84	57.17	56.75	56.96	44.78	43.37	44.08	0.91	0.99
18.	Mizoram	132.14	106.67	119.07	162.40	155.37	158.92	60.59	57.82	59.31	50.29	48.87	49.62	0.81	0.96
19.	Nagaland	110.70	100.75	105.70	90.96	89.48	90.25	38.63	44.44	41.50	20.11	20.27	20.19	0.91	0.98
20.	Orissa	133.52	97.25	115.64	116.36	111.66	114.07	38.91	40.08	39.38	26.91	28.81	27.82	0.73	0.96
21.	Punjab	76.49	77.38	76.91	78.07	85.36	81.33	21.28	19.29	20.34	14.21	4.92	9.90	1.01	1.09
22.	Rajasthan	139.07	83.17	112.51	123.14	116.92	120.17	55.48	73.50	63.20	36.40	45.02	40.65	0.60	0.95
23.	Sikkim	117.69	112.25	114.93	143.52	144.63	144.07	61.89	61.64	61.76	29.08	19.37	24.31	0.95	1.01
24.	Tamil Nadu	97.89	97.72	97.81	117.78	117.84	117.81	30.16	24.03	27.24	8.64	7.36	8.02	1.00	1.00
25.	Tripura	111.20	93.28	101.88	146.14	139.62	142.95	50.14	50.95	50.53	18.23	18.07	18.15	0.84	0.96
26.	Uttar Pradesh	80.93	49.36	65.72	117.92	109.24	113.75	45.82	54.99	49.40	30.15	32.17	31.09	0.61	0.93
27.	Uttarakhand*	99.88	101.43	100.65	119.23	125.66	122.29				19.71	17.47	18.63	1.02	1.05
28.	West Bengal	112.72	106.82	109.80	102.13	103.43	102.77	39.40	40.41	39.86	30.90	29.36	30.15	0.95	1.01
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	87.12	86.88	87.00	105.20	106.78	105.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.80	6.97	6.37	1.00	1.02
30.	Chandigarh	56.13	54.35	55.29	64.68	57.37	61.15	15.48	9.50	12.72	22.25	22.71	22.46	0.97	0.89
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	145.61	104.89	124.37	159.81	157.02	158.46	28.04	44.28	35.41	27.45	41.27	34.28	0.72	0.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
32.	Daman and Diu	103.83	84.12	93.39	141.82	131.00	136.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.20	6.02	5.05	0.81	0.92
33.	Delhi	85.36	80.85	83.14	105.74	105.94	105.83	26.95	28.40	27.67	-5.66	3.97	-1.04	0.95	1.00
34.	Lakshadweep	107.53	92.53	100.03	59.37	60.43	59.88	11.42	23.62	17.23	-1.43	1.21	-0.24	0.86	1.02
35.	Puducherry	84.07	69.12	76.20	152.49	133.15	142.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.82	0.87
	INDIA	105.29	86.91	96.30	114.42	107.84	111.24	38.36	39.88	39.03	24.41	26.56	25.43	0.83	0.94

*Dropout rates are shown combined with their respective State

Assistance to NGOs for Welfare of Dalit Community

2194. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which have been provided financial assistance under Welfare Schemes for dalit community during each of the last three years and the current year, scheme-wise and amount-wise:

(b) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of said NGOs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal for the funds earmarked for development of dalit community 435 under other heads; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) The Grant-in-aid released to NGOs for various projects under the scheme of "Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for Scheduled Castes" during the last 3 years is as under:-

Year	No. of NGOs	Amount released
2006-07	336	Rs. 29.01 Crore
2007-08	349	Rs. 30.95 Crore
2008-09	266	Rs. 21.50 Crore

(b) and (c) Release of grant-in-aid is based on the inspection reports of the NGOs and on the

recommendations of the Multi-Disciplinary Grant-in-aid Committees of the respective State Governments. Inspections, wherever necessary, are also conducted by the officials of this Ministry. Evaluation studies are conducted from time to time to assess the impact of the working of the NGOs under the scheme.

(d) and (e) Funds are allocated under various schemes of the Ministry and through Apex Corporations for Educational and Economic Development of Scheduled Castes. These are as under:-

Educational Development

- I. Pre-Matric Scholarship for the Children of those engaged in Unclean occupations.
- II. Post-Matric Scholarship for SC Students.
- III. Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana.
- IV. Scholarship Scheme of Top Class Education for SCs
- V. Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship.
- VI. National Overseas Scholarships for SCs

Economic Development

- i. Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers
- ii. Free Coaching for SC and OBC Students.
- iii. Special Central Assistance for Scheduled Castes Sub Plan.
- iv. Assistance for skill development and self-employment through the National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Papers to be laid, Shri G.K. Vasan.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN):
I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—

(i) G.S.R. 75(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2009 approving the New Mangalore Port Trusts Employee's (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2008.

(ii) G.S.R. 76(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th February, 2009 approving the New Mangalore Port Trusts (Allotment of Residences) Amendment Regulations, 2008.

(iii) G.S.R. 77(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2009 approving the New Mangalore Port Trusts Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2009.

(2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT—349/09]

(3) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT—350/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council of India (including its Export Inspection Agencies), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council of India (including its Export Inspection Agencies), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Inspection Council of India (including its Export Inspection Agencies), New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT—351/09]

(3) A copy of the Special Economic Zones (Second Amendment) Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1293(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 2009 under sub-section (3) of Section 55 of the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005, together with Statement of Objects and Reasons and explanatory note.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT—352/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, for the year 2007-2008 together with Audit Report 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—353/09]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, for the year 2007-2008.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—354/09]
- (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pt. Dwarka Prasad Mishra Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Jabalpur, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Pt. Dwarka Prasad Mishra Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Jabalpur, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit report thereon.
- (iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pt. Dwarka Prasad Mishra Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Jabalpur, for the year 2007-2008.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—355/09]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, for the year 2006-2007.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—356/09]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, for the year 2007-2008.
- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—357/09]
- (10) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Assam University, Silchar, for the year 2007-2008 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—358/09]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, for the year 2005-2007.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, for the year 2005-2007.
- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—359/09]
- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, for the year 2007-2008.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, for the year 2007-2008.
- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—360/09]

- (16) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, for the years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (17) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (16) above.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—361/09]
- (18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow, for the year 2007-2008.
- (19) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (18) above.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—362/09]
- (20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- (21) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (20) above.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—363/09]
- (22) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 2007-2008.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 2007-2008.
(iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (23) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (22) above.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—364/09]
- (24) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (25) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (24) above.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—365/09]
- (26) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (State Mission Authority), Nagaland, for the year 2007-2008.
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (State Mission Authority), Nagaland, for the year 2007-2008.
- (27) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (26) above.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—366/09]
- (28) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (State Mission Authority), Meghalaya, for the year 2007-2008.
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (State Mission Authority), Meghalaya, for the year 2007-2008.
- (29) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (28) above.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—367/09]

(30) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, Agra, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.

(31) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (30) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—368/09]

(32) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Educational Consultants India Limited and the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—369/09]

(33) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Educational Consultants India Limited and the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—370/09]

(34) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Audited Accounts of the Mizoram University for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—371/09]

(35) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Allahabad University for the year 2007-2008 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—372/09]

(36) A copy of the University Grants Commission (Inspection of Universities) Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 240(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th April, 2009 under Section 28 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—373/09]

(37) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Auroville Foundation, Auroville, for the year 2007-2008.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Auroville Foundation, Auroville, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Auroville Foundation, Auroville, for the year 2007-2008.

(38) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (37) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—374/09]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): Sir, I on behalf of Shri Gurudas Kamat beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—

(i) The Standards of Quality of Service (Broadcasting and Cable Services) (Cable Television-Non-CAS Areas) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. F.NO. 16-3/2009-B&CS in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2009,

(ii) The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges (Tenth Amendment) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. F.No. 409-12/2008-FN in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2009.

(iii) The Direct to Home Broadcasting Services (Standards of Quality of Service and Redressal of Grievances) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. F.No. 16-2-/2009-B&CS in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 2009.

(iv) The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable Services) Interconnection (Fifth Amendment) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. F.No. 3-21/2009-B&CS in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2009.

- (v) The Register of Interconnect Agreements (Broadcasting and Cable Services) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. F.No. 6-4/2009-B&CS in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2009.
 - (vi) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Officers and Staff Appointment) (Eighth Amendment) Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. F.No. 5-2/2005-A&P in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 2009.
 - (vii) The Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (Wireline) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Regulations, 2009 published in Notification No. F. No. 305-25/2008-QoS in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 2009.
- (2) Seven statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—375/09]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2007-2008.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—376/09]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Board for Workers Education, Nagpur, for the year 2007-2008.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—377/09]
- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961:-
- (i) S.O. 1406(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 2009 specifying the

subjects, mentioned therein, in technology as designated trades for the purposes of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

- (ii) The Apprenticeship (Amendment) Rules, 2009 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 388(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 2009.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—378/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Swami Vivekanand National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2007-2008.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- [Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—379/09]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—380/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions)

of the Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology for the year 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT—381/09]

12.01½ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Jharkhand Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2009, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th July, 2009 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now matters of urgent public importance. Shri Ravneet Singh.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (Anandpur Sahib): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the plight of three to four thousand youths, stranded in Spain. Spain has amended its immigration laws. Earlier, immigration was provided on the basis of certificate sent by the state police or district police, but now under the amended laws, they want clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs, which our Government is not providing at present.

Last year also, our youths were denied immigration and around 3-4 thousand boys were deported. Countries like Pakistan and Morocco have given clearance to their youths and they have got citizenship. But, the Government of India is not paying any attention to the matter. In a few day's time these boys will be arrested in Spain and they will be deported to India.

Therefore, through you I appeal to the Government to think about such youths and the Ministry of External Affairs should issue certificates to them, otherwise they will be deported to India. These boys belong to poor families, you know that what will happen to them or their families if they are deported. Through you, I again appeal to the Government to think about them.

[*English*]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Madam Speaker, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance. It is relating to the joint Statement issued at the end of two-hour meeting between both the Heads of Government of India and Pakistan on the sidelines of the NAM summit at Sharm-El-Sheikh in Egypt, which is very extraordinary. Its contents, language and spirit are at odds. This Government has gone back on its position that it will pause the composite dialogue till there was credible action against the perpetrators of the Mumbai carnage.

The submission of an updated status dossier on the investigation does not constitute 'credible action'. What has Pakistan done? What action have they taken? Have we forgotten the massive explosion at the Indian Embassy in Kabul last July? Why did you withdraw from the bilateral dialogue with Pakistan? You wanted Islamabad to move against the perpetrators of Mumbai carnage. And now, you come out with a Joint Statement saying: 'Action on terrorism should not be linked to the composite dialogue process'. This is dramatic reversal. What prompted you to do so?

Detaching dialogue from acts of terrorism is as clear a commitment as anyone not to stall official conversation as a matter of principle, no matter how grave the provocation is. Would another Mumbai is to be taken by India in its stride? It is one thing to believe that the dialogue is the only way forward, and quite another to ensure that the dialogue takes place in a context that is optimized to produce results. This India-Pakistan dialogue goes back to mid-1990s and has become conversation that leads nowhere. Then, why do you resume it just to hurt ourselves?

Then, you have a reference to Baluchistan. Our conduct is an open book, says the Prime Minister. But when there is no credible report of any Indian sponsored activity in that province of Pakistan, why should you allow it to be discussed? It is a grave blunder. It will open up Pandora's box, as was done in 1947-48 by sending the Kashmir issue to the United Nations. It will

open up Pandora's box. Pakistan is complaining of the size of our Mission in Afghanistan, our *locus standi* there and indeed everywhere. Should we draw ourselves to discuss those matters?

The Prime Minister should have exercised prudence. Sadly it has not been done. Indian diplomacy was found wanting in preventing false assertions that has crept into the joint statement. This document stands witness to an amateurishness of India's much vaunted diplomacy.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Madam Speaker, I would like to make a submission. *...(Interruptions)*

You have not called the Members whom you have given first priority and have called other members instead. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please sit down, I will tell you let them speak first.

12.06 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Reported death caused by firing during army recruitment rally in Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): Madam Speaks, yesterday a recruitment drive for army was in Chandauli, and army officers were present there. Yesterday, the recruitment process was slated for the youths of Chendauli and Banaras. The youth of Chandauli Banaras and other districts were performing the sprint as a part of recruitment process in army. After the completion of three laps, army people used to include youths brought by them into the final lap of the sprint and this was opposed by the local people. There was a protest in the morning at 9am. A youth named Arvind Pal was killed in the firing opened by Army. The killed person was among the youths came for the recruitment.

Madam, Speaker through you, I want to say that there was a complete chaos for three to five hours. Army people were involved in manipulation and nobody was present there from district administration. Law and order had totally broken down, Seven courts were burnt. *...(Interruptions).*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMKISHUN: Speaker Madam, the venue of recruitment was hardly ten steps away from D.M.'s bungalow. The recruitment was going on in the polytechnic college and the D.M.'s residence was located near the Principal's room. Why the District Administration did not take the cognizance of that incident for five hours? When I contacted the Commissioner and asked him whether he wanted Chandauli and Purvanchal to burn with rage? Only after that the Commissioner reached the spot at 3 pm and somehow the situation was controlled, but three-four youths were reported missing from there. Not even this the whole court. *...(Interruptions).*

MADAM SPEAKER: What do you want from the Centre Government to do put your point and finish your speech.

SHRI RAMKISHUN: Speaker Madam, I demand that the law and order condition in Uttar Pradesh is deteriorating. *...(Interruptions).* The recruitment in Army. *...(Interruptions).*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambai): There is total anarchy *...(Interruptions).*

SHRI RAMKISHUN: Speaker Madam, continuously for the last three days. *...(Interruptions).*

MADAM SPEAKER: Only the statement of Shri Ramkishun will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi will associate himself with this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Associate yourself only with this matter.

...(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Varanasi): Speaker Madam, I demand from Defence Minister that first of all

he should find out who were the officers who resorted to firing there. Firing was done by Army.

[English]

This is an allegation against the Army that they resorted to firing, which resulted in the acknowledged death of one person and an alleged death of another four persons. So, five persons reported to have been killed by the Army's firing. Eighty persons have been reported to be seriously injured.

My demand from the hon. Minister is whether he would look into this question and punish those Army people, who resorted to firing. This is number one.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Number two, adequate compensation to the victims both who are deceased and who are seriously injured should be given. Thirdly, whenever such recruitments are done, the local Administration must be present there. The Army must ensure that the local Administration is there.

I have also enquired it that the local Administration was not there because they were not informed to be there. That is one of the aspect.

Therefore, I say that the recruitment processes should be streamlined. The allegations that there were not only irregularities but also that the allegations of money transactions being made are very serious reflections.

So, would the hon. Minister respond to it and say what he has to do?

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Vilas Muttemvar.

...(Interruptions)

Mr. Minister, you are responding. Okay.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Madam Speaker.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Speaker Madam, I have already given notice on this subject. *...(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Jagdambika Pal ji is associating himself with this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Speaker Madam, I am associating myself with this issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You are associated with this issue.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Madam, how can I be associated? *...(Interruptions)* When hon'ble Minister will sit down only then I will be associated. *...(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: This is the way of associating.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Be more brief in your submissions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Speaker Madam, I will associate in the way Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi ji got associated. *...(Interruptions)*. I will not repeat those facts stated by Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi ji. Law and order is the responsibility of State Government. Recruitment was to be made in the Army from the youth of 15 districts. *...(Interruptions)*. The polytechnic ground is in front of Collector, SP's bungalow. *...(Interruptions)*.

Please sit down. Please listen.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Pal, please conclude. You have associated yourself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I have not raised my point yet. Let me speak. *...(Interruptions)*. Hon'ble Members are standing. *...(Interruptions)*. Let me associate myself. *...(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is replying. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Minister would you like to respond?

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: CBI enquiry must be initiated in this matter. *...(Interruptions)*. The local officer responsible for this incident must be punished. *...(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please clam down. Please sit down. Hon'ble Minister is replying.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please listen to Hon'ble Minister's reply.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let him reply.

[English]

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: Madam Speaker, the incident that took place is most unfortunate. I share the concern of the whole House. I will seriously look into it and whatever is legally possible will be done. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam, what action will be taken? What action is being taken against the officers responsible for this incident. *...(Interruptions)*. Answer must be given. *...(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): People were killed because of Army's fault. Army persons responsible for this must be punished. *...(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Madam Speaker, you were about to give a ruling on my point of order. *...(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: What ruling is to be given? What is your point of order?

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Under which rule, you are raising the point of order?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GANESH SINGH: The ballot held for the notices for Zero Hour, my turn is at number one in priority. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You please tell me under which rule you want the ruling during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Madam Speaker, you please first listen to my submission. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Madam Speaker if he got the first number in ballot, why was he not called?

MADAM SPEAKER: Sushmaji, you know that in leaders' meeting, it was decided that 20 matters will be taken up under Zero Hour, out of which five matters will be taken up in the morning. It depends on my discretion. if You question my discretion. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: This is what he is asking for when his name was there at first priority ballot, why was he not called?.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: It is decided.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Madam Speaker, you please let him know it. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the Leaders tell him about it. It has been decided earlier.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The matter pertaining to ballot was not decided in our presence. *...(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Everything has come in the bulletin.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The matter pertaining to ballot came up later. It was not there in the minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: We have read it in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We shall talk on ballot in BAC. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Madam Speaker, honourable Members want to know about it as they go to give notice in the morning. ...(*Interruptions*) We should find out a way to this. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: You will be called to speak in the evening.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Many a time, new Members are there what is the arrangement for them?

MADAM SPEAKER: There is an arrangement for them.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Sometimes very serious subject is there. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Will you allow me to speak or you yourself shall keep on speaking?

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: You sit down. Please keep silence if you want to hear from me. Then you hear it from me.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: This matter was neither decided in leaders' meeting nor in BAC. ...(*Interruptions*) We have no knowledge about it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The matter of ballot was not decided. We shall talk about it right now. It has appeared automatically. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Hon. Speaker, Ji, I want to raise a very important issue under matters of urgent public importance.

Madam, currently in the country we are having a very low monsoon and very uncertain monsoon in the total Indian Sub-Continent. Due to low monsoon, States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana, which are part of our bread basket States, are getting affected. My State of Rajasthan is also getting affected by this low monsoon. Some States are having drought in the country. The GDP growth has fallen due to this reason.

The Met Department has talked about that there will be improvement in monsoon by the month of September. I want to let you know that the plantation of the kharif crop has dropped by 60 per cent, of which, soya bean, which is grown in Rajasthan, has dropped to 1.4 million hectares in 2009 from 4.3 million hectares in 2008. Millet has dropped to 0.66 million hectares in 2009 from 7.89 million hectares in the previous year. Peanut has dropped by 0.85 million hectares. Likewise, there is a drop in rice, jorgam and corn. Even the grocery bill for the common man, for the aam aadmi.

[*Translation*]

Common man's grocery bill has gone up. Cereals have registered an increase of 4 per cent. Pulses have registered an increase of 3.6 per cent, vegetables 10.7 per cent, sugar, salt and spices 2.6 per cent. On 23rd June 2005 our water capacity was 16.68 billion cubic metre, which has now come down to about 14.8 million cubic metre.

[*English*]

The reservoirs levels have been reduced to nine percent.

[*Translation*]

In our Rajasthan. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Madam, I am concluding

[*Translation*]

In our Rajasthan, the water of IGMP comes from Punjab. Our water has almost. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: We should have got 8900 cusec metre water but we are getting much less. ...(Interruptions) My request to you is that for this we should get water in Rajasthan. ...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: You please conclude your speech.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: There should be a detailed discussion on agriculture which should include a discussion on the farmers of our area too.

12.18 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Item No.10—Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day are to be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to address the problems faced by people in Udhampur Parliamentary Constituency, due to fencing near international border

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): In Jammu and Kashmir, people of my constituency in Udhampur are facing great difficulty due to fencing near International Border because neither they can go to their land nor they have got any compensation of land and crops for the last many years.

I request the Hon'ble Home Minister to kindly look into the problems being faced by the farmers due to fencing on the International Border in Jammu and Kashmir.

(ii) Need to release funds to address the problems of farmers of Andhra Pradesh growing oil pam

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): Andhra Pradesh is the largest Oil Pam growing state in the country. In the 9th and 10th Plan

period, an area of 44,242 hectares was covered. In the first two years of 11th Plan already 29,125 hectares was covered. It shows the tremendous response from the farmers for taking up the oil pam crop, which is mainly because of the encouragement given by the Government.

As India is not self-sufficient in oil seeds production and importing 4.2 million tons of edible oil worth more than Rs. 10,000 crore and thus consuming the precious foreign exchange. To avoid imports, our nation has to grow more oilseed crops.

This year Andhra Pradesh Government has prepared a detailed action plan to cover 72,416 more hectares with oil pam with an estimated outlay of Rs. 51.38 crore and sent to Technology Mission on Oil Pam (TMOP) for sanction of Union Government share of 75% which is equal to Rs. 38.54 crore.

But then Central Government sanctioned only Rs. 12 crore which is not at all sufficient to even provide cultivation assistance to the last 3 years plantations. In such case, not even a single acre of plantation can be taken up under Area Expansion Programme during 2009-10. This has caused Rs. 30 crores loss to the companies who have set up plants to process the oil pam fruit.

To tide over the situation, I request, through you Madam, the Hon'ble Union Agriculture Minister to sanction urgently Rs. 38.54 crore to Andhra Pradesh as per the original Oil Pam Development Programme (OPDP) Action Plan 2009-10.

(iii) Need to allocate funds for protection of Sasthankota Lake in Kollam district of Kerala

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (Mavelikkara): I would like to mention that Sasthankota lake is one of the natural and biggest lake in Kerala, which is situated at Kollam district. This lake is facing serious problem due to absence of environmental protection. At present, there is no mechanism for protection of this lake. Waste water and other wastes are thrown into this lake. So the lake is losing its purification.

The people of this area as well as environmental activists have a long standing demand to clean and upgrade this lake at national level and the side of the lake should be planted with trees for beautification of this lake.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

The State Government of Kerala have submitted a proposal to the Union Government to allocate funds to implement various schemes for protection of this lake. But, so far, no action has been taken by the Union Government. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has to look into the proposal and allocate sufficient funds for the protection of this lake.

I urge upon the Union Government to clear the proposal of State Government of Kerala and allocate sufficient funds for protection of the Sasthankota Lake in Kollam district, Kerala.

(iv) Need to implement railway projects for the better rail connectivity of Faizabad district in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

DR. NIRMAL KHATRI (Faizabad): With regard to connecting Faizabad (U.P.) with different routes by laying new railway lines, an announcement had been made about conducting survey of a new railway line from Barhaj to Faizabad via Dohrighat in the railway budget of 2005. An announcement of conducting a survey for a new rail line from Lalganj to Faizabad via Raebareli was made in the railway Budget 2009.

The Minister of Railways is requested to take action to implement these two announced schemes.

(v) Need to re-open the closed fertilizer factory in Gorakhpur to overcome the shortage of fertilizers in Western Uttar Pradesh

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): The farmers need DAP and urea fertilizer for sowing *kharif* crop but DAP and urea are not available to the farmers at present. The farmers have to purchase fertilizers for *kharif* crop at higher price from the market in Uttar Pradesh. The farmers have to purchase urea from the market at the rate of Rs. 400. to 500 per bag whereas the fixed price is Rs. 258.50 and they have to purchase DAP at the rate of Rs. 800 per bag whereas its fixed price is Rs. 460. Earlier, the urea produced from the IFFCO fertilizer factory, Gorakhpur was available to the farmers of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. There has been shortfall in the production of fertilizers due to closure of the said factory for the last 15 years. Therefore, fertilizer crisis has arisen before the farmers. The farmers are constantly demanding for re-opening of the closed fertilizer factory in Gorakhpur.

Therefore, through the House, I urge upon the Government to re-open the closed fertilizer factory in Gorakhpur on priority basis.

(vi) Need to construct a ropeway in Senji Hills, a famous tourist attraction in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI M. KRISHNASSWAMY (Arani): The Senji Hills in Tamil Nadu is a unique tourist attraction being visited by number of tourists and is situated on both sides of the National Highway passing through this site.

There are two forts on the Hills one on each side of the Hills. These forts were constructed and developed in the 17th century by Raja Desingh who hailed from North India and came to rule this part of Tamil Nadu. The visitors to these two Forts named as King's Palace and Queen's Palace Climb the Hills to see the palaces. It is maintained by the Archeological Survey of India. If the ropeway is constructed across the two Hills the tourists from all over the country will be more attracted to see the Hill Palaces.

A proposal for this is already pending approval and if the Government of India persuades the State Government then this project will see the light of the day for the benefit of the tourists visiting Tamil Nadu.

(vii) Need to establish a Cluster-cum-Handloom Park at Mangalagiri, Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): The sprawling premises of the erstwhile cement factory near the weaving town of Mangalagiri, in Guntur District, is an ideal place for locating the Cluster-cum-Handloom Park (Chenatha Park). Therefore, I appeal to you to use your good offices, for allotting it for Cluster-cum-Handloom Park (Chenatha Park) which will bring cheers to the despaired handloom weavers in the area and boost handloom cottage industry.

Mangalagiri, Guntur district is very famous for handloom products especially cotton sarees. These exquisite sarees are having huge demand globally. About 3800 weavers depend on weaving on their own 1000 looms and 2800 hired looms. Half of them are enrolled under co-operative fold and others are outside co-operative fold. About, 40% of the Mangalagiri population is dependant on handloom weaving and allied industry

i.e., yard dealers, traders, warpers, dyers etc. Thus, around 3800 looms and 10,000 people are directly or indirectly dependant on the industry for their living. There weaving and resulting trade are the main source of income for the weavers. Raw material is available locally as Guntru district is the large cotton crop sowing area in Andhra Pradesh and there are about 80 spinning mills around this place.

The annual turnover in this area is around Rs. 60 crores and they are earning foreign exchange to a tune of Rs. 40 crores.

These skilled weavers are committing suicides as they are not having required Infrastructural facilities and proper expert and marketing facilities. During the rainy season, the water enters the pits and the looms are immobilized. Hence, they could not attend to the regular work throughout the rainy season.

The development of deep water ports at Nizampatnam and Chirala will facilitate overseas exports. The proximity of the textile park at National Highway 5 and Guntur rail junction will help in easy transportation of cotton and textile products. The textile park, if established, would also attract weaving and garment industries as well customs, containers, banking and quality control facilities can be provided under one roof.

Keeping in view the above facts, I request you to kindly sanction setting up of cluster-Cum-Handloom Park in Mangalagiri, Guntur district comprising processing and other units which can provide gainful employment to the thousands of local experienced youth and this will help to develop value added technology also.

(viii) Need to include Bhojpuri language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): The worlds largest dialect Bhojpuri is spoken by 16 crore people in an area of approximately 70 thousand square KM. It is widely spoken in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Jahrkhand. It has wide base in 27 countries including foothills of Nepal, Mauriti us, Fiji, Trinidad, Thailand, Holland, Malaysia and Singapore. There is a mention of term 'Bhoj' in the Rigveda written by Maharishi Vishvamitra and the Bhojpuri dialect has originated from this term. Various scriptures including Mahabharata and the history of Raja Bhoj of Malwa, Bhoj of Ujjain, Gujjar

Pratihari Bhoj, Kashi and Dugrao's Bhoj kings are a testimony its greatness, wide reach and ancient history.

Hundreds of Sant Sahityakars and thinkers like guru Gorakhnathji, Chaurangi Nath Ji, Yogiraj Bhartrihari, Kabirdas, Kamaldas, Dharamdas, Paltudas, Bhikha Sahib played a vital role in propagation of Bhojapuri dialect through their folk stories, songs and phrases from one generation to the other. Eminent writers like Rahul Sankrityayan, Dr. Bhagwatsaran Upadhyaya and Chaturji Chacha gave new heights to Bhojpuri prose literature.

Madam Speaker as it is known that 14 languages were included originally in the eighth schedule the Constitution of India. Later on, amendments were made and Sindhi, Konkani, Nepali, Manipuri, Maithili, Dogri, Santhali and Bodo dialects were included in it. The Bhojpuri culture respect all these dialects and would like to know the criterion on the basis of which these dialects were included in the eighth schedule the Constitution and whether the Bhojpuri dialect does not fulfill this criterion. The kings and writers of Bhojpuria area were determined to drive off the Britishers. On the one hon, Vir Kunwar Singh, Saheed Bandhu Singh, Chittu Pandey and Mangal Pandey were instituting a sense of patrotion thourhg their valour and the writers like Firangiya, Charkhawa, Barohia were doing so through their works.

Madam Speaker, keeping in view the feelings of 16 crore people, Bhojpuri may please be included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution at the earliest.

(ix) Need to take steps to rescue fishermen from Daman and Diu languishing in Pakistani Jails

SHRI LALUBHAI BABUBHAI PATEL (Daman and Diu): Madam, through you, I want to draw attention of the Union Government towards my Parliament any constituency, Daman and Diu. Many poor fishermen from Daman and Diu region are languishing in Pakistani Jails for some years and they are not being heard. There is no other earning hand in their families except them. Several families are starving because their son father and son-in-law etc. are languishing in Pakistani jails. During rainy season no fishermen venture in to sea due to which they are facing hardships. In the families of these fishermen either wife is ill or marriage of son or daughter has to take place but they not a ware of all these things. Atrocities are being committed on these poor fishermen languishing in Pakistani jails, due to which some of them are admitted in hospitals there. At the time of NDA Government, Pakistan used to release

fishermen alongwith their boats every six months. But now Pakistan is not releasing these fishermen.

I request the Union Government to hold talks with Pakistan and take appropriate action to get the poor fishermen from Daman and Diu region languishing in Pakistan jails released.

(x) Need to declare 'Shravani Mela' of Bihar and Jharkhand as a national event

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (Godda): Shravani Mela is being organized now-a-days in 105 k.m. long area from Baba Vaidyanath temple in Devghar to Sultanganj in Bihar. Its arrangement is looked after by six districts of two states (Bihar and Jharkhand) in their own way. In this fair people from most every section of society take part by bringing *kanwar* from approximately 105 kilometers by walking bare-foot, they face many difficulties on the way because there are no arrangements for facilities and electricity along the *kanwar* route.

This fair is celebrated in six districts of Bihar in their own way. Due to this reasons administration is facing many problems sestating to law and order.

I request the Union Government to declare 'Shravani Mela' as national Mela like Kumbh Mela and set-up separate authority for this prupose so that appropriate arrangements for this Mela can be made every year.

(xi) Need to give approval for the construction of Mopa Airport in Goa

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (North Goa): Goa is a world famous tourist spot which is visited by lacs of tourist every year. On one hand, it is a source of employment for people, on the other hand, it is a source of revenue generation inclduing the foreign currency for the State Government as well as for the Union Government. However, the existing airport at Goa is lacking in basic amenities due to which the tourist have to face a lot of inconvenience which is adversely affecting tourism in Goa.

The former NDA Government had sanctioned the construction of a modern airport at Mopa in north Goa. The land was acquired for this purpose but so far its final award is yet to be made. However, due to certain reasons, the said process was stopped which has resalted lot of resentment among the people of Goa. The Government had also constituted a committee in

this regard which recommendation for the construction of the said airport had given in its report.

Therefore, I would like to request the Minister of Civil Aviation and Union Government to immediately start the construction of Mopa airport by providing necessary approval and the necessary formalities in this regard may be conspleted at the earliest.

(xii) Need to construct an overbridge on N.H. 2 at Chakiya Mugalasarai in Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAMKISHUN (Chandauli): I the last few years, number of accidents have taken place in absence of an overbridge at the Chakiya Mugalasarai stretch of National Highway No. 2 in district Chandauli of Uttar Pradesh and dozens of people have lost their lives between the strech of Mohansarai by pass to Nobatpur at N.H. 2 Number of people have become handicapped due to these accidents. The people living in the villages along the N.H. 2 are particularly most prone to road accidents. Even the cattle, children, poor people and labourers are getting affected by these accidents. The people going to the nearby cities in search of livelihood are also affected by these accidents and somethings common people set agitated due to these accidents leading to serious and order problem several times.

Therefore, through the House, I would like to demand from the Government of India that an overbridge at Chakiya Mugalasarai at N.H. 2 be immediately constructed in view of its being the matter of urgent public importance and necessary steps may be taken to formulate a concrete plan to check the recurring accidents at N.H. 2 every day.

(xiii) Need to augment rail services in Deoria Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL (Deoria): My Parliamentary constituency Deoria is lacking in adequate railway facilities. This is an important district of Eastern region whose inhabitants have been working in other states and travel by trains for going to their work place. A lot of raw material is also transported through trains. The Railway station of my parliamentary constituency is yet to be included in the category of model stations and it is also lacking in basic amenities. There is a placed called Barhazbazar in my constituency which is the hub of trading activities of the eastern region. This place has a lot of vacant railway land which can be developed

as a railway yard which may result in a lot of savings for the railways. The stoppage of Bihar Sampark Kranti Express at Deoria Railway Station has been a long pending demand which still remains to be unfulfilled. This train should be given a stoppage at Deoria station. Rajdanhi service should be introduced from Delhi to Kolkata and to other regions via Deoria and these trains be given stoppage at Deoria so that the demand of the people traveling from other states to Deoria could be met.

Therefore, through the House, I would request the government in larjer public interest said facilities should be made and works available there be competed at the earliest.

(xiv) Need to undertake repair work of N.H. 82 between Barbigha and Sarmera in Nalanda Parliament Constituency, Bihar

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): National Highway No. 82 passes through my parliamentary constituency, Nalanda. One of its segments between Barbigha to Sarmera is in very dilapidated condition and it will become totelly impassable during forthcoming monsoon because the road have developed a lot pot holes. This highways serves on a line between 3 to 4 districts and also connects the State capital to the main G.T. road, National Highway No. 2. This highway has a strategic importance as well.

Through this House, I demand from the Government that this highway may be repaired at the earliest before the monsoon sets in.

(xv) Need to include Tamil language as a medium of education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

[English]

SHRI A.K.S. VIJAYAN (Nagapattinam): It is commendable that the Union Government evinced keen interest to promote primary education. In our country the awarencess for the need to have primary education must spread. Through varous measures like compuslory Universal Education and Right to Education, efforts are on to achieve near total literacy. Union Government is now taking upon itself the need to strengthen our Deucation System and Institutions. Through Government of India's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan primary education gets a new impetus with stress on Mathematics and Science. I wish to point out that this is a lop sided approach as

it fails to help strengthen skills in mother tongue along with other disciplines. The importance of acquiring strong foundation in one's mother tongue needs no elaboration, as it is an elementary and rudimentary universal truth. In Tamil Nadu, since we have 2 languages formula, Tamil teachers have to be appointed in all the primary schools. This is necessary because the medium of instruction thereafter in majority of the schools remains to be Tamil. For appointing teachers and getting study materials in Tamil, more funds must flow. Hence, I urge upon the Union Human Resource Development Ministry to include our mother tongue Tamil and similarly in every state their mother tongues also in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and allocate adequate funds.

(xvi) Need to retain the status of Indian Telephone Industries Limited, Palakkad as a Central PSU

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (Palakkad): Indian Telephone Industries Limited, (ITI) Palakkad is one of the few CPSUs in Kerala. This is also one among the six units of ITI in the country. This is the only unit which is making profits. Palakkad unit of ITI has been continuously making profit for the last 13 years. Net profit of this unit over this period is Rs. 540.43 crore and the payment to the exchequer is Rs. 640.78 crore. This unit has the state of the art manufacturing facility with manpower strength of qualified and competent 600 personnel. But now, as part of a revival package approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic affairs (CCEA), ITI Limited has invited EOI inviting consultants for formation of joint ventures in three units. Further DOT secretary has declared that Department of Communication has decided to separate the six units of ITI Limited and Government is willing to considered various option including outright sale. The corporate office has demanded Palakkad unit to share the interest burden of the loss making units. This will take Palakkad unit also into a loss making unit. Hence, I urge upon the Government to intervene and prevent the sale of the Palakkad ITI unit and also ensure that this unit continues to be working in Public Sector.

(xvii) Need to upgrade N.H. 75 and N.H. 215 passing through Keonjhar Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa as per the specified norms

[Translation]

SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI (Keonjhar): Under Rule 377, I would like to apprise the House that two national

Highways pass through my Constituency. One of them is National Highway No. 215 running from Panikuli to Rajamunda. It was announced to be converted into a National Highway in 1996, however it does not look like a National Highway. Last year, an announcement was made for the fourlaning of this highway but so far no work has been done in this regard. The second National Highway but so far no work has been done in this regard. The second National Highway is N.H. 75 from Parshala to Ranchi which does not qualify to be called as a national highway from any angle. It has been a National Highway by an inscription on a pillar only. Merely labeling roads as a national highway does not make it a national highway. A national highway should have the facilities of a national highway. If the highway of the region from Tiranga to Jassipur via Champua is connected to Vasudev then it will be get connected to national highway No. 6, Kolkata and Mumbai and the distance between Badbil and Kolkata would be reduced by 65 kilometers.

Through the House, I would request that direction may be given to complete the said work in public interest.

(xviii) Need to develop 'Garhganga' a pilgrimage site in Western Uttar Pradesh

SHRI DEVENDRA NAGPAL (Amroha): Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister for Tourism towards the pitiable constitution of 'Garhganga Dham' which falls under my Lok Sabha Constituency.

'Garhganga Dham' district is situated on the borders of both 'Jyotibafule' Nagar and Ghaziabad districts under my Lok Sabha constituency. The devotees of Western Uttar Pradesh, who used to take holy dip at Hardwar, take their ablution at 'Garhganga' in a good numbers after Hardwar became a part of Uttarakhand State but due to the present pitiable condition of 'Garhganga' the devotees are facing a lot of difficulties. After Hardwar became a part of Uttarakhand state, 'Garhganga Dham' is only pilgrimage of the Western Uttar Pradesh which is at 75 km. of distance from Delhi. The devotees from the national capital itself, Haryana and many other states visit the place in lakhs. But no arrangement have been made at these in wake of the religious sentiment and holy attached to the place.

Hence, through you, I request the Minister for Tourism to develop the 'Ghats' both at the borders of J.P. Nagar and Ghaziabad districts on the lines of Hardwar and give the status of place of religious tourism.

(xix) Need to start operation of civil aircraft from Kalaikunda Airbase in West Bengal

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Medinipur town was district headquarters of united Medinipur district and at present is district Headquarters of Paschim Medinipur district in West Bengal and is a very old establishment which also witnessed many historic moments of our freedom struggle.

The town itself houses Vidyasagar University and many other colleges and a large market to cater to the needs of not only both the Medinipur districts but also the adjoining districts of Bankura, Purulia, etc.

One of the big Railways establishments, Kharagapur Junction, lies very near to this town. Kharagapur is an industrial town, and every other day many a big industrial houses are setting up their units in and around Kharagapur.

The first Indian Institute of Technology is also situated in the vicinity of this town and lot of foreign nationals, both Academics and Engineers, visit IIT regularly.

But this rapid growth is somewhat halted due to non-existence of Air connectivity with the rest of the country, though there is a large airbase at Kalaikunda which is very nearby. But that belongs entirely to Defence.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government that as already an infrastructure is available at Kalaikunda, the Central Government should take active initiative to provide civil air connectivity to Kalaikunda with the rest of the country as early as possible by enabling civil air operations through a portion of existing Kalaikunda airport.

(xx) Need to enhance the limit fixed on number of B.P.L. families in Rajasthan

DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA (Dausa): Government of India has fixed ceiling of 17.36 lacs BPL families under BPL Census 2002. Rajasthan has issued list of 17.36 lacs BPL families on 15 September, 2006 as per the survey based on 13 socio-economic indicators.

There is a provision of appeals against the list as per directions of Supreme Court and Government of India. As per information from districts, 3.68 lacs appeals have been found suitable for inclusion in BPL list. This

is presumed that the number of BPL families selected will go up to 21.04 lacs. As the process of appeals continues, it may further increase.

In the above circumstances the ceiling on BPL numbers fixed by Government of India is not justifiable and Government of India should provide all facilities meant for BPL families for additional BPL list as appeals process continues as per the directions of Supreme Court. Government of India is requested to enhance BPL limits.

12.19 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)— 2009-2010

Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution—*contd.*

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion and voting on Demands for Grants of Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for 2009-10. Now we will take up items 11 and 12.

Shri Jagdambika Pal to continue.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Madam, I am thankful to that you for giving me opportunity to speak in favour of the agriculture budget one of the most important documents presented by the hon. Agriculture Minister. I have already news so today I would like to put some of my suggestions.

Madam, the whole country has received inadequate rainfall in June and even in July the rainfall way below normal. All the parts of the country especially Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar are facing drought like situation. A slogan being raised in the state is that the intercropping with pulse and oil seeds give us balanced diet and happy life, it also enhances the yielding capacity of the land and it results in durable production and the body gets adequate protein. If state Governments do not utilize the funds provided by the Central Government, how on earth it is possible to get protein. Efforts were made to make the country self reliant in the field of cereals, pulse and rice

production through green revolution, but Dr. Swaminathan has said in his report that green revolution alone is not enough. The situation in the country today is that the growth in population is very rapid, state Governments are acquiring the agriculture lands *e.g.* thousands of acres of fertile land between Noida, Dadari and Buland Shahar in Uttar Pradesh is being handed over by the state governments to private builders through land acquisitions at throw away prices to develop colonies, that has rendered the farmers helpless with discontent and farmers had to face even bullets that claimed less than five lives. ...*(Interruptions)* This is the situation privatizing today. It is happening in Haryana. You got the matter reconciled, but under the situation that has emerged I demand that state Governments should not acquire lands for private builders or colonizers. The powers of state governments land acquisition is restricted to Government projects only. If any private party wants to acquire land, it should take it at the market rate by negotiating with farmers directly. Only then any private projects should be allowed to come up. If state Government wants to purchase some land, it should be on the pattern of Haryana as has been mentioned here that the farmers should be paid at the market rate *i.e.* they should be paid Rs. 5000/- per acre for 25 years and the members of their families be given jobs. This is the pattern of land acquisition which has been opted by Haryana. Today the Uttar Pradesh Government is no longer farmer-friendly. ...*(Interruptions)* Land is being acquired at gunpoint. ...*(Interruptions)* Why the hon. Member is getting perturbed? You should speak when your turn. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let hon. Member tell his point.

SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN (Ghosi): Mdam, hon. Member has been elected for the House by mistake. He should have been elected for the state Assembly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let him put forth his point.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Let the hon. Member put forth his points.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Madam, I am suggesting something very important. 'Saptkranti' is needed today as suggested by Dr. Swaminathan. The first point in

'Saptkranti' is marketing. Farmers should have facility for marketing their products in open markets and get remunerative prices on their production costs. For that state Governments need to be given instructions because today farmers have no facilities for marketing their products. The second point is about extension. Without the above mentioned seven-fold revolution (Saptkranti) the situation ahead will be very serious. The way land is being used to constiuet buildings, schools, colleges, factories, industries, colonies etc., the area of agriculture land is shrinking and population is growing, if we don't increase our yields, the country will certainly have to face a serious food crisis.

Research is being carried out today in the laboratories of agricultural universities of the country regarding Extensions and that technique should be transferred to the gross-ruol level. If the techniques developed by the agricultural scientists through research are used by the farmers for agriculture then the yield and production will increase.

Today, there are 91 per cent small and marginal farmers in Uttar Pradesh. Is the Government doing any research regarding hybrid crops for them? Today the State Government doing any research regarding hybrid crops for them? Today the State Government is not concerned with this. It is concerned for developing only parks, installing statues and setting up monuments while more attention should be paid towards irrigation and water management. ...(*Interruptions*) I am giving valuable suggestions, so you may please listen. I am highlighting the seven points of 'Sapta Kranti'. Proper arrangement for irrigation should be made in Uttar Pradesh. There should be means of irrigation and water management. Machines should be used for this purpose. Even after 61 years of independence of the country, if the monsoon fails it becomes a matter of concern for the Central Government, State Government and the farmers.

Today rain water harvesting is essential. When it comes to water harvesting, there should be arrangment for storage and treatment of rain water.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now you please conclude.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I will conclude after elaborating my seven points. As far as the soil health is concerned, if it is enhanced by using only fertilizers then it will harm its productivity. Today, the water level in Punjab and Haryana has gone down. Water level has gone down from 600 to 1000 feet in Haryana. The old

tubewells have become drfunct. The water level has also gone down from 500 to 1000 feet in western Uttar Pradesh. If the water level continues to fall in the times to come, then it will be a matter of concern. How long will we continue to use chemical fertilizers to destroy the health of soil.

My fifth point is about the management of seeds. If we use good quality seeds, production may increase from 15 to 20 per cent. The State Government should make timely use of it. All the cooperative societies related to agriculture are lying closed in my state. Today, no agricultural cooperative society is providing fertilizers or financial assistance. ...(*Interruptions*)

I would like to high light the sixth point of the 'Sapta Kranti' which is related to machanisation and research should be carried out. Today 20 per cent of the funds which are provided for the I.C.A.R. schemes are spent in other heads by the State Governments. So, I would like the Minister of Agriculture to announce today that the funds provided by the Central Government should be used for the schemes for which the funds has been given. A committee comprising the agriculture scientists should be constituted at the Ministry level which may review the utilization of funds from time to time.

At the end, I would like to submit that there should be diversification of agriculture. Earlijer we paid attention only towards the cultivation of rice, wheat and pulses. Now, cultivation of pulses and oil seeds is also being emphasized. Besides, attention should also be paid towards sericulture, floriculture and horticulture.

Apart from this, I have also serveral other points, however, due to the time constraint I conclude.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Madam, our BSP colleagues do not allow others to speak. If any name is mentioned they say that it should not be mentioned. I would like to remind them that it is not Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly, it is Lok Sabha. They should keep patience and listen the speech.

Agriculture is so important that even after 62 years of independence, our country is still a predominantly agricultural country and 72 per cent population of this country is involved in agricultural activities. I am surprised to note that on the one hand Sh. Sharad Pawar ji is the Minister of Agriculture, on the other hand he is also a farmer. He has transformed his Baramati area agriculturally and industrialy.

However, there is no turn around in terms of agriculture and agricultural production has been continuously declining instead of increasing. Presently, our population is growing at the rate of 2.7 per cent while agricultural production is declining. It appears that in the coming ten years we will not be able to produce sufficient food to meet the requirement of our people and we will have to import food-grains from other countries. The farmers of this country brought about first green revolution in the country and made our country self-reliant in respect of food-grains 20 years have elapsed since that green revolution, however, what did the farmer get out of it? Today, the Government is making all possible attempts to bring about second green revolution in agriculture, however, it is not happening. This is because till today, agriculture has not been accorded the status which ought to be accorded to it. Thousands of crores of rupees outstanding against industrialists are written off. The Government have waived off Rs. 72 thousand crore loans of the farmers, however, out of them only 36 per cent take loan from banks and 26 per cent farmers are dependent on money lenders. The figures given here may still be moderate in comparison to the actual reality. I am very sorry to submit that Government has not formulated any policy till date to waive off the loans taken by farmers from the money lenders.

The Government has made an announcement that the farmers who repay their loans in time may avail fresh loans at the rate of 6 per cent and the rest will be given loans at the rate of 7 per cent. I would like to submit that NABARD takes loan at the rate of 4 per cent. I would like to know as to why the Government cannot give loans to farmers at the same rate of interest or less than that. Today the financial condition of our farmers is not good. At present, farmers are committing suicide in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, Kerala and Karnataka. Farmers are committing suicide even after the provision of a package by the Government. What can be more unfortunate than this that the farmers are committing suicide in independent India? Why is it happening? It is happening because they are not getting remunerative prices *vis-a-vis* their input cost in agriculture. A youth from a farmer's family may like to be a peon in an office but he will not like to get engaged in agriculture work.

Sir, I would like to give some data regarding the present position of agriculture in the country. From 1947, the contribution of agriculture in GDP has deteriorated and the contribution of industry has kept increasing. As

a result only 58 percent people get work in agriculture sector whereas less work is available in industry sector in comparison to agriculture. But the farmers do not get price of their produce in proportion to its cost. I remember, on that day hon. Mulayam Singh Yadav said in this House that Pricing Committee has recommended Rs. 1300 per quintal for wheat and Rs. 1500 per quintal for paddy. I mean that 50 percent more money than the cost should be given to farmers. I would like to congratulate you that you have given Rs. 350 more than the amount given by NDA Government. Even today if you see production cost, you will find that the farmers do not get even their production cost. Due to these reasons farmers are in difficulties and are not becoming prosperous. Unless prosperity prevails in villages, growth rate of our GDP will not increase. I would like to mention that in independent India till the year 1999 and 2000 the contribution of agriculture in GDP was 17.8 percent, which has decreased to 12.2 percent in the year 2007-08. By this you can guess the condition of agriculture in the country. Indian farmers can provide food not only to the people of India but to the people of the world also. You are the Minister of Agriculture, you had visited China also. In comparison to India, China had started to boost the agriculture later than us but presently agricultural production of China has increased more than three fold in comparison to India. Why are we failing to get more yield? Israel is a small country which has no proper arrangement for irrigation but they are getting better yield through Dry Farming. Mr. Minister, you have made an arrangement for sprinkling irrigation but how the equipments will function when the electricity is not there. No irrigation may take place if the equipments do not function. 338.7 billion hectare of land in the entire country is under cultivation. After 62 years of our independence, only 85.8 percent of cultivated land is getting irrigation facility. It means we are providing irrigation facility to only 38 percent of land. It seems from the budgetary provision made by the hon'ble Minister in this budget that we shall not be able to provide irrigation facility to 100 percent land even in three-four decades to come. Some days ago, hon. Mulayam Singh and Shri Sharad Yadav had raised the issue of draught. I went through your statement in this regard and I was surprised. You say that 70 percent of land in the entire northern India is lying uncultivated and no sowing work has been done as yet. The area of land may be more than that. The present position is that there is not only draught but famine-like situation prevails there. Today not only people but the animals also are facing difficulties. If this position persists, the four percent agriculture growth rate

mentioned by you can never be achieved. Hon. Minister of Finance has presented the data in the House that the growth rate will touch 9 percent. I feel that the growth rate will decrease to six percent and agricultural growth rate may decrease from four percent to two or two and a half percent.

Hon. Sharad Ji, I would like to tell you one thing also that India ranks second in entire world in the production of fruits and vegetables. India is one of the major milk producing countries in the world. But what is happening? You purchase milk from farmers at low rate and common people purchase the full cream milk at the rate of Rs. 26 per litre from the dairy. You purchase milk from a common farmers at the rate of Rs. 10-11 per litre depending on VAT. 40 percent of fruits and vegetables go waste in our country and you have not made any arrangement in this regard. You have neither constructed cold-storage nor arrangements have been made for storage. As a result 40 percent fruits and vegetables get wasted.

I would like to tell you that 57 percent people depend on agriculture and among them 48 percent are in debt. This may help you to understand the real position of our agriculture. I want to give you data in this regard. The agricultural growth rate which was 3.5 percent in the year 1997-98 has decreased to a little more than 2.2 percent in the year 2007-08. Whether do we want to take our agriculture? Recently you have declared rupees 1085 as MSP of wheat and have also decalre the MSP for paddy, but what happened? I would like to mention the situation in Uttar Pradesh. There, the farmers had to sell wheat and paddy at throw away prices of rupees 800-900. Where will the farmers go? PDS has failed thoroughly. The poor and farmers do not get ration under PDS. It is available in open market. You can purchase it at any rate from the open market. Have you ever thought of it? You will say that it is the responsibility of the State Government. You have fixed the rates for foodgrains, wheat and rice for Rs. two or three per kg. But whether it will be available to the common man?

Madam, I would like to give you one more data that you have provided 28 percent BPL card. Whereas, by the order of the Supreme Court, Mr. N.C. Saxena, the Food Commissioner of your own department has given a report that 50 percent population have come below the poverty line. Whether you will get it reviewed? If you do not get it reviewed, whether its benefits will go to farmers and the poor. Foodgrains will not be

available to the people living below the poverty line. I would request you to bring a white paper in this regard in Lok Sabha that after 62 years of our independence as to what is the position of agriculture at present. You will simply speak about it in your Budget Speech but this will not solve these problems. Being a farmer, you are aware of the agriculture cost.

What is the problem in giving it to the farmers when you are aware of the cost. Give it to them by adding 50 percent more to it. The second Green Revolution will take place in the country and no foreign assistance will be needed for that.

Madam, I would also like to say that the chemical fertilizer.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, you conclude.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: The chemcial fertilizers are destroying the fertility of land. Therefore, urge that major Bio-fertilizer factories should be established. Whether it is private sector or public sector such factories should be opened and cultivation work be carried out through proper co-ordination.

Madam, our agriculture is fully dependent on livestock. But at present we do not get duing anywhere in villages. In villages, one hundred dung-cakes are available at the rate of Rs. 200 to 300/. This is the situation today. Earlier, every farmer used to rear the cattle. I would like to request you to provide loan to farmers at lower rates through banks to purchase cows and buffaloes. This will increase their income, bio fertilizer will be made and the economy will also boost. I conclude may speech with these words.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH (Hamirpur): Hon. Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the budget for agriculture. At the outset, I would like to inform you that I have prepared my speech in details and I shall lay the same on the Table of the House.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: But I shall not lay the same instantly. I shall put my points in such a brief way that you will be astonished. In the beginning. I would like to say that in the President Address on 4th June it has been mentioned that agriculture and irrigation should be given a boost and National Horticulture Mission be promoted. Further, I want to make a mention of the speech of the Minister of Finance that he has made one percent budgetary provision for agriculture. He has

written that 62 percent population depends on agriculture. Agriculturists and people connected with agriculture form 62 percent of our population but one percent budgetary provision has been made for this 62 percent population whereas 99 percent budgetary provision has been made for 38 percent of population. This will not help develop agriculture. A provision of rupees one thousand crore has been made for irrigation but today not a single dam can be built at the cost of Rs. one thousand crore. If the Minister of Finance makes such a speech, there cannot be any growth in agriculture. So it seems that taking a cue from the president's Address our Minister of Finance has concentrated more on horticulture. But it cannot irrigate even a kitchen garden. This is the Budget of the Minister of Finance.

Besides, our hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh has also said in his speech and it was published in several newspapers that during the last 15 years farmers and agriculture had not grown even one percent. The Statesman has published an editorial on this topic. The data following after it shows that agricultural production is decreasing constantly. Even Shri Rewati Raman Singh of the Samajwadi Party accepts it. 32 percent land is being acquired every year in district like Allahabad.

Madam, now I want to talk about farmers. Agriculture should have three things. First, production, second, price for that production and third, its management. I would like to inform that before practising the law in High Court I was in the profession of farming in 1965. After ceiling there was enough land. I couldn't succeed in agriculture for two years and I came to know the meaning of farmer and that is one who dies in the farm. There is no hope for development of farming keeping in view the way farming is being done nowadays. I would like to inform that the Government of India has fixed the price of wheat at the rate of Rs. 1080.

Madam Speaker, if I calculate the cost of production for wheat, it come at Rs. 9.50 or Rs. 1000 per quintal and saving on it is Rs. 80. If the wages of the family of a farmer is included in the cost, the cost increases to Rs. 3000 per quintal. I belong to Mahob-a-Hamirpur parliamentary constituency which is adjacent to Khajuraho. Recently, I visited the area and saw that though the Government has fixed the price for wheat at Rs. 1080 per quintal, but brokers and intermediaries are buying wheat at the rate of Rs. 800-900 per quintal. I would like to give one more example that the vegetable grower farmer produces cauliflower in three months and

carries that cauliflower to the market in the tractor. Broker gives one rupee for one piece of cauliflower and the farmer has no choice. That cauliflower is packed and sent to Allahabad and Kanpur for selling at the rate of Rs. 5. That very broker sells that cauliflower in Delhi or Mumbai at the rate of Rs. 25. A broker earns more profit than the farmer. This is the plight of farmers.

Madam Speaker, while talking about farming if we do not mention irrigation, it will be like buying a car without caring for petrol. Unless irrigation is paid attention to, there will be difficulties in the production due to global warming. Short term and long term measures should be taken in respect of irrigation. First I would like to talk about long term measure, like rainwater harvesting, lift canal, building small dams, building check dams for rainwater harvesting and building small canals and as Rewati Raman Singh ji has mentioned there is no talk of drip farming on the line of dry farming in Israel. It seems that while preparing budget for agriculture the mindset of bureaucrats in the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Agriculture remains confined to the Stock exchange, the sensex and the five star hotels and they do not address the points of agricultural production.

Madam Speaker, now, I would like to talk about electricity. There has been scarcity of electricity in Uttar Pradesh for the last 40 years. At present 7400 megawatt electricity is being produced in Uttar Pradesh. Two companies of the Central Government are generating electricity in Uttar Pradesh. 60 percent of the electricity produced by these companies is given to other states and Uttar Pradesh gets 40 percent electricity. It seems that the farmers of Uttar Pradesh are being harassed intentionally so that the management of the Uttar Pradesh Government can be questioned. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture that he should pay more attention towards the matters relating to agriculture and less towards matters relating to BCCI. Unless there is development in the field of agriculture, the dream and the purpose of independence cannot be realised. If the monsoon gets delayed for 15-20 days, there will be panic everywhere. You are also from a poor family and the condition of the farmers is very poor. It has been mentioned in the Budget that 7 Ultra Power plants are being set up, but Uttar Pradesh has not got a single plant where there is 78 percent shortage of electricity. The major reason behind this is that BSP is in the power in Uttar Pradesh, while in the Centre UPA Government is there and the relations between the two governments are not cordial.
...*(Interruptions)*.

I am saying that Uttar Pradesh has not got a single Ultra Mega Power Plant out of these seven Ultra Mega Power Plants. The third point I want to make is that.

MADAM SPEAKER: You please conclude now.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Madam, I will conclude in a second. At the last I would like to say that Bata company gets a slipper manufactured at the cost of Rs. 300 and sells it in the market at Rs. two thousand and company makes promise in its name. *...(Interruptions)*. S.P. people, they are not at fault. *...(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Come to your point.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Madam, I am going to conclude. *...(Interruptions)*.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Farmers are affected a lot and nothing is being done for them. *...(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Conclude now.

[English]

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Madam, I would just request you to give me ten seconds to finish my speech. I am concluding my speech.

MADAM SPEAKER: But you had said that you will be very brief and that you will surprise me. You conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: I want to say that the producer, *i.e.* the farmers and food producers are hungry. Major part of the profit should go to farmers and it should not be pocketed by the intermediaries, the transporters and the brokers.

SHRI RAKESH SACHAN (Fatehpur): Madam, whatever assistance is given by the Central Government, gets disappeared in Uttar Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)*.

MADAM SPEAKER: Sit down. Why are you standing, why are you speaking? Let him speak, it is his turn.

...(Interruptions).

MADAM SPEAKER: You speak and conclude now. Your time is over. You can lay the rest of the speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: Madam, if I am allowed, I will put in on the Table of the House whatever I have tried to summarise.

*The President of India in paragraph 17 of her Address on 4th June, 2009 after election to the 15th Lok Sabha had said -The growth rate of agriculture and irrigation will be increased and a desire had been expressed to agriculture growth, Food Security Mission and National Horticulture Mission.

However, exactly one month later on 6th July, 2009, the hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget speech of the year 2009-10 forgot all the things mentioned in the President's Address and admitted in the paragraph 27,28,29 and 30 at the page no. 6 of the Budget that 60 per cent population depends on the agriculture and he gave six to seven percent relief on interest growth in the name of agriculture development and he patted his own back for the loan waiver of Rs. 71,000 crores, extended to the farmers in the year of 2008-2009. Though, it failed to increase the production of agriculture but it somewhat consolidated the vote bank of Congress party. Their mindset is that agriculture can be developed by extending loan, this mindset needs radical changes *e.g.* only one thousand crore rupees have been allocated for the irrigation. This amount would not lead to development of agriculture. Therefore, it appears to me that Hon'ble Finance Minister did remember the last line of Paragraph 17 of the President's Address, in which there was a mention of promoting National Horticulture Mission. Kitchen garden concept is not going to improve the condition of Agriculture and farmers in India.

The scheme for the development of agriculture can be divided into two parts.

1. Long term planning
2. Short term planning

The following components are required for the development of agriculture.

1. Irrigation
2. Power
3. Remunerative price of foodgrains
4. Infrastructure-Power, Roads, Storage, Mechanisation, and Banking.

*...*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

Irrigation

1. Long term planning
2. Short term planning
3. Production
4. Prices of foodgrains
5. Infrastructure

Long Term Planning

1. Construction of major dams
2. Reservoir
3. Interlinking of rivers
4. Networking of major canals
5. National Power Built

Production

1. Irrigation
2. Electricity
3. Roads

Irrigation

1. Short term arrangement
2. Rain water harvesting
3. Lift canal
4. Construction of small dams and reservoirs
5. Rain water harvesting, Checkdam
6. Modernisation of canals, minor canals and drainage system
7. Construction of small and big tubewell
8. Dry land farming
9. Drip irrigation

Seven medium and major rivers flow through the Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda, Jaloon, Lalitpur and Jhansi districts of Bundelkhand and Betwa, Kain and Dhasan rivers get flooded during rains. If we are able to construct small dams on their banks and link them, then we may store adequate rain for irrigation throughout the year.

There is adequate number of small and major canals in Uttar Pradesh particularly in Bundelkhand. However, water in these canals is hardly sufficient for irrigation twice in a year and the villages situated at the tail end do not get water due to shortage of water in reservoir.

Through this august House, I would like to request Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to take up this matter with Finance Minister; so that he is more considerate towards the agriculture sector. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance has made a very important point, in his Budget speech for the year 2009-2010, on 6 July, 2009 that he wanted to on overall growth rate of 9 percent rate and 4 percent for agriculture sector as stated in the paragraph 5 D in the first page of Budget speech. However, it is very unfortunate that fundequivalent to only one percent of GDP is likely to be spent on the irrigation and agriculture, even though according to Minister of Finance 62 percent population depends on the agriculture and works related to it. In nutshell, I would like to state that more than 4 percent growth rate is achievable in the agriculture sector, provided irrigation and electricity facility is available to farmers. If in the very beginning of the current Session of 2009-2010, this House decides for providing irrigation facility to every farm then, I can claim that this country may achieve such an unprecedented growth in agricultural sector which it has not been able to achieve during the last 60 years. If during the irrigation season, farmers are not provided electricity for 20 hours a day, then they have to resort to the use of diesel which makes irrigation expensive and uneconomical. For example, for the irrigation of one *bigha*, the farmers have to spend Rs. 2000 on diesel and thereafter production cost increases and he is not able to get the expected yield. The cannot get additional yield of wheat generating two thousands rupces for him to cover input cost of Rs. 2000.

On 20.07.2009, the National President of Bahujan Samaj Party and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh km. Bahin Mayawatiji released a white paper on the poor and pitiable condition of electricity. Through the hon'ble Speaker, I would like to inform the House that there was an acute shortage of power in Uttar Pradesh during the last 60 years. The data related to the power generation was very surprising.

1. The present power generation capacity is 4700 MW.
2. The BJP Government sold Unchahar Thermal Power Project station with an installed capacity of 430 MW

3. The then Government again sold the same to NTPC in the year 2000.
4. 1000 MW went to the state of Uttarakhand in 1992 as its share.
5. After the formation of BSP Government, 420 MW power generation was commissioned on trial basis.
6. The present BSP Government has prepared a comprehensive plan for power generation but these projects will take 4-5 years.

There is an inordinate delay in the allocation of coal and gas to the state and there is no coal mine in Uttar Pradesh.

Government of India have announced to install seven ultra mega projects whereby they are planning to produce 28,000 Megawatt electricity. Government of Uttar Pradesh have repeatedly requested the Union Government for awarding an ultra mega power project out of the said seven ultra power projects but not a single project is assigned to Uttar Pradesh in spite of the fact that there is shortage of electricity in the state. There is a unit of NTPC in Singrauli in Uttar Pradesh which mostly remains out of order. Uttar Pradesh is not getting 500 Megawatt from Singrauli as mostly it remains out of order and 110 Megawatt from Tanda as well. Uttar Pradesh is not getting 300 Megawatt of electricity. 4700 Megawatt power is being generated within Uttar Pradesh. U.P. Government is getting only 2600-2800 Megawatt electricity. In short, electricity is being generated in U.P, and being transmitted to other states. It is all because of political reasons. In nutshell, UPA Government is at all is afraid of political power of it is none other than of our popular leader Km. Bahen Mayawati Ji and that is why due to political reasons it is hell best upon to get the national wrscin the state.. In other words no one can get success in agriculture sector without electricity and water.

The farmers are unable to carry their produce to Mandir or nearby town in the proper roads thereby they are bound to suffer loss.

Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh Ji and had made a very realistic statement wherein he had stated that only 1% growth had been registered in farming sector during the last 15 years. It is very shameful situation. It seems that keeping in view this 1% growth our leader of the house and Finance Minister, who is on expert in financial matters and had an opportunity to

present the budget in the House 25 years ago has therefore allocated very meagre budget for asrian ture so that status quo of 1% growth continues. Rs. 8777 thousand crores have been earmarked for rural development which will not help in development of agriculture.

The price of wheat is Rs. 1080 per quintal whereas its production cost is between Rs. 950 to Rs. 1000 per quintal which shows that farmers are earning only Rs. 80 per quintal. 80% Indian farmers produce less than 50 quintal wheat in a season which means gets Rs. 40,000 and 90% farmers produce less than 25 quintals of wheat per year which means be gets Rs. 20,000/. Therefore it is very hard to depend on agriculture only a farmer can not run his family expenditure for a year with a meager amount of Rs. 40,000 or Rs. 20,000/-

Farmers are not demanding high prices but they are demanding proportionate rise in the prices of their produce like other items as per fair market rates. when a mill owner sells cloth of the rate of Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 per meter there is no body to discuss it. If a shoe maker sells shoes at the rate of Rs. 2500-3000 per cent which costs Rs. 300-400 only no body comments about it but if there is any increase in the prices of wheat, rice or pulse everyone make hue and cry. Farmers usually sell Arhar, Moong, Chana and Matar on an average price of Rs. 20 per kg. to the businessman or brokers and they are selling the same pulse at the rate of Rs. 70-80 per kg. after polishing them. In this system farmers guffers loshes and brokers are waking profit. There is an easy and simple situation of the rasd froblem the middleman and brokers may be banned and the farmer may be allowed to sell their product directly so that the producers may benefits. It is not a difficult ask for this purpose smale godowns should be confnected. Recently, farmers were unable to sell their wheat at the rate of Rs. 1080 per quintate because of the interference of middleman and brokers. The other agencies of Government of India were also buying wheat. they have to wait in mandir for 8-10 days and finally farmrs sell their produce to middleman at the same rate at which Government was purchasing. I witnessed this in my own constituency. Farmers are food providers. He tries to feed the whole country but it is quite unfortunate that our food provider is himself hungry for example whin farmers bring their fruits and vegetables to small towns and cities in large quantity the borkers and middlemen unitedly slash down the prices of their produce and compel them to sell their produce at very nominal rates.

If the farmers bring four tractor trolley cauliflowers in the market of a small town, the brokers offers them a maximum rate of Rs. 1 per cauliflower and ultimately he has to sell it out. The brokers sell the same cauliflower at the rate of Rs. 5 per piece in big cities like Allahabad, Lucknow etc. on the other hand if brokers sell this pieces in Delhi he get Rs. 15 and Rs. 25 in other metro cities like. Mumbai, Kolkata and Madras. But the fact is that the producers get only Rs. 1 for their produce being sold at the rate of Rs. 25 in the market. This practice should be stopped at once.

It is the duty of the Government to ensure that farmers get remunerative prices for their produce. Godowns should be constructed at Gram Panchayat level and as hon. Rajnath Singh has said in his speech in this august house on Friday that insurance coverage should be provided to the crops of farmers which seems impossible right now. But if the produce of farmers is allowed to pledge with bank, the banks themselves may provide small funds as Advance directly as sugar factories are extending to sugar cane growers. If they produce 1 lakh sacks of sugar, the factory owners takes loans from banks instead of selling sugar in the market. He sells his produce at the time when prices are high. As today small businessman also extend loan to the farmers for their crops only but the farmers face difficulties when they takes loan at higher rate of interest. Small godowns have been constructed in Japan at village level and the farmers get rent for their produce kept in said godowns. It benefits bank, farmer at village level only. By doing so the shops of FCI will shut down.

One can produce fruits, flowers and vegetables in small piece of land more than once in a year. If you have 10 Bigha land by the grace of the climate and nature you can reap the crops thrice in a year. It means you can enjoy the benefits of 30 Bigha in 10 Bigha only. In Japan you can purchase a dozen lady fingers for Rs. 500-700; which is being sold in good packaging. I know it very well.

With reference to page 6 of Budget Speech if this situation prevails famine like situation will arise in near future and it could lead to civil war on the issues of foodgrain and water. Undoubtedly 1% farmers have been benefited from loan waiver scheme and NREGA but the farmers who have repaid their loans feel themselves defrauded and after waiving off loan of Rs. 71 thousand crores the vote some of Congress was certainly increased.

The principles of egalitarian and the gain of all and welfare of all will be realized only when the mindsets of

Government of India is changed the ensuing Commonwealth Games will be over in 10-15 days. Which will cost more than 3 thousand crores rupees. A few 5 star hotels and playgrounds will be constructed in Delhi and story of the Games will be over.

If we provide this 3-4 thousand crores rupees to Bundelkhand, more than 5 crores people would be benefited from the said funds and arrangements for water could be made for every field of the region. It is choice of UPA Government and we may say it as Commonwealth vs farmer.

You have mentioned about your beliefs at page 1 of your opening speech but you have mentioned brief about agriculture development at para 27 to 30 on page no. 6 of your speech that the growth rate in agriculture sector will be 4 percent, which is totally false and misleading. Today farmers specifically from U.P. and Bundelkhand are demanding water and electricity for every village.

There is a scarcity of water in Bundelkhand, the tube wells there have to be drilled deep because of the presence of black granite beneath the ground and farmers can not depend entirely on loan for this work. Production cost of wheat comes to be Rs. 950 to 1000 per quintal. Minimum support price of the wheat is Rs. 1080 per quintal.

Secondly an amount of Rs. 2000 is needed to be spent on diesel for irrigating one Bigha of land and Rs. 4500 have to be spent on diesel for irrigating one acre of land and even then one is not asked to produce the grains to the tune of rupees 4500. Hence, expenditure is more than earning if diesel is used for irrigation.

In order to tackle this problem, there is a need of 15 to 20 hours of continuous electricity particular during the season of irrigation but there is no sufficient amount of electricity for the purpose of irrigation in Uttar Pradesh in the last five years. An expenditure of Rs. 2500 to 3000 on diesel is required for irrigating one acre of land. and if such kind exercise is done rice the farmers incur losses.

I would like the honorable Minister of Finance should change his thinking as neither the farmers could be benefited nor will there be any rise in production through providing and waiving loans to the farmers. In this context, I would like to inform the House that minimum Rs. 950 is required to be spent in the production of one

quintal of wheat. The farmers earn only Rs. 80 on the production of one quintal of wheat, similarly, he will earn only Rs. 8000 on the production of quintal of wheat and in the state of Uttar Pradesh not even give percent of farmers are in a position to produce one hundred quintals of wheat. An amount of Rs. 8777 crore for the Rural Development which includes amount for irrigation etc is not quite sufficient. If the farmers do not get a remunerative price for infrastructural his produce and the facilities like seeds, equipments, tractor, diesel, electricity etc, which help in the produce of the farmers, are not provided at subsidised rates, then their standard of living is not going to rise in even in the next fifty years.

The minister of state in the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India, Hon'ble Shri Namo Narain Meena has accepted this while answering reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha that in the year 1971 debt on per family in the village was Rs. 437, which rose to Rs. 12585 in 2003, that is there has been twenty five fold of increase in the amount of debt and it is also a harsh reality that more than one lakh farmers commit suicide every year in the country. As per a National Sample survey conducted by an NGO, Indian Farmer is in the tight grip of debt. This report says that as far as Rajasthan is concerned, earning of a farmer comes to be Rs. 17976/- but debt on him is rupees 18372. There is continuous rise in debt to earning ratio *i.e.* the debt is rising faster than the earning.

Honorable Minister of Finance accepts that 60 percent of population is dependent on agriculture, though as far as Indian is concerned, 70 to 75 percent population of the country live in villages and their livelihood is directly associated with agriculture. And for this sixty percent population of India only rupees ten thousand crore is allocated in the Budget in which budget for irrigation is also included and this amount is only one percent of total GDP which means 60 percent of population has been provided only one percent of the total budget and remaining 40 percent of the population has a provision of 99 percent Rs. 62832 crore are provided for Rural Development, which is 6 percent of total expenditure. This will not result in 4 percent average increase 99 percent of the Government expenditure comes to around Rs. ten lakh twenty thousand crore and out of which Rs. 62837/- crore is allocated for agriculture. Which is not sufficient enough.

Secondly, according to Honorable Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, production level in agriculture has been almost static for the last 15 years, with only one percent of increase. In such a sorry state of affairs,

statement or thinking or desire of the Honorable Finance Minister that there will be four percent annual rise in the production in agriculture sector is next to impossible. There was a news item in the news paper "Amar Ujala" dated 12.07.2009 that grains amounting to Rs. five billion decay annually. There is lack of cold storages and godowns, and if there is a good harvest of potato during any year, the farmer is the worst sufferer, because most of the suicides are committed by the farmers during that time as there is not room for storing more than 25 percent of potato in the cold storages.

After the waiver of the loan of the farmers when I went to my constituency to attend a thanks giving program organized on my election victory each and every farmer asked me to get him loan and there was a whole lot of farmers demanding loan. they think that Finance Minister will again waive the amount of loan before the next election and so on. All this reveals one thing that it will neither benefit the farmer nor will there be any rise in production. I would like to repeat that let each field be provided with water, let each and every village and field be provided with electricity, the farmer, then, will need neither any loan nor any waiving. Rather he will repay the loan, in case he takes the loan. Our Minister of Finance has equated those who have repaid their loans and those whose loan has been waived this has been done only for political gains. This will according to me will only destroy the farmer and farm produce.

The average rainfall used to be 101.5 ml in the month of June throughout the state but during this month it has till now only been 48.8 ml of rain which is 48 percent less. Out of 36 sub division in the country, 29 sub divisions have got less than average rainfall. There has not been even 5 percent of sowing in my constituency particularly in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. And there has been no sowing of Kharif crop in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh.

I am very sorry to say that the Honorable Minister Agriculture of India Respected Sharad Pawar Ji, who takes more interest in cricket, perhaps spends more than 80 percent of his time running the affair of BCCI and International Cricket. It is fair to say that he has devoted the whole of his heart to the cricket and I think that there is nothing wrong in doing so but I also think that cricket might gain more popularity or there may be increase in the number of twenty-twenty matches but that is not going to benefit to the farmers engaged in the agriculture sector.

Indian farmer, who is called as "Foodprovides" is hungry, Indian labourers, who help in the construction of 10 to 20 stories of buildings, is not having any roof on his head. This is a gift which has been awarded by the successive Governments to this section of people during the last 61 years. Honorable Finance Minister, you will have to work very hard to improve this condition, and I would like to say that so long as the interests of the farmers are not given priority, and if this budget is going to serve the interest of computer sector and the sensex, then the objective of the freedom will remain unfulfilled. I would like to say that you should not remain a Minister of Finance only but also become farmer friendly and well-wisher of the farmers, the farmers will give their hearty blessings to you, only in that lies the good of yours as well as of the farmers.

The Agriculture Minister is saying continuously that godowns are full of grains but I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister to a United Nation's report according to which 65 percent children are going to bed stomach half full. Besides, the following are the conditions of the godowns of FCI revealed through the information given to Devashish Bhattacharya of Delhi under the RTI Act, it also says that 25 crore of people of India go to bed without any food.

1. During the last decade 10 lakh tones of grains got rotten.
2. FCI spend an annual amount of rupees 2.42 crore to protect the food grains from getting rotten in the godowns.
3. Recently during last year Rs. 2.59 crore of food grains were rotten which had to be burned.
4. 1.83 lakh tonne wheat, 3.96 lakh tonne rice, 22 thousand tonne paddy, 110 tonne maize and 10 lakh tonne foodgrains have got rotten during the period 1997 to 2007.
5. In reply to RTI, FCI have informed that Rs. 87.15 crore spent to preserve foodgrains in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi. Thereafter, 7 lakh tonne foodgrains got rotten.
6. It is a matter of regret that Rs. 60 lakh were spent to dispose the rotten foodgrain.
7. According to United Nation's report 63 percent children of the country do not get food at night.

8. Approximately 10 lakh tonne foodgrain got rotten during the last decade.
9. FCI spends Rs. 2.42 billion each year so that the foodgrain do not rot.
10. Rs. 2.59 crore were spent to dispose the rotten foodgrain.
11. In response to the RTI of Mr. Devashish Bhattacharya of Delhi. FCI informed that 1.83 lakh tonne maize and 10 lakh tonne foodgrain was rotten in its godowns during the period 1997 to 2007.
12. FCI has informed that even after spending Rs. 87.15 crore to preserve the foodgrain in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi, 7 lakh tonne foodgrain got rotten.
13. 1.5 tonne foodgrain was rotten in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal whereas the Government spent Rs. 1.22 billion so that the foodgrain do not rot.
14. However, the government spent Rs. 25 crore for preservmg the foodgrain in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala but 43,069.023 tonne foodgrain was rotten. Rs. 340.867 were spent to dispose it.
15. tonne foodgrain was rotten in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal whereas the Government spent Rs. 1.22 billion to preserve the foodgrain in the eastern part of the country. Even after spending Rs. 25 crore in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, 43,069.023 tonne foodgrains were rotten there. Rs. 340,867 were spent to dispose the rotten foodgrain.

Through you, Speaker Madam, I would like to request hon'ble Prime Minister to maintain balance between the love for cricket and the hopes of the farmers so that the farmers may progress like the 20-20 matches of the cricket. With this, I wish bright future for hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawarji.

You have mentioned about 9 percent per annum growth rate in the paragraph 5 and you have expressed hope of 4 percent growth in the agriculture sector.

Through this august House, I would request the Minister of Finance to chalk out such a short term and

long term scheme as may be termed in one word, the water management. thereby providing water to every field and avoiding dependence of farmers on rains. For example, there are about seven-eight rivers in Bundelkhand which include Betwa, Ken, Dhasaan and there runs Yamuna also adjoining Bundelkhand. If arrangements are made for the construction of some dams on the rivers. Betwa and Ken, water would be available for irrigation. Otherwise, the future of India would be dark.

At last, in the background of agriculture, I would like to draw the kind attention of hon'ble Minister of Finance to the following points which will ensure the progress of the farmer:-

[English]

- water related small and big projects.
- Water harvesting schemes throughout the country.
- Restoration of water bodies.
- Irrigation and Tube well irrigation through private sources and funding.
- Resemble and rumonative and practical price fixing of the foodgrains.
- Micro Finance.
- Farm Insurance.

[Translation]

In view of the farming, there should be a network of roads in the villages so that the farmers may not face any problem especially in the transportation of fruits and vegetables. When a farmer takes his vegetables to the local mandi, he has to face the reduction in the prices of his produce by the cartel of Commission agents.

I have realized that if a farmer takes his cauliflower into the local mandi, he hardly gets one rupee per piece of cauliflower whereas the commission agent takes it to some big city and there he gets three or five rupee per piece of cauliflower and when a bigger commission agent takes it to Delhi or big cities, he gets ten rupees or more per piece. This clearly shows that those farmers who have grown cauliflower and who have spent three months on its cultivation gets only one rupees whereas the middlemen earns 10 times in only two days. Hon'ble Minister has not mentioned anything about it in the Budget.

MADAM SPEAKER: Other hon'ble Members who want to lay their speech on the Table of the Houes can do so.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN SINGH (Munger): Madam.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, before you start I would like to tell the hon. Members that we have a very long list of speakers. If the House agrees we would skip the Lunch Hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Madam.

[Transaltion]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Madam, I am thankful to you for the opportunity you have given to me for speaking on agriculture department's demand for grants. Here we are discussing on demands for the year 2009-10 of agriculture department and food and consumer affairs ministry. Ours is an agriculture dominated country and more than 75 per cent of the populations livelihood is based on agriculture. Our whole economy is based on agriculture. Main problem of this country is unemployment and if efforts are made to remove unemployment, then through agriculture problem of unemployment can be removed to a great extent.

Madam, Agriculture Minister is renowned farmer leader. When he was made Minister of Agriculture, farmers of the country thought their welfare will be taken care of. We went to his constituency. Whatever he has done in the field of agriculture, we have seen that in his constituency in Maharashtra.

12.58 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: After viewing all this we felt that in agriculture much would be done.

Sir, what is the condition at present, we would like to know from the Minister through you. Whether agriculture Minister, himself being a farmer leader and seeing the present condition of agriculture in the country, is satisfied with it. Today agriculture is not profitable for the farmers. Now the condition is such that you have to

invest rupees 100 and you get ninety. The educated youth in villages are leaving farming and are migrating to the cities for jobs. They are leaving for cities for two-three thousand rupees job but are not paying attention to farming. Due to this our agriculture has got affected.

Sir, we want to tell you that on 9th July 2009 in regard to unstarred question number 645 in Rajya Sabha Government has replied.

13.00 hrs.

The Government has stated that 35.6 percent females and 34.2 percent males in the age group of 15 to 49 years in the country have body mass index below 18.5 which is indicative of malnutrition. What is the condition prevailing in the country today? Inadequate diet is one of the causes of malnutrition. Among the other reasons are lack of access to health facilities and lack of availability of water and sanitation. This has been stated by the Government recently on 19th of July in its reply in the other House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to state that if you watch the GDP of this country during the year 2004-05, the contribution of agriculture was 20.2% during that year, while presently during 2007-08, the contribution of agriculture in the GDP has decreased to 17.8 per cent. Where is the agriculture moving toward? The biggest requirement in the agricultural sector is of water management, seed, fertilizer and the remunerative price of the produce. In the Budget of this year one per cent allocation has been made for agriculture. While replying to the General Budget, the hon'ble Minister of Finance stated that the allocation of one per cent is not actually one per cent rather, the allocation made for agriculture through several other departments makes it more than one per cent. I am surprised. There has been a Minister of Agriculture in the UPA Government for the last five years. I would like to give an example. Two years back, he formulated the National Agriculture Development Scheme. An allocation of Rs. 25 thousand crore was made for that and a target had been fixed in that scheme to raise agricultural production by 4 per cent. During 2008-09, the percentage rise was 1.6. What was the benefit of that scheme with an allocation of Rs. 25 thousand crore. The target could not be achieved even by 50 per cent. He is claiming to have brought about a revolution in agriculture. Only Rs. 1584 crore have been provided to be spent on research which is needed for agriculture, for providing climate friendly and improved seed to the farmers. Rs. 626 crore have been provided

for animal husbandry which can support the farmers in agriculture, Rs. 411 crore have been provided for pisciculture and Rs. 88 crore for dairy development. Can he make a claim that on the basis of this provision, a green revolution can be brought about in the country or the condition of the farmers can be improved? I do not think so. We cannot expect or assume this from the Agriculture Minister who has been folding this portfolio for the last five years in the previous UPA Government as well and he should not raise such a hope among the farmers of the country, which he cannot fulfil. He has been a farmer leader himself. He fully knows the condition of the farmers. There are several such Ministers in the UPA Government who are least concerned with the farmers or have never ever watched them closely. They have never seen poverty. However, the hon'ble Agriculture Minister belongs to that place where he has himself watched the ground reality of the farmers. He is powerful Minister in the Government. If he uses his strength in the interest of the farmers of the country, a large number of farmers could get its benefit. So far as the food procurement is concerned, the Food Corporation Of India carries out this job I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture whether he is satisfied with the procurement being carried out through the FCI in this country? The answer would be in the negative because the whole country knows that the FCI is up to its neck in corruption. They have never been keen to carry out procurement from the farmer. They have got it done everywhere through the rice and paddy mills. In the state belong to, I can contend with certainty that the FCI has carried out procurement through contractors. Whom the Government intends to give benefit to? It would not be possible to extend benefit to the farmers in this manner. I would like to urge the Agriculture Minister that leaving aside the FCI, the responsibility of food grain procurement should be entrusted to the State Governments. The FCI may purchase foodgrains from the State Governments.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Sir, the FCI does not have the machinery to carry out procurement inside the states. Maximum procurement in our country is carried out in Punjab and Haryana. In Punjab and Haryana, more than 80 per cent procurement is carried out by the State Governments. Wherever it is carried out by the State Governments no problem arises. However, some State Governments are not ready to come forward for this task despite several rounds of

talks beilg held with them for this purpose. They want that the FCI employees should visit each village. But the FCI does not have so many employees to undertake the task. The set up of the FCI is such that it procures the produce from the State Governments and cooperative organizations and gives it to the State Governments for public distribution. This responsibility lies completely with the State Government. No complaints from Punjab and Haryana are received because the State Government carries out this task over there and problems arise only where the state Government fails to pay attention in this regard.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Sir, though the hon'ble Minister has stated, I would still request him to carry out talks with the State Governments. I can tell about my State of Bihar, he may send a proposal in this regard to the State Government. During a visit by the Chief Minister of Bihar, a large number of farmers made a complaint and when the Chief Minister talked with him on telephone and made a request, a team of the FCI was sent over there. A team of the FCI visited the state, but nothing substantial came out of that. As such, I would like to urge him to improve the procurement process. The funds provided to the farmers are nadequate, however, the funds being provided for them are not reaching them because there are siphoned off by the intermediaries. So I request him to look into this.

Sir, lastly, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Ministers another fact about my State. There are no minerals and mines available in Bihar. Only agro-based industry can be set up in Bihar. Among the agro-based industries, sugar mills or ethanol mills can be set up over there. When the Government changed, the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture had also gone there. He had had talks with several people and there were 67 proposals for setting up sugar and ethanol based industries. The country requires ethanol today. 12-13 per cent ethanol is being mixed with the petroleum products all over the world. This is not the case with our country. Sir, the Government in its reply to the Unstarred Question number 949 on 13th July. stated in the other House that instructions have been given to the oil marketing companies through a Government notification of 20th Sept. 2006 to sell 5 per cent ethanol mixed petrol from the 1st November 2006 instates other than the north eastern states, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Icelands, Daman and Diu and Lakshdweep. However, the country does not have sufficient ethanol

as it does not have sufficient production. Ethanol is being imported on which the Prime Minister had written a letter to all the Chief Ministers of the country.

He wrote that priority and encouragement may be given for producing ethanol in each of the States. Two days later, his Ministry issued a letter stating that ethanol cannot be produced by those who do not produce sugar. What sort of rule is this? On what basis his Ministry imposed such a ban and under which Essential Commodity Act ethanol is covered? Ethanol is not an essential commodity for which its production was banned.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it might be possible that during the last Government,s tenure such a decision had been taken under certain pressures. However, there are 16 such proposals over there at present. I would urge him to repeal the anti-Bihar notification and order, as laws are formulated in the interests of the State and the public and not for just formality sako.

I, therefore, request you to lift the ban on production of ethanol in Bihar as it will boost our industrial development. There should not be stagnation in industrial development. I want to tell the hon'ble Minister to promote it because it is his duty to promote it. Bihar is a backward state so he should help this backward state. There should not be any bottleneck and interruption in this process.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would request the hon'ble Minister to withdraw his anti-people and anti-state notifications. With these words, I express my thanks to you and conclude.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now our colleague said that Bihar had only agro-based industries, particularly sugarcane based industries. Most of the investments in Bihar was made in this very sector only. It is this single order and decision that divided Bihar and after getting divided it is in a bad shape, so no industry can be set up there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to request Shri Sharad Pawar ji that there is no big crisis of sugar in the country. You did it for ethanol, whereas all the investment came up because of the reason that the people wanted to produce ethanol. You did a new thing. It was needed to encourage the people. You should reconsider it. If you say something aboutit right now, it would be better. What are the reasons behind such a decision? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:
You give relaxation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Lalan ji please take your seat.

[English]

*DR. TARUN MONDAL (Joynagar): Madam Speaker, this agricultural budget is deficient to address certain vital aspects of agricultural field of our land and a pro-capitalist, pro-imperialist budget satisfying big farmers and business houses related with agricultural products.

- * Subsidy in agriculture not increased, rather decreased to subserve the interest of international imperialist traders of agricultural products. W.T.O. wanted it. It will unnecessarily like the cost of cultivation and food products. Agriculture products of foreign countries will flood our markets.
- * Fertilizer problem: Now a days without fertilizer, agricultural production will fall. Withdrawing subsidy and giving it to private hands for manufacturing will simply increase. Moreover, in same States like West Bengal there is hoarding and rampant black marketing of fertilizers, which must be stopped.
- * Irrigation: After 62 yrs. of independence, nearly 62% of our cultivable lands are without irrigation. How can we dream for another green revolution? Wherever it is available, electricity is too costly in certain States. Union Government should ensure free of cost electricity upto 3 acres of cultivable land owners all over the country.
- * Natural Calamity like flood, drought, every year destroying lakhs of acres of valuable crops. Only long term preventive measures can help saving such huge loss of food grains and other farm produces.
- * Public Distribution System (PDS) be fortified. Hoarding and black marketing of food grains, pulses, sugar etc. be busted out. All out state trading of essential commodities – both purchase and sale of 'produces' with suitable prices can guarantee reduction of prices of essential commodities including food grains.

- * Seeds and Pesticides: prices be reduced. Control should not be given to MNCs like Monsanto.
- * Suicide by Farmers: 1,80,000 died in last ten years. A judicial enquiry commission be instituted to investigate and recommend remedial measures. Loan through banks mainly benefiting big farmers.
- * To feed 1 billion 15 crores population need 'modernization' and mechanization .of agriculture in our country. Modern technology in cultivation may produce huge jobless agricultural workers which might be preventing Union Government to put thrust on this sector. Budget should analyze why 84 crore people of our country unable to spend Rs. 20/- per day and 50 crore people can not spend Rs. 10/- per day. This should be addressed in this Budget.

[Translation]

*SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR (Parbhani): Being a Member of Parliament for the first time in this Lok Sabha, I want to express my views on the budget provision made for agriculture. Being an M.P. from Maharashtra, I am representing the under developed region. I will discuss about the provisions made for Department of Agriculture. Farmers produce foodgrains for 110 crore people of this country. The number of farmers in the country is limited, even though they do not get desired relief and protection from the Department of Agriculture due to which it is difficult for them to lead a life on their own. Farmers' loans were waived off in the name of giving them relief in the budget for the year 2009-10. The Minister of Finance did not make provision for the farmers in the budget. Only 30% loans have been waived off by and large.

If the farmers abandon producing crops, people of the country will face food crisis. Priority should be given to farmers. They produce foodgrains, but they are not provided required facilities of water, seeds, fertilizers and subsidy. If you want to check the price rise, you will have to increase production by giving subsidy. Dams have been constructed on the rivers Godavari, Purna, Karpata, Lower Dudhina in Marathwada region, but these are lying incomplete. Budget should be enhanced to complete these dams and the timely supply of water for the fields of farmers should be ensured. Dams on Jayakwadi, Lower Dudhna, Vishpuri, Upper Penganga

rivers were proposed to be completed during 4th Plan, but they have not been completed even by 11th Plan. That is why Marathwada is lagging behind. Marathwada, Vidarbha and Khandesh regions are cotton belts of the country. Monopoly of department on cotton has been discontinued here. Cotton (White gold) is a cash crop for the farmers of this region. They need to be supported.

My request is that allocation of funds for completion of Major Lower Dudhana Project in my constituency should be increased to ensure availability of water for irrigation to the farmers of this region. It requires immediate completion. Sugar mills in Parbhani district in Marathwada are lying closed. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture towards the closed Sugar mills of Marathwada region. There is need to provide special package for their revival. There is a need to promote and support the production of cotton and soyabean.

While fixing the prices of agriculture produce, the same process should be adopted as is adopted for industrial products. The prices of industrial products are fixed by the industrialists themselves, while the prices of farmers' products are fixed by the traders. Farmers produce foodgrains. While fixing the prices of paddy and other crops cost of inputs like seeds, fertilizers, water, pesticides, children's education, labour cost etc. should be taken into consideration. Country is safe only when the farmer is safe, otherwise it will be difficult. This year monsoon was inadequate. The country is facing big crisis. Calamity can worsen the problem.

1. The Minister of Agriculture is requested to increase grants for the infrastructural needs of Marathwada Agriculture University.
2. Sanction the amount of about Rs. 346.00 lakh for strengthening Cotton Processing centre, Nanded.
3. Rs. 125 lakh for cross breed cow centre, Parbhani.
4. Rs. 200.00 lakh for silk processing and training centre, Parbhani.
5. Rs. 500.10 lakh for Mango processing centre Aurangabad.
6. Rs. 220.00 lakh for keli processing centre, Nanded.
7. Rs. 336.121akh for Spice Processing centre.

8. There is an urgent need to continue Marathwada's irrigation project and Lower Dudhna Cotton (white gold) procurement scheme.

Package should be provided to the sugar mills of Marathwada region and Parbhani district.

Cost of labour, loans, water, fertilizers, power, seeds and expenses of one year's household needs, education, daughters' marriage etc. should be taken into consideration while fixing the prices of the farmers' agriculture produces and the marketing facilities for the sale of these produce be made available to the farmers.

[English]

*DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture. Madam, Agriculture is the back bone of our country. I somehow get a feeling that not enough has been done for the agriculture sector. Although the Finance Minister is talking for a inclusive growth I feel that the agriculture sector has been neglected in the Budget. Madam 80% of the total work force in Orissa is directly dependent on agriculture. This includes 3.4 million cultivators and 2.1 million agriculture labour. But unfortunately the investment by Central Government has declined by almost 20% in the last 20 years. A survey conducted by the NSS has concluded that 47.8% of farmer house holds in Orissa are indebted of which about 75% have less than 1 hectare of land. During the last Lok Sabha UPA Government promoted a debt relief scheme for the farmers but now when we go to the villages, we find that only a very few farmers have got the real benefit. The biggest problem in India is that most of the farmers in India go to the village money lenders for agriculture credit. The reason that when a farmers goes to a bank for agriculture credit the farmer is required to do so much of paper work and in most of the cases the application for loan are rejected. The Government should addressed this problem. The Hon'ble Minister has proposed to set up a task force to examine the issue of farm credit taken from private moneylenders but unfortunately, it is only for the case of Maharashtra. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that the task force should also examine the cases of similarly situated farmers in Orissa. Madam, the farmers of Orissa are very-very poor and their land holdings are

*Speech was Laid on the Table.

very small compared to even the all India average. No Banks are willing to give credit to farmers having very small land holdings. I, therefore, request that a new cooperative movement should be started in each village of Orissa. All the village members having land holdings big or small shall be member of the cooperative society and the bank shall give loan to the society which can be shared amongs the members. Each Member shall be collectively responsible for the loan and no collateral surety should be asked for by the Bank.

Swami Nathan Committee has recommended 4% interest rate for agriculture credit, I think if cooperative system can be started the banks can even lend at a less interest rate. I urge upon the Government to taken the following steps immediately to boost agriculture production.

- (i) Easy availability of high yielding seeds and pesticides in each gram panchayat
- (ii) Farm mechanization be encouraged – 70% subsidiary on farm machine.

It is reported that in the last 10 years there is 6.8% decrease in the yield of paddy, 56.4% decrease in yield of pulses, 44% decrease in Oilseeds. The super cyclone destroyed 2 million tones of rice crops.

There is no project for providing Irrigation to the vast unirrigated drought prone land for Orissa. KBK area is perpetual drought prone area. Madam, the problem of Orissa is that there are supper cyclone, super drought and super flood that is why there is super poverty in Orissa. It is estimated that Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapada cyclone has reportedly uprooted 200.00 trees covering 25000 hectare. This has caused a huge deforestation and have also affected the climate of that area.

The Central Government is not cooperating with the State Government. Orissa hardly get any central assistance for drought or cyclone or flood. When crops of the farmers are destroyed due to drought they hardly get any compensation from the Central Government.

Orissa is a place where the fishing industry has huge potential. Orissa can develop a vibrant fishing industry if we get assistance from Central Government. We can develop marine fisheries as well as inland fisheries. Chilka lake is the biggest lake in Orissa as well as in India. It caters to a huge bio-diversity. A huge

fishing industry can be developed if we get Central assistance. Orissa also has a huge potential for Marine fisheries but we lack infrastructure for post harvest operation. I, therefore, request that a fisheries research institute should be immediately opened near the Chilka lake which will cater both to inland as well as marine fisheries. I also request the Minister to open an 'Agricultural University' in the western part of Orissa.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Kallakurichi): Sir, on behalf of DMK, I support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture. Even after floods and droughts in several parts of Tamil Nadu, food production has increased. Even though the target fixed by the Central Government for growth rate is four per cent, our growth rate is only three per cent. At the same time, under the leadership of the Minister for Agriculture of the Government of Tamil Nadu, Shri Veerapandi Arumugam and under the guidance of our Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaignar, food production is increasing because of the modern agricultural methods.

In Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Dr. Kalaignar, farmers' loans were waived off to the tune of Rs. 7000 crore without the financial support of the Central Government. If you compare the rate of interest for agricultural loans given by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Central Government, the rate of interest in Tamil Nadu is only 4 per cent. But, the rate of interest for loans given to farmers by the Government of India is seven per cent. Our Dr. Kalaignar has recently announced zero rate of interest for timely repayment of farmers' loans. There is no interest levied in Tamil Nadu for timely repayment.

The next important point is about the Minimum Support Price for paddy and sugarcane. The Central Government gives only Rs. 900 per quintal for paddy. But the Government of Tamil Nadu gives Rs. 1000. So, it pays Rs. 100 more. For the fine quality paddy, the Central Government gives only Rs. 930 per quintal. But the Tamil Nadu Government gives Rs. 1050. So, it pays Rs. 120 pays more. For sugarcane, the Central Government gives Rs. 811 per tonne. But the Tamil Nadu Government gives Rs. 1,220 per tonne.

Regarding the minimum recovery from the sugarcane, the sugarcane with 8.5 per cent minimum recovery capacity was paid Rs. 811 per tonne earlier. After it was enhanced, it became nine per cent. After that the minimum recovery was raised to 9.5 per cent. Due to this, the sugarcane growers are very much

affected. Due to inadequate water supply and for want of inputs, the recovery cannot be increased. So, the farmers are at a loss. I would request the Government to reconsider this minimum recovery in sugarcane.

I would request the Central Government to come forward to give more financial assistance to Government of Tamil Nadu for the enhanced Minimum Support Price both for paddy and sugarcane.

In Tamil Nadu, under the leadership of Dr. Kalaignar, we are giving free electricity to the farmers. It is one of the achievements of our leader Dr. Kalaignar.

The next point is about subsidy for popular seeds. The seed varieties released within ten years only can get subsidy. In Tamil Nadu, some of the popular seeds are more than ten years old. Some of the varieties are ADT 38, IR 50, White Ponny, Savitri, the famous Karuna, ATT 39, BPT 5204, and Go 43. These are all popular varieties. The time limit is ten years.

So, I would request the Government to relax the time limit and subsidy should be given to the old and popular varieties.

Regarding the Palar river, I would like to say that the Andhra Pradesh Government is planning to build a dam across Palar river, which supplies drinking water to Chennai and suburban districts. All efforts to convince the Andhra Pradesh Government by our DMK leader, Dr. Kalaignar, to desist from the construction has not materialised. The Tamil Nadu Government has approached the Supreme Court for redressal.

If the dam is allowed to be built, three districts, including Chennai, would be affected. People would suffer for want of drinking water and water for irrigation. Hence, the Government of India should intervene and impress upon the Andhra Pradesh Government not to build the proposed dam.

Regarding the subsidy for agricultural machineries, the Central and the State Government now give 25 per cent subsidy or Rs. 4 lakh whichever is higher for the agricultural machinery to the farmers, like power tiller, tractor, transplanter, weeder, and harvesting machines. These are the main agricultural machineries. The Government gives only 25 per cent subsidy to these items.

I would request the Government to give more subsidy to those machineries. Then only the agricultural production will increase.

In my Kallakurichi constituency, banana, tapioca and cotton are grown in large scale. I would request the Government to provide subsidy for tissue culture of banana, tapioca plants and cotton in Tamil Nadu particularly in my Kallakurichi constituency. I also urge upon the Government to provide assistance to the cotton growers.

I would also request to set up a mega banana vegetable and fruits park in my Kallakurichi constituency, particularly in Ercad area.

Sir, traditional seeds like Kitchadisamba and Seeragasamba are the most popular ones in Tamil Nadu. But the farmers are not cultivating these varieties in large scale because these varieties of Kitchadisamba and Seeragasamba are low yielding varieties and the cost of production is also very high. So, I urge upon the Central Government to give more subsidy to those who are cultivating these traditional varieties.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, our Leader, Dr. Kalaignar, launched a scheme for farmers in crop insurance and health insurance which are of help to all the farmers. The Tamil Nadu Government allotted Rs. 200 crore for crop insurance and health insurance schemes. So, I urge upon the Government to launch a comprehensive scheme for crop insurance and health insurance in respect of the farmers.

Another very important point is about water management and modernization. For quick modernization and water management, drip irrigation is very essential. In Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka the farmers follow the drip irrigation method. The Central Government gives only 40 per cent subsidy in respect of drip irrigation whereas the Tamil Nadu Government gives 25 per cent, making it a total of 65 per cent subsidy which is given to the farmers for drip irrigation. So, by using drip irrigation method, the cultivation is grown up. Without using drip irrigation, the yielding of the sugarcane is 40 tonne per acre, but by using the drip irrigation method, it increased to 80 tonnes per acre. So, I urge upon the Government to give 100 per cent subsidy to those farmers who use the drip irrigation methods. It should be taken up in a time-bound manner. Only then water management and modernization will take place. The Government subsidy limit meant for those who are having only 2.5 acre of land must be relaxed.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR: Sir, I am concluding within one minute.

The Tamil Nadu Government launched a one popular scheme in the name of 'Farmers' Market'. From this, the farmers, themselves sell products to the consumer directly. There is no broker and no mediator. As a result of this, farmers are benefited and they get reasonable price for their own products. I urge upon the Government to set up the farmers market in every town panchayat limit.

Sir, I am coming to my last and the most important point. In my constituency Thalaivasal is a town with a very large market of vegetables. An approximately 10,000 tonnes of vegetable of all kinds are brought and sold here. So, I urge the Government to provide cold storage facilities to the farmers of my constituency in Thalaivasal area so that the farmers will be benefited.

Sir, with these words, I conclude.

SHRI SAKTI MOHAN MALIK (Arambagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir and esteemed Members of Parliament, I stand to make my maiden speech in Parliament today and would be speaking on the agrarian scenario and conditions of the peasantry and agricultural workers in our country. The toiling peasantry and agricultural workers are the providers who feed a billion strong nation as well as meet the raw material needs of the industries. Agriculture has been the mainstay of the Indian economy and more than 70 per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. The neo-liberal policies pursued by successive Governments have led to stagnation in agriculture as public investment and institutional credit have been systematically withdrawn from the agricultural sector. Trade liberalization has exposed the peasantry to the volatility of international agricultural prices and highly subsidized import competition.

The lack of adequate social expenditure and the crippling of the Public Distribution System have led to the impoverishment of the rural poor. The stagnation of agriculture and lack of public expenditure has also translated into growing unemployment for rural labour. There is, hence, a need to stress the importance of a Universal Public Distribution System to complement the procurement system. The Universal Public Distribution System should be revived at affordable prices and linked to the capacity to pay rather than economic cost to ensure food security for the rural and urban poor and to reverse the alarming decline in their nutritional status.

There is an urgent need to enhance the spread of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme and for universalisation of the Crop Insurance Scheme. There is an urgent need to provide Comprehensive Debt Relief and Cheap Institutional Credit and adequate flow of institutional credit to the agricultural sector, at a maximum four per cent rate of interest as recommended by the National Commission of Farmers, should be ensured by strictly enforcing appropriate criteria for priority-sector lending.

There is a need for abolition of employment of contract labour at the Food Corporation of India Depots. There are three such Depots in Kerala and one in West Bengal. Direct Payment System should be introduced in such Depots.

The suggestion of the National Commission for Farmers to institute a Price Stabilisation Fund has to be implemented. It also entails a complete ban on Futures Trading which introduces speculative trading into agriculture exposing farmers to speculation-driven price volatility. The Finance Minister's Budget Speech spoke about fertilizer subsidies and the need to streamline it so that the farmers get the benefit directly. The Budgetary allocation, however, shows a reduction of fertilizer subsidies by over Rs. 25,000 crore when compared to the Revised Estimates of 2008-09.

The Finance Minister's Budget Speech sets a target of four per cent growth rate for agriculture in 2009-10. There are no concrete measures taken whatsoever which will bring about a turn around. The total allocation for the Head titled "Agriculture and Allied Activities" registered a decline of around 23.3 per cent in the current year compared to the figures for the previous year.

Addition in allocation for irrigation is a paltry Rs. 1000 crore even in a context of delayed monsoons and early drought situation in most parts of the country. Investments should not be limited to large-scale infrastructure but should also include small and medium scale irrigation projects, other improvements in rural infrastructure and agricultural extension and research. Further, the NREGS must be extended to cover all adults and for as many days as required.

The Central Government must enact a separate, comprehensive law for agricultural workers to ensure minimum wages for them, the right to bargain collectively and measures of social security such as pensions, accident compensation, etc.

There is an urgent need to enhance public-funded agricultural research and extension. Changes in the Intellectual Property Regime that favour the big business must be reversed and it must be ensured that the Intellectual Property Rights are not used to thwart innovation or attack the livelihood of the peasantry.

The Indo-US Knowledge Initiative in Agriculture must be scrapped and all its records must be made public.

Comprehensive land reforms must be implemented to break the shackles of landlordism on the agricultural economy and on rural society in general and to create the preconditions for a process of economic development based on mass rural demand and increased productivity in agriculture. The Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 must be stringently implemented throughout the country to ensure that land is vested in the name of tribals and traditional forest dwellers.

The Budget talks about 44,000 villages where the population of the Scheduled Castes is more than 50 per cent and proposes integrated development in 1,000 of them which is less than 3 per cent and allocated a humiliatingly low Rs. 100 crore for developmental activity. This is pittance and a mockery in the name of social justice. This anomaly needs to be rectified and every village needs to be covered.

Inflation in prices of food articles is 8 per cent and in prices of food-grains it is 11 per cent higher than a year ago.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shakti Mohan Malik, it is a lengthy speech. You can place it on the Table of the House so that all your opinions will be recorded.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): It is his maiden speech. So you may please allow him to conclude his speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Malik, if you want to conclude, you can conclude in a minute. Otherwise you can place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI SAKTI MOHAN MALIK: Sir, the suicide of over 2 lakh farmers in the nearly two decades of the implementation of neo-liberal policies is unprecedented in the entire human history. The relation between these perilous policies and the agrarian distress is clear and it points to the need for a reversal of such policies.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, I thank you for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture for 2009-10 and also on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for 2009-10.

At the outset, I would say that when the Minister was put in-charge of the Ministry of Agriculture along with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, I was the first person from the Opposition to congratulate him that it is after a long period these two Ministries are being headed by a single Minister.

Sir, in June this year, of course, a peculiar situation has arisen. From June until mid of July, from peasants to the Prime Minister's Office, everyone was praying for rains. Their prayers seem to have been heard. It is strange that while we boast of a resilience of the Indian economy from global financial shackles, yet a two to three week delay in monsoon can send jitters to policy makers. The reason for this paradox is the huge under investment in water resources.

Indian agriculture is still considered a gamble. About 60 per cent of the cropped area remains rain-fed. It need not be so. There are more than 400 irrigation projects waiting to be completed which need a very huge investment of more than Rs. 2,00,000 crore. What we have today is agriculture and allied activities, as it is called, is yet to receive any noticeable priority in budgetary allocation.

Given the growing intensity of the agrarian crisis in the country, the expenditure that the Government is incurring in this sector over the last few years appears grossly inadequate. During 1999-2000, around 97.4 per cent of the total expenditure on agriculture and allied activities was in the Revenue Account and even in 2009-10, the share of capital expenditure in this sector is very low.

Since 2005 and 2006 a declining share of agriculture sector in Central Plan Allocation has been observed, priority accorded to this sector has been on the decline. Low priorities for agriculture in public spending, low levels of capital formation in the sector and a steady increase in agriculture input prices have been the core problems in this sector which have not been addressed adequately by this Government.

Enhancing productivity of food grains production is a challenge today, challenge for the farmers and also for the Government. As far as our current per hectare output is concerned, there is scope for at least a 50 per cent increase in yields. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan says: "If we use the technology currently available in the country this can be achieved." It is not unachievable. It can be achieved. He has specially focussed on the Eastern part of this country, that is, Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Assam.

Rabi crop in India was 3.12 tonnes per hectare in 2006 and this was paddy. In China, the figure for 2006 stood at 6.2 tonnes per hectare. Even the average for Asia as a whole is 4.1 tonnes per hectare, almost 25 per cent better than that in India. Stagnation in food grain output is a public failure. This needs to be reversed.

Mrs. Hillary Clinton has come to Delhi and while visiting Indian Agricultural Research Institute along with the Agriculture Minister – I read in the newspapers today – said: "We have this much of cultivable land and we are feeding 17 per cent of our population." The credit goes to our farmers no doubt. But stagnation has taken place and we have to move out from this stagnation.

The FAO has observed that public investment in agriculture in India has been on the decline. This should be reversed. Who is going to do it? Definitely, the Government has to do to make more public investment in this sector. It has been declining for the last 20 years.

The vital missing link in ensuring greater farm productivity is extension services. We have a huge gap between what is produced on research stations and demonstration fields and the average actual production and that gap can be up to 200 per cent. Therefore, there is a need to expand the extension network which can bring in synergy between researchers and farmers that has been run down in the past two decades.

Minimising post-harvest losses are as important as enhancing productivity. Food grains worth Rs. 16,500 crore, roughly ten per cent of the total production, are lost after harvesting every year in our country. This should be addressed to by providing more public investment in putting up storage facilities.

Availability of credit is another problem and availability of credit at affordable interest rates that too in time is critical for agriculture. When we talk about a

second green revolution, there is an urgent need to take a closer look at the availability of institutional credit to this sector. Credit for agriculture has expanded after banks nationalisation and services cooperative societies are doing a great job, no doubt, but as per the estimate of the expert group on agriculture under the chairmanship of Mr. R. Radhakrishnan, it is stated that non-institutional debt of the farmers' households was Rs. 48,000 crore of which Rs. 18,000 crore is carried interest rate above 30 per cent per annum. Such a high level of dependence on informal credit deters any radical increase in agricultural investment by farmers. It is good that Budget promised investment-linked tax incentives in order to attract private funds in the cold chain and warehousing sector. There is a need to increase the shelf life of perishables. To create a cross-country network of godowns and integrated cold chains, more public funding is required, and Government should become a facilitator. Resources are not plenty. Multi-pronged strategy to raise resources is required. Getting greater number of organised sector players would boost business stakes in improving the infrastructural logistics of the rural farm and non-farm sectors.

There is a need for an effective agricultural insurance mechanism. It will be an effective mechanism to counter the frequency and severity of droughts, floods, cyclones, rising temperatures and erratic rainfall. At present, the national agricultural insurance scheme covers only 17 per cent of all farmers and 20 per cent of crop area. The weather based crop insurance scheme that has been implemented on a pilot basis has been hampered by poor density of weather stations and lack of weather data on real time basis at village level.

This scheme faced a reality test after the recent cyclone Aila in West Bengal that devastated south Bengal. Crop damage was immense, estimated at about Rs. 500 crore. But insurers may have to pay a mere Rs. 7 lakh as compensation due to technicalities that bulk of the crop damage was due to winds and tides and not rains.

The current agriculture insurance schemes suffer from low coverage and high claims-to-premium ratio. There is an urgent need to seriously consider some proposals including coverage of pre-sowing and post-harvest risks. We should bear in mind that sustainable agricultural growth and improvement in agricultural technology and productivity would not be possible without reliable risk cover for our farmers.

The Agriculture Minister has announced that a Soil Health Card reflecting the health and nutritional status of a farmer's field will be given to each and every farmer in the country. Providing such card is nothing new. The Government has been issuing such cards since 2000 but only 202 lakh farmers have been provided with this Card in the last 9 or 10 years. And there are 12 crore farmer families in this country. A beginning has been made no doubt, but how long will this take? How many soil testing laboratories do we have? I am told, 700. This may increase. But you need mobile soil testing labs that can go round the villages, the countryside and do the soil testing so that the Soil Health Cards contain nutritional status of farmers' field and help provide them with required fertilizers. This would also save on wastage.

Relating to Food Ministry, I reiterate the problem of paddy procurement operation in Orissa due to non-cooperation of Food Corporation of India. Orissa is a DCP State and procurement of paddy through State Agencies is increasing rapidly. For Kharif Marketing Season 2008-09, a target of 31 lakh MT of rice was kept which was 30 per cent higher than the previous year's target. By the end of June, 27.76 lakh MT of rice has been procured. Of this, only 18.30 lakh MT of rice has been delivered to the State Civil Supplies Corporation and to Food Corporation of India. The balance is lying with the State Agencies. Due to lack of availability of storage space in FCI godowns, FCI is not accepting rice, and the agencies are not able to procure paddy. The requirement of rice for the State of Orissa for TPDS is only 17 lakh MT and the excess rice has to be taken over by FCI. It is not being done. Only 25,000 MT of rice is being moved by FCI every month whereas the minimum requirement is to move at least 1.5 lakh MT per month. The Minister had recently been to Bhubaneswar, and I think, he is aware of this problem.

I need not elaborate on this. But the problem today is that in far off districts like Kalahandi, distress sale is happening. In the coastal districts like Cuttack and Balasore, distress sale is happening. I would impress upon the hon. Minister to please intervene in this matter and at least try to move out 1.5 lakh metric tonnes of rice every month so that distress sale does not happen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude in one minute. Shri Mahatab, your time is over.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Okay, Sir.

Development and sustainability of agriculture in our country depends critically on public investment towards

this sector. Given the acute crisis in the sector at this juncture, it was hoped that this Demands for Grants would accord a much higher priority to investments in agriculture than in the past. But the Government seems to be addressing only the symptoms of the problem instead of trying to address the root cause of these problems. The core problems still remain unaddressed.

[Translation]

*SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): Seventy percent population of India lives in 627000 villages. Population of 90 percent of villages of this country is less than 2000 and agriculture is the main occupation there. Today India is one of the most progressive economies of the world. The prosperity of rural economy of the India depends on the co-operation of agriculture and its allied activities. The Government has formulated rural industrial programme for industrialisation of rural areas so that for central entrepreneurs can be encouraged and assistance can be given to them. Basic input and an integrated package have been provided under rural Industrial programme of the Small Scale Industrial Development Bank of India.

Agriculture sector creates around 52 percent employment opportunities in this country. Agriculture sector plays an important role in supplying raw materials to industries besides providing food grains and fodder to the country. Today alarming fluctuations are there in agricultural growth due to vagores of nature.

The main purpose of Agriculture pricing of the Government is to ensure remunerative price to the farmers for their produce so that more investment and production could be done. MSP for paddy has been increased Rs. 205 per quintal in the year 2008-2009 in comparison to the year 2007-2008. Rs. 240 per quintal has been increased for millets. The MSP of wheat has been increased to Rs. 1080/- per quintal and barley Rs. 680/-. For grams it is Rs. 1730 per quintal by increasing Rs. 130 p.q. and the MSP for masoor has been increased 1870/- by increasing Rs. 170/- p.q. for marketing in the year 2009-2010. The MSP of rapeseed mustard has been increased to Rs. 1830/- p.q. The minimum support price scheme of the government is being implemented by the Department of Public Distribution and for oilseed and pulses it is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Co-Operatives successfully. Commendable efforts have been made for protection of the interest of farmers.

*Speech was Laid on the Table.

National Food Security Mission is being implemented in 312 district of 17 states including the country. This is an extensive and important programme of the UPA government to ensure that not even a single citizen of this country lives without food. All parties should appreciate this step taken by the government whole heartedly.

Provision of Rs. 2891.70 crores have been made in the year 2008-09 for agriculture development and the schemes regarding development of rural India such as integrated development of food crops including cereals and pulses, agricultural mechanisation, condition of soil and its productivity, development of rain fed agricultural system, marketing infrastructure, horticulture, animal husbandry, Dairy industry under this scheme.

It is very important to get reliable information on time for formulation schemes and policies to get regarding agricultural production. If a farmer gets correct information regarding weather he can plan sowing of crops accordingly. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the department of Indian meteorology should make effort to provide reliable information to the agriculture sector well in advance. When we can predict about solar eclipse and lunar eclipse well in advance, similarly our scientists should also forecast about weather well in advance so that our poor farmers can plan and sow their crops accordingly.

Then the Government had announced Agricultural loan package in the year 2004. Its aim was to double the institutional loan flow for agriculture sector in the coming three years. A provision of Rs. 3,25,000 crore has been made in the year 2009-10 for the farmers. Approximately 808 lakh kisan credit cards have been issued upto 28 February, 2009 to enhance loan assistance to the farmers. The Objective of this scheme of the UPA Government is to provide sufficient loan from banking system to the farmers for their agricultural need on time.

To protect the farmers from the natural calamities such as drought, flood and cyclone 1155 lakh farmers and about 189 million hectare lands have been covered under the National crop Insurance Scheme upto the year 2007-08 and insurance of Rs. 1,21,606/ crore has been made. The Government will this scheme for Rabi season for continue the year 200-2009 also for the welfare of farmers by the Government. A sum of Rs. 71 thousand crores have been waived off of 4.5 crores farmers. Time to deposit the 75 percent areas has been extended from 30.06.2009 to 31.12.2009 for those farmers who have

two hectares land holding so that remaining farmers can also take advantage of this scheme.

That is why I would like to say that the UPA Government has made this programme very popular against starvation through encouraging the farmers by providing them remunerative price for their produce, distributing foodgrains at subsidized rate to the family living below poverty line, covering those family under Antyodaya Yojna who are suffering from starvation, establishing grain banks in those areas where there is scarcity of foodgrains and by strengthening Public Distribution System.

I consider it essential to mention be Uttar Pradesh in the context of agriculture where area under farming is shrinking by 48 thousand hectares every year. The Uttar Pradesh Government thinks that 1.35 lakh hectares of waste land would be reclaimed as agricultural land in the coming six year with the help of the world Bank. During all these years 3 lakhs hectares of agricultural and would be used for residential schemes, establishment of industrial units and infrastructure development. It means agriculture land would think by 48 thousand hectares every year. The Uttar Pradesh Land Reform Corporation claims that 74.61 lakh hectares of problematic land has been reclaimed so far but its figures do not match with the figures of the department of agriculture. The Corporation claims to reclaim 30.35 thousand hectares of land every year but the actual agricultural land figures are almost stagnant. This is a matter of concern for the farming sector.

Chemical fertilizers have played a very important role for the development of agricultural sector. During the last some years, the international prices of fertilizers have increased manifold and domestic cost of fertilizer production has also increased. In spite of that the UPA Government has not the price of let the price of fertilizers to increase keeping in view the welfare of the farmers. The subsidy bill has been increased to Rs. 99,456 crores during the year 2008-09 which was Rs. 11835/- crores only during the year 2003-04.

It has been learnt through various tests that Jatropa oil can directly be used in place of diesel oil. Now-a-days plantation of Jatropa which has medicinal and industrial importance, is becoming very advantageous in a true economic sense. Jatropa can be grown easily on barren, dry, semi dry, rocky and on other type of land. Neither animals nor birds can damage these plants and that is why there is no need to keep watch on it like other crops.

Cutting of trees continuously is also a matter of serious concern. Environmental balance is deteriorating due to deforestation and human race have to face the global danger such as "Global Warming" Due to deforestation the rainfall has become uncertain and it also affects agriculture.

For setting up of big projects, land should be acquired as minimum as possible from the farmers and that also after extensive review, There should not be a situation where in we do not have enough foodgrains to feed the increasing population. We welcome big projects but fertile land of farmers should not be acquired for this purpose. Waste land should be acquired for this purpose. The farmer should have the right to decide collectively the rate of land in the case of the acquisition of land. The rate fixed without unanimous consent of farmers should be treated as illegal and invalid.

The farming of peppermint and mentha oil is done in my Lok Sabha constituency, Barabanki and farmers do not get remunerative price. Therefore, it is my submission through you that the Government may make proper arrangement for marketing of above said crops so that farmers could get appropriate price of their produce.

My parliamentary constituency, Barabanki is in the grip of severe drought. I would like to submit to the Government through you that direction should be issued to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to provide water to the dried up canals under Sharada canal system (Sharada Nahar Pranali).

In Barabanki, farmers grow cane crops at large scale but woodwul sugar mill and Barabanki sugar mill owned by Uttar Pradesh go it have since closed down. The main source of income of farmers is no more there after closure of sugar mills. So, I would like to request to the Government through you that direction may be issued to the state Governments to revive the closed mills in view of the sufferings of farmers.

At last, I would like to draw the attention of honourable Minister of Agriculture towards the severe drought prevailing in the country. The Kharif crops in most of the areas have been destroyed due to lack of rainfall. A joint strategy should be chalked out by convening Chief Ministers' conference to tackle this crisis. A categorical announcement should also be made by the Government that there is adequate foodgrains stock in the country to meet its requirement. A total ban should

be imposed on the export of food grains so that no question is raised on the availability of food grains in the country. The State Government should be requested to stop the recovery of the loan from the farmers and to take no harsh action. The power should be supplied to tube-wells in the rural areas with the power supply cut elsewhere. I fully hope that we would be able to deal with the drought crisis.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we are skipping the Lunch and sitting here to give an opportunity to all the hon. Members. I would request the hon. Members to speak only for five minutes.

Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would just like to mention that Agriculture itself is a fast subject. In addition to that, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution have been clubbed. How five minutes' time is enough for the Members to speak on these important subjects?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All these points have been taken into consideration, and the Business Advisory Committee had decided the time. Please take your seat.

I would request the hon. Members to take only five minutes.

Now, Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy.

SHRI H.D. KUMARASWAMY (Bangalore Rural): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

At the outset, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Members, cutting across Party lines, for raising the issues affecting the millions of poor farmers in this country during the debate on the Union Budget.

As the son of a humble farmer, who rose to the highest office of the land and took several landmark measures for their wellbeing, I am moved by this unanimity of concern, which I did not witness even during my earlier 20-month stint in the Lok Sabha during the year 1996-97.

India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, had once famously stated: "Everything else can wait but

not agriculture." But unfortunately, today the opposite—"Nothing else can wait except Agriculture."—seems to be true.

I do not wish to make a lengthy speech here. As Chief Minister of Karnataka, my Government had provided loans to farmers at four per cent interest, one of the lowest interest rates in the country. We had disbursed nearly Rs. 2,000 crore by way of loan to the farmers. We had also taken steps to waive off the loan worth nearly Rs. 2,500 crore to the farmers by the State Government.

A few days back, in reply to the debate on the Union Budget, the hon. Finance Minister sought to allay the widespread apprehensions on the gross neglect of agriculture. He said that the target of agricultural credit for the year 2009-10 is being raised to Rs. 3,25,000 crore as against Rs. 2,87,000 crore in 2008-09. As against this target, what exactly the amount disbursed to the farmers may kindly be made known to the House by the hon. Minister of Agriculture during his reply.

The debt waiver and the debt relief scheme for the farmers were intended to cover marginal, small and other farmers. As per the Government's guidelines, 'marginal farmer' means a farmer cultivating agricultural land up to one hectare.

The hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech had stated that in some regions of Maharashtra, a large number of farmers had taken loans from private money lenders and the loan waiver scheme did not cover them. To examine the matter in greater detail and to suggest the future course of action, he announced setting up of a Task Force.

Sir, the situation is equally bad if not worse in other parts of the country. At the request of the Union Agriculture Ministry, the National Sample Survey Organization of the Ministry of Statistics and Plan Implementation undertook a comprehensive Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of farmers during January to December 2003.

An analysis of incidence of indebtedness among farmer households given by the Situation Assessment Survey brought out that about half of them that is, nearly, 48.6% were indebted and that 42.3 per cent of their debt was from non-institutional sources. Of this, 58.4 per cent of the borrowings were for capital or current expenditure in farm business and another 6.7% on non-

farm business. The rest 34.9% of loan was used for consumption purposes or for marriage and other ceremonies.

Now, I wish to draw the hon. Agriculture Minister's attention to what is happening to the borrowers of institutional credit.

To cite two examples from Channapatna Taluk under my own Bangalore Rural Parliamentary constituency, one Shrimati Chikkanagamma had taken a loan from a Cooperative Bank for a bore well. Yet, the bank auctioned her meagre holding of 103 guntas or roughly 2.5 acres of land to recover Rs. 1.35 lakh as principal, interest and penal interest.

Similar is the story of one Sowbhagyamma who had taken a loan for a bore well and the Cooperative Bank sold off her meagre two acres and 29 guntas to recover Rs 1.42 lakh as principal interest and penal interest. I can cite several such instances.

Of the 75.8 lakh farmers in Karnataka, 36.55 lakh are marginal farmers holding up to one hectare of land. There are 28.13 lakh small farmers who have one to two hectares of land in their possession. The marginal holdings account for 48.2 per cent of the total holdings while small holdings account for 26.60 per cent in the State.

Indebtedness is one of the major factors for farmers' suicide and the agrarian crisis in the State. As many as 61.6 per cent of farmer households are indebted in the State against the national average of 48.6 per cent.

According to the National Sample Survey Organization, 73.5 per cent of farmer households in Karnataka who owned two hectares of land or less are in debt.

In a country where 79 per cent of the farmers own below 1.5 hectares of land, such instances raise several questions on the debt waiver scheme. Sir, I have gone through the instruction of the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance vide its Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 Implementation Circular 1/2008 dated 28th May, 2008. The hon. Agriculture Minister is not only a farmer himself but has also been a crusader for the cause of farmers. I wish to know from him exactly what benefits the farmers have got from the loan waiver scheme from commercial institutions, cooperative sector, Grameen Banks and other

lending institutions and also state-wise how many distressed farmers actually benefited the categories of the farmers listed in the aforementioned guidelines? The Government has earmarked about Rs. 72,000 crore under this scheme. I would like to know whether this amount has gone to the distressed farmers and how many farmers have bailed out as per the State wise figures, may kindly be given for the benefit of the hon. Members.

It is with some good intention that the Government took the decision to waive off loans worth about Rs. 72,000 crore with certain guidelines to the lending institutions, which in turn, gave some half-hearted relief to the suffering farmers.

Now that the Members cutting across party lines have raised the issue pertaining to the sorry state of our agriculture and farmers, I urge the Government to once for all waive off the entire loan component of all the small and marginal farmers, including cultivators of plantation crops, fishermen, weavers and rural artisan and start the lending process afresh on a clean slate, instead of remaining caught in the web of confusions and complications and not alleviating the suffering of the farming community.

I also wish to know what steps the Government is taking to ensure that the banks lend the mandatory 18 per cent bank credit to agriculture instead of seeking an escape route through NABARD bonds. Of the nation's total agricultural produce, India processes only five per cent annually. In sharp contrast, countries of South-East Asia, process as much as 60 per cent of their food produce. Yet, not a word about food processing finds a place either in the *Economic Survey* or in the Union Budget. I would like the Government to respond to this glaring anomaly.

The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme was introduced by the United Front Government in 1996-97 to help the State Governments to expedite completion of medium and major irrigation projects, some of which were initiated during the Second Five Year Plan but were lingering due to paucity of funds. This scheme assumes all the more significance at a time the country is facing a drought situation.

The Union Finance Minister has announced an additional allocation of Rs 1,000 crore over interim BE. I want to know the exact stage and status of such projects which have been lingering since the Second Five Year Plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI H.D. KUMARASWAMY: The Government should also further enhance the allocation by another Rs. 1000 crore. Realising the historical reality that agriculture is a gamble with the monsoon, successive Governments have introduced Crop Insurance Schemes for the farmers. But it has been confined to farmers who have borrowed loans from the banks which means that in reality it is the bank crop loans that are insured and not the crops. This is nothing but peanuts for the suffering farmers.

Some attempts were made to introduce weather related insurance under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme but it is still in pilot project level, as is evident from the poultry Rs 50 crore allocated for the scheme in 2009-10. I wish to know when you are planning to convert this pilot project into a nation-wide scheme. The entire agricultural sector, including debt waiver and fertilizers and irrigation, has been dealt with only in five paragraphs in the Union Budget of a country where over 50 per cent of the workforce is dependent on the sector for their livelihood. It is regrettable that no steps have been outlined to save the poor farmers who have been unsuspecting victims of adulterated fertilizers, spurious pesticides and inferior quality seeds.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kumaraswamy, please wind up.

SHRI H.D. KUMARASWAMY: Please give me a minute. I will conclude.

Last but not least, I wish to draw your kind attention to the plight of the farmers, cultivators and agricultural labourers in Bangalore, Mysore, Hassan, Mandya of Karnataka State and the coastal regions of the State where the entire coffee and potato plantations have been totally devastated due to heavy rains. All other traditional crops too have been severely affected. I wish to know whether the Government intends to do anything to help these unfortunate farmers.

The Centre should immediately send a high-level team to the State to assess the extensive damage caused to the crops and accordingly, announce a relief package wherein, among other things, the entire outstanding loans should be waived off and further crop loans should be provided to the farmers for plantation, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. If you have any more suggestions, you can place it on the Table.

SHRI H.D. KUMARASWAMY: Please give me one minute. I will conclude.

There are several other issues I wanted to raise but due to paucity of time, I would like to conclude by demanding a White Paper on the state of Indian agriculture to enable it to prepare in consultation with all stake holders and States a comprehensive plan for the revival and rejuvenation of Indian Agriculture.

14.00 hrs.

Sir, Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1952 stated in both Houses of Parliament:

"We certainly attach importance to industry; but in the present context we attach far greater importance to agriculture and food and matters pertaining to agriculture. If our agricultural foundation is not strong then the industry we seek to build will not have a strong basis either. Apart from that, if our food front cracks up, everything else will crack up too. If our agriculture becomes strongly entrenched as we hope it will, then it will be relatively easy for us to progress more rapidly on the industrial front, whereas if we concentrate only on industrial development and leave agriculture in a weak condition, we shall ultimately be weakening industry."

I sincerely hope our leadership understands the symbiotic linkages between agriculture and industry and takes necessary action.

*SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): The whole country knows that our Agriculture Minister is a dynamic Minister. For a Young Member like me it is an honour to participate in a debate which our agricultural Minister will reply to us all hon. members. We tend to believe under his leadership the department of Agriculture will flourish.

But now I must state that agriculture (and its allied activities) accounts for 17.8% of the Gross Domestic Product in 2007-08 but when we compare it to 2003-04 the GDP has declined from 21.7% to 17.8%. As the GDP is declining it is certainly worrying to us as this sector provides 52% of the employment in the country. Apart from providing food and fodder, it also provides the necessary raw material to the industry I must say

that prosperity of the rural economy is closely linked to the agriculture and its allied activities. Agricultural sector assisted the economy by providing 12.2% of national exports in 2007-08.

The average growth of 4.9% over three years in 2005-06 to 2007-08. But it can be seen in 2008-09 there is a decline from 4.9% to 4%. This is a point of worry. We must see why this decline has taken place and help our farmers to regain their confidence.

The food grain production in 2007-08 was pegged at 230.78 million tones. But this is slightly lower than the target set out by the ministry. But under the astute leadership of our Agriculture minister there has been a steady rise in crop production.

When we compare food grain production over 2007-08 to 2008-09, we can notice except for rice other food grains produced in our country has decreased.

	In 2007-08	Target	2008-09
Rice	96.69	97	99.37
Wheat	78.57	78.50	77.63
Coarse Cereals	40.76	42	38.67
Cereals	216.02	217	215.67
Total pulse	14.76	15.50	14.18
Total foodgrain	230.78	233.00	229.85

We can also see the oil seed production has declined from 297.55 lakh tonnes to 281.27 lakh tonnes. Sugarcane has declined from 3481.88 lakh tonnes in 2007-08 to 2892.34 lakh tonnes. The cotton crop has declined from 258.84 lakh bales to 232 lakh bales. These figures show a shift and decline in production. These figures must worry the hon. Minister ji as it worries us.

When we see production we must notice the area where the crop is grown. The production and its yield.

We must say rice area of production is reduced. The total productions over previous years have been reduced but the yield has shown considerable improvement.

The Wheat area of production is seeing to be reduced 1.3% as compared to 1.7% in 1990-91 to 1999-2000. The yield has also been reduced. Likewise sugarcane yield has also been declining.

While we can see the shift towards coarse cereal, pulses, cotton and oil seed production as compared previous years.

Another kharif sowing for 2008-09 was 2.3% lower. But the rabi crop area was bit higher. At this point I must say that rains have affected the kharif crop of 2008-09 and going to affect this year's kharif crop also.

I am elected from Jhalawar-Baran constituency of Rajasthan. This area is the Cherrapunji of Rajasthan but this year the rains are late and have affected the production cycle. Sir I must mention soyabean production is only approximately 30% to 35% of its last years sowing.

These facts and figure show a very grim situation within our country. These reasons must be stated and needs to be clarified by the hon. minister in his answer.

Is the Government thinking to inter link of rivers which is a ambitious project set out by the NDA Government- This will help farmers from facing severe drought or feeling the heat through floods. We want to know when this process will start.

In the last few years there has been suicide taking place of farmers in various parts of India.

Then the Government wanted to assist the farmers by giving them debt waiver. How many farmers have been assisted by this measure and is the government willing to help farmers who had taken loans from private money lenders?

When you visit the rural India farmers have a genuine complaint. That being the institution banks and RRB (Regional Rural Banks) are not offering the kisan the farmer their kisan credit card. Secondly the farmers who have been able to avail the debt waiver are facing the turmoil of not being able to get another loan from financial institution. The financial institutions have their touts and middlemen who trouble the farmers in getting their loans sanctioned.

The Finance Minister has been kind to give them an extension of 6 months. But I must say the cost of production and monsoon uncertainly has affected them. I must state it will be rather difficult for these farmers to meet the new deadline which can be further considered. Thirdly is Government of India able to get reliable

information through its remote sensing (RS) Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Geographic Information System (GIS). These processes can assist the Government to scheme projection and forecasting. We must make use of these schemes in consultation with various agricultural university and Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Are these ideas in know how of our farmers. Fourthly chemical fertilizers have played a significant role within the agriculture sector. In today's scenario we can see a decline in marginal productivity of the soil. The fertilizer production of urea DAP have shown a decline while international prices have increased in the cost of production. This eventually affected the subsidy bill to the exchequer from Rs 11.835 crore to Rs 99.456 crore in 2008-09. The government imported 56.67 lakh MT of urea in 2008-09 61.91 lakh metric tonnes of DAP and 56.72 metric lakh tonnes of MOP which is vast increase from the previous years. Even after this the framers are not getting the required fertilizers due to rack shortages. I urge the Government that the farmers must be given fertilizers and we must move towards providing organic fertilizers to farmers. The produce of organic crop should get remunerative prices. This will ensure the movement towards this organic farming.

As rainfall is decreasing as the years pass we need to ensure that rain received during south west monsoon (June-September) which accounts for the countries 75% rain fall is stored and kept for our various irrigation projects.

The irrigation project is not getting the adequate funding. The public investment in irrigation is declining from 23% of the total outlay in the 1st five year plan (1951-56) to a mere 5% in the 10th plan 2002-07. Many projects have been spilled over from the 10th plan to the 11th plan. The accelerated irrigation benefit program needs to be looked up again now with the assistance of NREGA. We should ensure numerous water reservoirs are developed and CWC and the environment ministry must work with each other so that medium and major water project are commissioned without any delay in time line and cost escalation of the said project.

The farmers should get remunerative prices for their produce. The prices for the consumer should not be so steep like it has been seen in pulses. Where the pulse price have reached approximately Rs. 75 to Rs. 65 per kg and rising.

The union government gave minimum support price to (2008-09). Paddy of Rs. 900, Jowar at Rs. 860, Maize

at Rs. 840, Tur at Rs. 2000, Mong at 2520, cotton at 2500, (RABI) wheat at Rs. 1080, mustard at Rs. 1830, Barley at Rs. 680. I urge the Government to take a look at providing MSP for soya bean, Dhania and Garlic also as farmers have to work very hard toil to produce the goods. I understand MSP for agricultural products are announced each year after taking into account the recommendation of commission for agricultural cost and prices (CACP).

We are happy to hear about national food security. The people living below poverty line (BPL) on urban and rural Indian will get 25 kilos of rice or wheat at Rs. 3 per Kilo. Every Indian needs to well feed and no starvation should be seen after 60 years of independence. The NFSM wheat and pulse program has begun in Rajasthan. We hope this program will assist the rural areas of the state and give focus to the district of Jhalawar and Baran.

The Government has also started price support schemes for oil seeds and pulses and has brought out market intervention scheme (MIS) on request of state Government for procurement of agricultural commodities which are perishable and horticultural produce.

MIS is implemented to protect the growers from making distress sale during bumper crop or when the glut in the market and prices fall below.

In Jhalawar region is known for the famous oranges. I urge the union government to have a plan for the orange farmers of Jhalawar and garlic and dhania farmers through (PSS) scheme to help the farmers to sell their produce at remunerative prices.

The National Horticulture Mission was launched in the 10th plan period in the year 2005-06. This mission has seen a steady growth but there is lot to be done within this mission. The total horticulture production can be increased in loose flowers, fruit plantation, etc.

There is a national bamboo mission this is a centrally sponsored scheme till 2011, I must say the district of Jhalawar can be a place where this mission can be set up in Rajasthan.

The live stock sector contributes over 5.26 to the total GDP during 2006-07. The Dairy Sector is very important sector of our economy. India ranks first in world in milk production. The growth has been 17 million

tonnes in 1950-51 to 104.84 MT in 2007-08. We need to look at genetic improvement programs. The state of Rajasthan is one of the largest producers of milk we need to encourage our state and if it is possible a program could be set out in Jhalawar-Baran district of Rajasthan.

We need to ensure the farmers are able to avail their insurance of crops once they have insured the crop. At times it can be seen that farmers do not get the money due to them under their respective insurance policy. We need to take a look at these insurance companies and help the farmers.

I would like to inform the minister through you is that states which agreed to APMC Act should get better benefits. The farmers should get the opportunity to avail the facility from the Kisan Call Center's through mass media assistance from the graduate of Agriculture clinic etc.

The Government must ensure the farmers get remunerative prices, distribute the grains to the vulnerable society and maintaining good buffer stocks. The families under BPL and the APC should be able to get their food articles in proper way. The Government must allocate the proper allocation of wheat and rice to all the states in India. We know the food subsidy bill is missing, is at Rs. 43.668 crore and increase of more than 8% over the previous year.

There are many challenges which are faced in the agricultural sector. They are following:

1. Yield of the crops has not improved.
2. The net sown area is diminishing.
3. Renewed focus on productivity and value adding.
4. Improving the rural infrastructure.
5. Focus needs to be in the irrigation projects in terms of investment and management.
6. Rural India needs proper access to credits.
7. The usage of modern technology like mapping and developing cropping patterns.

I hope that with an able minister we will be able to make studies in this sector. Thanking you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on an important grant like agriculture.

14.01 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri M. Anandan to speak now.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI M. ANANDAN (Villupuram): On behalf of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam I was given an opportunity to run and win in the Villupuram Parliamentary constituency and I heartily thank our Puratchi Thalaivi (Revolutionary leader) Amma who enabled me to be here in this historic Fifteenth Lok Sabha. I also thank the people of my Villupuram constituency. I thank you for the opportunity to take part in the discussion on Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture.

"Uluthundu Vaalvarey Vaalvar Matrellam
Tholuthundu Pin Selbavar."

Thiruvalluvar said, "Only those who plough and produce food lead a full life whereas all others go behind them veneeringly and eat what they provide."

Only when a farmer's hand touch the field we may get things to eat from its yield.

Ours is an agricultural country. Majority people of our population remain to be agriculturists and agricultural labour. Farming is their livelihood. Agriculture contributes to 18% of our economy. In 1950-51, Agricultural output was 510 lakh tonnes. Today agricultural production has crossed 2,110 lakh tonnes. Our use of manure and fertilizers have increased manifold since 1950-51.

Though our Government provide farm credit, it must make our farmers self-sufficient and economically prosperous. This is the duty of the Government. Seeds and fertilizers must be supplied at a lesser price and regulated market must be in place to sell their produce. The profit made on the agro-produce goes neither to the farmers nor to the people who buy them. Contrarily the huge gains go to the middlemen. This trend must change. Farmers must directly get the benefits. Ways must be evolved. Only then small and marginal farmers get the benefit. Farmers who can not get loans from the Banks approach private money lenders. It is not easy to get loans from Banks these days. The procedures must be simplified.

Increase in population on one side and depletion of cultivable land on the other have led to drastic fall in agricultural production. What are the steps the Government are contemplating? I would like to recall and remind this House of a song our founder leader Puratchi Thalaivar (Revolutionary leader) MGR.

"Enna Valam Illai Intha Thirunaatil.
Yane Kaiyai Yentha Vendum Velinaatil."

We have all resources and potential. As cultivable lands are used for other purposes agricultural yield grows less. That is why we have to look for aid from other countries. Our leader said this long back. Since agricultural lands are utilised as house sites and factory sites for industries, farm produce have fallen. When it comes to raising industries, we are not against them. But when industries are set up, cultivable lands must not be affected.

Irrigation resources are decreasing. One part of the country is drought hit while floods hit the other. To overcome this, all states must get adequate share of water resources and inter-linking of National Rivers must be taken up. Government had set up a committee to take up this project. The report has been submitted to the Central Government. But no action has been taken on that. Our apex court emphasised that rivers must be linked. Hence I urge upon this Government to approve these projects with the allocation of funds. Through this House I urge upon with this Government. Water sharing becomes vexing problems between neighbouring states. To find a lasting solution linking of rivers must be accomplished.

Across the rivers Polar, in violation of rules, Government of Andhra Pradesh go in for constructing dam. Due to this Tamil Nadu will soon be a desert. The farmers of Vellore, Kanchipuram, Thiruvalluar, Thiruvannamalai districts will be affected. Without getting centre's and state's approval, the work for constructing a dam across lives Polar goes on and centre must intervene to stop this. Steps on a war footing must be taken up to maintain cordial relations between states. Both the people of Tamil Nadu and our National Integration must be protected.

In Tamil Nadu, when our General Secretary Puratchi Thalaivi (Revolutionary leader) Amma was in power, 'Rain Water Harvesting Scheme' was implemented in a big way. In that, Tamil Nadu remained a model state. Former President of India Dr. Abdul Kalam wanted this to be

*English translation of the speech Originally delivered in Tamil.

followed up all over the country. The level of ground water table in Tamil Nadu increased considerably due to this. Farmers were benefitted. I urge upon the Union Government to follow this model in all parts of the country allocating adequate funds for assistance to raise the ground water table. Through this august House I putforth my suggestion.

Former Chief Minister and our founder leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivar (Revolutionary leader) MGR introduced Nutritious Meal Scheme. This was a pioneering scheme to do away with hunger. This was recognised by the country as a good scheme. His heir in politics in leading our party is our General Secretary Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi (Revolutionary leader) Amma and as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu she introduced 'Farmers Welfare Security Scheme' giving social protection from cradle to grave with 36 aspects. As part of that scheme a farmer's family on the death of the farmer due to accident gets Rs. 1 lakh. I wish the centre consider such welfare scheme for the farmers to be implemented all over the country to add light to the lives of our farming community.

Union Government has stated in this year's Budget that agricultural growth rate would be increased to 4% this year. But enough funds have not be allocated. Needed agricultural inputs like fertilizers and pesticides have increased raising the cultivation costs. But farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce. Farmers in this occupation are leaving this for other jobs and that is disastrous a state of affairs. To change this, agricultural produce especially Sugar cane and Paddy must get enhanced Minimum Support Price. I urge upon the Government to pay MSP to paddy similar to that of wheat. In the absence of remunerative prices, in the wake of drought, floods cyclones and other natural disasters, in the event of the spread of pests and diseases cultivation of crops fall down and perish leading to debt burdens and suicidal deaths of farmers that is prevalent. Government must work to change this for better. Liberal interest-free loans must be extended to farmers. Whenever crops are affected, through insurance schemes immediate compensation must be paid to the farmers.

Climate changes and change in nature, severe rains and floods leave the farmers with crop loss and loss of their livestock, houses and property. To save farmers

embankments of rivers must be strengthened and proper roads must be laid alongside enabling the rushing of material by lorries and trucks to places of breaches for timely rescue measures. Only then Government can save on compensation that lead to heavy expenditure.

Our country has got hilly terrains and plains with varying geographical features. Accordingly volume of rain, enormity of heat, severity of cold, nature of winds change and the vagaries of weather vary from place to place. In accordance with these changes, weather conditions and variations seen from place to place, methods for new findings and suitable seeds must be evolved. Only then our farmers could be protected from nature's fury and Government can achieve its objective only then.

Government are claiming that farm loan's have been waived. But the benefits have not reached this really needy farmers. The claims of the Government remain on paper. Real poverty stricken farmers have not got the benefit.

In Tamil Nadu, Villupuram, Thanjavur, Tiruchi, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts are known for agriculture. Thanjavur district is the granary of Tamil Nadu. There is an Agricultural Research Institute in Aaduthurai. I urge upon the Union Government to establish an Agricultural University there.

*In my constituency, Villupuram district is economically backward. As water resources are not there many farmers migrate to neighbouring districts in search of alternate jobs. In order to brighten the lives of farmers in this district, agro-based industries must be set up. Poor people must get job opportunities. Through this august House, I urge upon the Government.

Further to it, some years back Tamil Nadu, was worst hit by Tsunami. Cultivable lands were affected. Several farmers lost their houses and met with sufferings. We all know that. Marakkanam in my constituency was worst hit. But the people who had gone through listless sufferings could not get adequate relief. Now we receive so many complaints from the public about long term rehabilitation measures. Representations from the people's representatives must be considered without discrimination. Action must be taken by the District authorities. They must be suitably advised in this regard by the centre and through this august House I plead with the centre.

*...*English translation of this part of the speech Originally laid on the Table in Tamil.

The lot of Farmers can be improved.

- (i) By ensuring 4% growth in agriculture.
- (ii) By allocating Rs. 1000 crore more for irrigation schemes.
- (iii) By Monitoring properly the waiver of farm loans.

I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Demands for Grants for Agriculture.*

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like quote the following lines going into the technicalities of the points made in regard to the demands relating to agriculture presented by honourable Agriculture Minister in this sovereign house-

“Ashko Me Jo Paya Hai, Giton Ne Wo Diya Hai,
Phir Bhi Suna Hai Ki Duniya Ko Mujhse Khuchh
Gila Hai.
Jo Tar Se Nikali Hal Dhun Wah Sabne Suni Hai,
Par Jo Saj Par Gujari Hai Wah Kis Dil Ko Pata He.
Ham Auron Ke Liye Hain Phool Layen Hain
Khushboon,
Par Apne Ko Sirf Ek Dard Mila He”.

Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture comes from agricultural background in the wake of which asperation and expectations have gone up after he took change of this Minister. Truly, keeping in view these asperations and four percent growth rate in agriculture has been envisaged in the budget. It is also true that steps have been taken to provide direct subsidy to farmers. It is also right that provisions have been made to provide maximum loan to farmers. It is also right that in regard to the farmers who did not avail from nationalized banks but are rather the victims of mahajani system, the Minister of Agriculture has assured to take measures to have the matter in vestigated. However, had the agriculture sector been uplifted with there measures only I would have liked to thank the honourable Minister of Agriculure. But is the irony that during the time of Mahabharat, when Narad asked to Yudhisthir-was is all right then, Yudhisthir said that my agriculture was not dependent on rainfall.

If today the new age Nared had asked the honourable Minister of Agriculture-is it all right', the honourable Minister of Agriculture would say that my agriculture is not dependent on rainfalls Hence, I would like to reiterate that today our agriculture is still depending on monsoon even after 60 years of independence. This country has

travelled to moon, talks of generating atomic energy and has taken steps for national security mission. A resolution was passed in the meeting of National Development council of this country to the effect that the production of rice would be enhanced by 10 lac metric tonne” wheat and pulses will be increased by 8 lac metric tonne and 2 lac mentric tonnes respectively by the and of 11th plan. But what is the situation. The situation is that the Department of meteoroloy has tailed three times during the last five years. The forecast of the Department of Meterology proved false during the year of 2004, 2005 and 2007. The honourable Minister of Agriculre had said a few days back while talking to press that weather is going to be good and there will be rain. So we need not to be worried. But now the forecast of Meteorology has failed to the extent that our farmers have adiversly been attected there is a sense of despair and presentation among them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one more thing. Chaudhary Charan Singh was a well-known leader of the country. He had said in his book English “The night made in Indian culture”

[Translation]

That agriculture means not only field farming and it is not done by individual farmers only Agriculture is not a only social, economical and cultural system but it is also a spiritual system and also a political system. If agriculture will be upgraded, then production will be increased. If agriculture is in good shape then temple, gurudwara and masjid of God will also be held in high esteem. This very agriculture not only helped the social, economical and cultural system to evolve but literary work and compositions also got enriched in the cap of agriculture. All our Gods and Godesses be it Shiva, Krishna, Vishnu, Brahma, Durga or whosoever they one all had their roots in agriculture. Thus, 80 crores people nurture under the umbrella of agriculture sector and livelihood of 80 crore families depend on them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our honourable Minister of Finance had once stated that the Government will allocate Rs. 1000 crores for irrigation. It is an unfortunate thing. Our honourable Minister of Finance had said in this House while presenting budget that they are like blackbees and honeybees. They bring beauty and produce honey without damaging flowers and after sucking nectar from flowers. I would like to submit to the honourable Minister of Finance that these blackbees and honey bees suck honey from different flowers. There is a beautiful Champa flower

and it is full of honey but balckbees and honey bees do not sit on Champa flower. Some one asked Champa flower why bees and blackbees do not look at you, Champa said that listen, these bees and blackbees are though very active but selfish. They suck honey from different flowers but they do not have any affinity with them. Hence, I do not allow such blackbees and bees to sit. We want loyalty, we are loyal and they are not faithful.

Sir, I would like to give some suggestions. My advice is that agriculture is a sovereign system. I would urge the Government that agriculture loan should be given even at less than 4 per cent of interest rate. My second advice is that uniformity should be brought in the rates of production of farmers and production of factories.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (Mahesana) Sir, he is speaking very well on Champa flower.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you not speak well?

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Sir, I am concluding. There is a need to bring about parity in the prices of industrial produce and agriculture produce. If there is an increase in the prices of industrial products, prices of farmers produce should also increase. My third suggestion is that budget on agriculture should be presented separatly in the House like Railway Budget. Agriculture should not remain confined to merely holding a special discussion as 75 to 80 crore people of the country are dependent on agriculture.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member should conclude.

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Sir, I will just conclude by saying that there should be a provision for a separate budget for agriculture when such a large number our population depends on agriclutre.

Sir, at last, I would like to conclude by adding that-
Kaham To Taya Tha Chiraga Har Ghar Ke Liye,
Kahan Chiraga Maiyssar Nahi Shahar Ke Liye,
Yayan Darkhaton Ke Saaye Mein Dhoop Lagti Hai,
Chalo Kahin Aur Chalen Umar Bhar Ke Liye.

With these words, I would also like to quote these words of national poet Dinkar-

Hato Vyom Ke Megh Path Se,
Swarg Lootne Ham Aate Hain,
Doodh-Doodh O Bas,
Doodh Khojne Ham Jaate Hain.
Sir, I conclude with these words.

[English]

*SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to discuss on Demands for Grants for Ministry of Agriculture for the year 2009-2010 and I heartily support these Demands for Grants. Today, there is a need to remind ourselves of some important issues. When whole world has come under the effect of economic recession, because of measures taken by UPA Government in agriculture and agriculture related sectors, we could sustain a GDP growth rate of 6.4%. For which, this Government deserves appreciation. Let it be before independence of there after, we tried to develop our agriculture in a phased manner. Also, there is a growing need for food to feed enormously growing population. We need to produce more food with less input costs. If we see in 1947, our population was 36 crores, which rose to 118 crores in 2009. In 1943, around 40 lakh died of hunger, as we all know about infamous Bengal famine during that time. World renowned Nobel laureate Shri Amartya Sen also made research in this field. Since 17th century we know that every 15 years we face a food shortage of 30-40%, because of which people faced severe problems. When the areas around Godavari and Krishna rivers, which is also known as 'Rice bowl' of India, were facing severe drought, Sir Arthur Cotton constructed a dam and as a result 20 lakh acres were brought under cultivation. Similarly, our first Prime Minister late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru initiated many irrigation Projects in Five Year Plans to bring large chunks of land under cultivation. Be it Thungabhadra, Cauvery, Nagarjuna, Krishna delta, lower and upper Sileru or Bhakhra Nangal, all these projects provided irrigation facilities thus, resulting in the first Green Revolution. On the same lines, in 1968, late Smt. Indira Gandhi, strived for timely completion of remaining irrigation projects and helped India achieve supremacy in this field. In 'Dhatunama' year, Rayalseema region faced severe drought and as a result, 40-50% of population faced severe food crisis. The revolutionary steps taken by late Shri Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and late Smt. Indira Gandhi with their far sightedness, made

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

India withstand current economic recession. Similarly, UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Hon. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, and Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar are showing special concern towards agriculture. In this direction, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme was implemented which helped check migration of rural poor to urban areas by providing them with ample opportunities for livelihood in their villages. Let it be check dams or other works, these are part of Employment Guarantee Scheme. This shows special concern of Government towards Agriculture. During Sixth Five Year Plan, when our GDP growth rate was 5.9% around 5.7% was from agricultural produce. But the decade between 1981 and 1991 witnessed decline in our agriculture GDP growth rate, which was 5.2%. Because of over anxiety and negligence on agriculture sector, the growth rate dropped to 1.2%. Due to which we faced severe problems in this sector till 2004. From 1951 to 1991, our growth rate declined to 2.2%. The growth rate in food production till 1991 was 3.8%, it dropped to 1.8% by 2004. This decline is a result of the previous Government's interest on unproductive sectors. That's why we are facing the present situation. I would like to bring to your notice that between 1991 and 2004 farmers were subjected to negligence and they were disappointed, because of which they committed suicides. The input cost is more than what they get out of it. Though there is good support price and other good schemes, farmers are not in a position to reap these benefits and are still facing some difficulties. In this situation, the UPA Government constituted National Farmers' Commission in 2009 under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, a step towards the second Green Revolution. Our country has a population of 17.5% of world's population, whereas we have a land share of 2.5%. Around 7.5 crores is the annual growth of our population. Sir, kindly give me 5 minutes. If population increases at this rate, then agriculture is bound of face crisis. Recently, a survey was conducted by Planning Commission, as per this survey around 40% of farmers are leaving farming profession and are converting their agricultural lands into real estates. As they find other professions more lucrative and profitable. If farm lands decrease and more and more farmers leave this profession, then it's a matter of serious concern and we will be heading towards severe crisis. We need a special plan to tackle this situation. Agriculture Minister had already took many initiatives for this section and I feel there is still, much more to be done. Around Rs. 11,300

crores were allocated for irrigation facilities and many more irrigation projects were taken up at the national level. Sir, I will take two more minutes. Sir, agricultural loan is now being disbursed at 6% interest rate, also, Rs. 71,000 crores of agricultural loans were waived, and new loans of Rs. 3,25,000 crores will be disbursed. Under AIBP, around 75% of allocations were increased. UPA Government increase Minimum Support Price from Rs. 450 to Rs. 500 in the last five years. Whereas NDA Government increased it to only Rs. 60. There was subsequent increase in MSP of wheat and rice. Insurance to farmers was provided under 'Aam Aadmi Bhima Yojana'. Similarly, fertiliser subsidy was Rs. 20,000 crores, but as on today it is Rs. 1,45,000 crores.

In Andhra Pradesh, agricultural growth rate stood at 6.4% in comparison to 3% throughout our country. As a result the food production in Andhra Pradesh rose to 200 lakh tonnes in 2009 from 136 lakh tonnes in 2004. The main reason behind this increase is that the Andhra Pradesh Government allocated Rs. 1,76,000 crores for providing irrigation facilities to 1,00,000 acres of land. For irrigation stability of 21 lakh acres of land, 12 projects were initiated and these projects will be completed soon. In our state nutrition based fertilisers are being encouraged. This is a welcome step.

Farmers should be supplied with seeds and fertilizers on time. There should be post-harvesting support. We should give farmers timely support. Agriculture loan has been increased to Rs. 3,25,000 crores from Rs. 2,87,000 crores. We should educate and motivate our farmers to avail of the Government schemes so that they are protected from private lenders.

Before I conclude I also lay a part of my speech on the Table.

*Indian agriculture has registered a phenomenal growth during the last four decades. The production of major agricultural commodities such as food grains, vegetables, fruits, milk, eggs and fish has increased several folds. As a result, the per capita availability of important food items has increased, despite increase in population. The increase in the domestic agricultural production has also made a visible impact on the national food and nutritional security. However, poverty and undernourishment still continue to afflict more than one fifth of our population.

*...*English translation of this part of speech originally laid on the Table in Telugu.

The share of agriculture in the national GDP and in the employment has reduced from nearly 51% and 72% to 18 and 52% respectively during 1951-2008 owing to expansion of industrial and service sectors. The Indian agriculture has dominance of small and marginal farmers. The ratio of agriculture land to agricultural population is almost 0.3 hectare/person in India as compared to over 11 hectare/person in the developed countries. India has around 18% of world population, 15% of world live stock with only the global share of 2.3% of land, 4.2% of water and 1% of forest areas, the per capita availability of resources in India is 4-6 times less than the world average. The net sown area hover around 141 million hectares during the last four decades. Nevertheless the gross cropped area (GCA) has been consistently increasing, owing to double and multiple cropping system.

However, agricultural sector continues to occupy a key position in India's Development planning and economic policies owing to its critical contributions in achieving food and nutrition security, providing livelihood and employment to a significant proportion of rural population and in reducing poverty at a rapid rate.

The Eleventh Five year Plan envisages as 4% growth rate for the agricultural sector. This sector could be one of the major contributions towards the achievement of 9% growth rate for the economy as a whole during the eleventh plan period.

In spite of all the developments, still the Indian agriculture is monsoon dependent and vagarious of weather. One side we have drought and other side we have floods. Slowly the farmers are drifting away from agriculture. It is believed that who left villages, left agriculture and came to the cities did better than they ever hoped to do as farmers.

A recent survey conducted by Planning Commission revealed that over 40% of the active practicing farmers did not wish to continue in agriculture. This is a warning bell to all of us.

With the increase in real estate rates farmers with to sell their lands, by which they are able to make 50-100 times more money than they can make with the agriculture during their entire life time.

All these are happening, despite the continuous support given by the state and central Government. For example the UPA Government has written of farmers

agriculture loans to the extent of Rs. 71,000 crores. Fertilizers subsidy was given, free power was given.

Government is trying to educate the farmers. But are the farmers are listening?

- We need to have National agricultural literacy mission. How many new agricultural colleges and universities have come in the last 25 years?
Polam Badi Bata
- Rastriya Krushi vekas yojana (RKVY) allocation increased by 30%
- Many times the non supply of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides in time resulting into

Loss of waste and

- * The scope of NREGP should be expanded to include the agricultural works in the field of small and marginal farmers.
- * Effects of delay in Sugar cane processing
- * Problems of Palm oil cultivator in AP
- * Agro based industry
- * Rural infrastructure
- * Land productivity should be increased—nutrition based fertilizers—more mobile testing vans are required.
- * Upgrade Regional Scientific Agriculture Research Centre
- Agriculture in the availability of agricultural credit to Rs. 3,25,000 crores from Rs. 2,87,000 crores is a welcome step. We need to talk all steps to increase the availability of formal agricultural credit because as per the report of the Committee on Financial Inclusion (January 2008) more than 73 per cent of farmer households have no access to formal source of credit. Innovative institutional mechanisms that provide credit and financial products including the insurance products, specially designed to meet the need of the farm sector keeping their risk-bearing ability in view is the need of the hour. The Government of AP is giving credit at 3% popularly known as Pavala Vaddi.
- Infrastructure like cold storages
- Agricultural produce marketing by SHGs

- Adarsha Rythu
- Co-operation with all other ministers like irrigation, rural development, commerce science and technology.

The way number of colleges that are being opened in the field of Engineering, Medicine, Pharmacy, Business Management, special colleges should be opened and developed for agricultural studies. If we neglect the profession of agriculture, how we will be assuring food security of our increasing population. There is a need to promote organic and bio-fertilizers. Through NREGA, the cost of labour for agriculture can be reduced. Today, we witness spiraling prices of food commodities. To address this problem, we should set up local markets at municipality or panchayat level. This will ensure remunerative price for farmers' produce and reasonable price to the consumers. This step will also check middle intervention of middlemen in determining commodity prices.

As per the January (2008) Report of the committee on financial inclusion, 73% of farmers are not even aware of proceduring regular agricultural loans. There is a task force to study this situation in Maharashtra; similar arrangements may be made in other agrarian states in a phased manner. The way we are bringing awareness about technical education, environment pollution, global warming and female literacy, we should bring awareness among general public about the importance of agriculture.

There should be scientific approach towards agricultural plan. We should think of reducing input costs, optimum utilisation of available resources, and plan for 3 crops in a year. Human resources should be utilised properly and agricultural education may be decentralised. Animal husbandry should be given equal importance. There should be exclusive clubs and committees for farmers, in order to encourage the farmers particularly the new farmers.*

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I would like to say that agriculture itself is vast subject but we are not discussing here not only about agriculture but also about two other subjects - consumer affairs, food and public distribution. These subjects are clubbed together. So, it is very difficult to cover all the points within the very limited time being

allowed. Even then I would like to complete my speech within the stipulated time by only touching upon the points.

We cannot think of agriculture sector without thinking about the lives of farmers. Farmers form about 75 per cent of the total population of the country. But there is no exclusive Ministry to look after the interests of farmers. An exclusive Ministry is there to look after labour, women and child welfare, youth affairs, etc. But till today, since Independence, there is no exclusive Ministry to look after the welfare of the farmers. The Union Government should think over this so that there is a special Ministry or Department to look after the welfare of the farmers.

I am now coming to the budget; the budgetary policies towards agriculture sector seem to be addressing only the symptoms of the problems, instead of trying to address the root-cause of the problem. The Minister is well acquainted with the problems, but the root cause has not yet been addressed. There is low priority for agriculture in public spending; there is low level of capital formation; there is steady increase in the agriculture input prices – these have been some of the main root causes of the problems in respect of farmers.

The worsening condition of the small and marginal farmers has been reflected in the rising number of suicides over the last decade, particularly in the Vidarbha area, in the State from where the Agriculture Minister himself comes. In this background, it is very important to look at the trends of investments in agriculture sector by the Union Government.

Now, I am coming to rural economy. On the other day, our hon. Finance Minister had stated that more than 22 per cent of the budgetary allocation had been provided to rural economy. What are they? They comprised of agriculture and allied activities, rural development, special area programme, irrigation, flood control, village and small industries and others. It has everything, but what about agriculture? The total budgetary allocation is more than Rs. 10 lakh. But the plan allocation for agriculture and allied activities has been very meagre; it is only Rs. 10,493 crore. So, it is little more than one per cent of GDP. This is very meagre and this is the attitude towards agriculture shown by the Union Government.

What is said about the huge expenditure? There is huge expenditure for the manufacturers, agencies of concessional rate of decontrolled fertilizers, etc. but it is

not directly transferred to the farmers directly. If we exclusively take the case of agriculture, particularly for capital formation, it is too meagre. What is the nature of expenditure? It has been observed that almost all the Union Budget's expenditure in this sector has been on the revenue account, while a meagre amount has been there on the capital account.

I am coming to the figures. In 2008-09, the Revenue Expenditure is 99.4 per cent; the Capital Expenditure is 0.55 per cent. In 2009-10, the Revenue Expenditure is 99.83 percent; it has increased, but the Capital Expenditure has decreased to 0.11 per cent; it declined from 0.55 per cent to 0.11 per cent. This is the nature of expenditure in agriculture. It is not there in the capital account but in revenue account. This attitude should change otherwise agriculture will not make progress. In a concise form I am just putting some proposals before you and through you before the Hon. Minister. I am very glad the hon. Minister is here. He is well acquainted with the Report of the National Farmers' Commission. I am not going into all the recommendations of the Farmers' Commission. I would like to refer to some of the points about which already a demand has been made by a number of Members. I would like to refer to 4 per cent interest on agriculture credit. It is proposed to be 7 per cent or one per cent less, that is 6 per cent. This too is confined to the short-term crop loan and not to medium-term or long-term loans. I would request you to make it 4 per cent for all, short-term, medium-term and long-term, loans.

I now come to the Minimum Support Price. I would request that the CACP should be restructured and the recommendation made by the Swaminathan Commission, that is CO2+50 per cent should be honoured properly. It is not being honoured. Even last year the CACP recommended Rs. 1000 per quintal for paddy procurement but the Government did not honour that. Even the CACP recommendation is not being honoured. At least Swaminathan Commission's recommendation, with regard to CO2+50 per cent, should be honoured.

I would say that the fertiliser subsidy should be directly transferred to the farmers. It is a good attempt—it has already been said by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech and the other day the hon. Agriculture Minister also gave hints – to set up a task force to study about the money-lending affairs not only in Maharashtra but all over India.

I now come to irrigation. I would say that one package should be declared for the agriculture. There are a number of packages. In this global melt down scenario, other sectors are being facilitated by offering different packages. Why is a package not being offered to the farmers also? The Government should ponder over it and declare a package covering all aspects.

My next point is with regard to food. My request would be universalisation of public distribution system should be introduced. The discrimination between BPL and APL should go. The BPL criteria should be re-defined, otherwise it will create confusion particularly in the village area. It should be re-defined. What is the scene of our country so far as the World Hunger Index is concerned? It is mentioned in the FAO Report that out of 88 countries India is placed at the low rank of 66. This is our position. In this scenario, the Government should take effective measures.

Lastly, it is a welcome step that the Government has taken to give 25 kgs. of wheat or rice at the rate of Rs. 3 to all the BPL families.

The Minister is aware of the fact that so far as Antyodaya Yojana is concerned, they are getting 35 kilograms at the rate of Rs. 2. Why is it being reduced from 35 kilogram to 25 kilogram? Why is the price being raised from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3? I would request the Minister to make it 35 kilogram per month and it should be available at Rs. 2 only. Otherwise, for purchasing the remaining 10 kilogram food, they will have to go to the open market which will put more burden on the BPL families.

My another request is that in the coming days, the Minister should consult different *kisan* organisations. He should take into account their views and he should, particularly, consider the problems of the small and marginal farmers, problems of different cooperatives of the poor farmers, problems of share croppers and other stake holders.

With these words, let me conclude as I have made some points in respect of agriculture.

[Translation]

SHRI UMASHANKAR SINGH (Maharajganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on agriculture.

India is predominantly an agricultural country. Here 70 to 75 per cent people depend on agriculture and are living in villages. Condition of the farmers is getting from bad to worse day-by-day. The Government and the Finance Ministers has offered nothing for the farmers in the budget. One per cent of the budget is meant for 75 per cent of the people while 99 per cent of the budget provisions has been made for remaining 25 percent people even though agriculture makes substantial contributions to the country's economy. It is the Agriculture that provides raw material for the industries. Prosperity of the farmers and villages depends on agriculture.

As far coarse grains are concerned, gradually, their production is declining. So much so that several variety of coarse grains are on the verge of extinction, whether it is millet, jawar, sawan, sain, baltagan, koundo, sathi or mahua etc. No attention has been paid towards it. Budget has not given any relief to the farmers. The Government has not made any promise for the welfare of the farmers in the budget.

As far Bihar is concerned, no budgetary provision has been made for it. Granting the status of a special state to Bihar has been a long pending demand of the people of Bihar. Had it been granted, it would have worked in favour of farmers. The demand for giving a special package to the State has been made since its bifurcation but this status is yet to be granted to it. Farmer has to irrigate his fields despite the diesel being so costly. His input cost has risen so much that it costs upto Rs. 1100 to 1200 for producing 1 quintal of wheat and up to Rs. 1200-1400 for producing one quintal of paddy. Government has given Rs. 1080 and Rs. 1050 for one quintal and an increase of Rs. 300 has been made they certainly deserve to be thanked for it but farmers are still not getting support price for their produce. FCI dithers in purchasing produce of the farmers when they want to sell it to FCI and they are forced to sell it at Rs. 800-900 per quintal through the brokers. The farmers should get 50 percent more than the support price.

The sugarcane cultivation has been reduced to almost negligible in Bihar. 30-35 sugar mills have closed down in Bihar due to which the farmer has been pushed to the verge of extreme poverty. Sugarcane was the only cash crop. Bihar Government has been taking to set up sugar of mills for years together but it is not happening. Bihar Government is just making announcements.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to set up one sugar mill in each commissionerary so that farmers could be encouraged to produce cash crops. As far farming is concerned, farmers have their sources of earning in the form of sugarcane and cotton crops only. Cotton is not produced in every state. Cotton is cultivated in approximately seven to eight states. Sugarcane used to be produced in large quantity in our state out now its production is declining as its crushing and selling is not taking place. Through you, I would urge the Government to provide subsidy to farmers on fertilizers and seeds and also for installing tube wells. If the Government provides subsidy to the farmers on all the items like fertilizers, seeds etc, it will benefit farmers, besides increasing yield. With this, Bihar would be able to become self-reliant in the matter of food grains.

Sir, I would like to say something about my parliamentary constituency. As per the report of National Flood Control Commission, 65 percent land area in Bihar was under cultivation in 1985, which has been reduced to below 50 per cent now. The problem is aggravating due to water logging and flood.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Agriculture towards my parliamentary constituency. Approximately 5 thousand acres of land has been affected due to waterlogging in my parliamentary constituency, Maharjganj. It is a perennial problem. It is prominently affecting a place named Chanwar, Kumna Mansar. Chanwar which falls in Jalalpur sub-division of district Chhapra and here more than one thousand acres of land remains water logged throughout the year. Similarly, one thousand acres of land remains water logged in Russi Varega Chanwar which falls in Jalalpur sub-division. In Maha Chanwar which falls in Ekma sub-division, approximately 500 acres of land remains water logged. The water deposited here can be drained to Mayan river. Ghurhi Chanwar also falling under Ekma division has thousand of acres of land water logged. Cheful Chanwar, laghuni Chanwar falling under Manjhi Sub-division have thousands of acres of land water logged. Approximately two thousands acre land has been water logged in Wahiyare Chanwar in Masrakh sub-division. In Wagohi, Chorma Chanwar in Bhagwanpur sub-division of district Sewan, approximately one thousand acres land remains water logged. Approximately 5 hundred acres of land in Sihuota Dudhitola Chanwar in Maharanganj remains water logged.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to prepare a scheme of water drainage to deal with the problem of water logging. It will benefit

the farmers of hundreds of villages. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government for providing a special relief package to the farmers. Bihar state is completely under the grip of drought. No relief package has been given to the farmers. Please provide relief package to the farmers.

Through you, I would like to request to the Government that since India is an agricultural country until the farmer who feeds everyone is prosperous, country cannot be prosperous.

Sir, I lay rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

*India is predominately an agricultural country and 70-75 per cent people are living in villages and are dependent on agriculture. Performance of the agriculture sector is the key to development of Indian economy. The contribution of agriculture has been very important to the country. Agriculture provides 52 percent of total employment opportunities in the country. Agriculture, besides providing food grains and fodder is also a prime source of raw material supply to the industries. The health of rural economy is interlinked with the development of agriculture and the allied activities.

The total production of coarse grains is decreasing in comparison to what it was during the year 2007-08. As compared to last year, the production of millet, pearl millet, maize etc. has gone down. Many food-grain varieties are vanishing gradually such as pearl millet, finger millet, 'sai, 'waltangu' etc. The main produce for the farmers is sugarcane and cotton. The season of growing sugarcane has commenced. However, no provision has been made for the farmers in view of the scanty monsoon. Despite the rise in the cost of diesel, farmers are carrying out cultivation through irrigation. The farmers of the whole country are in difficulty due to the failing monsoon. Farmers of many areas are forced to commit suicide. The burden of bank loans is increasing. The whole country is concerned on the linking drought.

The predominantly agrarian northern states are facing the crisis of drought as a result of the weak monsoon, particularly, the State of Bihar is in the grip of a severe drought. As per the report of the National Flood Control commission submitted in 1985, farmers of Bihar used to carry out cultivation in about 65 per cent fertile land which has decreased below 50 per cent as a result of

the increasing water-logging. If the Government arrange for the drainage of water from the water logged lands, Bihar could become self-reliant in terms of food grains. However, in the budget presented by the hon 'ble Minister of Finance for the year 2009-10 the state of Bihar has been ignored. Nothing has been given to Bihar. The farmers in Bihar are crying for mercy due to scarce rains. No provision for relief has been made by the Government. Due to water-logging, farmers are facing difficulty in carrying out cultivation across the state. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems of my Parliamentary constituency, Maharajganj.

There is more than five thousand acres of land in my parliamentary constituency which has become non-arable as a result of water-logging and hundreds of villages are affected due to it. For example,

1. Kumana Manasar Chanwar is in Jalalpur block of the Chhapra district where more than one thousand acres of land remains water-logged and uncultivable.
2. In Rusi Vareja Chanwar in the Jalalpur block is also in Around 1 thousand acres of land water logged.
3. Mahachanwar belonging to Ekama block has also around 5 hundred acres of water-logged land from which water can be drained to the Mayan river. Ghurahi Chanwar is also in the Ekama block which merges in the Jagatia river. Thousands of acres of land is also water-logged in Cheful Chanwar, Ladhuni Vabhanvalia Chanwar in the Majhi block. Around 2 thousand acres of land is water logged at Wahiar Chanwar in the Mashrakh block.

More than one thousand acres of land is water logged in Wagahi, Chorma Chanwar in the Bhagwanpur block. About 3 hundred acres of land in Sihota Dudhitola Chanwar in Maharajganj is also water logged. I would like to urge the Government to get water drained from these water logged 'Chanwar's under the water drainage scheme of the Water Resources Ministry which would benefit the farmers of hundreds of villages.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government and would urge it to give a special relief package to the farmers of Bihar in order to compensate their losses. I also demand that the Government should declare the Panchayat and not the block as a unit for crop insurance.

*...*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

A special relief scheme should be formulated to compensate the losses of the farmers in order to give them relief from the natural calamity. Work on the Gandak canal is still incomplete in the Gopalganj, Siwan and Chhapra districts. Even at places where it has been completed, farmers do not get water at the time of cultivation. Through you, I would like to urge the Government to get a scheme formulated at its level and arrange for setting up a tube well or pumping-set in every village at subsidized rates. Subsidy should also be given for irrigation and on seeds. Farmers do not get remunerative prices for their produce. One thousand to twelve hundred rupees are spent on producing one quintal of wheat and on one quintal of paddy, the expenditure involved is to the tune of twelve hundred to thirteen hundred rupees. The Government offers a price of one thousand or one thousand fifty rupees for wheat and paddy. The FCI adopts dilly-dallying tactics in the procurement of paddy and wheat. I demand the Government that Rs. 1300 be offered as the price of wheat and Rs. 1500 as price of paddy to the farmers so that do not incur any loss.

I urge the Government that the recovery of loans from the farmers by the banks be stopped in view of the drought conditions prevailing in the whole of Bihar. The Government should arrange for the drainage of water from the water-logged land and for irrigation so as to minimise dependence on monsoon. As a result of the closure of about 30-35 sugar mills in Bihar, growing of sugarcane by the farmers which was one of their main cash crops earlier has almost come to a half. As such, through you, I would urge the Union Government to make efforts to set up at least one sugar mill in each of the commissionereries of Bihar at the earliest. Then only, India would have the privilege to be an agricultural country. The hon. Minister of Finance has not made any provision for giving relief to the farmers of Bihar in the Budget, 2009-10. Even a relief package for compensating the loss suffered as a result of severe floods in Kosi has not been given. A demand for giving Bihar the status of a special state is being raised for the last several years. No attention has been paid towards that also. Right from the time of the division of Bihar-Jharkhand, a demand for a special package is being raised. That has also been ignored. Had these demands been accepted, the farmers of Bihar would have been prosperous.

Lastly, I would like to urge the government that maximum attention be paid towards the farmers, as India is predominantly an agriculture country. Sir, the country

would become prosperous only if the interest of the farmers is taken care of, because the farmers feed the country. I conclude my speech with the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kishan'.*

[English]

SHRI K.P. DHANAPALAN (Chalaky): Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Before I do so, I would like to thank my Party President and UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for giving me an opportunity to represent the people of Chalaky of Kerala in this august House.

Sir, more than 60 per cent of our population is depending on agriculture and only if the growth of agriculture is improved, India can attain a double digit growth rate. But even today, our rate of growth in the agriculture sector is below the expected four per cent. Our investment on agriculture as a percentage of GDP should be considerably increased.

The debt relief scheme announced in the last budget of Rs. 71,000 crore was a great relief for the Indian farmers. As rightly pointed out in the budget speech of the hon. Finance Minister, the private debt of the farmers are not covered. Money lenders charging exorbitant rates are leading the farmers to suicide. So, the loan taken from private sources other than banks may also be covered in this scheme. The Task Force proposed in the budget may also cover the whole country.

Sir, another important drawback of the debt waiver scheme is that the farmers who paid back the dues, by borrowing from private sources under compulsion from the State Governments and public workers are the worst sufferers. Those who paid their loan six months prior to the debt waiver scheme should also get the benefit of this scheme. Those who paid their dues by 31st December 2007 also may be covered under this scheme.

Sir, I wholeheartedly welcome the enhancement under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana by 30 per cent more than last year. In this context, I would like to congratulate the Government and the Minister for Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawar, for allowing special packages for Kuttanad and Idukki. The impediments in practical implementation of these packages should be sorted out.

I come from a State where staple food is rice. Today, paddy cultivation is uneconomic and farmers are leaving

the fields uncultivated. In many places, paddy fields are giving way to building activities. I am afraid that even the present rice production will vanish in due course of time. Today, where workers are not available for ploughing and harvesting operations, mechanical harvesting is necessary. Unfortunately, the parties in power in Kerala are opposing all mechanical farming operations. This has made agriculture in Kerala more uneconomical. Also, Food Security Scheme being proposed by the Central Government has come to a grinding halt in the State of Kerala due to infighting in the ruling coalition.

We are at present producing only 20 per cent of our staple food which is rice. Most of our crops like coconut, pepper, areca nut, etc. deserve very liberal assistance as they are facing stiff competition from different quarters. Since our holdings are very small, farmers have to depend on subsidiary occupations like dairying, goat rearing, poultry rearing and inland fishery. In this connection, I submit that most of our farmers are below the sub marginal level with holdings as small as five and ten cents. So, I request our hon. Minister for Agriculture to frame new schemes for people belonging to this sector, especially women for skill teaching and liberal assisting for starting enterprises associated with agriculture, animal husbandry, dairy and poultry professionals.

I strongly recommend and urge the Government to include this class in the list of beneficiaries eligible for jobs under National Employment Guarantee Programme which will provide them a livelihood and a security umbrella. It may bring relief to more than seven lakh families in Kerala.

Sir, the main stay of Kerala's economy is coconut. As you know, the very name Kerala is derived from coconut. Today, farmers are desperately selling coconuts at less than Rs. 3. According to the support price announced by the Central Government, the farmers will get at least Rs. 7 per coconut under the procurement system. The State Government has failed miserably in procurement.

I request the Minister for Agriculture to entrust the procurement of coconut by national agencies like NAFED. Coming from a State engaged in cash crop farming, our food requirements may be taken care of by the Central Government.

The price fluctuation in cash crops very often affect the cash crop farmers. They are forced to resort to distress sale. A minimum price guarantee and warehousing facilities be implemented in this sector. India being a mass and potential market, our plantation products be given marketing support.

The duty free import of palm oil is destroying the coconut farmers and the Government may consider a price subsidy scheme for coconut oil.

One of the major contributing factors to all these achievements was the most successful "Operation Flood Programme" which was launched in 1970 by our Government through dairy cooperatives across India. Our former Prime Minister, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was instrumental in forming the National Dairy Development Board which launched the Operation Floor Programme. Today, dairy cooperative movement in India is one of the largest farmers' movements in the world. They are engaged in milk production, procurement, processing and marketing. The dairy cooperative system represents more than thirteen million dairy farmers affiliated to about 1,22,000 primary cooperative societies, which sell their products to one of 198 milk producers cooperative unions/dairies, which in turn are supported by the State Cooperative Milk Marketing Federations.

I have many points to bring to the notice of this House. But, due to paucity of time, I wind up my speech and I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Faridkot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak in Punjabi.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Gulshanji, you please speak after five minutes as interpretation is not being done right now.

[English]

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO (Purulia): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you. I am highly thankful to you that you have given me a chance to participate in the discussion on agriculture.

Agriculture has been the main stay of the Indian economy. More than seventy per cent of the population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. Trade liberalisation has exposed the peasantry to the volatility

of international agricultural prices and highly subsidised import competition. The lack of adequate social expenditure and the crippling of the Public Distribution System have led to the impoverishment of the rural people. The stagnation of agriculture and lack of public expenditure has also translated into growing unemployment for rural labour.

In the recent past this sector has recorded a growth rate of four per cent per annum, with substantial increase in plan allocation and capital formation in this sector for agriculture development, Debt Relief Scheme for Farmers and Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme.

To ensure balanced allocation of fertilizers for increasing agricultural productivity, the Government should move towards a nutrient-based subsidy programme so as to cover a large basket of fertilizers with innovative fertilizer products available in the market at reasonable prices. So, the Government should move to a system of direct transfer of subsidy to the farmers in due course.

15.00 hrs.

The Government should increase productivity of assets and resources under the NREGA, and convergence with other schemes relating to agriculture, forests, water resources, land resources initiated.

Sir, comprehensive land reforms must be implemented to break the shackles of landlordism on the agricultural economy.

Secondly, the Forest Right Act must be implemented throughout the country to ensure that land is vested in the name of tribals and traditional dwellers.

Sir, I urge upon the hon. Minister, through you, to enact a separate comprehensive law for agricultural workers to ensure minimum wages for them as well as accident compensation.

The Government should increase the irrigation facilities to the farmers which will help in raising the production.

I would also request the hon. Minister, through you, that a quota for reservation for admission of a farmer's son in agricultural college and university should be introduced.

Again, I would request the hon. Minister, through you, that the agriculture pension to the farmers should

be introduced for those farmers who have attained 60 years of age. Here, I am talking of a Government employee, who after attaining the age of 60 years, retires from service and he gets pension from the Government, either from the State Government or from the Central Government etc. But a farmer from his childhood, at the age of 15 years or 16 years, he ploughs the land and when he attains the age of 60 years, he is unable to cultivate the land or plough the land and there is nobody to stand by him or to help him. So, for those farmers, who attain the age of 60 years, the Government should introduce a compulsory pension scheme.

There is a need to stress the importance of Public Distribution System (PDS) to complement the procurement system. The universal PDS should be revived at affordable prices and linked to the capacity to pay rather than economic cost to ensure food security for the rural and urban poor and to reverse the alarming decline in their nutritional status.

There is an urgent need to enhance the spread of the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and for universalisation of the Crop Insurance Scheme. There is an urgent need to provide comprehensive debt relief and cheap institutional credit. An adequate flow of institutional credit to the agricultural sector, at a maximum four per cent rate of interest as recommended by the National Commission of Farmers, should be ensured by strictly enforcing appropriate criteria for priority sector lending. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO: Sir, I am concluding within one minute.

The Finance Minister's Budget Speech sets a target of four per cent growth rate for agriculture in 2009-10. There are no concrete measures taken whatsoever which will bring about a turn around. The total allocation for the head titled 'agriculture and allied activities' registered a decline of around 23.3 per cent in the current year as compared to the figures of the previous year.

Sir, I belong to an undeveloped and backward district Purulia in West Bengal. Most of the 90 per cent inhabitants there depend on agriculture. They only depend on rainfall. However, at the present moment, farmers are crying for rain. They are full of tears because of paucity of rain. A lot of irrigation schemes, which have been recommended by the State Government of

[Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan]

West Bengal, have been pending with the Central Government. I urge upon the hon. Minister, through you, that the pending irrigation schemes should be implemented as soon as possible.

Sir, having participated in the discussion on Agriculture, I thank you very much.

[*Translation*]

*SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN (Faridkot): Thank you Deputy Speaker Sir. In India 60% of the people are dependant on farming and India is an agricultural economy. It is very sad that while preparing the budget the interest of the farmers was not protected. When the budget was being finalized in the whole country faced drought like conditions due to the failure of monsoon, the Finance Minister had also acknowledged it. By increasing the price of diesel, salt has been applied on the wounds of the farmers.

In the budget Rs. 71000 crores worth of debt of farmers has been waived off. But in the case of farmers of Punjab only Rs. 1044 crores have been waived off which is only 1.5%, though the farmer of Punjab is at first place due to indebtedness. The planning commission has also agreed towards this fact. Rs. 35000 crores is the debt on the head of the farmers of Punjab *i.e.* Rs. 22000 crores is the Bank loan and Rs. 13000 Crores debt from money lenders. The farmer of Punjab contributes about 60% of wheat and 40% Paddy in central pool. But benefit has been given only to Maharashtra but we don't regret this. We want to ask the Government that the debt taken by farmers even from moneylenders in Maharashtra has been waived off but why discrimination is being done towards farmers of Punjab. We are saddened by the fact that Prime Minister being from Punjab has visited Maharashtra and others states where farmers have committed suicides but has ignored Punjab, because his eye is on the vote bank of the above states. Punjab has been discriminated at every level *i.e.* out of the total budget only 1.30% has been given to Punjab on the pretext that it is a rich state. The scheme of 'Atta-Dal' started by Punjab Government in which 40% of the beneficiaries are people below poverty line, so this Percentage be increased.

Punjab Government has asked for Rs. 13000 Crores to repair canals, expand canals and clean them; this

should be sanctioned because it is in the interest of the country. If the canals not maintained than the food production would decrease leading to import of food grains.

Subsidy on fertilizers which is to be given directly to farmers is a good policy, but delivery system in India is very weak. If the subsidy does not reach the farmers in time they would use less of fertilizers thus reduction in production which will endanger the food security of the country. So this policy be implemented timely.

Due to failure of monsoon the farmer of Punjab has been hit hard as the price of diesel has increased, Paddy seedling have perished; due to shortage of water and electricity the farmer has no option but to plough his paddy field.

To save the paddy crop Punjab Government has been purchasing electricity worth Rs. 250 crores every week, but due to more demand, the demand could not be fulfilled. Thus school were closed, timing of Departments have been changed, big electricity cuts have been imposed on domestic and industrial consumers. The expenditure of farmer has increased by Rs. 500-600 per acre. Who will compensate this? The Centre should compensate for the lose.

The Centre has increased the MSP for paddy *i.e.* Rs. 950 for simple quality and Rs. 980 for fine quality it is only an increase of Rs. 20 which is a big joke played on farmers. The input cost of farmer has increased a lot. Thus while fixing the MSP price, the price index be linked with index input price thus leading to minimum 50% profit to farmers. We demand that the minimum support price of Paddy should be Rs. 1250 and for wheat Rs. 1500.

The lifting of rice is going at a slow pace, about 20% of paddy is still to be lifted. The Government should increase the storage capacity and quantity of railway wagons so that the paddy which could be ruined due to non lifting can be saved.

The level of ground water is falling at an alarming rate. Due to failure of monsoon the water level has fallen in Pong Dam which stands at 116.84 meters. In Bhakra Dam the level as fallen by 41%, this is a serious issue and the Government should look into it.

In the Malwa belt of Punjab water logging is a major problem due to which standing crops had to be ploughed.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

This problem be looked into and farmers be compensated for the loss due to water logging.

When farmer take loans from commission agents they charge rate of interest at will, the farmers are forced to take loans from them as the loan sanctioning process in banks is very tedious causing undue harassment to the farmers. The rate of interest of both banks and commission agents be fixed at the same level.

At Ludhiana in Punjab is situated the Punjab Agricultural University which does good research and gives timely information to the farmers. But due to deficiency in funds the research is effected, so timely grants be given to the university.

I request in the interest of the country that Punjab should be given maximum share in the central budget so that the farmer of Punjab which contributes about 60% of Paddy and 40% of Wheat in the Central Pool can be saved.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

When the entire House and the whole country is discussing about the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, in such a discussion there is a major demand that there should be a separate Budget for agriculture. Our hon. President of the BJP demanded a separate Agriculture Session of Parliament. But I am surprised to understand that the total allocation for the agricultural sector in this Budget is Rs. 1,629 crore. If you take particularly the Agriculture Ministry, it is Rs. 10,629 crore. The Finance Minister, in his reply, has stated that it is more than 24 per cent. At least I am not able to understand those figures. So, the Agriculture Minister should explain to us. When the allocation is Rs. 10,629 crore, it becomes one per cent. So, how can it become more than 24 per cent? I hope the hon. Agriculture Minister, who is from the agricultural field, will explain to us as to how it is more than 24 per cent.

The Finance Minister has also stated that we aim at 4 per cent growth. I do not understand how this growth can be achieved with this meagre allocation. About 41 per cent of the farmers, including the farmers from Punjab and Haryana, do not want to continue farming and agricultural activities if they are given some other opportunity to earn their livelihood, because

agriculture, as a profession, is becoming unviable.

Sir, a study conducted by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in the Vidarbha region says that the average income is Rs. 2,700 per acre per annum. It does not vary much in other parts of the country. It may be Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 more in some of the areas, but on an average it is the same. If a farmer has 5 acres of land and above, we consider him a large farmer. If a farmer is having even 10 acres of land, his income will be Rs. 27,000 per annum. In such a situation, how can agriculture become viable? This study was asked to be conducted by the court and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, in its report, recommended to the court that the court should immediately ask the State Government, Union Government, Life Insurance Corporation and Agricultural Insurance Corporation of India to create an insurance safety net that covers the assurance of the minimum life support. Tata Institute of Social Sciences is talking about minimum life support. They are not talking about any convenience or anything, but about life support system for the cultivators and their production system as a whole. Even this recommendation was not considered.

I do not want to go into the details as many of the points have already been covered. To make agriculture viable, the best thing we have to do is to make water available. More than 400 irrigation projects are waiting completion for many decades, except a sum of Rs. 1000 crore for the accelerated irrigation project has been allocated. The total allocation for the entire irrigation project is very meagre. If we go in the same manner to complete these ongoing 400 irrigation projects, I think, it will take more than a decade and by that time the suicides by the farmers will cross the figure that was there in the last decade. It was estimated around two lakhs in the last decade, though the official figure was one lakh. So, if we go in the same manner to complete these irrigation projects, I think, the suicide rate will continue and it will be doubled as compared to the last decade. I urge upon the Government to take up these irrigation projects seriously. Let us not show the fingers on the State Government. They should insist upon the State Governments and provide the funds to complete the irrigation projects and they should also see that the water is available to the farmers at affordable prices.

The irrigation potentiality of the country is not being utilised neither by the Central Government nor by the State Governments. I urge upon the Central Government to insist upon the State Governments to do the needful

[Shri Pralhad Joshi]

and also provide funds so that all the State Governments along with the Central Government can take up all the irrigation projects to be completed in time.

To use this water, electricity should be made available. In many of the States, the electricity supply is only for four to six hours. Even after 60 years of Independence, we are not able to supply electricity to the people regularly. When there is no regular electricity supply, the farmers are using generators. There is a demand in some sections of the farmers that fuel subsidy should be given to the farmers to use the generators, whether they use kerosene, diesel or petrol. So, the Government should think of providing fuel subsidy to the farmers.

As far as remunerative prices are concerned, they should try to avoid the middlemen. Now, there should be a serious thinking on the part of the Government to avoid middlemen so that the farmers can get remunerative prices for their products.

When Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee introduced the Prime Minister's Gramin Sadak Yojana, almost all the villages were connected to Taluka Headquarters by roads. I urge upon the hon. Minister of Agriculture to consider, in the same manner, the farm field roads. Once there is an untimely rain, you cannot go to the farm field and you cannot bring the product from the field to the village and from village to the Taluka level. So, I urge upon the Government that in the form of PMGSY there should be roads connecting the fields to the villages and to the market places. There should be a separate fund for this.

Sir, the loans should be made available to the farmers, at least, at the rate of four per cent. When a State like Karnataka can provide, through the nationalised and commercial banks, loans at three per cent and when the Tamil Nadu Government is providing loans at the rate of four per cent why can the Government of India not think of providing them at four per cent for the entire country?

They have declared that there is a credit flow to the tune of Rs. 3,25,000 crore. I would ask the hon. Minister as to how many farmers are there in the banking network of the country and what is Government going to do about those farmers who are not in the banking network of the country.

Now I come to the crop insurance scheme. The crop insurance officers sit to judge this. They take the premium, and finally when relief is to be given, these

officers of the Agriculture Insurance Corporation of India sit with an intention not to give the money, not to give the relief to the farmers. They sit with an intention that they should not pay anything to the farmers. They first sit and try to find a reason as to how to avoid that claim. With this intention they sit. Therefore, I urge to make it more farmer-friendly; otherwise this crop insurance scheme which is allocated some 16 or 17 products, will not be of any use. Crop insurance should be made farmer friendly, and more crops should be covered under this.

Regarding fertilizer subsidy, they have said that it will be directly given to the farmers. I would like to know its mechanism.

As far as Karnataka is concerned, 32 per cent of the electricity was supposed to come from the Central grid; it has been reduced last year. I would urge that whatever due share of electricity Karnataka has to get, it should be provided.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity, Sir.

*SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY (Kandhamal): I am thankful to you for enabling me to express my ideas before the August House on the Demand on Agriculture placed by the Hon. Agriculture Minister.

Economy of our country depends on agricultural production nearly 70% of the people of our country depend on agriculture. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture has put up an ambitious budget expecting 4% increase in agricultural production during 2009-2010. I congratulate the aspiration of the Hon. Minister but afraid it he can achieve his goal due to various adverse factors prevailing in the country.

For more than 800 million people in our country do not get enough regular healthy food. Children and especially very young children suffer from food insecurity. Poor people of our country lack access to sufficient resources to produce or buy quality food. Poor farmers use less effective farming techniques. They are unable to afford fertilizers and labour saving equipments.

Food production requires massive amounts of water. It lack 100 liters of water to produce 1 kg. of wheat and 3000 litre of water to produce one kg. of rice. Producing sufficient food is mostly related to sufficient water.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

Irrigation can ensure an adequate and reliable supply of water which increases yield of crops. In India we have yet provided up to 25% of agricultural land under irrigation. Irrigated land in Orissa is less than 25 per cent. Agriculture can be viewed in three aspects *i.e.* production, procurement and distribution.

The Government should take all possible steps to increase production of agricultural produce. In order to increase irrigation potentiality, the provision made in the budget for irrigation seems not to increase irrigated area to the desired level. Similarly use of fertilizers is also an important factor to increase food production. The cooperative institutions in the country should be strengthened so that it provide credit facilities to the farmers at the door step so that they can purchase fertilizers and pesticides in time.

Simultaneously it is foremost duty of the Government is to procure food grains from the farmers so that the farmers do not suffer from distress sale. In Orissa, the FCI did not purchase paddy from the farmers last year so the farmers of Orissa suffered from distress sale. The farmers had to sale their paddy at much lower rate and thus sustained heavy loss. The Hon. Agriculture Minister in his recent visit to Orissa has admitted the fact and he has assured that in the next year FCI will purchase paddy from the farmers of Orissa.

The Union Government is duty bound to see that food stuff are distributed among the states uniformly *i.e.* as per their actual requirements. Although the Government of India has made a policy to allocate foodgrains under TDP at 35 Kg. per family (BPL) and Antyodaya (AAY). In most of the cases this is not followed strictly as a result of which State Governments. Put to embarrassing position. So far as allotment of foodgrain to APL families is concerned the supply is very less in comparison to the demand. The supply of wheat is very low so far as case of Orissa State is concerned. From the year 2005 to 2008 wheat allocation to Orissa is nearly 50% of its requirement.

Hence I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to increase supply of wheat quota to Orissa State.

So far as my 'KANDHAMAL' constituency is concerned I put forth the following problems so that the Hon'ble Minister may kindly try to solve in the interest of 30 lakh people of my constituency.

Kandhamal once one of the most peaceful district with all its positive atmosphere in map of India has now turned to be a strife-torn place as regards food-insecurity,

violence and communal unrest. The U.N. World Food in secure' district of Orissa, the country's poorest state. It said the infant mortality rate in Kandhamal district as 119 per over 1000 live births compared to Orissa's 65 per 1000 live birth and National IMR of 57. As far as food availability is concerned Kandhamal is extremely insecure of the 30 districts of Orissa.

A district with such low development indices Kandhamal having high forest cover has low net sown area leading to even lower irrigation and a pathetic per capita agricultural production estimated at Rs. 75/- per month. Therefore, the Government of India need to interfere at this juncture taking the following aspects into account:—

The tribal people of the district cultivate mostly Turmeric (Haldi) and Ginger in the hilly and up lands and in every year 60,000 MT of organic Turmeric (Haldi) are produced which is of export quality. But due to lack of effective procurement system there is distress sale by which the Haldi growers who are S.T. people incur heavy loss which badly affects the economy of the district. Therefore, it is urged upon the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to kindly direct the NAFED to purchase the Turmeric so that farmers get reasonable price.

As there is 6 lakh hectares forest area and forest is a part and parcel of the 90% of the people of this district. An "Agro Forestry" research station may be established in suitable place at Kandhamal district and the cultivation of high yielding species of spices as cash crop may be introduced by "Spices Board" in Kandhamal district.

Boudh district being a part of my constituency is a dry area and suffers from drought in every year. This district has hardly 10% of irrigation facilities. There is urgently in need of an irrigation project for which one barrage across the river "TEL" at Manikpur may be constructed so that 20,000 hectares of agricultural land can be irrigated and this barrage will decrease the flood havoc in river Mahanadi.

Similarly, Nayagarh district which is a part of my constituency has lowest irrigation potentiality in the state *i.e.* 7% and for which much awaited Brutanga Medium Irrigation Project may be constructed so that it can not only irrigate 25,000 hectares of agricultural land of Nayagarh district but also will contribute a great deal for flood protection of Mahanadi system.

SHRI M. KRISHNASSWAMY (Arani): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture. Again, I would like to thank hon. UPA Chairperson, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and the hon. Prime Minister for giving inputs and instruction to the hon. Finance Minister to present an excellent Budget.

Being a humble farmer's son, I would like to speak on agriculture. Everybody is telling that agriculture is the backbone of the country. Everybody agrees that most of the agriculturists, that is 65 per cent of the agriculturists, depend on rain. In certain States, there is deficiency of rain. Realizing all these factors, in the Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has allocated more funds for agriculture and rural development.

The flagship scheme, namely, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been provided Rs. 39,100 crore, an increase of about 150 per cent from the previous Budget. I also welcome the move announced in the Budget Speech to extend the period by six months up to 31st December, due to delayed monsoon, for farmers to repay 75 per cent of their arrears, while the remaining amount would be waived off. However, at present, about 60 per cent of farmers still avail loans from the non-institutional sources like private money-lenders. Our Government has brought out a scheme to cover this category of farmers also. I would request the Government to thoroughly examine the whole issue and come out with a simplified procedure for waving this kind of loans.

Under the National Food Security Mission, an outlay of Rs. 1,350 crore is provided. The Government has also promised to bring forward Food Security Act which would facilitate food for all and wipe out hungry and squalor, as the scheme envisages 25 kilograms of rice or wheat at Rs. 3 per kilogram.

I would like to bring it before the august House that the Government gives subsidies and beneficial schemes to our farmers irrespective of the State or area like in fertilizers, seeds, loans, etc. But I would like the rain-deficient States like Tamil Nadu and districts like mine – my district is a very backward district mostly dependent on agriculture. There is not even a small industry in my district and all are dependent on agriculture—be given additional subsidies and be given preferential treatment similar to the one given to hilly areas.

The hilly area States such as North-East are given extra subsidy and also extra money for their

development. In Tamil Nadu, there are many deficient Districts, and particularly my district, Tiruvannamalai, is a poor district and all the people are depending on agriculture. So, these districts should be given more subsidies. So, this reservation must be given after taking the Region's annual rainfall into account. Thus, a farmer from a rain deficient State or district or a drought hit farmer should be given preferential treatment when compared to a farmer who is endowed with good rainfall and water bodies. So, there must be some difference between a rich district and a poor district.

Sir, as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, as you are aware, there is dispute on the river water. There is a central pool in respect of electricity. In our State, there is Neyveli Lignite Corporation, Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station and other sources. There is a central pool. They distribute electricity to all the deficient districts. Like that, water also must be nationalized. There should be a central pool for water also so that they can distribute water from the central pool to the deficient States and deficient districts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all water bodies must be nationalized and brought under a central pool, instead of depending upon our neighbouring States like Karnataka, Kerala. The Centre should decide on how much water must be allotted to each State like how it decides on power, revenue etc. and should be calculated based upon the area under cultivation and the number of farmers dependent upon on it. I am confident that a formula for this can be arrived at after due consultation process with all the States. This will have far reaching effects on our farmers.

I would like to give one more suggestion to the Government. The Ministry of Agriculture along with the State Governments should have a database of all farmers in the State and the area under cultivation of each farmer along with crops grown by them regularly. The Government can decide upon the Minimum Support Price, subsidies and loans based on their land holdings and previous crop grown there. In case of drought or deficient rainfall, the farmer must be insured against it. The identity of the farmer and his land holdings must be integrated with the national ID card – Sir, these are all very important suggestions that I am giving to the Government – so that there is no duplicity, and subsidies reach the farmer directly and can be monitored.

Sir, Special Economic Zone is very necessary. They are acquiring land, and, of course, there are disputes

on that. There are issues regarding acquisition of land and rehabilitation of displaced people. These are very important issues. Proper compensation must be given to the farmers, and also you can provide good model schools and hospitals in the areas where the people are residing. There would not be any problem at all. They would be willingly giving their land if you give more compensation and if you provide good schools and also hospitals in the same area. This is my suggestion to the Government.

Sir, marketing facilities have to be provided. These people work under hot sun and rain but market is not there for them. For example, in a family, a person is having about 100 acres of land; he is not able to celebrate his daughter's marriage and he is borrowing money for that. On the other hand his brother, who is having one shop in a small town, is easily able to celebrate the marriage of his daughter by spending about Rs. 10 lakh. This is the situation of the farmers!

But in this Budget, our Government has allocated sufficient funds for the agriculturists. Our hon. Agriculture Minister is a very dynamic person. He had been a Chief Minister of a State; he had been a Defence Minister of India and now he is the Agriculture Minister of India. I am sure that he would take every steps to improve the standards of living of the agriculturists.

Sir, everybody is aware about the great challenges, which our nation is facing in these times of economic slowdown, and monsoon failure ahead. We will overcome them. I am sure that our country's future lie in safe and secured hands of the Congress leadership.

With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA (Davangere): I support the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture.

The importance of Agriculture was spread in Karnataka around 16th Century by SARVJNA, a great poet, saint and philosopher. He said that among all systems of education, Agriculture is the best. Unfortunately, this truth has not been realized by my countrymen. There is enormous increase in the agricultural production in China. Variety of roses and vegetables are grown in large quantity in Japan. They grow colourful roses and vegetables in the balcony also. Japan is one of the prominent exporters of roses. But

*Speech was laid on the Table.

there, in our country, we are struggling to stop the farmers' suicide. Ho! What a contrast. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. Hence, top priority must be given to agriculture and a substantial amount must be allocated to agriculture from the Budget. After allocation, it is our prime duty to see that the allocated money reaches the farmers.

Even after 62 years of Independence, our farmers are leading pathetic life. Ours is a predominantly agrarian economy. We cannot achieve a rapid growth without ensuring a remunerative price to farm produce, quality seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, power irrigation and road connectivity.

Marketing facility should be modernized and the farmers must get remunerative prices. Paddy producers, jowar, arecanut, coconut, vegetables, maize growers and sugarcane growers are facing these problems. In fact, sugarcane growers from Karnataka and Maharashtra have already raised their voice to increase the minimum support price for their produce to Rs. 1,600/- per metric tonne.

Sir, the condition of milk producers is most pathetic. He works in the field from morning to evening. He takes care of the cow all the times. He is called as Negilayogi by our national poet Kuvempu. He takes the milk to the nearby town for sale. He gets only Rs. 13/- per litre, but a litre of Bisleri is purchased at Rs. 16/-. If this situation continues like this, our Negilayogi will be a skeleton yogi.

I would like to emphasis that priority and encouragement to agriculture will automatically help us to tackle the most serious problems like global warming which has shaken the whole world in recent times.

I hope the Hon'ble Minister will consider my submissions and do justice to the farmers of our nation.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhalishahr): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that you gave me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the agricultural budget. The total geographical area of the country is 32.87 crore hectares out of which the total sowing area is 14.13 crore hectares while the total crop area is 19.30 crore hectares. India is predominantly an agricultural country. Many great men have stated that the soul of the country resides in villages. The way to

[Shri Tufani Saroj]

the progress of the country passes through the cultivated lands. However, it is a matter of regret that even after 62 years of independence, we have not been able to get water for every piece of cultivable land. Even today, 65 per cent cultivation depends on monsoon. If there is rain cultivation takes place in 65 per cent cultivable land of the country, and in case of drought, it does not take place even in 60 per cent land is dependent on irrigation and that is also dependent on proper rain. In case of drought and scarce rains there is less water in rivers and the drying up of dams due to which our power generation capacity also gets affected. As such, there one power cuts and we fail to provide adequate power supply to the farmers. Everybody talks about agriculture and expresses his concern about it both within and outside. However, the amount of efforts made for the development of towns is much more than the concern for villages and agriculture at large. If there is no power in the city for a single day we see so much hue and cry over it. It happens because industrialists and educated people live there. On the other hand there is no power in the villages for several months due to which the farmers are not able to do the cultivation and are unable to sow the paddy. When these people complains to the concerned authorities through phone calls the latter do not pay heed to them at all. They don't care about the farmers everyone neglects the farmers.

Sir, the Government claims to have carried out the rainwater harvesting on a large scale. It has already spent Rs. 75 thousand crore on it but water not ever worth Rs. 5 crore has not been stored. Government had also constituted a Rainfed Authority of India in November, 2006 but it is still not clear what the said authority has done. Today the 80 percent of the amount given as subsidy to the farmers goes to the accounts of companies.

This amount goes to the accounts of industrialists manufacturing the chemical fertilizers and farmers are least benefited by it. The Government has given around Rs. two lakh in the form of subsidy. I would like to suggest that the farmers would stand to directly benefit if a certain suggest that being cut is made in the large scale subsidies and amount equivalent to that is given to the farmers in form of better price for their produce. Today the farmers are badly affected. A farmer who is having 10 acres of land is even unable to marry off his sons and daughters. While a peon can easily do the same. Nowadays agriculture is no more a profitable

venture. Today farmers are no longer interested in it. You can understand the condition which country might face a day when the disenchanted farmers give up the occupation of farming in this country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I belong to the Eastern region of Uttar Pradesh. Our farmers are facing a big problem. While on one hand farmers suffer from the heavy rains, on other hand they face the major problem of damage to crops by Gharroj. Hon'ble farmer Chief Minister of our state is sitting here. He belongs to Eastern region and is well aware of this problem. A farmer tries to raise the crop by putting in a lot of hardwork whether it is of Arhar dal or vegetables or any other crop, but the standing crop is destroyed by the Gharroj. Gharroj is one of the species of animals living in forests and we call them neelgai. It is not a pet animal but it is causing great damage to the farmers. If the Government enacts an enabling provision for talking the problem Gharroj, it will go a long way in helping the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Minister for Agriculture has talked of carrying out an investigation through a task force to look into the problem of the loan taken from the money lenders in wake of the upcoming elections in Maharashtra. The indebtedness of farmers who take loan from money-lenders is a problem faced by the whole country. Farmer takes the loan for agriculture and when he suffers losses, it is a double-whammy for him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my constituency adjoining Jaunpur in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh region. It is the largest district of Uttar Pradesh. The Chief Minister of the State is not concerned about the agriculture in the State. She is not worried about whether the farmers are sowing the paddy or not. I would urge upon the Union Government to instal a plant in the Jaunpur district for power generation. It would be a great help to the farmers. I also would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to increase the agriculture budget by deducting the budget of each and every department so that the problems of the farmers in the whole country could be solved.

*SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Tikamgarh): I would like to express my views on demands for grants for agriculture. Agriculture in our country is mainly dependent upon the monsoon which has been quite irregular for

the last few years. Consequently there are lots of changes in the environment which are affecting the farmers. In several states the farmers are committing suicides as they are not getting any returns for the money and hard work they are investing in the agriculture. They are getting heavily indebted day by day due to failure of crops. We have only asked for the waving of the loans of the farmers who have availed House from the banks but the small farmers, do not take the loan from the bank. They take it from the affluent people of village and when they are not able to return the same they are forced to lose their land also and are compelled to commit suicide. Nowadays agriculture has become a loss-incurring proposition rather than a profit making.

The scheme of inter-linking of rivers was framed by the earlier Government but it seems that the Government is not serious about it. On one hand the crops and houses of the farmers are damaged by the flood and on other hand there is a condition of drought due to lack of rains. Therefore, in order to provide better opportunities of irrigation to the farmers to save them from the scourge of the flood, there is a need to work on this scheme.

Nowadays there is abundant sale of sub-standard seeds in the market. A farmer does the hard work, water the fields but when the crop grows up he finds that the corns are large but seeds therein are small. So, stern action should be taken in this direction and the farmers should be provided with the good quality seeds inadequate quantity through the cooperative societies.

Ours is a agriculture based economy. When there is good crop, farmers get good return. He invests that in the market and there is a spurt in the demands for the commodities and to meet the said demands there is an increase in the production in the industries and factories. So if the farmer is prosperous, the whole country is prosperous.

Therefore, in order to make the agriculture profitable, grant-in-aid for the farmers should be encouraged instead of the loan and schemes for interest free loans should be framed. Farmers should also be involved while formulating the partnership agriculture schemes as they can provide suggestions for the development of agriculture more practically. They, being a farmer can also provide suggestions to solve the problems of the other people related with the farming.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (Nalanda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is an agriculture based country. I belong to the family of a farmer. Hon'ble Minister for agriculture is here. There are twenty blocks in Nalanda where four rice procurement were centers had been opened just before the elections. If the rice of the farmers remained outside or could not be sold then they are definitely going to die. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister for finance to open rice and wheat procurement centers in all of the 20 blocks of Nalanda.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that our respected leader Shri Nitish Kumar had opened a Betel Research Centre in the year 2003 in Nalanda. But, no scientist has been posted there till now. There are around 10000 Betel farmers and cultivate 'Magahi Paan' which is exported to the other countries also. If it gets infested the whole betel cultivation is damaged. The condition of betel farmers is very bad. I would like to urge the Government to appoint the scientist in the Betel Research Centre. Betel farmers are given the status of gardeners. They should be treated as farmers. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture is sitting here.

I demand that betel cultivators be accorded the status of farmers so that they may be benefitted.

Sir, I demand from Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture that a Potato Research Centre be opened in district Nalanda. It is my view that so much potato is produced in district Nalanda that it can feed the whole Bihar on its own. Nalanda district has been a big market of potato and green vegetables.

Sir, I would like to demand from the Hon'ble Minister that the farmers of Nalanda district be encouraged by opening a Potato Research Centre here.

I lay the remaining part of my speech on the table of the House.

*I represent Nalanda Parliamentary Constituency which is of international importance. My state is an agricultural state and Parliamentary Constituency Nalanda is totally an agricultural district. This district is very developed in agriculture. This district is famous in the country for potato, onion and green vegetables. Potato, onion and green vegetables are transported from here to the whole of the country. But there is no proper storage facility for them.

*...*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

The National Horticulture Minion of the Ministry of Agriculture should set up storage facility for potato and vegetables in the district Nalanda and encourage the farmers for their production. NAFED under the Ministry of Agriculture should encourage the farmers engaged in the cultivation of onion in district Nalanda. It should provide good quality seeds to the farmers so that they may get help in onion production.

NAFED should ensure good remunerative price for the onion produced by farmers. It is a fact that onion produce perishes within a short span of time, therefore, the arrangement for its storage should be made through NAFED so that the farmers' crop may not get destroyed or damaged and they may get maximum price for their produce.

Today, all noted companies of the country are engaged in selling of agricultural produce. I demand from the Government to make arrangement for the marketing of potato vegetables, onion etc. produced on a large scale in the district Nalanda. There is a need to set up potato Research Centre here for the betterment of the farmers so that they get good quality seeds and benefits of research.

The cultivation of Magahi betel is carried out in Islampur in my Parliamentary Constituency, Nalanda. The betel is cultivated here in a traditional way and there are about ten thousand people engaged in this cultivation and they are engaged in this profession for generations. The insects destroy the entire crop and even a small disease can destroy the entire crop of betel-this crop is very much prone to fungal diseases but farmers do not get any compensation if their crop is perished. They are still considered gardeners. Betel cultivators should be accorded the status of farmers. This is a long standing demand which is yet to be acceded to.

After a long drawn mass agitation, a Betel Research Centre was opened there in the year 2003. But research work has not yet started there. Even after the completion of all the formalities non-commencement of the work, related to Research Centre is a matter of regret. One more thing, the paddy and wheat cultivators do not get remunerative price of their produce because block-wise procurement centre do not exist here. Here, there are only four procurement centers. There is a need to get up block-wise procurement centres because farmers may get remunerative price of paddy and wheat only through these centres. The large scale cultivation of pulses and oilseeds also take place in this parliamentary Constituency but they need supply of good quality seeds

and pesticides from the Government. The crop of masur is often affected by fungus and the way out for its protection is sprinkling of good quality fungicide on the crop. There is a scarcity of good and original fungicide in the market. The Government should make arrangement for this.

I demand from the Government to open Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Raigir and Islampur of Nalanda district.

The milk producing farmers of Nalanda district are not getting remunerative price for their produce I demand from the Government to provide remunerative price to them through co-operative societies.

Farmers have to buy fertilizers at very high price from black market which highly increases the cost of their crop. At times, fertilizers are not available in the market. I demand from the Government to open a store in Nalanda district through co-operative so that farmers can buy good quality seeds and fertilizers from there at fair prices.

I demand from the Government to encourage the farmers of district Nalanda engaged in the cultivation of mushroom. Large scale cultivation of mushroom is carried out here but in the absence of marketing and proper storage facilities, farmers do not get remunerative price of their produce. There is a need to make arrangement for its marketing and storage facility.

The loans given by banks for buying big tractors, should be treated as gricultural loans. This is my demand from the Government. The marginal and small farmers will be benefitted by this and it will also be helpful in increasing agricultural produce and generating employment opportunities.

I demand from the Government to provide subsidy of Rs. 20 on every litre of diesel to farmers so that they can deal easily with drought like situation and save their Kharif crop.

Compensation should be given to the farmers of district Nalanda for the losses caused to them by floods during the last three years. They have still not received any compensation. The matter is still under the consideration of the ministry of Agriculture I demand from the Government to provide compensation to the farmers hit by floods at the earliest.*

[English]

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (Kozhikode): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji for introducing the historical General Budget which has several provisions for ensuring basic *Roti, Kapda and Makaan* for *Aam Aadmi*. I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister and the leader of this august House Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee who has done a very commendable job by ensuring social security, social development and social justice.

Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to comment on the Budget. I shall focus on infrastructural development related issues envisioned in the Budget. My first point is on the National Policy for Farmers, 2007, as mentioned in the *Economic Survey, 2008-2009*. The Government has a comprehensive National Social Security Scheme for the farmers for ensuring livelihood security by taking care of insurance needs on account of illness and old age. I hope this plan is being included in the Agriculture and Cooperation Head of the Budget. In this context, I would like to make some suggestions and appeal that hon. Shri Sharad Pawar and the Government may consider extending a fixed annual income support for marginal farmers along the lines of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. This assistance is very much required for the farmers who are vulnerable to fluctuations in agricultural production. Such an assistance will definitely be a big relief for small farmers ensuring basic livelihood despite the crop failures.

The second point that I would like to make is about continuing fertilizer subsidy. The hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech expressed concern about the declining response of agricultural production to increase the fertilizer usage in the country. The hon. Finance Minister seems to follow the policy of giving more subsidy to chemical fertilizers in the context of nation's food security. This is a matter of serious concern because the increased usage of chemical fertilizers will lead to destruction of land and nature. The Government of India is spending crores of rupees for production and importation of chemicals and fertilizers. The Government seems to be not taking seriously the importance of development of alternative systems. India has developed so many technologies of organic manure which are cheaper and eco-friendly.

I would like to request the Government to develop an integrated plan for production of more organic manure and its utilization by farmers. I also request the Government to give some fixed incentives to those farmers who will be using only organic manure. I am sure the hon. Minister of Agriculture will agree that the increased usage of organic manure will save millions of dollars of foreign exchange.

The third point I would like to make is about the provision of agricultural research and education. The Government is planning to spend Rs. 1,836 crore under this Head. As a farmer from Kerala, who has years of experience, I have some different views on the agricultural research and education. It is high time that the Government came out with a White Paper over the performances of various institutions, Boards and other organizations which are working in the field of agricultural research and education.

It is a matter of serious concern that no cure has been developed by any of these institutions for various common crop diseases like *Munja, Mandari, Mahali and Koombucheyal*, - these are the names of diseases in Malayalam - which affect coconut and arecanut crops. No cure has been found for them so far. The fifty years of research have not found a remedy for the root-wilt disease which is destroying coconut. The only remedy is cutting or destroying the trees. I express my serious concern over the issue, while the Government of India is spending crores of rupees on research institutions.

The Coconut Board is not performing the way it should have and there is no proper procurement system for coconut existing in Kerala. Even though the support prices are announced by the Central Government, the State procurement agency, KeraFed has become a total failure in its performance.

I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister to withdraw the excise duty on coconut oil packed in up to 200 ml packs. The coconut oil has been treated differently than other edible oils, which also have multiple-usage. Once again, I would request all concerned to remove this discrimination to coconut oil, which I understand is not the case for other vegetable oils, like mustard oil, olive oil, etc.

The fourth point I would like to mention is that the loan waiver benefits may be extended to all loans availed by agriculturists up to 31st December, 2007 because some banks, especially the co-operative banks renewed

the short-term loans availed by agriculturists *suo motu* even without collecting any interest but adding it to new loan amount on the instructions of the Kerala Government, whereby they will not come under its purview even though the same has to come under its purview.

Now, I come to my fifth point. I would like to appeal to the Government to take some urgent steps to write off agricultural loans taken by arecanut farmers, considering the fact that arecanut crop is under a serious crisis.

My sixth point is that the fishing industry in Kerala is one of the largest foreign exchange earners for the country, but lakhs of fishermen who generate this wealth are extremely poor. So, I would like to urgently appeal to the Government to write off loans availed by the fishermen at par with agricultural loans.

I would like to conclude my speech by making an appeal to the hon. Agriculture Minister to declare the one and only natural drink approved by WHO, our simple *nariyal pani* or tender coconut and *elaneer* in Malayam, as the official sport-drink for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (Meerut): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Hon'ble Members have discussed all aspects of agriculture during the last two days. Hon'ble Members have expressed their views on all the topics be it irrigation, or fertilizers, or seeds. They have also expressed their views on apprehensions as well as possibilities concerning this sector. I have been allotted a little time so, I will take this time to highlight some of the problems related to my constituency in particular and western Uttar Pradesh. Sir, Bihar is doing very well without respected Laluji but the farmers who are growing potato, a main vegetable for the common man, are being neglected in western Uttar Pradesh. It is right that the sugar-cane is the main crop over there and the Government is taking care of that. Its problems are related to the state and I do not want to dwell on that but what I want to say is that nobody is paying any heed to potato growers and their problems at state level or at centre level. Farmers are not getting even the cost price for their produce. I do not want to get into detail of statistics but the fact is that farmers have to destroy the potato crops by

ploughing it or by not lifting their potato from cold storages because they can not recover the cost. Even Shri Rajnath Singh has also mentioned in his speech that Agriculture Ministry have not taken any pains for food processing arrangement. Unless proper attention is paid towards increasing the price of potato crop, the farmers will not get the remunerative price of their produce.

Similarly, there is a big fruit producing belt in my compulsory in which mangoes, lichi, grapes and pears are grown a large scale which includes Meerut, Bagpat, Amroha and Buland Shahr. Very small quantity of them are exported, some is sold and rest perish because there is no arrangement to process them. I request that a research centre should be set up for conducting research on food processing. For that, I would like to suggest a place Noorpur Madhayya which falls under my constituency and it is the birth place of Chaudhary Charan Singh, the messiah of farmers who fought for the farmers of the country throughout his life. But it is very neglected place. Today, hon'ble Agriculture Minister, himself, is present in the house. I, would like to request him through you, that a food processing research center of national level be set up at Noorpur Madhayya to pay homage to Late through which farmers may be given guidance for food processing of potatoes, fruits and other foodgrains. This will facilities remunerative price to the farmers for their produce and it will also generate employment and will certainly boost the development of the area. It will also be a great tribute to Choudhary Saheb. With these words, I conclude and I think I have not crossed the time-limit.

[English]

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (Tirunelveli): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak during the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Most of the people in our country depend on agriculture, but they are suffering a lot in various ways. Most of them are living in rural areas, and they are confronting so many difficulties. Even though, agriculture has always been India's most important economic sector, yet the share of agriculture in GDP has decreased in comparison to the growth in industrial and service sectors.

The agriculture sector contributed 17.8 per cent for India's GDP during 2007-2008. The Eleventh Plan period

expects four per cent growth for the agriculture sector. The agriculturists in the agriculture sector are producing agricultural goods and food materials for us. In Tamil there is a saying that:

*"Uzhuthundu Vaazhvaare vaazhvaar
Matrellam Thozhuthundu pinselvaar."*

It is a word of the Thiruvalluvar, who says that: "All the people are depending only on the agriculturists. They are producing the food materials for us, and we have to depend only on the agriculturists." This is the *Thirukural*. It is an important *kural* in Tamil that: "They are producing agricultural products, especially, in the rural areas." They are producing vegetables for us, but the cost of production of the vegetables that they are producing is very high. As and when they bring those products to the market, the commission agents in the market as also the vendors or the purchasers swindle these agriculturists by fixing low prices.

They are not at all getting remunerative prices for their products. It is very important that we have to give Minimum Support Price to them. The Government is fixing the Minimum Support Price for paddy, wheat and sugarcane. The Minimum Support Price is already given for such crops. In a similar fashion we should fix the Minimum Support Price for vegetables also.

15.55 hrs.

[DR. GIRIJA VYAS *in the Chair*]

Cold-storage facilities must also be provided to them to protect these perishable commodities. Vegetables are very important and, therefore, Minimum Support Price for their produce is also essential to protect the farm community.

Second, irrigation is another very important factor. Water resources are very important for the agriculturists. Many agriculturalists are dependent on these water resources for cultivation. I want to make a suggestion here. Why should we not establish one river link right from Kashmir to Kanyakumari? Having such a river will help in national integration. There are four lane National Highways from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, we have the road which is telling national integration. There are floods, sometimes, in Ganga, Yamuna and Cauveri. When there are heavy floods, the surplus waters are wasted by letting them pour into the sea. These waters can be channelised through this national river link connected Kashmir to

Kanyakumari. The surplus waters can be channelised and can be used for agricultural purposes. Thus, almost all the States can get water facilities. Why should we not have a national river link? We can propose it in the name of 'Rajiv Gandhi' who is a proponent of national integration. If we can have such a national river link, it will be possible to provide irrigation facilities in all the States, basically, for agricultural purposes and drinking water.

Now, I come to fish farming. Most of the people in southern areas, especially in my constituency, are engaged in fish farming; they are living on fish farming. Most of the people in southern areas are suffering a lot when they enter the sea. The fishermen who go into the sea for catching fish are suffering at the hands of Sri Lankan forces who are not only causing damage to their property, but also, sometimes, shooting them dead; these things are taking place. These people have to be protected because fish farming is an important activity for development.

Coming to animal husbandry and dairy development, you have to give more importance to it. The Budget has given more importance to animal husbandry and dairy development. Milk production is very important in animal husbandry because it provides employment opportunities to many people in rural areas. Remunerative price should be given in order to encourage milk production. We are paying Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 per litre of bottled water. When we are ready to pay Rs. 12 or Rs. 20 per litre of bottled water, why should we not pay Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 per litre of milk? We have to give remunerative price for milk also.

One Member of Parliament from Kerala spoke about the coconut prices and that the coconut producers are suffering enormously. In Tamil Nadu also, the coconut producers are not getting remunerative prices. If they do not get remunerative prices, how is it possible to encourage coconut production? These people should always be protected. It is very important that agriculture should get priority among all the sectors.

16.00 hrs.

In rural areas, the agriculture people are indebted. They are borrowing money from the local money-lenders. The local money-lenders are charging more interest from them. This way, they become indebted. It is very difficult for them to get away from these people. Our Government has taken steps in Maharashtra to give relief to them.

In almost all the States, people have been suffering. We have to give them some remuneration. We have to give more support to the agriculturists. Our able hon. Agriculture Minister has been allocating a lot of money and coming out with a number of productive policies for these agriculture people. I would request you that we have to give primary importance to the agriculturists of our country. Then only we can stop the import of food materials from other countries.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (Khammam): Madam Chair person there is no security for agriculture farmers in this country. The main reason behind it is that the farmers are not getting proper price for their produce. Hon. Minister is following the whole sale price index for analyzing minimum support price for farm goods. It is very unfortunate. If we calculate minimum support price through whole sale index, the farmers will not get proper price of their produce. The whole sale index is entirely different. You are not calculating the actual cost of farmers. I want to say to the agriculture Minister that the Government of India has taken several steps to improve the agriculture growth and return on investment in agriculture. If it is related to return on investment, you must calculate it with price index. The situation today is that while the inflation rate is decreasing. On the other hand, the rates are going like anything. This is one of the main reasons. Farmers are not getting minimum support price properly.

Madam Chairperson rates have been quoted for minimum support price of 22 agriculture products. Among them I want to speak on only three items. The input cost for paddy was worked out to 455.95 per quintal last year. I have obtained the figures from of ministry Agriculture. Minimum Support Price is being paid at Rs. 900 per quintal. Going by the calculation, farmers are getting 100 percent profit. In the same way rate of sugar cane has been fixed at Rs. 49.70 per quintal. Its minimum support price is Rs. 81 per quintal. Here, the farmers are getting almost 60-70 percent profit. Even the minimum support price for wheat has been fixed in the same way. I want to say that minimum support price has been wrongly worked out which is an injustice to the farmers of the country.

Madam, I, want to tell the Minister of Agriculture through you, that while fixing the minimum support price, the actual cost of cultivatin should be taken into considration. Considering the recommendations of the

Swaminathan committee, actual cost of farmers should be worked out. A 4 percent rate of interest has been recommended in the report, which should be considered. Apart from that minimum support price should be fixed by incorporating a working capital to the farmers at 50 per cent of the total cost. I think Minister of the Agriculture has wide knowledge of sugar cane, but I want to tell him that most of the factories are being closed.

On the other hand, the rate of sugar has increased up to Rs. 24 per kg. Here, the analysed minimum support price is totally wrong. It should be immediately rectified, otherwise it will badly affect the agriculture sector. Taking cognizance of all these factors of our Telgudesham Leader Nora Chandra Babu Naidu had set up a market where farmers could sell their products directly. There were no middlemen and due to that initiatives we were able to control the price.

Recently, Finance Minister had mentioned only one thing that during the last five years of U.P.A. Government, they had increased the price by Rs. 300 per quintal but he had forgotten one thing. If we examine selling price, the rice was being sold at Rs. 13 per kg in 2004, whereas it has gone up to Rs. 38 per kg today. The rate has gone up almost 200 per cent. There is no point to quote pulse price which is out of context. Pulse was sold at Rs. 20 per kg but it is being sold at Rs. 90 or Rs. 100 per kg. Nowadays its rate has increased almost 300 percent Earlier pulses used to be a staple food for common man but pulses are now out of reach of the poor. In the UPA regime pulses are only for the rich. We should think over it and check this price rise.

With this I, want to say one thing through you, that a technology should be put in place immediately to check all these things and Government should think to improve the yield. Similarly there is shortage of fertilizers. ...*(Interruptions)* Last year in my Constituancy khamman the farmers who were demanding fertilizers, were lathi charged and jailed. We should ensure such things do not recur. Moslty villages are made units for insurance. In Anantpur of Andhra Pradesh, insurance claims for groundnut have not been cleared as yet the Government should do something about it. The Government should set up food processing units in the backward areas and try to improve the situation.

For that, I, want to say through you, to the Minister of Agriculture that minimum support price should be worked out property. They should be given reasonable for their produce.

[English]

SHRI S. ALAGIRI (Cuddalore): Respected Madam, *Vanakkam*.

I feel proud to begin my maiden speech in this august House quoting from the famous and eternal Tamil literary work of Thirukkural, which goes as follows:

*Uzhavinar kaimadamgin illai vizhaivadhum
Vitem Enbarkku Nilai*

This means that even the saints who claim to have renounced the world will have to depend upon the farmers for their sustenance. The great Tamil saint poet Thiruvalluvar said this 2000 years ago.

In the last year's Budget, due to the great efforts taken by Madam Soniaji, the then Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram waived agricultural loans to the magnitude of Rs. 70,000 crore. This relieved crores of Indian farmers of the burden of loan.

The previous Manmohan Singh Government, with the effort of Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawarji, enhanced the procurement price of wheat and paddy. Crores of farmers benefited from this.

That is why, they voted for the Congress-led UPA alliance. Since the days of evolution of agriculture, the farmer had only been suffering from losses. But thanks to the sustained efforts of Shrimati Sonia Ji, the farmers are well-off today. Owing to the loan waiver, enhancement of procurement price of grains, adequate loan facilities from the banks, etc. provided by the Government, the farmer is a happy lot now.

In our traditional ways of farming, the production is low, more workforce is required; the methods of cultivation should therefore be modernized. Planting and harvesting machines should be of light weight. They should also be inexpensive and affordable that even a farmer having three acres of land should own them. Our higher educational and technical institutions such as agricultural universities and IITs should focus their attention towards this end; and the standard of Indian agricultural universities should be raised.

The Indian farmer is producing only half the grains that is being produced in a hectare of land by a Chinese or an American agriculturist. What are the reasons for this? We do not have high-yield potency seeds; we lack modern agricultural implements and equipments. During

the process of harvesting itself, a lot of grains go waste. Besides, we do not possess modern technologies for the preservation of food grains. Our agricultural universities should be capable of overcoming all these deficiencies and shortcomings. The Central Government should allocate adequate funds to the universities and more so, for agricultural research.

An agricultural university must be established in each of the districts. I would frequently request the Agriculture Minister to establish Indian Council of Agriculture and Research Institution in my Cuddalore district, mainly for research on cashew and sugarcane.

Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the renowned Agriculture Scientist, in his Committee Report has recommended for enhancement of procurement prices of agricultural products, that is, production cost plus 50 per cent; but the recommendation has not been implemented so far. The Government has implemented the 6th Pay Commission Report. I welcome the same and express gratitude to the Government. But the question remains, why the Government has not implemented Swaminathan Committee Report so far. I want a specific reply from the hon. Minister of Agriculture. This is not my desire only, but crores of farmers are expecting reply from the Minister regarding this. In whatever efficient and modernization way it is carried out, the agricultural farming is a loss-incurring industry. So, the Government should grant a lot of subsidies to the farmers. The European and the American countries provide a lot of subsidies to their farmers. We should also do the same.

Grant of subsidies to the farmers is a justified demand. This is considered a social justice in economies. For example, in a Government office, a monthly salary of Rs. 20,000 is common nowadays. In other words, a Government employee can earn Rs. 666 per day.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please wind up now.

SHRI S. ALAGIRI: Is it possible for an Indian farmer to earn Rs. 666 per day? Our Government must change this state of affairs.

It is understood that the Government is considering the grant of fertiliser subsidy directly to the farmers. I welcome this. In this context, I have a suggestion to make beyond this. I can assure that if 60 kgs. of DAP, 30 kgs. of Urea, 100 kgs. of Complex and 50 kgs. of Potash per acre are provided to the farmers free of cost, the problems of agriculturists will be solved to a considerable extent.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI S. ALAGIRI: The benefits of crop insurance have not reached the poor farmers properly. The Government should take appropriate measures so that these benefits reach to all the farmers.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Alagiri Ji, you can lay your speech on the Table of the House.

SHRI S. ALAGIRI: By mechanisation of farming, the percentage of those engaged in this industry should be brought down from 60 to 30 per cent. The Government should evolve a master plan for this immediately.

Madam, before I conclude my speech I would like to say that the PDS shops should be opened even in villages having a population of just 500. These shops should be entrusted to the Self-Help Women's Group. They should function as mini-departmental stores.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I have given you a suggestion. You can lay your papers on the Table of the House.

SHRI S. ALAGIRI: There must be a strict vigilance system in place to keep a close watch on the functioning of the shops.

With this I conclude, expressing my heart felt gratitude to the Chair, and I also lay a part of my speech on the Table of the House.

*The benefits of crop insurance have not reached the poor farmers properly. The Government should take appropriate measures for reaching these benefits to all these farmers. By mechanization of farming, the percentage of those engaged in this industry should be brought down from 60 to 30%. The Government should evolve a master plan for this immediately.

A lot of water is being wasted now. The usage of water for irrigation should be streamlined. Our irrigation methods almost remain the same to day as they were 2000 years ago. We must bring changes in this regard on a war-footing.

The procurement price of paddy should be increased. The Government should keep this in mind, while fixing the procurement price.

As you all know, still ours is basically an agrarian economy and the country will prosper only if the farmers is a contended and happy man.

Food security is most important to our country. I am very thankful to the Hon. Sarath Pawar ji to ban the wheat export. The procurement price of sugarcane is low. The cultivable area of sugarcane is in Tamil Nadu has also shrunk. Due to this, the crushing period of sugar factories has also come down. The Government should therefore, take measures to pay Rs. 2000/- per tonne.

In my constituency, a lot of cashew is being produced. The farmers are facing a lot of hardship due to the lack of facilities for selling them. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture should come forth to establish a 'Cashew Development Centre' there.

For a country like India with a large scale of poor population, PDS is a very important scheme. If PDS is carried out properly, the poor will not be affected by the price-rise.

The PDS shops should be opened even in villages have a population of just 500. These shops should be entrusted to the 'Self-help Women's Group'. They should function as mini-departmental stores.

There must be a strict vigilance system in place to keep a close watch on the functioning of the shops. If the PDS shops are run properly and without corruption, crores of poor people will benefit and be happy. With this I conclude, expressing my heart felt gratitude to the Chair for giving me such an opportunity to put forth my humble views before this august House.*

[Translation]

*SHRI TARA CHAND BHAGORA (Banswara): I want to support the union general budget. First of all, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar for presenting a historic budget keeping in view the interest of common man.

Under the guidance of our leader UPA chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and the able leadership of Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the UPA Government took various steps in the interest of common man during the last five years, as a result of which the poeple of the

*...*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

country have given opportunity to the UPA Government to continue for the second term at the Centre. Our strong belief is that our Government will succeed in fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

This year's budget is a very good budget, dedicated to common man and development. It focusses on rural development and especially takes care of the interests of the farmers. Budget has an allocation of Rs. 39.100 crore for 'NREGA' scheme which is 144% more than that of last year. This is a welcome step, because an ambitious scheme like 'NREGA' has proved to be a boon across the country and, particularly for the people of tribal areas in south Rajasthan. At the same time, the Government has also a budget for CRF with which famine and drought relief measures have to be carried out, but it is not being done under it and it is being taken care of under NREGA scheme only. I come from the area of South Rajasthan which is a tribal area, adjoining the borders of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. In this area, the main source of livelihood is agriculture, but it is very difficult for the people to earn livelihood for their families because of small land holdings. In this area, agriculture totally depends on monsoon and it often has to face drought and famine situation. In 60 years of independence, it has suffered drought and famine for 50 years.

Our respected, former Prime Minister, Late Smt. Indira Gandhi had inaugurated Mahi Bajaj Sagar Multipurpose project in my parliamentary constituency, Banswara in eighties and nineties. It provides irrigation facilities to one and half lakh hectare land in Banswara district, but in the districts of Banswara and Dungarpur which are the tribal dominant districts, most of the area is still non-command area, whereas the major part of Mahi's water goes waste flowing to Kadana dam of Gujarat. Kadana dam is fed by Sardar Sarovar project of Narmada, so the water of Mahi river is required to be used in the areas of south Rajasthan which are deprived of irrigation facility so far. Both the State and the Central Governments are formulating scheme to provide irrigation facilities in unirrigated areas. In south Rajasthan, the tribal area of Udaipur division has a very fertile and arable land. This area will have an all-round development if there is channalisation of rivers Mahi-Som-Jakham and so on and if the scheme for the use of water of Asia's second largest man made lake like Jaysamand for the irrigation and drinking purposes is formulated and approved by Planning Commission. Agriculture and small and big agro industries will crop up here and the life of tribals who have been backward

for centuries will change. They will become economically self-reliant and be able to join the mainstream of the nation. There is ample opportunity of employment based on fishery, dairy, horticulture and vegetables in this tribal area. What is needed is this that the Central Government should provide more financial assistance and get the special projects of this area sanctioned.

I would like to submit that there is a need to approve extension plan of Mahi project with the canals extending to non command area so that the water of Mahi does not go waste and its every drop is used to irrigate the non cotton land of Dungarpur and Banswara as well as the thirsty land of tribal area and it should be used for drinking water, Government should also promote dairy for the benefits of the farmers. This Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Ashok Gehlot has taken a step in this direction while making a provision of Rs. 32 crore for Mahi's Bhikhabhai Sagwara canal in the revised budget introduced in state Assembly on 8th July, but it requires Rs. 200 to 300 crore.

I would request Prime Minister to formulate an ambitious project to irrigate land of non-command area in tribal areas and get it sanctioned by the Planning commission so that agriculture and agriculture related programmes could materialise coming upto the expectations over there and the problem of drinking water be tackled in this tribal area facing drought and famine most of the time. At the same time, the level of ground and surface water will go up with the development of command area.

I would also like to submit that keeping in view the requirement of drinking water, Rajasthan should be given a status of special state. In this connection, the state's Chief Minister Shri Ashok Gehlot has written a letter to the Prime Minister and also submitted a memorandum to the 13th Finance Commission. From the geographical point of view, Rajasthan is the biggest state of the country. Rajasthan's geographical conditions are well known. To the west of the state is desert. It has a long international border adjoining the neighbouring country Pakistan. On the other side is the tribal dominant south eastern region of the state surrounded by Aravali mountain range where the nomadic tribes like Gadariya Luhar reside.

Water is a scarce resource in Rajasthan. It has only one percent of total water availability in the country. Out of 237 blocks of the state, only 32 blocks have drinking water available. The remaining blocks are not in a

position to top water resources due to steep decline of ground water over there. Except Chambal there is no other perennial river in the state.

Under these adverse circumstances, it is not possible to meet the challenges of providing drinking water to each and every village of the country, particularly Rajasthan by 2011 as envisaged in the president's Address. Unless Rajasthan gets a status of special state from drinking water view point with the provision of more central assistance, it is not possible. Acute crisis of water affects power supply and other services in Rajasthan. On account of adverse geographical condition, services cost more in the State. Government has to spend more to provide water and power supply to the villages and small habitations. Drought and famine occurring quite frequently in the state further worsen the situation. State Government has to spend huge funds to arrange special trains, tankers etc for the supply of water. At present, 12 districts are hit by drought and famine in Rajasthan and like other states of north India, Rajasthan does not hope to reap good Kharif crops this year due to delay in Monsoon. If there is no rainfall as expected, in coming few days, the rest of crops are also likely to get ruined and in these circumstances, the state may again face drought and famine.

I request the Central Government to formulate a 'Contingency plan' well in advance and provide adequate assistance to the state to tackle the problems likely to be faced in near future so that the people are not compelled to migrate to another place in search of job.

I hope that under NREGA-II scheme, the Central Government is going to take measures so that the permanent assets are created to tackle the problem of employment in villages. I heartily welcome the proposal of associating NREGA scheme with other schemes and while congratulating the hon'ble Minister of Finance for presenting once again the biggest ever budget in the history of the country support it.

At the same time, I am also thankful to the UPA chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, hon'ble Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Minister of Finance, Shri Pranab Mukherjee for making provision in the general budget of extending the period of farmers' loans, reintroducing Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana allocating Rs. 12000 crores for the construction of rural roads, making foodgrains available at Rs. 3.00 per kg. to the BPL families and so on and so forth.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Madam Chairman, while picking up the thread from the debate initiated by our party leader respected Shri Rajnath Singh Ji on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, I would like to inform that India is predominantly an agricultural country and the economy of our country has already been agriculture based. About 70 per cent people of the country's population are engaged in agriculture. Agriculture sector contributes about 18% to the G.D.P. But unfortunately agriculture sector is allocated only one per cent of the budget. I feel that it is injustice to agriculture. With such a meagre budget allocation for this sector, in which 75% of country's population is engaged, it appears that the Government of the country is deliberately neglecting the agriculture sector. There is immediate need of increasing the budget allocation for this sector. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture towards the fact that there was 21.74% contribution of agriculture to G.D.P. in 2003-04, whereas it has reduced to 17.8 % in 2007-08. Contribution of agriculture to G.D.P. has constantly been decreasing. It is a matter of concern. Contribution of agriculture in national exports has also come to 12.2%. This is also decreasing constantly. It is a well-decided fact that agriculture is totally, a loss-making profession. Despite this fact, the Government did not take any effective steps in this regard and made no provision for it in this budget. Farmers of our country are the most hard-working ones and this is the only sector in which there is need of more labour. Farmers work round the clock. There is severe cold in the months of Magha-Pausha. There is a common saying in our village that if someone works in the severe cold of Magha-Pausha, it is none other than the farmer. Though there is no likelihood of rainfall in this year. Even during the rainy if season of Sawan and Bhadon, if someone is seen working it is none other than the farmer. People definitely feel pity when they see the farmers working in the fields in the scorching heat of Chaita and Vaisakha. I have experienced it myself in the fields. I am the son of a farmer.

I saw that while poor farmer was ploughing his field, his wife, carrying a child on her back, was sowing the seeds. Unfortunately there was hailstorm that year and the field did not yield even a single gram. I mean to say that there is no guarantee of crop yield. After all, when will there be the guarantee? If the expectations of the people are not met even after the lapse of 62 years of independence, it will be a dismal situation for them and that is why the farmers are committing suicide today. There is no water in the fields of farmers. They do not

have sufficient power supply. They are not getting remunerative prices of their crops. After all, what shall the farmer do? The Government claims that it has made a provision of extending loans to the farmers at 7% per cent interest rate. I want to tell that there are many states like Madhya Pradesh where farmers are being given loans at 3% interest rate, and still the profession of farmers is a loss making profession. If the Government intends to make the farming vocation a profit making one, it will have to launch some time-bound programmes for the purpose.

Madam Chairman, the weather conditions in the country are extremely unpredictable today. There is a severe drought situation. Nothing can be said about what will happen in the times to come. I do not know how many suicidal deaths will be reported. Today the farmers are not in a position to sow the fields. So, there should be some arrangements for them. I want to know from the Government what steps are likely to be taken in regard to all these things. The country faces drought and famine almost all the time. During the NDA rule, hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said that there should be a river-linking programme to find out a permanent solution to drought and famine in the country. That programme was not wrong, but I do not know why this Government has put it on the backburner. If today the rivers were inter-linked, it would definitely have benefited major parts of the country but that work could not be done.

Madam Chairman, everybody discussed here that remunerative price is being given for the farmers' crops. The question is that nothing will be possible unless the production cost is reduced. Today all the agricultural appliances have become costly. All the materials used in agriculture sector are getting costly, but the prices of agriculture products is not fixed in equal proportion. I want to know that after all we have to put a stop to it somewhere. A survey report of the Ministry of Agriculture says that 40% farmers are not willing to undertake cultivation. There are about 12.70 crore farmers who believe that agriculture is running in losses. This is the report of the Ministry of Agriculture. Shri Swaminathan has said a very serious thing that today big farmers are getting vanished, while the condition of the small farmers is very bad. *...(Interruptions)*.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Ganesh Singhji, please conclude now.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: I am concluding. Agriculture Scientist Rajendra Singh Ji said that 60 to 70 per cent people of the country are engaged in agriculture. *...(Interruptions)*.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhalishahr): All the MPs have expressed concern as the support prices have not been increased. Therefore, support prices should be increased today itself. *...(Interruptions)*.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Growth rate of 4 per cent had been targetted during the 9th five-year plan, however, we could not achieve even 50 per cent of that target. At present, the eleventh five-year plan is going on and during this plan period also our target is of 4 per cent. I would like to know whether this target could ever be achieved or not? We would have to make some efforts to achieve this target. At present, only 35 per cent irrigation facility is available, while our 65 per cent agriculture is dependent on monsoon. In this scenario how can we make agriculture a profitable occupation. The benefit of subsidy being given on fertilizers for the farmers goes to. *...(Interruptions)*.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Ganesh Singhji, now please conclude.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: The factories manufacturing fertilizers are getting full benefit. The Government is extending subsidy of Rs. 2 lakh crore to the industrial houses. The loan waiver recently announced by the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture was discriminating between bigger and the smaller farmers. The bigger farmer carries out cultivation on a bigger area with higher expenses, while the smaller farmer does it in a smaller area with smaller expenses. However, losses accrued to both are the same. Then why this discrimination between the two in terms of loan waiver? I think that this is wrong and those farmers should also get its benefit. I would like to state that as per a report there are 84 crore such people who have a spending capacity of only Rs. 20. We will have to ponder over these facts to find out in which direction the economy is heading in a country where such conditions are prevailing.

Lastly, I would like to make a submission that my constituency my state has been facing the scourge of drought for the last 3-4 years continuously. A central study team visited that area and had submitted its report to the Government.

They had stated that the farmers of Madhya Pradesh should definitely be given assistance. The State

Government had submitted a proposal for Rs. 24000 crore, however, unfortunately not a single paisa has been given to it. Similarly, there are 62 lakh families living below the poverty line in my State. However, food grains are being supplied for only 42 lakh families, 20 lakh families have been left out. I would like to ask as to what wrong the Government of Madhya Pradesh or the people of that state have done for which they are not being provided full quantity of food grains. I demand that the remaining people are also provided food grains at the earliest. *...(Interruptions).*

MADAM CHAIRMAN: You may please wind up now, your further speech will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[English]

SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY (Nandyal): Respected Chairperson, I rise to support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies and Public Distribution for the year 2009-10. The GDP in agriculture for the year 2008-09 was only 1.8 per cent which means there was virtually no growth in agriculture. The growth in agriculture is almost stagnant, it is equivalent to zero. Now, the expected GDP in the agriculture sector in 2009-10 has been pegged at 4 per cent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, on what basis are we expecting this increase in the agriculture sector? What are the factors that will help boost growth in GDP in the agriculture sector from 1.8 per cent to 4 per cent? What is it that has been proposed in the Budget?

My first point is credit flow to farmers. Credit to farmers is very important. Now, is the optimism because our credit flows to the agriculture sector has increased from Rs. 2,87,000 crore to Rs. 3,25,000 crore? Inflation has increased; labour cost has gone up. Thanks to NREGA, labour cost is 100 per cent more. So, whatever has been the increase in the flow of credit to farmers has been nullified by these factors and in real terms there has been no increase in credit flow to the agricultural sector. I want this to be increased.

Is the optimism for growth because of the areas under irrigation has increased? I am sorry to say that the Budget has provided an additional outlay of just Rs. 1000 crore over the last year to AIBP. In our State of Andhra Pradesh, the hon. Chief Minister has found a

solution to the problem for the farmers. Availability of water is the panacea for all the ills afflicting the agricultural sector. Water will solve all the problems. The hon. Chief Minister has come out with a project called the *Jalayagnam*. The annual Budget of the State is somewhere in the range of Rs. 35,000 crore to Rs. 40,000 crore. That is the way it should be done. No agricultural activity can take place in the absence of water. Therefore, we should increase the allocation for the irrigation sector.

Is there optimism for growth because of our enhanced allocation in the Budget for micro irrigation? I am sorry to say that the allocation for the micro irrigation in the Budget is only Rs. 300 crore for the entire country whereas the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has allocated a sum of Rs. 600 crore in the Budget for this purpose. He is providing 90 per cent subsidy for drip and sprinkler irrigation. Same is the case in the State of Gujarat. Micro irrigation will help increase the yield with less water and less labour. The quality of the products would also increase. A country like Israel is deriving so much benefit out of this. Why can we not copy such a model? Why can we not increase the outlay for micro irrigation? It should be increased; otherwise GDP in agriculture cannot touch a growth of 4 per cent. It will be less.

Madam, is there optimism for growth because of increased dwindling ground water tables? The situation is alarming. The ground water tables everywhere is going down. Water is a precious commodity and I can say that it is more precious than petrol and diesel. But no provision has been made for repairs and renovation of lakhs and lakhs of old and dilapidated water bodies which are idle and languishing for lack of funds.

Five years back, our earlier honourable Finance Minister, Shri Chidambaram, had identified the problem that lakhs of water bodies are languishing and had put up a pilot project. He said that as soon as the results come, he will increase the funds but nothing happened. Ground water depends on the repair of lakes, ponds, *talabs*, check dams, etc. It should be done immediately as ground water is very important for agriculture.

Is it because availability of fertilisers has increased and consequently more crop-yields are expected? I do not know the position in other States. But, in my State of Andhra Pradesh, just now my colleague told me that farmers are beaten by the police. Farmers are coming for purchase of fertilisers but not much fertilisers are

available. Injustice was done to Andhra Pradesh last time. So, this time, sufficient fertilisers should be made available for the farmers to increase the yields.

Is it because that our budget has provided more funds towards subsidy for farm-mechanization? After NREGA has come, the labour cost has gone up so much that the farmers are not able to engage labourers. Unless large scale farm mechanisation, unless large scale of machinery comes into agriculture, agriculture will become enviable and uneconomical. So, large subsidy should be granted to farm mechanisation and our budget should be focussed on that point.

Is it because our budget has provided any subsidy for solar-fencing of agri-fields so that more number of crops per year can be taken up? Madam, I am an agriculturist. Usually, we take up one crop a year. I know it as I come from a village. We take up only one kharif crop. Though I have got water, I cannot cultivate because of problems arising due to buffaloes, forest animals, theft, etc. Solar fencing is very important as it can increase to two or three crops a year. I request the Minister for Agriculture, through you, to kindly look into this point.

My next point is about NREGA. We are very happy that you have provided Rs. 39,100 crore for NREGA. It is important but when agricultural activities are going on in full swing, NREGA should be stopped. When agricultural work is not there like during the months of March, April, June, etc., when the workers are idle, then you can enforce it.

Is it because any notable scientific break-through happened in the new hybrid seeds programme? No. We should do a lot of research in hybrid seeds because good quality seeds are important as they contribute towards high yields of crops.

Is it because you have allowed free exports of agricultural commodities so that farmers are getting more for their produce and thus get encouraged to produce more and more? I find that the Government of Andhra Pradesh does not allow paddy to be moved into Tamil Nadu. If it reaches Tamil Nadu, our farmers will get more price. But it is banned. It is injustice because farmers have put in hard work and they should sell it wherever they like. Hence, the agricultural commodities should be allowed free export so that farmers will get their due prices and thus get encouraged to produce more and more. Unless this is done, we will not be able to increase our GDP.

Madam, lastly, 60 to 65 per cent of our population depends on agriculture but allocation for agriculture is very meagre. Kindly focus on agriculture and increase the budget amount for agriculture so that agriculture prospers.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam Chairman, experts are of the opinion that agriculture in India is like a gamble. They also contend that the real Minister of Agriculture in India is monsoon. But the monsoon has failed this year. Most of the parts of this country have witnessed scarce or no rain. At some places, there have been some rains, but most of the parts have not received rains. Beside me, farmer-Chief Minister of Kanataka Dharam Singhji is sitting. When I asked him, he told me that 4 districts of his state have witnessed rain, the remaining districts are drought affected. Similarly, the other states from the North and South have not received rain in most of their areas. Rain has eluded Bihar as well. Most of the States of North India have not received rains and at some places only a little rains have been received. In the beginning, during the Kritika Nakshtra, there, had been some rains, a cyclone named 'Aila' struck and it was said predicted that the monsoon has arrived. But, there were no rains thereafter. The farmers say that it is the month of Sravan and the easterly winds are blowing. Poet Ghagh has stated that 'Savan Mas Bahe Purvaiya, Bechau Barada Kinho Gaiya'. It means that no cultivation could be possible and so it is better to purchase a cow and sell the bullock. Crops have dried up as there have been no rains till date. At some places the farmers had sown crops through their hard labour using the boring water. That crop has destroyed. As per history, king Janak had himself ploughed the land when there had been no rains and a drought had occurred. What is the Government of the day doing in this regard? What has it done so far? A meeting with the State Governments has been held once. This meeting was held on the 1st of June in which it was decided that if rains do not come by 15th July, efforts will be under. Today, it is the 20th July. Why such a decision was taken to wait for the rains? Why no measures were taken when rains did not come at the initial stage? 'Aadi Na Barase Aadra, Anta Na Barase Hasta, Kahe Ghagh Sunu Bhaddari Yeh Sab Hai Anartha'. The Government should have been careful at that time itself. I do not expect the Government to take care of all the difficulties but it should stand by the farmers. The Government should make arrangements for providing relief. Required measures have not been taken

so far. What reports the State Governments have submitted? Transformers are burnt down, otherwise, the farmers could have carried out some cultivation by taking some measures. Government tube wells are lying dysfunctional power is not being supplied to the farmers. A rise in the prices of diesel has created more difficulties for the farmers. What will be the future of the farmers?

The past and future of the farmers are both in jeopardy. They have not received the minimum support price for their produce, which the Government claimed it had raised. Just now several hon'ble Members were stating that the FCI has failed. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture intervened and stated that it was the responsibility of the State Governments as well to carry out procurement. Though this is a policy that procurement has to be carried out by the State Governments so that the farmers could have facility. Are the State Governments unaware about how to carry out procurement? I have information that traders sitting beside the FCI godowns are purchasing at Rs. 150-200 less price. When the farmers visit the FCI, they are told that there is no space weighing machine and other arrangement. As such, the past of the farmers is in danger as they have failed to get the cost of their produce. The Government did an appropriate thing by raising the minimum support price, however, until and unless the farmers get the hiked minimum support price, it will have no meaning. The present of the farmers is also in danger as is their past and future. I visited my village and enquired about the price of a vegetable. I was told that it was Rs. 2 per kg. At my home in Patna, the same vegetable was purchased at Rs. 20 per kg. and in Delhi the same is available at Rs. 60 a kg. The farmer is getting a price of Rs. 2 and the consumer in Delhi is paying Rs. 60 for that vegetable. In this way, the farmer is not getting the right price his produce.

Concerns are being expressed in the House over the prices of pulses. We should understand as to who is reaping the benefit. The farmer is facing dup crisis and the drought has put the past, present and future of the farmer in danger. We have not heard as yet that the State or the Union Government is standing with the farmer at this hour of crisis. Where is the Government's Disaster Management Authority?

Madam, I would like to ask as know at which point the Government stands with the farmers? How have the Government made arrangements to provide irrigation facility, assistance remunerative prices for their crops and

other types of help to the farmers? The Government should carry out all these tasks.

Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards another problem of the farmers. Farmers are being provided lacs and crores of subsidy but they are unable to get its full benefit. Now, it is being planned to provide them direct subsidy. Subsidy will be given on fertilizers. How will the wages of the farmers be fixed? Has agriculture turned mechanical in India?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam, I am going to conclude. The farmers should get employment. I had gone to my village. Employment Guarantee Scheme for the poor was launched and it was a big scheme, which also turned out to be very successful. Seven crore accounts were opened. Four and a half crore labourers were given employment. The farmers say that as there is an employment guarantee scheme for the labourers, a labour guarantee scheme should also be initiated for the farmers. Farmers are not getting labourers. There is subsidy for everything, then why subsidy is not given for the labour as well. Where is a farmer commission, where are the experts and intellectuals, farmers are not getting labourers. Farmers have to pay more wages to labour. However, most of the farmers are not able to give more wages to labourers. The section 3 of Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is only on papers. Farmers are not in a position to pay wages. Why are these things not being contemplated? The farmers should be given subsidy for wages. The condition of the farmers is not very good. The efforts of the Government are not evident. They have already incurred losses. What is the estimation of crops for this year?

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: A country like India depends upon import from other countries. The farmers are the backbone of the country. Economic growth will be hampered. The Government should come forward for the welfare of the farmers. State Government should come forward. Plans to tackle drought should be made by taking information from the states. Yesterday, our party staged a dharna at Patna near the statue of Babu Jaiprakash Narayan.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Your speech will not be recorded further. The hon'ble Minister has to give his reply also.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Madam, I am concluding my speech. The Government should protect the interest of the farmers. It should come forward to help the farmers, to boost their morale. The government should pay attention towards the condition of the farmers.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Wardha): Madam, the hon. Member has given an excellent speech. He had been a Minister supervising NERGA, and had done excellent work. Had he given us directions, it would have been better. Madam, I can say that the present Minister of Agriculture has wholesome knowledge of agriculture. I have worked with him for 30-35 years. He knows the condition of the farmers and what should be done in that regard. A provision of three lakh twenty five thousand crores of rupees have been made in this budget for the agriculture. Despite this, the condition of the farmers is deteriorating day by day. Some parts in Vidharbha region have got water facility in these days but some districts are still experiencing drought like situation. We have seen that agricultural production has not been beneficial for the farmers for the last 20-25 years. All the people accept it but the farmers don't have any alternative. Farmers are not dying, they are somehow alive. Such is the condition of the farmers in the country.

I know when Shri Pawarji was in the Opposition 15-20 years back, he had organised a rally and walked 250 miles. Whatever demands we had put before the Government at that time, have not been fulfilled yet. I hail from a backward area of Vidharbha I am elected from Vardha constituency where both Mahatma Gandhi and Vinoba Bhave Ji level together. In this area one farmers committed suicide at a regular interval of 15-20 days. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH *ALIAS* LALAN SINGH (Hunger): Still, you are with ruling party. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Even then people of that area have elected me, it is really a great thing. ...(*Interruptions*). This condition of farmers in that area is deteriorating day by day. Their loans were waived off. Shri Rahul Gandhi, alongwith other leaders, visited that area. He had a direct talk with the farmers there and a scheme was formulated to waive off their loans and hence, a package of Rs. 3750 crores has been provided for that purpose. Necessary action was taken under the scheme, but the benefit of the package had not reached to the farmers in totality. The irrigation projects are being completed now. It is a very good thing that loans of the farmers have been waived off. The farmers posseing less than five

acres of land have got relief. They used to take loans from the local money lenders, which resulted in a lot of problems for them. The Government should focus on it also. Farmers are still committing suicide, though the number of such cases has come down, it is still going on. Until we are able to check the incidence of suicide completely, no actual benefit would be received from this loan waiver package. I would like to submit that Shri Swaminathan visited every village of those 6-7 districts for a month and has submitted his report. No action has yet been taken on that report. Subsequently Yadav Commission was constituted. This commission also took full details. The reports of both the commissions were for the benefit of the farmers but they are not availing any such benefit. I would only say that the farmers there do not get even the production cost. So there should be adequate arrangement in this regard also. ...(*Interruptions*).

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please wind up now.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Madam, please give me atleast five minutes. You did not give me time even on that day.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: I am not preventing you. I am only reminding you.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Madam, even Shri Pawar has knowledge of every district and block of Vidharva. I, through you, would like to submit that Shri Pawar should himself pay some attention towards the area and try to improve the deteriorating condition of farmers there. I request the Government that this package should be given to them once again. Even the Chief Minister has asked for the said scheme. I would request the Prime Minister that the should take details through Shri Pawar where work is not being done in the department, he should take cognizance of the suicide cases that must be stopped. These suicides should be stopped. Under the previous package, the farmers utilized it to perform marriages of their children. Work has been done in a better way but the same was not completed and remained incomplete. The work should be started again so that the farmers there get more benefits, and do not have to resort to this extreme step. The budget of Ministry of Agriculture is a very good budget and there are several provisions in the budget for the benefit of the farmers. The copy of Employment Guarantee Scheme for Maharashtra has been sent for NERGA.

Raghuvanshiji, when you were the Minister, a lot of work was done and that continue even now. We wanted you to be the Minister, you can make better arrangements

for the farmers, the poor and for rural department. ...*(Interruptions)*. People like you should become Minister. This Ministry did excellent job under you. People got employment. The Government should focus on small industries, including industry based on oranges. Shri Pawar knows everything, so, I request that they should be provided relief. I think this budget is very good and work is being done in a better way. I hope that relief will be provided by extending help to the distressed farmers through special packages.

[English]

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (Sikkim): Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak in support of the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture. I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Agriculture Minister a few things.

First of all, GM regime is something which, I think, a State like Sikkim will completely oppose because the North Eastern Region, which is the bio-diversity security of the country, should not be exposed to any kind of GM regime and this is a request that I would like to put before the hon. Minister. The North Eastern Region, as I said, houses a huge amount of bio-diversity. About 30 per cent of the bio-diversity of this country and the bio-diversity security of this nation are housed in the North Eastern Region. So it would be a great disaster if we do not have a well thought out GM regime for this country.

Secondly, on the adaptability front, as I listen to the debates and as I listen to the speeches of hon. Members in this august House, one of the key things that comes to my mind is that we need an adaptability and a mitigation programme which needs to be put in place as far as the agriculture sector is concerned in general and, I think, for the food security of this country. As we talk about food security, I think, a Food Security Bill will be brought before this House. This is a very welcome step.

Finally, I would request to the hon. Minister that when he looks at mountain States, the issues of local food production needs to be carefully assessed because it is very cumbersome to bring food from the plains up to the mountains. A State like Sikkim is an organic State and, therefore, organic farming practices should be incentivised and all support from the Agriculture Ministry would be welcome on this front.

SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA (South Goa): Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Madam, before the loan waiver, every second day we used to hear about suicidal deaths of farmers. Now, after the loan waiver, we have hardly heard about any suicidal deaths among farmers because this was a big relief. No doubt, over the years our country, which was importing even cereals, is today not only self-sufficient, but we are in a stage even to export, but we cannot be complacent. If you see the production per hectare in sugarcane or paddy in our country as compared to the developed countries, we are lagging far behind. No doubt, we have an institution like the ICAR where they are trying to improve the seed all the time, but still I do not know as to what is the reason for our low productivity. May be, the inputs that we are giving are less or the fertilizer that we apply may be less. But surely, if agriculture is going to be made economical in every State, we have to see that the productivity per hectare increases.

Madam, I hail from Goa and we do not have big farmers. We have fragmentation of land. We have mountainous land and we hardly have any irrigated land. We also do not have agricultural labour. That is why, we have to import labour from the adjoining States. So, I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to give us one time grant or give us harvesting combines which are imported from adjoining countries.

Madam, if whatever is planted is not harvested in time, our agriculture, including paddy production, will gradually stop. I would request the hon. Minister to give us six harvesting combines because many a times the labour is not available even to harvest in Goa. All the time people come from other States and it brings all the other types of imbalances in the State. So, that is the reason we have to go for these types of tractors and especially we need the harvesting machines.

Madam, we have got two or three cash crops. One is coconut, like we have in Kerala. For the last two years coconut has been attacked by the mite disease. Either the production has decreased or the size of the nut is very small. I know that ICAR is doing research on this but till now they have not been able to fight this epidemic.

Secondly, my colleagues have referred to the wilt root disease. Up to now, after 40 to 50 years, we have

not been able to save the coconut trees from this disease. The only solution is we have to cut the tree and replace it. I would request the hon. Minister to see to it that the scientists work on this and improve this so that some solution comes up in order to save all these trees.

If you want to improve and increase the number of nuts, which are produced, then we have to use fertilizer. We do not have irrigation, so at least, we should have fertilizer. So, I would request the hon. Minister to give grants to the Coconut Board so that, in turn, it percolates to the farmers and the production of nuts can be increased per tree.

The second crop is cashew. We have got around 55,000 hectares under cashew cultivation and per hectare it produces about 550 kgs. to 600 kgs. It is much below as compared to other countries where the production is much more. Here also if it could be irrigated and fertilizer could be applied the production per hectare could be much more. But irrigation is not possible because as I said, ours is undulated land, mostly on the hills. So irrigation is not possible. But at least fertilizer grant could be given to these farmers so that the production could be increased, at least, to 1,000 kgs. per hectare.

Madam, I would like to make my last point. Our rivers are saline up to the point they rise. The tidal waters or the tides are very strong. It is not like other places where you go backward you have fresh waters. Ours is saline or brackish waters and all the fields that are inside are guarded by bunds. These bunds either have breaches or are in dilapidated condition. They have to be repaired. We have got Soil Conservation Department, but the State is not in a position to repair these bunds. So, I would request the hon. Minister to see that a special grant is given to our State so that all these bunds are maintained and the breaches are closed and that agriculture and paddy cultivation is saved from all these catastrophes.

With this, once again, I support the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture. I also thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

*SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): I through the chair would like to make following suggestions on demands for grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture

*Speech was laid on the Table.

for the year 2009-10 to Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture for development of agriculture and animal husbandry.

I represent the Bikaner-Parliamentary Constituency. The main crops cultivated in Bikaner and from Hanumangarh to Barmer are Sewan grass, Bhurat, Dachabh, Garhia. Pala and Moth, Millet, Sesame, moong, Gwar etc. animal husbandry was the integral part of their life in past and at present also they are doing the same. But permanent grass fields have been wiped out resulting in steep fall in the number of cattle. After the detailed study, it has been made clear that the animal husbandry along with growing the natural grass in the area is the best option in this region.

Consequent upon operation of Indira Gandhi Canal Project, the farmers in this area have started cultivating crops for foodgrains in this area but even today their livelihood is based on animal husbandry. In the canal area, those farmers who are engaged in unauthorized use of water grow foodgrains in more area and do not care for these animals but other farmers earn their livelihood by rearing cow, buffalo, sheep, goat camel etc. Indira Gandhi Canal Project is divided in two phases. In the first phase there are less number of cattle and the farmer in this area are more interested in rearing buffaloes and cows but in second phase there are large number of cattle in this area.

The experts of Bikaner District Milk Producer's Association have undertaken an extensive survey of North-West Rajasthan and their findings reveal that development of farmers is possible with growing of natural vegetation and traditional farming, it will result in creation of new avenues of employment for the benefit of common man.

The livelihood of North-West Rajasthan is based on production of grass alongwith animal husbandry and traditional farming. After independence new technology has been adopted and Seven grass, Bhurat Dachabh, Garia, Pala etc, are completely destroyed. Growing of Uttar Grass Sevan, Bhurat, Pala Dachabh etc. for cattle will be beneficial for the farmers of this area and along with animal husbandry if they undertake traditional farming, they will get grains of better quality.

In the Indira Gandhi Canal Project area, if sevan grass is grown along with cattle rearing, 10 fold increase per 'murba' in the earnings farmers could be ensured. The cost of growing Sevan grass will be less than half of the cost of growing Groundnut, Wheat, narma etc.

and fodder of thirty cows and 100 sheeps-goats could be grown in 25 big has. In addition to this the benefit of traditional farming will be not less than the present farming. Three hundred liters of Milk of the value of Rs. 4500/- along with 450 kg of cow-dung of the value Rs. 2250/- will be produced daily. In addition to this Rs. 100 per day could be earned from sheep and goats. Fodder for these cattles will be provided from the field itself and water is available for irrigation in this area. There will be expenditure on maintenance only. Income of Rs. 10,000 per bigha is definite from Kharif and Rabi crops. Irrigation for Sevan grass and traditional farming can be done by using only 2 queseq water per hectare.

Cultivation of Sevan grass could be done in both irrigated or unirrigated areas because Sevan, Bhurat, Phog, Pala etc. naturally grow on small hillocks in the way and a good crop can be produced with the use of drip irrigation.

In North-West Rajasthan lacs of hectares of land is lying uncultivated which can give large profit with a little effort and fodder for 2 crore cows and 20 crore sheep-goats could be made available. With such an initiative two crore cows will produce atleast 20 crore litre milk per day which will earn Rs. 300 crore per day-which include the income from milk of Goats, wool from sheep and manures. In addition, these cattle increase their number three times in a year because sheep and goats procreate twice in a year and cost of rearing these cattles is nothing but looking after them.

No efforts have been made for rain-water harvesting in this area for sixty years, as a result of which the people have to depend on Indira Gandhi Canal and wells which is a costly affair. My suggestion in this regard is that keeping in view the specific circumstances of Rajasthan State, approval for construction of water tank of one lakh litre capacity in the field of farmers itself should be given so that a better infrastructure should be provided for availability of water in rural area and the farmer could do horticulture along with farming in their field and could also develop extra resources of income. At first, 5 lac small and marginal farmers of 11 desert districts should be included in this programme. Technically for, this a Tanka (water tank) of 15 feet diameter and 20 feet depth is required. Around this Aagour (a water reservoir) of 60 to 80 feet diameter should be dug on the basis of annual rainfall of the district. My suggestion regarding implementation of this scheme is that these water reservoir should be made pucca using murar or other locally available materials so that the Tanka will

be full with water within a year of good rainfall. As per technical estimate construction of Tanka of this dimension and water reservoir will cost Rs. 80,0001. 50 percent cost will be for labour and 50 percent will be for material. These tankas will be constructed by the farmers in their respective field with the co-operation of all. It will provide employment for the members of the family of farmer, landless labourers and other unemployed labourers.

'Matira' may also be grown in North Western Rajasthan with Sevan grass. Along with this a aromatic fruit kakaria could also be produced. In addition to this plants with medical value like Tumba, Phog, Aakra etc. may also be grown in this area which will add to the income of farmers.

The areas, falling under Indira Gandhi Canal Area could be provided water for irrigation to cultivate Sevan grass from the Indira Gandhi canal itself. The current procedure may be revised to reduce the quantity of water being distributed to save it so that many cattle rearer will associate themselves with Farmer Association and will show their interest in animal husbandry and growing of grass and it which will read to public saving. Animal husbandry should be encouraged in whole Western Rajasthan and all farmers should be provided at least 5 cattle as per their interest and without making any discrimination of APL/BPL every farmer should be provided for construction of a pit of 1 lakh litre capacity so that animal husbandry, diary business, medicinal plants, horticulture etc. should be encouraged and holistic development of agriculture should be ensured to bring improvement the condition of farmers.

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Hon. Madam Chairperson, I am quite grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate and discussion being held on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture for 2009-10.

17.00 hrs.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA in the Chair]

I rise to support these Demands for Grants asked by the hon. Union Minister of Agriculture, but at the same time, I would like to submit some of my critical observations on certain serious issues and points.

It relates to the multifarious agriculture sector-based problems being faced by the people of the North-Eastern Region and particularly the people of Bodoland area. You will be surprised to hear that this year a very serious kind of drought situation is going on in spite of Assam being the land of many rivers and tributaries.

[Translation]

There are a large number of rivers in Assam. Every year, rivers carry a large volume of water but this year rainfall has been scanty. All the districts in Assam have been affected by drought due to lack of rainfall. so far 14 out of 27 districts in Assam have been declared drought hit but I demand that all the districts in Assam be declared drought hit or flood affected. There is need to provide a special central package of worth Rs. 1000 crore at learnt to Assam. Through you, I demand that at least Rs. 500 crore be annually sanctioned for the agriculture development in Bodoland region. You will be surprised to learn that this year only Rs. 50 crore have been allocated to Bodoland in the budget despite the region having a population of more than 30 lakhs.

[English]

It is a great humiliation for the people of the Bodoland territory.

[Translation]

If only an amount of Rs. 50 crore is sanctioned for a population of 30 lacs, what will come out of it?

[English]

There are some small States and some small Union Territories in the country like Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, Goa, Daman and Diu, Sikkim and so on and so forth. All these smaller States and Union Territories have been given a huge amount of Central fund.

[Translation]

These States and Union territories have been allocated amount ranging from Rs. 2000 crore to Rs. 5000 crore but Bodoland has only been given Rs. 50 crore. Therefore, I demand that there is need to set up at least one Central Agriculture University for the development of Bodoland area and it should be named as Bodoland Rajiv Gandhi Agriculture University.

Alongwith it, the Government of India should provide one lakh tractors for the farmers of Bodoland because even today the farmers in my area have to plough the fields with bullocks each of them costing Rs. 30 to 50 thousand and a poor farmer is unable to pay this much amount. There is not even a proper irrigation system. So the farmers of the region should be given one-lakh tractors. Districts in Bodoland area need to be provided Rs. 1000 crore. There is a need to set up at least 20 cold storages and 10 Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Bodoland area. There is one Remi Research Centre at Sarbhig in my constituency. That Remi Research Centre needs to be upgraded to Remi Research Institute. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House. Now, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Government should provide at least two lakh to each of the farmer because he has to buy bullock and dig the bore well for tube well. Sir, through you, I request the Minister of Agriculture to accept my demand.

[English]

I also lay my rest of the speech on Table of the House.

*I support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture for 2009-2010 with some critical observation on certain matters that pertain to the long pending genuine demands and grievances in respect to the urgent need of the centre's pro-active action plans and effective initiatives for the development of agriculture sector within our Bodoland territory in particular and also in the entire North-Eastern States that I have been raising since the recent past couple of decades back.

In this regard, through you, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to conclude the following long pending demands without any further more delay.

The Ministry of Agriculture should take effective initiative to help set up one Central Agriculture University with the name and style of Bodoland Rajiv Gandhi Central Agriculture University at Kokrazhar during 2009-2010.

*...*This part of the Speech was laid on the Table.

The Ministry of Agriculture should sanction minimum of Rs. 500 crore as special central package in favour of Bodoland territory in order to face the present day drought situation and to meet the impeding grim famine and food crisis;

The Government of India should sanction at least 1,00,000 (One lakh) Nos. of tractors for the Bodoland territory;

All the districts of Assam should be declared as drought hit and flood hit (affected) districts and minimum of Rs. 1000 crore should be sanctioned in favour of Assam in line with the Special Central Assistance provided to West Bengal for relief and rehabilitation of the 'Aila' affected people and also for doing re-construction works;

The Centre should set up as many as 20 numbers of cold-storages within Bodoland territory;

The Ministry should take appropriate steps to set up at least 10 numbers of Krishi Vigyan Kendras within Bodoland;

The Ministry of Agriculture should take appropriate steps to help upgrade the 'Ramie Research Centre', Sarbhog in Barpeta district to Ramie Research Institute of large scale for the development of Ramie sector in lower Assam;

The Ministry of Agriculture should take necessary steps to provide minimum of Rs. 2 lacs as special central relief package to each and every tribal and non-tribal farmer in Bodoland territory in order to help purchase one pair of bullocks and one boring tube well for cultivation.*

[Translation]

*SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (Jalgaon): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Sir, right from the inception of civilization, agriculture has been central to fulfillment of dietary need of man, which is one of the three basic needs of the man. However, I am constrained to say that the future of agriculture seems to be in danger. While 70 per cent population of the country is dependent on agriculture, the miserable condition of agriculture, the backbone of

economy and that of the workers of other unorganized sector is not a secret to anyone, due to the Government's apathy.

Sir, the farmers, giver of foodgrains to country from ploughing the bosom of earth, had high hopes from the budget but the hon. Minister has just taken two minutes to sum up the problems of the farmers and the solutions thereof. During these two minutes, hon. Minister concentrated on debt of farmers as usual which is mentioned every time during budget speech and which is also central to the attention and sympathy of Government every year. It was no different this year. Hon. Minister suggested for a relief of certain percentage points, that too with certain caveats. Government's loan was mentioned later but prior to that hon. Minister made it a point to mention that farmers will be given relief of one percent on the interest for timely payment. After offering this lollypop, the hon'ble Minister of finance lollypop to the farmers. He reduced the rate of interest on loans up to three lacs to 7 percent. Suddenly he recollected that this year rainfall has been scanty due to delayed monsoon. Farmers have to bear the burnt of vagary of weather resulting in destruction of Kharif crop. Therefore, hon. Minister handed out this dolly out of his magic box of relief package under which they have been given an extension of six months for repaying their loans. It seems that for the Government, the cheap loans to farmers is synonym with welfare of farmers. It has never awakened to the real problems of the farmers and as soon as farmers come to its mind, Government is reminded only the issue of loan. It never gave a thought as to why would the need for taking loans arise at all? Why would a farmer need to take loan and pushed to brink of committing suicide. Though the hon. Minister has announced for extending the loan waiver scheme by six months and also made a promise to bring farmers of Maharashtra out of debt trap but this is known to all that the farmers is more in the trap of private money lenders instead of Government loan. There is no clarity as to how the loans of private money lenders will be repaid by farmers and what is the plan of the Government to bring them out of debt trap of the money lenders.

Sir, Government is willing to give more and more loans to the farmers. An amount of Rs. three lakh twenty five thousand crore for Agriculture loan scheme has been allocated under the National Agriculture Development Scheme by making an increase of 30 per cent for the year 2009-10 but the Government did not mention any such scheme through which this agriculture sector

*Speech was laid on the Table.

running under losses could be turned around. Budget is also silent on the Support Prices for food grains. The price paid by the Government does not even cover the input cost.

In this Budget, hon. Minister has fixed the target of growth of agriculture sector at four percent. The growth rate of agriculture is dependent on cash crops not on food grains while a large number of farmers grow food grains crops.

In fact, farmers take maximum loan for growing cash crops like Cotton, pulses and tobacco and it has been observed that the farmers have committed maximum suicides in these areas e.g. Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. One more interesting point I would like to mention is that cash crop requires fertilizer in maximum quantity. Quite clearly the Government is busy in mere jugglery of figures rather than being seriously concerned about the real problems of the farmers. Need of the hour is to increase productivity, reduce the input cost and to providing right price to the farmers for their produce but the hon. Minister has disappointed us on all these fronts.

[English]

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kottayam): Sir, I will be very brief.

With India having the second largest area of agricultural land, more than 2/3rd of our population is depending on agriculture. However, our productivity of agriculture is much lower than the world's productivity. The burning need of the hour is to increase our agricultural productivity. This can be done only through adopting new technology into this industry. We have to modernize the agricultural sector.

Sir, as you know, now the farmers cultivate their crops in a conventional way. May be we need to bring in information technology, bio-technology, and precision in agriculture whereby right quantity of water and fertilizers is given to the plant. Actually we need to modernize this industry. We know that our farmers are poor, and they cannot adopt this new technology. So, what the State Governments and the Central Government should do is to give financial assistance to the farmers and at the same time they should educate them.

If you take Israel, we know that their weather condition is bad, they have no water, and they have

desert but still they adopted information technology and bio-technology to a great extent and they have produced much result in the agricultural sector. I am not going into the details of it due to lack of time but I would like to point out some of the problems faced by the farmers in Kerala.

As some of my colleagues have mentioned, one of the most important problem is the problem faced by the cultivators of coconut in Kerala. They are facing a big hardship and also miseries because of fall in coconut price. Earlier the price of coconut was Rs. 6 per piece, and it has now come down to Rs. 2 per piece. Actually, the total production of coconut in Kerala is about 600 crores. Because of the fall in the price of coconut, there was a great revenue loss both for the State and also for the agricultural community. The major reason was the indiscriminate import of edible oil, especially palm oil, and also their distribution at the subsidized level. I am not saying that you should totally prohibit the import of palm oil but the import of palm oil should be restricted so that it does not affect the consumption of coconut oil in the country.

I would like to mention about the other big problem. As we all know, the last UPA Government had waived off the debts of the farmers to the tune of approximately Rs. 72,000 crore. But in Kerala, the small farmers are facing a big problem. The State Government had declared Kairali and other schemes by which the farmers were asked to pay their interest overdue before the end of the financial year. The main aim of the Government was to clear the books and show that there was no Non-Performing Assets. Also the farmers borrowed money from outside and paid back the interest. Actually they were not having money but they borrowed money from outside to pay back the interest. What happened was that this benefit of the debt relief scheme announced by the then UPA Government was not given to these small farmers because there were no arrears on paper. So, I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that even these small farmers may be included in the list.

I am on my last point. I am a newcomer to this House. I think, you should give me more time. We are facing a lot of problems in Kerala

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a paucity of time. Five more speakers are still there, and we have to accommodate them also.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI: One of the major problems being faced by the agriculturists especially in Kerala and

generally all over India is that the prices of agricultural commodities are fluctuating. My opinion is that there should be a scientific mechanism by the Centre to procure these products so that agriculturist, the cultivators get remunerative prices for their products.

I conclude by saying that we cannot say tomorrow to the farmers, which is the very essence of India; his need is today, his hands are outstretched today; and, therefore, let us together attend to him today.

[Translation]

*Shri Naranbhai Kachhadia (Amreli): Ours is an agricultural country and 70 percent population of our country depends on agriculture. It provides food to all the people of the country.

Sir, I would like to submit that when there was NDA Government and Atal Ji was the Prime Minister of the country thousands of tonnes of food grains was exported from the country.

Then present UPA was in the opposition and at that time they had protested in the House before Media that the NDA Government have no additional goodowns and foodgrains are rotting. Thus UPA had misguided the people. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Chairman that the development of agriculture during the UPA Government has been very dismal and it has triggered price rise. The incidents of suicides of farmers in our country are increasing day by day. So, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Chairman that agriculture is the backbone of our country. It is the pride of the country. It is very essential to address the problem of our farmers to maintain the growth and dignity of agriculture. It is extremely necessary to provide soft loans, agriculture training and good quality seeds to farmers. The Government should take necessary steps in this regard.

I would like to submit one more thing that 40 percent land of our country is barren and is lying unused because it cannot be used for any type of cultivation purpose. Thus farmers are using only 60 percent part of land. The Government should take necessary action for this at the earliest and necessary training and agriculture inputs like cheap electricity and fertilizers, crop insurance, land consolidation etc. should be arranged for farmers.

Presently, the farmers of our country have become disappointed. Today they will have to be awakened. This

should be our duty. We will have to instill confidence and energy in them. I would like to submit to the Hon'ble Chairman that in case of low voltage bulbs emit dim light however when there is sufficient voltage, it gives proper light. Similarly our farmers are not able to give their best.

The present budget that has been prepared by the Hon'ble Minister allocate very small portion for agriculture development. The Hon'ble Minister who has never visited an agriculture field is not aware about the difficulties and hardships of the farmers though we say that our country is the country of agriculture and political power. Our country is an agriculture-dominated country. Mr. Chairman Sir, it appears to me that agriculture has been dropped and now only this high sounding phrase remains. We all know that the economy of our country is dependent on agriculture. Mr Chairman Sir, if the very backbone of our economy is paralysed then how can we survive. So, I would like to request you that some step should be taken at the earliest in the interest of farmers.

I know that the agriculture will remain part and parcel of the people of our country. Electricity should be provided to the farmers at cheaper rates. They should also be provided with good quality certified seeds. The Government should provide necessary funds to the farmers for the protection crops. However this facility is not being fully provided to the farmers. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that he should make provisions for this in the Budget. The farmers of the country will be thankful to you and they will feel relaxed.

[English]

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (Idukki): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise here to speak on the Demands for Grants related to the Ministry of Agriculture.

I would like to congratulate the visionary leaders like Soniaji, the hon. Prime Minister and the young dynamic Rahulji to initiate for the Central Budget.

Mr. Chairman, the total allocation for the agricultural sector is more than Rs. 3,25,000 crores, which is a remarkable contribution at this juncture during the time of recession, which has affected the whole world. I would like to point out that the agriculture is the backbone of our country. Each and every time, the Central Government as well as the State Governments are allotting a huge amount of budgetary allocation for the

betterment of the farmers. But unfortunately, the total amount, which is intended to reach the lower level farmers, is not reaching to them. It is a major issue, that farmers are facing. Therefore, I would request the Central Government to interfere in this matter and take all necessary steps to see that there is full accountability so that this amount reaches to the hands of the real farmers.

Sir, in this Budget speech, the target for agricultural credit flow for the year 2009-10 is being set as Rs. 3,25,000. This allocation is commendable. Being a son of a farmer and coming from predominantly rural area. Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are facing a lot of hardships in the agricultural field. Each and every time, whatever calamity happens in the entire earth it is faced by our farmers. Recently, the natural calamity has badly affected our State. I am thankful to the Central Government and the hon. Agriculture Minister for sending Mr. Mullappally Ramachandran, the Minister of State for Home to our State immediately with other National Calamity team to assess the situation. We the people of Kerala would like to congratulate the Government for this action though much more problems remain there.

Sir, I would like to point out some more points. The farmers need a Price Stabilization Fund with more insurance coverage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please be brief.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Sir, being a newcomer, I hope, you would be kind enough upon me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not a question of being a newcomer. Time at our disposal is very limited. So, within a minute, please conclude.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Mr. Chairman, the life of the farmer still remains as a gamble due to price fluctuation. We have to sort this out. The need of the hour is, to support our farmers, we should help our farmers more. We are only remembering the farmers at the time of scarcity in food, like we are remembering our soldiers at the time of war. Mr. Chairman, many small and marginal farmers fall from trees and palms such as coconut palms while they are harvesting. The relief amount to those victims to be raised considerably.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is your last point.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS: Sir, I am going to conclude.

There are some insurance schemes for them but much more is needed. I am going to conclude with two or three points only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, you can make only one point. You place the rest here. Otherwise, nothing will go on record. Please conclude.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS: I am coming from a hilly and backward area like Idukki. The farmers badly need title deeds. Recently, the Supreme Court gave the sanction. I am requesting the hon. Government's intervention to take speedy action for giving title deeds to the farmers of Idukki.

Yet another thing is that my colleagues were requesting to withdraw the import duty on coconut oil. I am also rallying behind them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is your last point.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS: I have one more point. Not only that, I am also requesting the hon. Agriculture Minister to observe a National Day for farmers to remember and honour the agriculturists and farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS: With these words, I am concluding. I thank you for allowing and giving me the time.

[Translation]

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (Kaiserganj): Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me five minutes to speak. There is an old saying- 'Uttam kheti Madhyam ban, Nishidh Chakari Bhik Nidan.' The farmers held highest status in society throughout country, trading held second and service held third position. Begging was at the bottom. Our Prime Minister late Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji had given a slogan- 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kishan.' However, today farmers are leading very humiliating life in the country. The reason behind this is that the policies, are formulated keeping in view the interest of the big farmers. Today 80 percent farmers of the country have one acre or 1.25 hectare of land. 15 percent farmers are having five hectare or 10 hectare of land. Only five percent farmers have land holding above this. All the agricultural implements are made keeping in view the big farmers or agricultural farms. If TATA can manufacturing NANO then it can also manufacture small pumping set for the irrigation of one

acre of land. Can it not make small pumping set for the irrigation of one acre of land? However, our attention is not focused where it should have been. Without going in details, I would like to submit to the Hon'ble Minister that it will be a great favour to the country and the farmers if cheap implements are made keeping in view the requirements of small farmers.

Sir, Hon'ble Minister had made a statement on 9th July that the country would witness a good Monsoon. Thereafter on 11th July it was stated that now there will be no rainfall. Just now our Ex-Minister recited a poem... 'Sawan Mas Chale Purvaia, Bail Bench Bayadha Lai.' When east only wind blows the farmers should sell their ox and should purchase cows because ox will be useless while cow will be useful. The statement that has been made by the hon'ble Minister is based on the meteorological forecast of the Department of Meteorology and the scientists. Even after spending thousands of crores of rupees they cannot make guaranteed forecast about rainfall and flood.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, fertility of our land have got adversely affected on account of excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides. So, it has become essential that we should produce bio-fertilizers and for this it is necessary that we should pay attention towards cows and buffalos. Today multinational companies are playing tricks with us. They are selling paddy seeds at the rate of upto Rs. 250 to 350 per kg. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that he should take steps to promote small farmers, indigenous seeds and organic fertilizers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing on the drought situation and the entire country is concerned in this regard. There are many rivers and rivulets in our country. During Janta Party Government a scheme was formulated to convert the rivuletes into the canals. But the scheme shelved after Government fell down. Today, there is no scheme to convert the rivulets into the canals. We can take benefit of that scheme. During NDA Government regime a scheme was formulated for inter-linking the rivers. ...*(Interruptions)* The water of our rivers is flowing into the sea. We should not put the scheme in cold storage.

With these words, I conclude as time is very short, therefore, I lay my remaining speech on the table of the House.

*The number of small farmers in the country is more. But, the Government has announced schemes for the farmers, which are favourable to the big farmers. 80 percent farmers of the country have land holding less than 1.25 hectare. Land holding of 15 per cent farmers is less than 5 hectare. There are only 5 per cent big farmers having more than 10 hectare land holding. When small farmers invest on costly techniques and later of suffer loss, then there are possibilities of their indebtedness. Therefore, there is need to conduct comprehensive research in the agriculture sector. There is a need to develop such equipments which should be useful for the small holding and should also be within the reach of small farmers. Special emphasis should be given on research of indigenous seeds keeping in view India's geographical condition, productivity of soil, irrigation potential and economic condition of farmers. Such seeds should be developed which could result in optimum yields with less irrigation and lesser fertilizers. There are water logged areas as well as drought areas in our country. Therefore, such seeds should be developed which could prove beneficial to these areas. There is a need to give special emphasis on organic and traditional agriculture.

Less attention is being paid towards land reclamation in our country. Approximately 4 crore hectare land is useless which is waste land, unlevelled and water logged. By reclaiming, it could be converted into cultivable land. Due to urbanization and increasing population, cultivable land and land holding is reducing. There is need to increase the cultivable land through land reclamation programmes. This will increase production alongwith providing employment to the rural labourers. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture towards the recommendations of the Farmer Commission, which was constituted by their Government under the Chairmanship of renowned Agriculture scientist M.S. Swaminathan, wherein it is stated that the farmers land would not be acquired for setting up special Economic Zone. Industrial establishments should only be set up at non-cultivable land. The Commission also recommended that there should be ceiling on the land holding and the surplus land should be divided among the landless labourers which should not be less than one acre. The Commission has also recommended that subsidy on fertilizers and irrigation be increased. The rate of interest on the loan available to the farmers from the Financial

*.....*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

institutions should not be more than 4 percent. It is matter of regret that the Government has not paid attention towards these important suggestions.

The Government has ignored the agriculture sector as a result of which the production of rice, wheat, pulses and oil seeds has reduced and there is a heavy shortfall in the production of cash crops. The shortfall in the production of long term cash crops *i.e.* sugarcane and cotton has become cause of concern for the industrial sector. At last, I would like to say that today, the farmer, who provide food to all, is hungry and helpless. Agriculture sector has been left at its fate. We should admit that India cannot prosper until there is greenery in the fields and smile on the face of the farmers.

Public Distribution System has become the most corrupt Government scheme. This fact has already been revealed by the surveys and studies conducted by the Government. Majority of the poor people are deprived of the benefits of the scheme due to corruption. This allegation is confined not only to any person or the opposition.

Our sitting Home Minister, who remained Finance Minister for many year, had admitted publicity that "58 percent part of the ration is appropriated by the looters and under the rural development scheme four rupees are spent giving one rupee to the public".

- District Supply offices have become places of corruption.
- Ration Depot holders pay bribe to the officers and staff of the supply Deptt. and in lieu of it they sell major part of ration in the black-market.
- It is the result of the connivance of the Deptt. of supply and the Ration Depot holders that the poor do not get ration under PDS in UP and Bihar but the ration reach to China via Nepal.
- There is darkness in the huts of poor and on the other hand kersoene oil is openly sold in the black-market.
- Many people, who are not eligible for BPL cards have got issued BPL cards by using money and muscle power on their names, however, the poorest of the poor are deprived of it.
- Ration is not distributed every month regularly in the rural areas.

- Due to corruption the role of 'Pradhan's in the PDS has become negligible and the ration is distributed arbitrarily.
- Majority of the ration depot holders have made more ration cards in comparison to the actual population and they lift additional ration and sell it in the open market.
- No action is taken against the ration depot holders due to connivance with the Deptt. of supplies.

Suggestions-There is a need to evolve a monitoring system for making PDS transparent.

- Entry of dates and quantity of the distributed items in the ration cards be made mandatory and the violators be penalized.
- Bogus cards must be cancelled and arrangement should be made for providing BPL cards to the eligible persons.
- Participation of Public representatives in PDS be ensured and they must be given monitoring power.
- Effective measures should be made to weed out corruption.
- There is a shortage of D.A.P. urea fertilizer during the sowing of Rabi and Kharif crops and the production gets affected due to non-availability of D.A.P.
- At the time of sowing, the farmers have to queue up for hours to get fertilizers and farmers who demand fertilizers are lathicharged in Uttar Pradesh.
- Due to unavailability of fertilizers in adequate quantity, the farmers are compelled to purchase fake/spurious fertilizers. Therefore, the persons manufacturing and seeling spurious fertilizers are earning profit of crores of rupees.
- The Government has fixed the price of D.A.P. at Rs. 472 whereas the farmers in Uttar Pradesh get this fertilizer with great difficulty at the rate of Rs. 650 to Rs. 700.
- The smuggling of fertilizer (D.A.P.) is flourishing in districts adjacent to Nepal border in Uttar Pradesh and lakhs of tonnes of fertilizers are smuggled out to Nepal.

- Paddy and Wheat Procurement Centres are proving to be mere eyewash the benefits of which is not reaped by the farmers but by the traders. The wheat was purchased from farmers at the rate of Rs. 1000 per quintal, though the Government rate is Rs. 1080 per quintal.
- The concerned banks demand 10% as bribe from the farmers under Loan Waiver Scheme.
- The banks also demand bribe of 10% bribe from the farmers under Loan Waiver Scheme.
- The banks also demand bribe of 10% for sanctioning K.C.C. loan. With these words, I support the Demands for Grants.*

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (Alappuzha): Respected Chairman, Sir, first of all I am wholeheartedly supporting the Demands for Grants moved by our hon. Minister of Agriculture. By introducing debt relief for farmers the UPA Government has already proved their farmer-friendly attitude in the country. I extend my sincere gratitude to the hon. Chairperson of the UPA Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and also hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh for taking such a brave step for protecting the farmers whose lives are going through a terrible condition now.

It happens due to many crises happening in the farming sector such as lesser prices for agricultural products, increased wages, lack of sufficient labour, procurement and warehousing problems, unscientific farming system and the natural calamities.

I am coming from the constituency of Alleppey. Kuttanad is the rice bowl of Kerala which is falling in my constituency. Hon. Minister and the UPA Government appointed Dr. M.S. Swaminathan to study the conditions of the farmers in that area. Dr. Swaminathan gave the report. On the basis of that report, our Government sanctioned a package of Rs. 1,850 crore for Kuttanad. I am sorry to say that the package is announced by the Central Government; but so far not a single work has been started for the welfare of the farmers.

The answer given by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, to an Unstarred Question put by me, reveals that the State Government has not given the detailed project report in such a manner and also the Central Government has asked the State Government to correct the detailed project report. This is a very sad state of

affairs as far as the farmers are concerned. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to evolve a speedy mechanism for implementing the Kuttanad Project as early as possible.

There is one more point which I want to include here. Upper Kuttanad area is very much part and parcel of that Kuttanad area. But this area is excluded from this project. I am urging the Government to include Upper Kuttanad also in this Kuttanad package. Coming to the fisheries sector, I come from a coastal constituency. We are all aware of the problems faced by our poor fishermen.

In this regard, hon. Members who have spoken before me have already brought it to the notice of this august House. The Debt Relief Scheme does not include fishermen because loans taken from the fishermen's co-operative societies are excluded from the purview of this Scheme. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to include the loans taken by fishermen from the Fishermen's Co-operative Societies also within the purview of this Debt Waiver Scheme.

I would also like to highlight the aspect of kerosene being used for fishing purposes. Our fishermen are using kerosene and purchasing it from the black market at a rate varying between Rs. 25 and Rs. 32 per litre. Therefore, I demand that necessary action may be taken to provide kerosene to them for fishing needs at a subsidised rate and also make it convenient for them to get subsidised kerosene through PDS. This is my demand.

There is a very serious problem that Keralites are facing because their APL rice quota has been reduced. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has cut their quota from 96,364 metric tonnes per month and allowed a temporary quota of 19,000 metric tonnes per month. In fact, the actual loss to the State of Kerala is of 77,364 metric tonnes. I know that allocations under APL category are made depend upon the past off-take and availability of food grains in the Central stock, but the Keralites are suffering from this situation. Therefore, I am urging upon the Government to restore the APL quota for Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the demands for grants

relating to the Ministry of Agriculture. India is primarily an agrarian country. Agriculture is the backbone of the country's economy. The farmer resides in the villages and India is a country of villages. The farmers living in villages depend 60% on Monsoon. Many issues were discussed in the House that Monsoon is offended, that farmers are distressed and this crop and future crops are being seen as matter of gamble. Otherwise also, Indian agriculture is called as the gamble depending on Monsoon, but this year is going to be more complicated and problematic.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture towards the fact that on the one hand, the system in place for agriculture and farmers is in disarray and on the other there is a grave problem of storage. When the farmer grows crops after taking loan and investing his entire capital, he somehow transports his produce to Krishi Kendras. There he faces the problem of storage. Since, there is no arrangement for storage in the villages, therefore, the farmer's produce is not purchased at Krishi Kendras.

Sir, the constituency from which I get elected is Bhadohi district. It is at the center of Kashi and Prayag. It is an area of villages and farmers. I am also a son of the farmer. I am well-acquainted with the problems of farmers. At the time of sowing, farmer does not get high quality seeds in villages. He is compelled to sow seeds kept in his house, which give low yield. When he goes to purchase fertilizers, the fertilizers are not available at Krishi Seva Kendra, and societies. I would like to submit to the Minister of Agriculture that fertilizers should be made available at Krishi Seva Kendras and Cooperative societies, set up in the country, so that farmers may be able to get seeds and fertilizers on time from the society.

Sir, the main problem is storage of produce of the farmer. The farmer grows crops by taking loan somehow, but when he takes his produce to market, his produce is not purchased at appropriate price, due to which he is compelled to sell his produce to middlemen. He sells his produce at prices lower than the criterion, whether it is vegetables, foodgrains, pulses or oilseeds. All foodgrains perish due to the problem of storage.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture towards the fact that recently, I came to know through a newspaper report that the Government had spent crores of rupees on burying, disposing and transporting rotten foodgrains. On the one hand, the farmer is facing problems in growing crops and on the other, the farmer is compelled to sell

his produce at lower rates. At same time, the other problem is relating to storage. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards the fact that seeds, fertilizers, irrigation facility and power should be made available on time in villages. Besides, arrangements should also be made for procurement of produce-whether it is milk, fruit, vegetables, foodgrains and the farmer should get remunerative price. Today, the farmer is not getting the actual benefit, but the middleman is reaping the benefit. I would like to engage his attention in this regard. It is essential to pay an attention towards the problems of the poor.

Dr. Charan Das Mahant (Korba): Hon'ble Mr Speaker Sir, while expressing gratitude to you, I support the demands for grants presented by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture.

We all know that Hon'ble Ministers of Agriculture is a great wise-wisher of farmers so Hon'ble Prime Minister has faith on him while supporting the opinions put up by my friends in favour of farmers and being a son of farmer and small farmer, I would like to express my views points-wise and very precisely. Everybody has said that agriculture is a gamble and full of risk. The main reason is that there is no provision of insurance for farmers. Now only seven percent farmers get the benefit of insurance facility. So I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to do something new for crop insurance system.

I would like to express thanks to the Hon'ble Minister of Finance that he had announced to give agriculture loan at six percent interest rate to farmers for the agriculture works. I would like to say that the National Commission for Farmers have declared to provide loan at four percent interest rate to farmers. I would like to request to the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to make arrangement to provide loan at four percent interest rate to farmers in next session if not possible in this session. I would request him to make arrangement for this. I would like to request to all friends and to the house that we people should see the dream of China. I have heard that in China loan is given at 2 percent rate to farmers. It is my submission that this should also be concern and entire House should do something to fulfill this dream in this direction. Secondly it is being said to recover short-term loan given to farmers within one year, one and half year or two year. I submit to make arrangement to recover loan in at least four year and this facility scheme be provide to those farmers.

Today youths have no interest in agriculture works despite the fact that there are 70 percent youth in the country. So I request to chalk out new any programme to draw the attention of the youth towards agriculture works. Last time you have given subsidy of 76 thousands crores of rupees for fertilizers but that has not reached to farmers. That subsidy has gone to fertilizers manufactures and rich men related to fertilizers. You should make such arrangements for this purpose so that farmers could get the benefit of subsidy directly whether you give hundred kilos, fifty kilos fertilizers to them but you give it to the farmers. Our traders extended the benefits of subsidy as yet given to them to Burma, Nepal or Sri Lanka and village farmer could not get the benefit of fertilizers.

Soniaji and we all also say that farmers are our grain providers and whatever farmer grow, they grow for the country. The farmers work hard for the country but I would like to draw your kind attention towards the condition of Chhattisgarh. 10-lakh ton paddy have been purchased fraudulently in Chhattisgarh for the sake of farmers. If the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture would like see there, I have record with myself in this regard. Paddy worth lakhs of rupees have been purchased cleverly from those farmers who do not have one Biswa of farming land. I one quoting the names of 1-2 farmers, you please listen there is farmer name Goti. ...*(Interruptions)*.

Mr. Chairman: You please lay this on the table of the house.

Dr. Charan Das Mahant: The Government have purchased it. You please go through it. You please listen to me. The name of farmer is one but there are four or five names of father. For example Boti, fathers name Kahru, Boti, fathers name Gutohi, Boti, fathers names Banglu, Boti fathers name Lacchu. ...*(Interruptions)*. May I quote some more names. ...*(Interruptions)*. Sampat, fathers name Boga. Sampat, fathers names Sampat, Sampat fathers name Amar Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*. The Government have purchased, the Government got purchased, the government got purchase in your name, you have given money to purchase. He comes for money. ...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to present it, you please grant me permission. ...*(Interruptions)*. To lay it if you allow me, you may conduct an investigation into it. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

Mr. Chairman: Since there is no time, Dr Mahant Please show it to the Hon'ble Minister later.

[Translation]

Dr. Charan Das Mahant: You may conduct investigation from any central agency. State Government have purchased it through your money. You provide money to purchase it. I would like to say that you got investigated into it from central agency. No field, no farmer and Paddy have been purchased. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

Shri Adhir Chowdhury (Behrampur): Sir, it is a serious matter, the Government should inquire into it. It is a very serious allegation.

[Translation]

Dr. Chanran Das Mahant: Yes please listen to me, it is very important issue. Nine hundred quintal paddy have been purchase and transported by eight motor cycles. I have full record with me. I would like to present it if you kindly allow me. ...*(Interruptions)*.

Shri Adhir Choudhury: It is very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*.

Dr. Charan Das Mahant: It is totally a computerized sheet please go throught it. I have CD. I can present it if you allow me. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give it to the Minister later. You made your point and you can give those papers to the hon. Minister later.

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (Mavelikkara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Several points were mentioned by the previous speakers and, therefore, I will directly raise the issues relating to my constituency.

Sir, I come from Mavelikkara Parliamentary Constituency in Kerala. The famous agricultural area, Kuttanad, falls in my constituency. Kuttanad is predominantly the paddy growing area in Kerala. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some important aspects and issues relating to agricultural sector in Kuttanad.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the renowned agricultural scientist. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, had prepared a package for the Kuttanad farmers. That package received 'in principle'

approval from the UPA Government. I would like to thank hon. Sharad Pawarji for taking the initiative and getting the approval from the UPA Government. As an Agriculture Minister, he is making a lot of efforts to implement the Kuttanad package. Thousands of farmers as well as the people of Kuttanad would like to express their thanks to the hon. Minister of Agriculture Sharad Pawarji. I would also like to thank hon. Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri K.V. Thomas, who hails from Kerala, for taking initiatives in this regard.

Sir, the total cost of the package is Rs. 1,840 crore. It was proposed that projects with a limit of up to Rs. 50 lakh could be implemented by the State Government. Kuttanad is in a strategic location and is many metres below the sea level. Due to the geographical location of Kuttanad, farmers cannot cultivate without the assistance of the Government. The main crop in Kuttanad is paddy. The State Government of Kerala has sent a proposal to the Central Government to release necessary funds for the same. However, I am given to understand that the State Government of Kerala is yet to submit a detailed project report on the Kuttanad package and that is delayed.

But the fact is that apart from the long correspondence between the State Government and the Central Government, nothing so far has happened and the money is not released. More than 50,000 farmers are facing a serious crisis in Kuttanad. In fact, Dr. Swaminathan belongs to Kuttanad. He knows the entire area of Kuttanad. He knows the conditions of the Kuttanad farmers. That is why, he has submitted a Kuttanad package. That package is welcomed by all Kuttanad farmers. The Upper Kuttanad is also equally important in Kuttanad package. But the Upper Kuttanad area is excluded from the Kuttanad package. I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to include Upper Kuttanad area also.

Another important point is about Onattukara area. This is also very important as far as farmers are concerned. Dr. Swaminathan has mentioned about some areas of Onattukara. I would request the hon. Minister to include Onattukara in the Kuttanad package.

Another important point that the farmers are facing is about the shortage of harvesting machines. Every year, the availability of labour has been decreasing. So, there is a need for more harvesting machines. At present, we do not have availability of more number of harvesting machines. Therefore, I would request that the Central

Government should provide harvesting machines for the use of the farmers in Kuttanad.

There is no FCI godown in Kuttanad. We are producing lakhs of tonnes of paddy. But, at present there is no facility for procurement of paddy. There has been a long pending demand from farmers of Kuttanad to set up two or three FCI godowns.

My next point is about the flour mills. Paddy is converted into rice. At present, there is no flour mill in Kuttanad. I would request that the FCI can start two or three flour mills in Kuttanad area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: I am concluding, Sir.

Regarding the support price of paddy, the Government of India has announced Rs. 900 crore. It is a very meagre amount. So, my request to the hon. Minister would be to enhance this amount to at least Rs. 1,500 crore as the support price for paddy.

Sir, I lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

*I support the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture. Agriculture is an important sector of economy as it contributes to the tune of 18% of our national income and more than half of the population is directly or indirectly engaged in it. I am sure that every body would agree that agriculture sector has inherent risk like failure of monsoon, loss of crops due to natural calamities, increase of prices of certain products in domestic as well as international, the policies of the Government, etc. In fact, till 1994, there was no national policy for the agriculture and in 1994, a national policy for agriculture was put in place. Of course, with the latest technological developments, the policy needs a re-visit at the earliest.

The UPA Government, for the first time in the history, waived all the farm loans of farmers to the tune of nearly Rs. 75,000 crores and has reduced the rate of interest on farm loans. In fact, the target of agricultural credit for the year 2008-09 has been surpassed, which encourage the Government to fix a higher target in the current financial year. The Government has done well by reducing the rate of interest to the farmers who repay the loans in time as a form of incentives. In fact, I am

*...*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

sure that every section of the House would join in my demand that the rate of interest on crop loans should further be reduced to 6%.

The next important aspect of agriculture is crop insurance. Now, we have a crop insurance scheme in place, but it does not cover all sorts of crops and during all seasons. What we require is a comprehensive crop insurance scheme covering all crops by taking village as a basic unit for assessing the damage caused to crops.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some important aspects relating to my State, Kerala. That Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, the renowned agriculturist, under the aegis of his foundation, has submitted a proposal containing a package for Kuttanad farmers. In fact, the package was received in principle approval from the UPA Government a year back. I would like to thank Mr. Sharad Pawarji, the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture for taking the initiative and got approval from the UPA Government. As an Agricultural Minister, he is taking lot of efforts to implement the Kuttanad package. Thousands of farmers as well as other people of Kerala would like to express their thanks to Shri Sharad Pawarji. I would also like to thank the Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri K.V. Thomas, who hails from Kerala, for his initiative in this regard. The total cost of the package is Rs. 1,840 crores and it was proposed that projects costing up to Rs. 50 lakhs have to be implemented by the Government of Kerala. Madam, Kuttanad is a strategic location and it is many meters below the sea level. The geographical location is such that the farmers cannot cultivate without assistance from the Government. The main crop is paddy. Madam, even though the State Government of Kerala has sent the proposals to the Central Government for the release of necessary funds, I am given to understand that the State Government of Kerala has not yet submitted its Detailed Project Report about the Kuttanad package and that is why it is delayed. But the fact is that apart from the long correspondence between the two Governments, nothing has moved and no money has been released and the farmers numbering about 25,000 in the area are facing lot of difficulties. In fact, Dr. Swaminathan belongs to Kuttanad region and he knows in and out of the area and he has sent a well-conceded proposal which was given approved by the Government of India. It is understood that the proposals do not match the norms prescribed by the Government of India for release of funds. Considering Kuttanad which is a special type of area, I demand that the norms can be relaxed and

funds released at the earliest to alleviate the sufferings of the farmers. In fact, the paddy is cultivated once in a year by the Kuttanad farmers. However, once the package is implemented and the outer bund level of the field is strengthened and heightened, the farmers can cultivate paddy twice in a year.

I would like to mention about the genuine demand of the farmers of Upper Kuttanad. There is a strong demand from the farmers from Upper Kuttanad to include them in the Kuttanad package. Thousand of paddy farmers are cultivating paddy in their fields in Upper Kuttanad. Upper Kuttanad is also equally important. The State Government of Kerala has also sent a proposal for a special scheme for Upper Kuttanad. I request the Union Minister to include Upper Kuttanad in the Kuttanad package so that the paddy farmers in Upper Kuttanad area can also get benefited.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government of India about the plight of Onattukara paddy farmers. The Onattukara is a paddy cultivation area. Thousands of hectares of paddy fields are there but due to various reasons, the farmers are not able to cultivate any paddy in these fields. I would like to make a point that Onattukara is also included in the Kuttanad package and included in the Dr. Swaminathan Commission report stating that the farmers in Onattukara should be given an incentive of Rs. 5,000/- to each farmers to start cultivation. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to frame a scheme for paddy cultivation in Onattukara also.

Now, I would like to come to the problems of agricultural labourers. If the farmers are getting any loss, the State Government as well as the Central Government is giving some help to the farmers. But the agricultural labourers of paddy field are always at the receiving end. When the cultivation is not taking place, the agricultural labourers have become unemployed. To reduce the problems of agricultural labourers in this situation, the agricultural labourers should be given the benefit of ESI, PF, Gratuity etc. during this lean period. The Government of India should adopt some mechanism for giving financial help to the agricultural labourers for their livelihood during this intermission period.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the other problems faced by the farmers in the region, which includes non-existing storage facilities. Due to lack of godowns, lakhs and lakhs tonnes of paddy are damaged. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to

construct adequate godowns by the FCI at convenient locations in the area.

Another important problem is lack of transport facilities. Due to its geographical location, there is no transport facility available to the farmers to take their commodities to the procurement centre. Therefore, adequate transport facilities should be provided and for this purpose, the State Government can be given adequate financial assistance.

The farmers face lot of problems due to shortage of labour and due to non-availability of sufficient number of harvesting machines, the agricultural operations are affected to a great extent. Therefore, I request the Government either to give the harvesting machines to the farmers free of cost or at the subsidized rates so as to facilitate paddy movement.

The other problem the farmers in Kuttanad are facing is that the non-availability of flour mills in Kuttanad. The flour mills are playing a major role in converting the paddy into rice. Due to non-availability of flour mills in Kuttanad, the farmers have to move their paddy to the neighbouring States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and process them at exorbitant rates which increases their cost of production. I request the Union Government to take immediate steps for establishing of three to four flour mills in Kuttanad area so that the paddy can be processed in Kuttanad itself with less cost of production.

The minimum support price for paddy has been announced which is Rs. 900/- per quintal now. But it is not an attractive one to encourage the farmers to supply their commodities to the Government. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government that the minimum support price for paddy should be enhanced to Rs. 1,500/- per quintal.

The Central Government releases funds to the State Civil Supplies Department for making payments to the farmers for the procurement made. But timely payment is not made to farmers for procurement of paddy. This aspect should be looked into and it should be ensured that there is no delay in payment to the farmers.

In short, I would urge upon the Government to dispense with all correspondence between the Government of Kerala and the Government of India regarding the package of Kuttanad region and release the funds as per Dr. Swaminathan proposals at the earliest.

Keeping in view of the above, I request the Union Government that Kuttanad in Kerala should be made as a Special Agriculture Zone.

I would like to mention that different types of Boards like Rubber Board, Coconut Board, Spices Board, Coffee Board, Tea Board are existing in the country. But, there is not any Government of India Board for paddy. As all are aware, the paddy is one of the most important items in India and there is a need to give lot of support to this item. To protect the interest of the paddy farmers and paddy labours, I urge upon the Government to set up a Paddy Board which will go a long way in helping the paddy farmers.

Cashew is one of the major industries in Kerala. We are earning crores and crores of rupees as foreign exchange from cashew exports. 90% of the cashew processing units are in Kerala only, especially in Kollam District. Around 2 lakh cashew workers are working in Kollam, Allappi, Pattanamthitta and Trivandrum. More than 300 cashew factories are running in Kerala. Cashew trees are also in Kannoore and Kasargod Districts. There is a proposal for setting up of Cashew Board under Agriculture Ministry. Setting up of a Cashew Board is a long pending demand from the Kerala State. The Government of Kerala has also requested several times to Central Government to set up a Cashew Board in Kollam. So far, the Ministry has not taken any decision. I urge upon the Minister that this Board should be set up on Kollam at the earliest. Then only, the cashew industry can be promoted and farmers' and workers' interests can be protected and we can earn more foreign exchange.

A coconut development project has been implemented in Trivandrum, Kollam and Thrishur in Kerala. While Dr. Swaminathan proposed a package for the Kuttanad, it also consist a package for massive coconut revival programme for improving the health and productivity in the area. The programme announced for the three districts of Trivandrum, Kollam and Thrishur should be implemented in Kuttanda area also.

Our UPA Government has done a lot for the farmers and for the agricultural sector. Years back, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, the former Prime Minister of India, coined a slogan "Jai Jawan – Jai Kissan" and the UPA Government has done a lot for both the sectors.

With the efforts of the UPA Government and sincere cooperation from the State Governments, I am sure that

our road map will be re-drawn at the earliest and our brothers and sisters living in rural areas will enjoy the same fruits as of those in urban areas.

There is economic recession and crisis in the whole world and our brothers and sisters in the important and mainstay of economy, that is agriculture, should not be left to fend for themselves. We should give a stimulus package to the agriculture like supply of good quality seeds, providing adequate irrigation facilities and ensuing continuous power supply and also providing attractive minimum support price for their products. I am sure the Government would look into these proposals.

I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion and I would like to reiterate my request for releasing the funds for Kuttanad are at the earliest.*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in this august House. I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Our country is totally dependent on vast agricultural produce. It is a known fact that drought affects our country very often.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can make some points and then you can lay your speech.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Let me speak, Sir. It is a known fact that drought affects Northern India more than the Southern parts of India. In Tamil Nadu, apart from the rain water, the main source of water is from the adjoining States of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The Karnataka Government has constructed five huge dams over the Cauvery River in different places, but it is not supplying water to Tamil Nadu, as agreed upon in the bilateral agreement between the States. The Kerala Government is also raising objections to supply water from Mullaperiyar Dam. Every year, about 2,500 TMC of water is going waste into the sea. The Mullaperiyar Dam is the main source of water for the five districts in the Southern part of Tamil Nadu. Though the Supreme Court has passed the orders to raise the water level from 136 feet to 142 feet, but the Kerala Government has not taken any action over it so far. *...(Interruptions)* The original water storage capacity for the Mullaperiyar Dam is 152 feet. There were times when the water level was full and there was no calamity. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rashid, you can lay the rest of your speech on the Table of the House now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Shri Rashid, please lay your speech on the Table.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, nothing is going on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Sir, I lay the rest of my speech on the Table of the House.

*I support this Bill. Our country is totally dependent up on Agricultural Produce which is very vast. It is a known fact that Drought affects our country very often. Scarcity of water also is one of the reason for less produce. In Tamil Nadu apart from rain water the main source for water is Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The Karnataka Government has constructed 5 huge dams over the Kaveri in different places and not supplying the water to Tamil Nadu as agreed. The Kerala Government is raising objections to the supply of water to Muallai Periyar Dam for 5 districts in Tamil Nadu. Though the Supreme Court has passed orders to raise the level of water from 136 to 142 feet but the Government of Kerala has not taken any action over it so far. The original water storage capacity of Mullai Periyar Dam is 152 feet. Three times the water level was full and there was no calamity. Now the dam has been strengthened by widening to 44 feet which is now 198 feet and water is released through 13 shutters in the front side. If the dam reaches 136 which goes to Kulamavu dam, then to Siruthoni dam and then to Idukki dam. Iddukki Dam has got storage capacity of 75 TMC. Though there is 999 years agreement but water is not supplied from the front but the tail end. When the water level goes beyond 136 feet it flows directly to the other two Dams. After flowing in hilly areas and not in the plains and finally it reaches Idukki Dam.

On the other, side river Palar is totally dried. Now, Government of Andhra Pradesh is constructing a Big Dam across the river Palar. I request our Central Government to intervene and stop this work.

*Not recorded.

*...*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

My humble suggestion is that all the rivers in our country should be nationalized in the larger interest to protect the unity and integrity of our country.

For the crops, availability of Fertilizers should be increased. Thanks to our new Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Mr. M.K. Alagiri ji, for taking steps to improve the supply of fertilizers to agriculturists and farmers at affordable prices. To save and check water, walls should be constructed on both the sides of water channels and bridges in certain places and for these funds are needed. Hence the Central Government has to release funds to the State Government. For every 2 Kms. a check dam at a level of 15 feet has to be constructed to store the water so that the water level may improve.

In my constituency there are many coconut farms. Now a days there is a pest which affects the tender coconuts. As a result of 60% of the tender coconuts die before they could ripe. The remaining 40% will not grow in full size but its size will become 1/3rd. Normally a coconut tree yields 200-250 coconuts per year. The marketability of these disease affected products will become a question mark to the agriculturists/farmers. This pest destroys the coconut leaves which are used by poor people to make use of this as a roof to their place of living—a shelter for the poor. The husk of coconut removed from the nut is spun into yarn which is known as golden fibre and used in the manufacturing of carpets, door mats, mat tiles etc. To protect this my suggestion would be that our Government should come forward to bring some mechanism *i.e.* Crane like machines should be provided to the agriculturists/cultivators through agriculture departments to check and eradicate the disease.

It is appreciable to note that now a days in the forest areas poaching of animals by hunters is more or less stopped. As a result the bison, wild dogs/cats, bear have become more in no. even sometimes the wild dogs/cats and bear enter into the village and attack. The villagers and children who are very much afraid to go to their places of work and the children to the schools.

In my Theni constituency bordering hilly lakhs and lakhs of mango trees are there. It has become a routine by the wild animals to destroy the branches of fruit yielding trees and sometimes they were uprooted by the wild elephants. As a measure of safety to the life of the gardener as well to the crops they frighten the animals which matters the life of wild animals. The Forest Officers

as a matter of protection to the lives of wild animals come forward to book cases against them for necessary punishment. It has become very difficult to know whether the life of human being is precious or a wild animal in the case of self protection? To protect themselves from these wild animals one should have the right to chase the animals and sometimes they lose their lives also.

Ministry of Agriculture is very vast having more responsibilities. It has to protect the Forest Dwelling Rights Act brought out by our UPA Government under the auspicious guidance of Madam Sonia Gandhi ji. The Forest Dwelling Rights Act is not proper implemented. In my constituency, recently a forest officer has set ablaze a dwellers cottage (thatched house). This poor, illiterate dweller does not know what to do. Then the villagers joined together and gheraoed the forest officer. These sort of atrocities should be checked and action to be taken for abuse of their official power.

Our country is totally dependent up to the production of agricultural crops such as rice, wheat, sugarcane, vegetables, fruits etc. Our farmer always hope for the rains during the monsoon season. Untimely rains destroys the crops. Failure of monsoon also makes the farmers to lose their petty investments. Another thing I wanted to mention is that cultivation and export of cut flowers has increased. The banks should instructed to give loans to be genuine farmers on time to meet their demands. It is a known fact that mostly the genuine needy persons do not get loans but those who grease the palms of the officers enjoy this facility. This sort of malpractice should be checked. When the collectors call the bankers for a meeting they do not attend the same and also rejected the applications of genuine needy persons recommended by a Member of Parliament also.

Thanks to our UPA Government for waiving off crop loan to the farmers to the tune of 72 thousand crores. At the time of failure of monsoon our government should be come forward with latest mechanism to help these poor agriculturists/cultivators/farmers. Our Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar ji is also doing yeoman service for the welfare of the poor agriculturists in the country. I hope under his able guidance the Ministry of Agriculture will definitely do much better to check the grievances of these agriculturists as well as improvement in the field of agriculture to produce several million tonnes of their products. Pilot projects have to be implemented to preserve rain water harvesting and to avoid wastage of water. MS Swaminathan/Jadhav Commission reports have to be implemented in the larger interest of our farmers.*

*SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (Mahesana): The Government of India had accorded administrative approval to Jakhau Fishery Harbour under 100% CSS amounting to Rs. 11.43 crores in May, 1993 subject to the condition that the project should be completed and commissioned within 3 years and environment clearance should be obtained from Government of India before implementing the project. The GOI had approved the project under 100% CSS instead of the normal 50% pattern looking to the strategic location of Kutch Dist. It is pertinent to note that the harbour was designed in such a way that it could accommodate vessels of coast guard/navy for national security purposes. After receipt of approval from GOI of the project, action to obtain environment clearance was initiated by GOG in 1993 and the proposal for environment clearance was submitted in prescribed format to GOI in April 1994. The matter was inordinately delayed and was finally permitted by GOI in December 1997. As per the condition stipulated by GOI to commission construction of project only after obtaining environment clearance, the work couldn't commence though the tender was received in 1996. Thus, the project was delayed for want of environment clearance. Because of this, the project cost increased and accordingly revised cost and estimates were submitted to GOI for Rs. 29.25 crores by GoG in October 2000. Subsequently, the same were modified as per the remarks of GOI and resubmitted in March 2002 with a cost of Rs. 24.55 crores. Under this submission, the estimates were prepared on the basis of SOR for the year 1997-98 during which environment clearance was received from GOI and other components except environment related works were deleted as per direction of GOI. The submission from GOG to GOI was as per the requirement of GOI.

In response GOI did not approve the project on the ground that such type of CSS projects cannot be considered for revised approval due to (i) Natural calamities *viz.* cyclone etc. (ii) disputes over contractual works in court of law. This was conveyed by the Minister of Agriculture, GOI to Ports and Fisheries Dept. in May 2002.

As Jakhau is strategically located and is important for national security and defence, GOI had accorded administrative approval under 100% CSS as a special case. The execution of the project was done under 100% CSS and GOG had submitted revised project report and revised cost estimates of Rs. 34.84 crores in August

2007. Therefore, this being a 100% central assistance project, the difference of amount Rs. 2341.00 lakhs is required to be sanctioned by Government of India.

Probable question:-

1. Whether Jakhau Fishery Harbour is approved under 100 per cent CSS?
2. If yes, will GOI approve the excess expenditure made by the State Government?
3. If yes, within what time-frame?

[Translation]

I feel proud while presenting my opinion in the house of Lok Sabha regarding demand on the budget of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Central Government somehow give guidance and help to agriculture promoting states and farmers of agriculture dominated country. Gujarat ranks first in India by achieving 9.6 percent agriculture growth rate in comparison to Central Government agriculture growth rate of 2.7 percent. Just now International Food Policy Research Institute, Washington of America working on International level have appreciated the Gujarat Government.

I would like to say that the Government of Gujarat have drawn the attention of the entire India by chalking out a new policy for swile health card and animalshed.

The project of fisheries, agriculture and Sardar Sarover project of the Government of Gujarat is still pending and it is impending for the development of Gujarat. This demand of Gujarat may please be fulfilled which will be important for the development of Gujarat and the Country.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I will not give any speech, I would like to only give the information to the Hon'ble Minister which he will explain in his reply. This question is related to WTO Doha Round was commenced in the year 2001. Shri Kamalnathji had strongly opposed it speaking against the developed country. Shri Arun Jaitly had sharply opposed it in Kankoon in the year of 2003 and had declared it fatal for the agriculture of India. The Hon'ble Prime Minister had assured in the meeting of G-8 country held on 10th July in Italy that Doha round will be

completed by the year of 2010. Now we have to see whether a developed country would surrender or India surrenders.

Whereas G-8 Countries particularly America wants that India may end or reduce import duty on food and India wants that G-8 countries may reduce subsidy on food grains. If India reduces import duty then America is planning to destroy Indian farmers by exporting foodgrains into India on large scale. If India surrenders then it will be fatal for agriculture of this country. I would like that Hon'ble Minister will reply thereto in this statement.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to respond to the debate on Demands for Grants of the Departments of Agriculture, Food, Public Distribution and Civil Supplies.

I am grateful that most of the Members who participated in the debate have made valuable suggestions during the course of their interventions. The observations and the suggestions made by the hon. Members, *inter alia*, refer to the need of increased investment, provision of adequate credit at a low rate of interest, problem of indebtedness, payment of remunerative prices particularly to the farmers, crop insurance, market infrastructure, reforms and food subsidy. In fact, all these are the most important problems. Unless and until some positive approach has been taken on each and every issue, we will not be able to resolve the basic problem of the Indian agriculture.

We all recognize that the agricultural sector continues to be the fulcrum of Indian economy as it is the principal source of livelihood of more than 58 per cent of our population. It contributes 18 per cent of GDP and has a vital role for the food security of the country. In fact yesterday, as hon. Mahtab has mentioned, the United States of America's Secretary of State in her remarks in the Indian Institute for Rice Research said that all developed countries have to give a serious thought to the agricultural sector from developing countries. One of the reasons why she said that is India is a country where hardly 3-4 per cent cultivable land of the world is available and this 3-4 per cent cultivable land is taking care of 17 per cent population of the world and they are resolving the food security problem. It is a good

thing that developing countries are thinking and looking India from different angles.

One has to accept that in the last few years, definitely there is a change, and change is for better. Many hon. Members have raised the issue of growth rate. The Government of India has taken a number of initiatives, just to give further boost to the Indian agriculture sector. While the global economy has been reeling under recession in the last one year, our farmers have been facing vagaries of weather in the average growth rate of agriculture sector and we have succeeded to keep growth of agriculture continuously for four years at four per cent. I am grateful to the farming community of India for sustaining this growth and providing food security to the nation.

Many hon. Members have raised the issue of outlay for agriculture and investment in agriculture. Hon. Member Rajnath Singh expressed a serious concern about this; practically from all sides of the House, most of the Members have expressed concerns about this. Some of the hon. Members have given some figures; they tried to describe the total budgetary provision like somewhat near Rs. 10 lakh crore; and the budgetary provision for agriculture is Rs. 10,000 crore, which is hardly one per cent.

In fact, we should not look at agriculture from that angle. Some of the hon. Members also suggested that there should be a separate Budget for agriculture, like the Railways. But all these issues have to be studied very carefully. Firstly, on outlay – the increase in the total financial outlay for agriculture, including the Revised Estimate of Additional Central Assistance to the States for the year 2008-09, over the corresponding figure of the previous year, was 34.5 per cent; it is further proposed to be increased over the RE of 2008-09 by 13.4 per cent in 2009-10, to Rs. 11,915 crore. The plan allocation has been increased from Rs. 10,105 crore in 2008-09 to Rs. 11,307 in 2009-10, making an enhancement of Rs. 1,240 crore.

We are aware that the investment in agriculture needs to be increased. This has been well-recognized in the Approach Paper of the 11th Plan too. There was a Special NDC meeting on Agriculture on 18th May 2006. For the first time, a Special Meeting of the Chief Ministers was called to discuss the problem of agriculture. In that meeting, it was unanimously decided to have a major programme called *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* with a plan outlay of Rs. 25,000 crore; and the National

Food Security Mission with a plan outlay of Rs. 4,900 crore, which was launched to incentivise the investment by the States and the farmers. Allocation under the *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana* has been proposed to be stepped up by 30 per cent during the year 2009-10, apart from the on-going programme; and we are further working in this direction.

In fact, this particular issue about 12 per cent budgetary provision for agriculture has been raised when there was a general discussion on the Budget. My colleague, hon. Finance Minister has given a detailed reply about this. What did he tell to the House? He has told that the total budgetary provision for the Ministry of Agriculture is Rs. 16,362 crore, for the Department of Fertilisers if the Government of India is going to provide Rs. 50,000 crore as the subsidy, ultimately that subsidy is going to the farmers. We have taken a decision to provide Rs. 10,703 crore for the Ministry of Water Resources.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Are you giving subsidy to farmers on fertilizer. *...(Interruptions).*

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am not yielding. You can ask the question later on.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: That you are giving to the companies. *...(Interruptions).*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb him. Please sit down. Let him reply.

...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: You are absolutely right the MRP of urea bag is ultimately fixed and the Government of India meets the difference between the MRP of the sack and the actual price on which the farmers have procured it. If we do not meet this difference, it will be borne by the farmers. The price of urea should not exceed the price of fertilizers so in

order to keep parity between the price of urea and that of other fertilizers this practice is in vogue for the last ten years. The situation was same during the regime, so there is no change in the present situation and past situation.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): How much was the subsidy last year?

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Last year it was more but that was because the petroleum product prices were very high. That was exceptional. That was not a regular year. A budgetary provision of Rs. 1003 crore for water resources and Rs. 9700 crores plus Rs. 1000 crores for AIBA has been made in the budget total budgetary provision of Rs. 10,703 crore is made for Water Resources. That is also for agriculture.

[Translation]

The funds that will be provided for implementing irrigation project anywhere in the country will ultimately benefit agriculture. That is why this provision has been earmarked for it.

As far as Cotton Corporation is concerned highest price has been given for procurement of cotton this year, this much price has never been given before that is, Rs. 2700 per quintal which was the highest price which the Government of India has given to cotton. Cotton Corporation procured cotton at the cost of Rs. 135 crore, it is also a part of it. I do not wish to go in detail on subsidy given to sugar industry and other sectors.

Several people wonder and it has been stated even here as to how the subsidy on food benefits the farmer. It has been pointed out in this House that minimum support price for wheat has been fixed at Rs 1080 per quintal and Rs. 940 per quintal for paddy. However, from several places, complaints of distress sale are being received from Bihar and UP. I admit such complaints have been received. It proves one thing why distress sale takes place, it is because there is not much of a difference between market price and the minimum support price. The Government of India has fixed the minimum support price for wheat at Rs. 1080 per quintal which is more than the market price. So, the Government will have to provide subsidy on it to meet the difference. Last year subsidy of Rs. 26,793 crores was given. The total figure of the supporting programmes of Agriculture

and allied activities and other Ministries suggest that NREGA could also be covered, however, I would not like to go in its detail.

18.00 hrs

The water shed development programmes undertaken under NREGA ultimately benefit agriculture, water conservation, increases moisture and improves the quality of crop. All these programmes have been launched to improve agriculture.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Members agree, I will extend the time of the House up to the reply of the hon. Minister and thereafter, there will be 'Zero Hour'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The total amount is somewhere near Rs. 1,76,512 crore. So, we always calculate only agriculture. But that is not correct. We have to take agriculture; we have to take fishery; we have to take animal husbandry and dairy development; and we have to take Indian Council for Agricultural Research, which is concentrating essentially on research and development of various types of seeds and number of other activities.

[Translation]

The total amount comes to approximately one percent, so it would not be correct to say this. I agree that there is a need for making more investment. I agree that provision of Rs. Ten thousand crore is insufficient for irrigation. The problem being faced by the country today would not have been so grave if we had made adequate arrangement for water in the last few years given the fact that only 40 percent of our land is under irrigation which produces 60 percent foodgrains and 60 percent land is rainfed. So I agree with similar views expressed by several Members here. It is always our effort to concentrate more on this sector be it during Planning Commission discussion or discussion on finance. Therefore, I accept the suggestions received in consonance to this.

Secondly, suggestion for making separate budget for agriculture was given. I can understand that in regard to the Railways since a lot of investment is to be made on laying new lines and providing facilities, however, how

provision of a separate budget for Agriculture can be explained? Suppose, electricity needs to be generated, who will generate additional electricity? The Minister of Agriculture's job is not to set up powerhouse. The power generated, would be used for agriculture industry, domestic and commercial use. So many things which cannot be provided for agriculture alone. If we make separate budget to address different problems like that of water, road, village roads, district roads etc. the budget for the remaining departments would be generated? That is why preparing a separate budget for agriculture appears to be contradictory. I will have to look into it. More and more facilities should be provided in agriculture sector alongwith making budgetary provision, more investment should be made and after all it is need of the hour to empower farmers to take out a solution for food security. For the first time UPA Government has paid attention to it and changes can be seen in agriculture production. Hon'ble Rajnath Singhji observed that our production is declining in several sectors, also that of cotton I, however feel the situation is not so.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Hon'ble Minister, Sir I wants another reply from you.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Let me complete, you may ask later on.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Alright.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I am ready to answer all your questions.

[English]

I am glad to inform the august House that we were able to achieve record level of foodgrains production of 230 million tonnes in 2007-08.

[Translation]

As per the latest forced advanced estimate.

[English]

Our total agriculture food production has gone up to 233.8 million tonnes which is the highest ever after Independence. This is the highest ever after Independence. Not only that we just have not stopped here. Just check the figures of procurement.

[Translation]

The procurement of wheat this year reached up to 251 lakh tonnes which has never been there since Independence the procurement of paddy has gone up to 330 lakh tonnes which is highest ever after Independence, despite that I have received complaints.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please do not disturb the hon. Minister. Let him complete his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The complaint regarding Bihar has come to my notice as well. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: From your complaint it becomes clear that despite such a large scale procurement such complaints have been made. ...(Interruptions)

It has become clear from this that the production of foodgrain in the country has increased. If there were no increase in the production then such complaints would not have been made. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, these issues may be raised after the reply.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have replied in the House that the State Government of Punjab procured more than 90 per cent of the produce which came to the market, then handed them to FCI and the FCI paid them. The

State Government of Haryana purchased more than 90 per cent of the wheat and rice that came to the market, handed them over to the FCI and FCI paid them. Similar requests were made to the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. I myself had a talk with the Officers and Ministers of the Government of Bihar at least half a dozen of times and requested them to set up a machinery for procurement and if there were shortage of funds I was ready to give advance and I asked them to take the money to purchase. But I am sorry to say that they did not take that responsibility... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

These two states did not take their responsibility properly. Regarding this complaint I would like to submit that the local Government did not take up the responsibility of procurement properly. Not only this, they imposed ban on other agencies at several places and it was on account of this that the farmers did not get remunerative prices of their products.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB: What about the State of Orissa?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The State of Orissa has co-operated. They have a different problem. There is no sufficient facility for storage. That is the reason why there was a problem and that is what has been the issue raised by the hon. Member Shri Mahtab here. It is true. I had a detailed discussion with the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa and he has given me a programme. That programme has been totally accepted. We have started implementing the programme. I would like to assure that each and every grain will be purchased not only in the State of Orissa but even in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. If the State Governments are ready to cooperate, then I would like to assure this august House that each and every grain which the Government of Bihar will procure, the Government is ready to purchase and pay them. ...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Bolpur): The same problem is being faced by the State of West Bengal. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Another important issue which was raised here is about investment in agriculture. I have already explained about investment and outlays for agriculture. One of the major issues which was raised by many hon. Members is about insufficient Minimum Support Price to the agricultural farm products. In fact, in order to make agriculture more remunerative on sustainable basis, substantial increase of MSP for the major cereal ranging between 49 per cent to 78 per cent was provided in the last five years. For instance, from 2004-05 to 2008-09 UPA was in power. MSP for paddy was increased by Rs. 340 per quintal. If you compare with 2001-04, it was hardly increased by Rs. 50. So, Rs. 50 was on the one side given by the previous regime. In the UPA regime, the total rise which was given was Rs. 340 per quintal.

Now take the case of wheat. In wheat also, the increase of MSP given was Rs. 440 per quintal during 2004-05 to 2008-09 as against only Rs. 30 per quintal between 2001-04. What is the indication? This is the Government led by Dr. Manmohan Singh. I got an opportunity on many occasions just to discuss this subject with the hon. Prime Minister and my other colleagues. Consistent efforts have been taken by the Prime Minister in this regard and there is no compromise about the MSP. There might be some problem but we have to provide better price to the farmers. Unless and until we provide a better price to the farmers, we will not be able to resolve the problem. Many experts have said throughout the world that in the last two years, global community was facing recession but as compared to other countries, in India and China, the situation was different. One of the reasons for it was better price was provided to the farming community. That is the reason why the situation was different.

[Translation]

So it is not true that the Ministry did not pay attention towards the suggestions regarding the minimum support price. Efforts were always made to provide remunerative prices. Such increase was never made earlier as has been done today. This led to increase in production and farmers also got remunerative prices for their produce. I remember that when we held a meeting to decide the price of wheat I had contacted Prakash Singh Badal Saheb and had asked him as to what price he wanted. He told me that I was his old colleague and both of us had together launched many programme for farming so he felt that I should try to fix it at Rs. 1000. When this proposal was put before the Prime Minister

he said that it should be fixed at Rs. 1080. So, it was fixed at Rs. 1080. Later on when I contacted the hon. Chief Minister of Punjab and informed him that the price has been fixed at Rs. 1080 he was also surprised. The farmers and the leadership of Punjab are always vigilant about the agricultural prices. The Government is giving more prices than the price suggested by the leadership because our consistent approach is that unless farmers have more money and their purchasing power increased, the economy of the country will not improve as had been clearly stated by the hon. Prime Minister. Therefore, such steps have been taken in the country. Here it was suggested that CACP should be made a statutory body. A separate export Committee was appointed and it had also given some suggestions, however, we had not accepted those suggestions completely. We had not accepted those suggestion because for at least three years out of the last five years situation was such that the Government of India was giving more prices than what was recommended by the CACP. If we once accept the final decision of CACP then in the present situation when the country is facing drought conditions, probably we will have to give more money to provide assistance to the farmers in such a situation. In this situation the Government of India must have some right. So, in the present situation suggestion to constitute a statutory body does not seem appropriate and I would like to present this view before the House.

Sir, the Government of India have taken several good initiatives during the last five years and its effect is visible now. I would like to inform what was done through National Food Security Mission. Food Security Mission is being implemented in 312 districts. How were these 312 district selected? They were selected by 17 persons. What was done in these districts? It was proposed to increase the production of wheat, paddy and pulses in those districts, because the way population is increasing if the cereal production is not increased in that proportion then as Raghuvansh ji has said that we will have to always import grains. A big programme has been decided that in the 11th Plan period the production of rice will be increased to ten lakh tonnes, wheat to eight lakh tonnes and pulses to two lakh tonnes. So 312 districts have been selected for this programme. *...(Interruptions)* It has been asked as to why all districts have not been covered under it. The average production of each field in those states where 50 percent area is under cultivation of wheat or rice is ten quintal. But there are only eight such districts. They should at least make effort to bring it from eight to ten. Earlier this programme had been taken up to bring the backward

districts to the level of state average and so 350 districts have been selected. Once 350 districts will reach to the State average then there will be no difficulty in developing the remaining districts. This is to be done in the first stage. Thus this programme has been taken up.

Sir, the second very important programme that has been taken up is the National Agriculture Development Programme.

[English]

As I said, the meeting of the Chief Ministers was especially called and it was decided to provide Rs. 25,000 crore for the Eleventh Plan. We have released the money. The allocation under RKY was increased from Rs. 1,244 crore in 2007-08 to Rs. 2,886 crore in 2008-09 and a further amount of Rs. 41,000 crore has been proposed for the year 2009-10.

What is the speciality of this Scheme? Under this Scheme, the State can provide any amount of money for any scheme. The freedom is given to them. Suppose they want to provide money for dairy, they can provide for it; if they want to provide money for fisheries, they can provide for it; if they want to provide money for seeds, they can take that decision to provide for it. Apart from that, whatever money is provided by the State Government, equal amount of money will be provided by the Government of India. The reason is that the State Government should not neglect agriculture. They should provide sufficient money. This is a sort of incentive. Whatever the State Government will provide, similar amount will be provided by the Government of India. The choice and freedom is given to the State Governments. For instance, there is no rain in many parts of the country today. We have given full authority to the State Governments to use this money.

[Translation]

If the farmers are required to sow twice then probably they may not have money for seeds. If the State Government decides that seeds should be given to them free of cost then we can do that. The State Government are empowered to make provision for free distribution and the requirement will be met by the Central Government. Total freedom has been given to the State Governments. They have full right. However, our only condition is that the State Government should pay more attention towards the dairy sector, fisheries sector and agriculture sector in their respective states.

Thus a very important provision has been made through this programme. All the States have accepted that they are happy with this programme.

Thirdly, a big programme taken up was National Horticulture Mission. National Horticulture Mission Scheme was launched three years back and since then 12,61,000 hectares of land have been covered under horticulture. Every State focused on it and I am happy to say that the North east States paid maximum attention to this. The States of Orissa and Chhattisgarh that had never paid attention to it also showed interest.

18.21 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO in the Chair]

However, many a districts in these states geared up for this programme and today they are reaping the benefits of this programme and today India is the second largest producer in the field of horticulture producer in the world.

[English]

India is the second largest producer in the horticulture field. Among the horticulture products, there are certain items. Take the case of mango, banana etc. India is the second largest producer. Among the horticulture products, there are certain items. Take the case of mango, banana etc. India is the largest producer in mango and banana in the whole world. I am absolutely confident that when we will complete this scheme in the next ten years' time, India will be one of the major producers of the horticulture products.

[Translation]

I completely agree with the issue raised by Shri Rajnath Singhji. It is true that we have not properly developed post harvesting technology and the remaining infrastructure and as a result we have more losses. He has cited the example of smaller countries of the world like Thailand which is a major producer of horticulture products out of which processing is done of more than 70 percent products. In a country like Philippines fruits produced in the country 90 percent are processed done. In a country like Australia processing is more than 90 percent. However, it is only 2 percent in our country. This is true so more attention needs to be paid to it. A separate provision is required under the Horticulture mission through which the State Governments can prepare basic infrastructure in regard to cold storage,

refrigerated vans, small mandis etc. There is another special provision for the North East for this purpose.

[*English*]

During the last three years in the North-East, we have succeeded to establish 47 wholesale markets, 262 rural primary markets, 64 *apni mandis*, 18 State green laboratories, and 31 ropeways. We have spent about Rs. 349 crore.

Similarly, in the rest of the State through the Horticulture Mission, under the post-harvest management component, we have set up 1,108 pack houses, 109 cold storage units, eight wholesale markets, and 51 rural markets. We have spent Rs. 3,140 crore in the last two years just to provide this infrastructure. Still, this is insufficient. In a country like India, we require much more infrastructure. That is why, this year we have provided Rs. 1,100 crore. But we are discussing with the NABARD and some other agencies whether we can give more boost to this type of programme with the help of the banking institutions and partly from the scheme. We are in that process and I am confident that we will be able to resolve that issue too. But unless and until we provide substantial money for setting up infrastructure for this type of programme, we will not be able to save our wastage. In fact, in our country, it is a shocking thing that whatever the farmer produces and when it goes actually to the home; between his farm to home, the total loss is somewhere near to Rs. 50,000 crore per year. It is a huge amount. This is a national waste. That is why we have to give it a serious thought. Shri Rajnath Singh has made a very important point. That is why we have taken this subject very seriously.

Another issue which has been raised is about providing quality seeds. Ultimately, if we do not provide quality seeds, we will not be able to improve the production.

Coming to the Agriculture Universities, I would like to say that the total number of Universities which have been set up in this country is more than 40. They have ample land. Unfortunately, they are not using that land properly. There was lot of land which remains waste. We have provided Rs. 250 crore to the Agriculture Universities. We requested them to use the land and we provided quality seeds. Fortunately, that programme has succeeded. Today, a huge seed production has been there in this country. When we are seriously discussing the situation of delay in the rains, we thought that we

would require additional seed. Whatever additional requirement should be there, we have already provided that. We have got more than 15 lakh quintals of seed which is available as additional seed. Whatever programme was taken up, we have ultimately succeeded in that programme.

Another important programme which has been taken up, which was raised by many hon. Members also, was about the quality of the soil. The farmer does not know what type of a soil is there. That is why, he is using different types of fertilizers which sometimes create a serious problem for that land. That is why, we have to do something. We have taken up a major programme, the National Project on Management of Soil Health and Fertility. We have introduced it from this year. We have decided to set up 250 mobile vans; 535 Static Soil Testing Laboratories; 70 Fertilizer Quality Control Laboratories. We are going to set them up throughout India. We have practically started allocation to all the States. We have requested the State Governments. We are providing it. We are requesting them to buy mobile vans, make them available in the districts, try to take maximum sample of the land and give the Soil Health Card to every farmer. That major programme has been taken up. I am sure, in the next three to four years' period, we will be able to complete this programme in the entire country and we will be able to provide the Soil Health Card to each and every farmer. Accordingly, he can use the various types of fertilizers.

Another very important issue raised was about organic farming. It was raised particularly, friends from the North-East raised it. It is true that the Government also wants to give serious thrust to conservation of agriculture and to ensure sustainability of production levels while enhancing the quality of output. Unless and until we promote bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, bio-insecticides and organic farming, we will not be able to get the results. Fortunately, there is a very good market, domestic market and the international market. Whatever a farmer is producing through organic farming, he is getting best price and also results. There is tremendous scope. In fact, at the Ministry level, we are getting requests from various countries.

[*Translation*]

We are getting suggestion from reputed responsible institutions for increasing production through organic farming and our entire products would be sold in the European market. Today we have the most.
...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Honnourable Minister of Agriculture, have you got manufacturing units of bio-fertilizers set up, have you taken an estimate of production in one acre of land?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: It is a simple fact that there is no need to set up a manufacturing unit for bio-fertilizer. It is vermiculture. There is no need of a manufacturing unit for vermiculture. How vermiculture is done-it can be done through cow dung obtained in houses, so there is no need for a manufacturing unit. There is a huge difference between a fertilizer manufacturing units and vermiculture manufacturing unit. A manufacturing unit is required for organic fertilizer whereas a farmer can do vermiculture. We need to extend a helping hand to the farmer so we have taken up this programme. Three years ago organic farming was done in 42,000 hectares of land. In the year 2007-08, it reached upto 8 lakh 65 thousand hecatres. It is increasing. I see maximum potential in the entire North-East.

[English]

It is there in the entire North-East. Fortunately, in the North-East, the farmers are not using fertilizers, chemicals and also pesticides. Therefore, there is a tremendous potential for organic farming. So, I have taken a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers. We have once organised a major Agriculture Products Exhibition in Nagaland. We invited all the Chief Ministers, all the Agriculture Commissioners and the Agriculture Ministers.

We have explained the importance of these organic products and I am quite happy to inform the august House that there was a very good response from the North Eastern States and it is possible to organise similar programmes in the rest of the country also.

Another issue which has been raised by some hon. Members here is regarding providing financial support for micro irrigation schemes. In fact, a suggestion has been made here that the Government of India should provide 100 per cent subsidy for drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation systems. That would not be correct because on any scheme, if 100 per cent subsidy is provided by the Government, nobody takes that scheme seriously. We have consciously taken a decision that 40 per cent will be provided by the Government of India, 10 per cent will be provided by the State Government, 50 per cent will be the subsidy component and the farmer has to arrange for the remaining 50 per cent either through loan from the bank or through his own

resources and he can make use of this programme. I am happy to inform that last year, the actual expenditure made on this scheme was to the tune of Rs. 1,485 crore and this year we have made a provision of Rs. 430 crore for this particular programme. There is a very good response for this. I have decided to call a meeting of Finance Ministers and Agriculture Ministers of all the States on this issue. I am going to discuss it with them and I am going to impress upon them that they should give more support to drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation and other micro irrigation schemes. Equal support will be provided by the Government of India.

Sir, one of the important issues raised here was that there are a lot of research activities taking place, but how can we take this research information to the farmers? Today we have set up a *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* in every district of the country. Then, there are about 50 or 55 districts which are big in size and we have decided to set up one more *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* in these districts. The responsibility of these *Krishi Vigyan Kendras* is to provide all the latest technology which the ICAR and its research institutes are developing and propagate them to the farmers. We have given tremendous support to this. We have appointed 10 officers in each of the *Krishi Vigyan Kendra*, financial support has been provided and through them we are trying to reach the farmers all the latest research developments and technology.

Another programme is called *Aatma*. In every village we would like to set up clubs through the help of State Governments and these clubs will be provided all the information about the latest technology and knowledge about various crops, diseases and all other details. The idea is that they should try to give that information to their fellow farmers.

Another suggestion was made here and that was that if we set up a separate television channel for agriculture, it will be definitely very useful. In fact, this particular suggestion was made by Shri Rajnath Singh in his speech. About three years back, we took a decision to explore the possibility whether we can set up a separate television channel for agriculture. We have appointed an Expert Committee and the job has been entrusted to them. We are expecting the final report from them by the end of this month.

The preliminary information which we got is that if we are going to set up an exclusive channel for agriculture, it will be either in Hindi or in English at the national level and that will not be useful. We have to

provide it in regional languages also. If we have to provide it in regional languages, then the suggestion was that instead of setting up such a channel in all the regional languages, we can make use of the already available 4 or 5 channels like Doordarshan and others and if they are ready to provide a few hours, we can start with that. We tried to collect the information as to what will be the total cost involved. It looks like that a minimum of Rs. 1,000 crore will be the initial investment required for this purpose and a similar amount will be required if we have to set up this channel in all the regional languages. Then, it is not easy to get the content also. But we are working on that and I am absolutely clear about one thing that if we use this type of technology to disseminate information and knowledge to the farmers, probably this will be more useful. So the Government is going to take this suggestion very seriously and we will take an appropriate action on that.

Another important issue raised here is about the credit flow to farmers. In fact, this particular issue was explained in the House by the Finance Minister also. About four years back a conscious decision was taken that unless and until we provide a maximum amount for agricultural credits the farmers' dependence on the *sahukars* and others will not stop. There the decision was taken that the total agricultural credit which was provided for was Rs. 86,000 crore. From that Rs. 86,000 crore, this year we are going to provide Rs. 3,25,000 crore.

Previously, the farmer was getting the crop loan at 12 per cent. During the NDA regime that was brought down from 12 per cent to 9 per cent. In the UPA regime, during the last two years, it has been brought down from 9 per cent to 7 per cent. This year, if the farmers are ready to pay regularly, one per cent has also been provided to them and it will be at 6 per cent.

I am particularly very happy about one thing that there are many State Governments which have taken the initiatives. The Karnataka Government has taken the initiative, the Chhattisgarh Government has taken the initiative, the Maharashtra Government has taken the initiative, the Tamil Nadu Government has taken the initiative, the Andhra Pradesh Government has taken the initiative. ...(*Interruptions*) I do not know about Madhya Pradesh. But most of the State Governments have taken the initiatives. They are also not behind. It is a good thing that the Government of India has taken two per cent or three per cent subvention responsibility and the State Governments are also coming forward with the

same responsibility. That is why, in many States, the farmers are getting loans at 4 per cent rate of interest. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Please tell us about Chhattisgarh.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I do not know about Chhattisgarh I would be happy if it is there. If any state is taking initiative I would be happy because it will benefit the farmers. Those who take initiatives do well and I acknowledge it.

[*English*]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Is it for medium-term or long-term?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This is a crop loan. All the State Governments have provided for crop loan.

A recommendation, which has been made by the former commission headed by Dr. Swaminathan, has been accepted partly by the Government of India and partly by many State Governments and has been implemented. I am absolutely confident that there will definitely be good results because of that.

Another issue has been raised regarding the mention of Vidharbha in hon. Finance Minister's Speech. He has announced that he is going to appoint a task force to study the problems of the farmers who are taking money from the private moneylenders. I have discussed it with the hon. Finance Minister. This will be a pilot project. Ultimately, we have to study from somewhere, that is why the Finance Ministry has selected Vidharbha and they would like to study it completely. Whatever, ultimately, the study report will come, the Finance Ministry and the Government of India will give serious thoughts on how this particular recommendation can be used, whether we can start it on a pilot basis and take the experience; if the experience is good, how we can expand it to rest of the country also. The thinking is for the whole country, but beginning is from Vidharbha. That is the overall thinking about this. That is why one should not think that it will be only restricted to this area, or that just because the elections are round the corner in a particular State, that is the reason why we have done it. That is not the case.

About debt waiver, one particular question was raised by Shri Kumaraswamy, hon. Member from Karnataka. He has asked as to what exactly the amount that has been ultimately spent, and how many farmers are benefited. Whatever the information that I have got from the Department of Banking is that though the Budgetary provision was proposed for Rs. 71,000 crore, the actual disbursement is Rs. 67,000 crore. Rs. 67,000 crore have been deposited in the banks and the number of farmers who got advantage of this is 3,96,00,000. They have definitely got benefited. The new scheme that has been now announced will definitely give a sort of incentive to regular payment.

Many issues were raised regarding procurement and the buffer-stock. One of the issues which has been raised by many Members, and to be frank the whole country is worried about that particular situation, is the late arrival of monsoon.

[Translation]

The report received through the IMD stated arrival of monsoon in advance in the country this year.

[English]

A briefing has been made to the Prime Minister; briefing has been made to me and ultimately that communication was given to them.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: This is not so, The monsoon was in advance, this is true, it came to Kerala eight days ago, however stopped there itself.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

In the last few years, few months, few weeks, we are observing that there is deficiency in rainfall. But now the situation is changing. Deficiency in rainfall was improved initially and on 1st of July the deficiency was 46 per cent minus in the country as a whole; 46 per cent minus rain was there in the country as a whole. On 8th of July, from 46 per cent minus, it has come down to 36 per cent minus in the country as a whole. On 15th of July, it has come to minus 27. As on today, in the country as a whole, it is minus 27. But there are some States where the situation is quite serious. They are Bihar, Western UP, some areas of Eastern UP, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana.

In these States the situation is serious as compared to other States. There are some pockets in Andhra Pradesh, there are some pockets in Tamil Nadu where this situation is there; but it is not the whole State. But if you study the Bihar situation, as compared to any other State, it is definitely serious. Similarly, in certain parts of Uttar Pradesh, the situation is quite serious. Though in Punjab and Haryana, irrigation and ground water level position is comparatively better but there is no sufficient rain in Punjab and Haryana. In such a situation, we have to take many decisions. Fortunately, as I said, deficiency has gone down from 46 per cent minus to 27 per cent minus, overall situation of the various crops has been improved. But there are exceptions about some crops. In paddy, as compared to last year, if you compare with this week, definitely transplanting has been dropped, but definitely there is improvement in jowar, in bajra, in pulses, fortunately, and improvement in oilseeds. But in other major crops like paddy etc. there is a substantial drop. We are quite worried. Paddy transplantation can go up to 31st of this month. Alternative arrangement has been provided. We have taken a series of meetings every week. We have taken the meetings with the State Governments, conferences with the State Governments. We have provided alternative seeds to them.

[Translation]

Shri Raghuvansh asked about a separate programme which was proposed to be taken up after 15 July. It is true that a particular crop was required to be transplanted, it would not be transplanted after 15th, so another crop can be taken up. Somewhere millet, pearl millet, oil seeds or pulses could be taken up for transplantation. Their seeds were not available. Arrangements were made to provide seeds to these states. Arrangements for distributions through the state Governments was made. They can make use of the budgetary provision in RKVI. We will give them some information tomorrow in this regard. In addition to it the Government of India has made all possible preparations. Several hon. Members asked why drought was not announced. It is the responsibility of the State Government and not the Central Government to announce drought. Certain State Governments like Manipur have taken such steps.

[English]

Manipur has announced 11 districts as drought-affected districts. Jharkhand has announced four districts as drought-affected districts. Then, Assam has announced

14 districts as drought-affected districts. Then, Madhya Pradesh has announced 152 Tehsils and 41 districts as drought-affected areas. But they have announced these places as drought-affected not for this year; they have announced this in view of the deficient rain during the last season.

[Translation]

They have announced it in view of the deficient rain last year the Madhya Pradesh Government might have done it to check recovery and in respect installment. Four states, have taken such steps. No proposals have been received by the Government of India so far to send a Central team to study drought situation there. We are trying to contact them that if any team is required to be sent there, we can constitute and send one. We will extend necessary financial support to the state Government for the victims on the basis of the request that will be received. Be it in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh or any other state. I want to put it before the House that if a drought like situation is created in the country, the Government of India will not be silent spectator, it would rather extend all possible help to the State Government and farmers.

An Honorable Member: By when it will be done?
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is no demand from the State. ...*(Interruptions)* Ultimately they have to communicate us which district and which Tehsil, and where we should send our team. Unless the State Government communicates this, we do not send our team. That is not proper also.

[Translation]

We have a demand particularly from Punjab and Haryana. There is water under the ground, so the farmers want to take water through board and other means over there. Power was scarce there. I want to thank the Minister of Power in particular because he had provided additional 50 MW power to Punjab and Haryana initially from central grid and has given instructions to release 50 MW power for sowing operation for this season last week.

[English]

Order has been issued, and that additional power has been provided to Punjab and Haryana. I am confident that they will take advantage of it.

[Translation]

Along with this, we have prepared many other proposals. These proposals are-Additional Mini Kits with seeds meant for these states. Secondly, I have read in newspaper that Bihar Government has introduced a programme to provide subsidy on diesel. I want to contact the Bihar Government. We can save the transplanting paddy that is reported from Punjab, Haryana or Bihar by helping them with diesel or power. The Government of India is ready to share the contribution of the State Governments. We will take steps soon by consulting them in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far Bihar is concerned, it has come to my notice that the State Government is providing subsidy at the rate of Rs. 15 per litre. It is not fair to make the State government bear this whole burden alone. The Government of India will share some of this financial burden. ...*(Interruptions)* It has not sent any demand for this, even then we are ready to share without any demand from their side. We are ready to take responsibility and provide help in drought. There was good rainfall last three-four years, so there was good production of foodgrains. This year we are facing grave situation.

Sir, we will try to find some way out to deal with this situation. As far as the sugar mills are concerned, it has been stated that the Government of India has banned production of ethanol. We have received such a complaint. I want to make one thing very clear that we, too, understand importance of ethanol. The Government of India has taken steps and it has already been decided to mix 10% ethanol in petroleum products. The price of ethanol was fixed at Rs. 21.50 per litre.

[English]

The Bihar Government had requested us that they want to set up exclusive ethanol plants. But I know about this, and I had consulted many experts on this, that exclusive ethanol is not a viable proposition. Except Brazil, nobody in the world produces ethanol exclusively for sugarcane use.

[Translation]

Today in India there are many ethanol plants at various places. It has the system that produces sugar after processing sugarcane and then ethanol from molasses which are left as residues at the end of

process and then power is generated after processing biogases which is left as residue at the end of processing molasses. Thus, the combination of power, ethanol and sugar increased viability. If you make only ethanol from the juice of sugarcane, there will be a wide gap between prices of sugar and ethanol. The price of sugar is Rs. 2400 per quintal and the price of ethanol is Rs. 21.50 per litre. If you compare it with sugar, its price will remain only Rs. 1200 or 1300 per quintal. So, producing ethanol alone will not be viable. I want to tell that exclusive ethanol plants were set up at 11 places in Maharashtra. These all are lying closed now. If necessary, Bihar Government may send its delegation to us and we can show them that all such plants are lying closed. Why are these plants lying closed? They may see by visiting there. That is why I am saying that setting up of exclusive ethanol manufacturing plants is not viable.

Sir, people say why ethanol plant is viable only in Brazil. I want to tell that Brazil has a system. First of all it has surplus land. Lakhs of acres land are owned by very few land owners, whereas here 82 percent sugarcane supply is made by the farmers whose holding is less than two acre.

[English]

Eighty two per cent sugarcane is supplied by the farmers whose holding is less than two acre.

[Translation]

We have all small farmers. We cannot compare ourselves with Brazil because there is only one owner for a sugarcane farm of at least 50 thousand acre. I want to tell you as to what is the system there. If the price of petroleum products rises above 60 dollar per barrel, they produce ethanol. If the price of Petroleum products falls below 60 dollar per barrel and sugar gets costlier, they manufacture sugar. Three months back petroleum prices were not so high, Brazil produced only ethanol. In the last two three months, when petroleum again became costlier, Brazil stopped production of ethanol and began manufacturing sugar.

I consulted Bihar Government and said that the exclusive ethanol plant that they want to set up there will not be feasible and I believe that the industrialists who came forward are now no longer interested. I want to tell you that we had sent a delegation of big sugar mill operators of this country who had held discussion with the hon'ble Chief minister. After conducting field

study they have reported me in writing that they do not want to set up sugar industries there. Its reason may be anything. I will be happy if there is some improvement or change in the prevailing situation over the time. I understand that there is a need to pay more attention to it. The first ever sugar mill in this country was set up in Bihar. In India, production of sugar started from Bihar. Afterwards, it was started in Uttar Pradesh followed by southern states. The situation of Bihar got deteriorated and now the farmers of Bihar required cash crops. It may be sugarcane. There is shortage of sugar in the areas like West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Assam, the North-East and all across the country and if the shortage of sugar is to be met, it is Bihar, where there is need to pay more attention. The Government of India is ready to cooperate with Bihar for it, it will make no sense to bring irrational projects which are not viable, as it would cause losses instead of earning profit and that is why we have taken such a step. So, there was no laxity on our part. I do not want to take any more time of this House. I am happy to say one thing that all the Members of this House have given very good suggestions on agriculture in this country. I will pay heed to them as to how we can implement them and make all possible efforts to deal with the crisis of drought that we are facing today and provide proper help to those farmers who are going to suffer because of this situation. This year does not seem to be good, even though we will try to have a way out with the cooperation of State Governments and the Government of India will provide all necessary help in regard to whatsoever steps the State Government may take steps in this regard. On this account I assure the farmers of the whole country through the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now that all your queries are effectively being answered, we will take up cut motions.

[Translation]

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT (Korba): Tell us about the procurement of paddy in Chhattisgarh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Government of Chhattisgarh through its department of Food and Civil Supply has made some. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mulayam Singhji, please take your seat for a while.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There is one issue. They have purchased. ...*(Interruptions)* Some complaints have been given to me. In fact, I do not know what is the authenticity and other things because all the complaints have been given because it is reported in some newspapers. So, unless and until one sees the seriousness and truth in this, I will not be able to commit. But definitely, I will consult the State Government and if something is wrong there, we will take appropriate action.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Chairman Sir, I would like to thank the Minister of Agriculture. He has rightly mentioned about various things and a lot of problems being faced by the farmers, but there are three or four such points to which I find it difficult to agree.

One is about the loot of the produce of the farmers, to protect the farmers from this. He said that the Govt. declared the price of rupees 300 in 2001, then it was raised to rupees 400, but why is he not able to perceive the difference in wages at present and those which were prevalent at that time. The wages today have more than doubled. Similarly think of the difference in the previous and present prices of fertilizers, electricity etc, take all these things into account. What were the prices of seeds in the previous time, that has also caused loss to the farmers. Secondly, I would like to ask it through you that the Commission for Agricultural cost and Prices accepted it about a year and half ago that one quintal of wheat is produced at the cost of rupees 900. One quintal of paddy is produced at the cost of rupees one thousand. The Chairman of the Commission also recommended it when we met him in the form of a front comprising 70 MLAs and MPs. He assured us that the Farmers will be provided 50% more price than the cost of its production and also sent the recommendation to the Government. He should go through it. Will he implement it? Presently the wheat was sold at the rate of rupees 800 to 850 per quintal and when we talk of the cost of its production, it comes to rupees nine hundred (900) per quintal, that is after spending an amount of rupees nine hundred (900) one quintal of wheat is produced. He will also be well aware of it. One thousand rupees are spent on the production of one quintal of paddy. To save the farmers from this loot I urged that the price of wheat should be rupees

1375 per quintal and the price of paddy should be rupees 1500 per quintal, but wheat and paddy should be given to the poor at a cheaper rate. The farmer should get remunerative prices, while the poor should get it at a cheaper rate.

I would like to thank him for milk for which he has established Mother Dairy. He has also given me an appointment to discuss it the given time we shall discuss it with him. But today the rate of milk in villages is rupees ten per litre. But in some villages the rate is rupees eleven per litre.

19.00 hrs.

The rate at which it is being sold is rupees twenty six per litre. You are getting it at the rate of rupees twenty six per litre. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mulayam Singhji, ask questions only. There is no time for discussion, only questions should be asked.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Sir, I would like to say that the farmers should get remunerative prices. Let me complete my point. The matter relates to the farmers. It is only through farmers that the country may become great. Mr. Chairman, only agriculture can engine this. I would like to know from the Agriculture Minister whether he will protect the farmers from this loot with regard to the prices of wheat, paddy and milk by giving them the price of wheat at rupees 1375 per quintal, the price of paddy at rupees 1500 per quintal and when milk is being sold at the rate of rupees 26 per litre, whether rate of milk will be rupees 16 per litre in village. There are the three questions on which I want answer. The poor should be provided these commodities at cheaper rates. While the farmers should get a remunerative price. Would he like to implement the price which has been recommended by the Commission for Agricultural cost and prices?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, there are still a few more questions. Please take your seat. You can reply them together.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH (Ghaziabad): Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Minister that he has concluded this discussion with full preparation, but there are many issues on which we do not agree, and I would not like

to discuss them here, as we think that the issue relating to villages, the poor and the farmer should not be given political colour. I say that if this Government goes a step forward on the issues related to villages, the poor and the farmers, our Party is ready to support it wholeheartedly and is also ready to fully cooperate with this Government. I would like to some information and clarifications.

When I initiated the discussion, I had referred to crop insurance, rather farm income insurance scheme. This scheme had been worked out by us. Now I am not going to discuss it as you have said nothing in that regard. As regards the crop insurance which is prevalent at present, can it not be done in this system that for each and every family of the farmers of the country, at least one crop should be compulsory, will the farmer be able to pay its premium? Whether the Government may consider that 70 to 75 percent subsidy related to premium will be provided by the Central Government or state Government and Central Government will together provide this percentage of subsidy. Can we not consider over this?

As regards Kisan Credit Card, I would like to say that about eight crore farmers of this country have been issued Kisan Credit Cards. By when the rest of the farmers are likely to get credit card? I would like to be informed about this.

Third, as regards interest subvention I had said that the budgetary allocation of interest subsidy is about two thousand crore rupees. Minister of Finance is also present in the House. This year a reduction amounting to rupees six hundred crore has been done in the allocation of interest subsidy. Are you not in a position to provide the same amount of interests subsidy as was provided during the last time? At least that much amount of interest subsidy should be provided to the farmers of the country as had been provided previously.

Fourth, cooperative sector had enjoyed income tax exemption for 24 to 25 years. There has been no exemption to it at present in the income-tax for two or more years. Whether the hon. Minister of Agriculture is not able to fully exempt the cooperative sector from income tax.

Fifth, he will also agree with this that agricultural land has been dwindling very fast due to land acquisition. I think that due to land acquisition the area of agriculture is fast decreasing. If it goes on dwindling with this speed then food security crisis will engulf in this country. So, I

would like to say that the Land Acquisition Bill which has been introduced in this house by you should be passed in the current session itself. Is it not possible to do? If you are unable to get that Bill passed in this session, we are ready to fully support the Land Acquisition Amendment Bill as I get elected from the Ghaziabad Parliamentary Constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajnath Singh, we cannot have a discussion. Please put the question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: The farmers of Ghaziabad in particular and in general the farmers of across the country are agitated. Can it not happen that the Government of India submit an advisory to the State Government in regard to land acquisition that until the Land Acquisition Amendment Bill is passed in the Parliament, no land acquisition be done? The land of the farmers should not be acquired at any cost until it has the full consent of the farmers.

No only the people of India, but the people across the world are increasingly getting drawn towards bio-fertilizer, organic farming. You know that compost manure, cattle dungs are fully utilized in bio-fertilizer, organic farming. The hon'ble Minister has with him the Department of Animal Husbandry as well. What is the opinion of the hon'ble Minister in this regard? The cow slaughter that is taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*. Cows and calves should not be slaughtered at any cost in India. Can something be done in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajnath Singh, please take your seat. You have put seven questions. This is not the time for discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: I want clarification from the hon. Minister on all these issues.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Shri B. Mahtab, this is not the time for discussion. Please put one clarificatory question only. Please put only one question.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I need to put two questions.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can put only one question please. I am allowing few more Members.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I am asking only two clarifications. One has been already put forth by
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahtab, you can ask only one question because it is not the time for discussion. We had a detailed discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Then, I will not put a clarification.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.

Dr. K.S. Rao. You may put only one question please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this is not the time for discussion. I have allowed one hon. Member to raise one question. If he does not want to raise the question, it is his will.

...(Interruptions)

DR. K.S. RAO (Eluru): The hon. Minister has agreed that fish farming is also a part of agriculture. While allowing write off of the loans, they have allowed write off of loans taken by the farmers growing paddy and other crops. In this regard, I would like to state that when it comes to the question of fish farming, the investment is more on the fish-feed, just as it is on fertilizers, pesticides etc. in the case of paddy cultivation. Here, the fish-feed loan is not waived off and the farmers are making large claims in my area. In my area, fish is produced for the entire country. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will waive off the loan taken by the farmers to purchase fish-feed.

Similarly, in the case of micro-irrigation, soluble fertiliser is being used, on which the customs duty, at present, is 35 per cent. I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether he will make a request to the Finance Minister to reduce it to five per cent.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to know just one thing from the hon'ble Minister. On one hand, he contended in respect of ethanol production that its production is not viable in our country, on the other, in respect of Brazil he stated that it was viable over there.
...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please keep quiet.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH: People produce sugar and in case the rates of sugar remain less, they produce ethanol. I would like to contend that there is contradiction in both the points put forth by the hon'ble Minister. The restriction imposed by him that only the sugar producer will be able to produce ethanol should be removed and it should be left to the investors' will to produce sugar or ethanol. Will he make an announcement in this regard?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, will the Government amend the Essential Commodities Act — in view of the abnormal increase of prices of almost all essential commodities — to make the provisions of this Act more stringent to prevent speculation and hoarding, and to prevent the creation of artificial crisis in the market?

The farmers are asking for remunerative price and not Minimum Support Price (MSP). Will the Government consider giving remunerative prices to the farmers in the future in place of MSP?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman Sir, the hon'ble Minister has mentioned about all the good schemes viz. National Agriculture Development Scheme, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Crop Insurance etc. For ensuring the awareness and collaboration of the hon'ble Members, will the hon'ble Minister take some action?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I request ...

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Meghe, please take your seat. I am not allowing you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I request Shri B. Mahtab to please put his questions briefly.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Yes, I will put them very briefly. ...*(Interruptions)* Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first question has already been put forth by Shri Rajnath Singh relating to the agriculture insurance mechanism. My question to the hon. Minister is this, and I had mentioned about it in my speech also when I participated in the discussion. Sir, you were also in the Chair at that time. There is an urgent need to seriously consider the proposal of including coverage of pre-sowing and post-harvesting. Today, you have a pilot project, which is weather-based, and it is not even successful. Is the Government going to consider a pre-sowing and post-harvest insurance mechanism to be put in place?

Secondly, the Minister in his exhaustive reply to the debate has also mentioned about post-harvest preservation system, which will be in place with budgetary support. But our interest would be in knowing this. How much of public investment will be there? Private investment is there, but it is not being successful. How much public investment will be there, so that it will make it successful?

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): I will only ask one question, and I am not going to make a long speech. Sir, the hon. Finance Minister as well as the Agriculture Minister is present here. I very carefully heard the speech of the hon. Agriculture Minister. In fact, I have not participated, and this morning, another Member of my Party — who happens to be my son — has participated in the discussion. This is the list that he has shown, and only two illustrations he has given where the properties belonging to two widows who have less than five acres of land have been auctioned. Therefore, he has already quoted it, and you have mentioned about it. I am happy that at least you have taken note of it.

The issue is how many people have been covered under the cooperative sector, so far as the loan component is concerned. How many people have gone to the commercial banks or the nationalized banks, and whether the nationalized banks are going to give the same rate of concessions as the cooperative societies? These are the things on which I wanted to seek clarifications from you. The Finance Minister first made an announcement in this House about agriculture debt waiver and debt relief scheme, 2008. Subsequently, supplementary instructions have been issued on 28th May, 2008. In fact, I wanted to participate in this debate. It is a very, very major issue. For the first time in my life, today I have not taken up this issue. There are so many issues which cannot be clarified by merely putting one question. I have understood that Shri Rajnath Singh raised several issues. I want to take this opportunity only to mention about the auctions which have been made in Karnataka in respect of lands belonging to poor people, which was mentioned by Shri Kumaraswamy, that is, for irrigation, poultry, and other allied agricultural industries. Whether you take bore-well, poultry or fisheries as one of the components, so far as waiving of loan is concerned, is to be clarified by your hon. goodself.

[Translation]

SHRI NAMA NAGESWAR RAO (Khammam): Sir, hon'ble Agriculture Minister is working out the Minimum Support Price by making the wholesale price index as the base. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that whether he intends to give 50 per cent over and above the actual price at which MSP is worked out as per the Swaminath Commission recommendations? My second point is that the Government is importing petrol and it is being sold at the rate of 50 Rs. per liter,

[English]

Why not encourage the sector by increasing the ethanol rate from Rs. 22 to whatever rate you charge for the petrol?. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Sir, my question is very important.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have allowed one Member from each party, please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I had said this in my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There will be no more discussion. I have allowed one Member from each party, please take your seat. Hon. Minister, you may please reply now.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Hon. Member Basu Deb Acharia raised the issue of the Essential Commodities Act. In fact, in 2006, this House has amended the Essential Commodities Act, and powers have been given to the State Governments. Against hoarding and black marketing, all powers have been given to the State Government and it is competent to take decisions about that.

Hon. Devegowdaji raised one particular issue. Shri Kumaraswamy, hon. Member and former Chief Minister, has given two instances. Unless and until I get all the details, it will be difficult for me to say something about that. One of the issues which he has raised is how many farmers have actually been benefited by the waiver. As I said, the total number of farmers who have benefited because of waiver is three crores and ninety or eighty lakhs. As per my recollection, the total number of farmers in this country is twelve crores. Out of that, three crores are defaulters, and those who were defaulters were not getting any type of loan from any cooperative institution or bank. So, the waiver had definitely come to their rescue, and the defaulters have now become eligible to get loans. Another three crore farmers are not defaulters, and they are taking money either from cooperative banks or major nationalised banks or scheduled banks. As per my information, there are about six crore farmers who are taking advantage of various types of agricultural credit being extended by various financial institutions. The rest of the farmers do not go anywhere. They might be going to private *sahukars*, the money-lenders. This is the figure that I recollect. He has made these two particular references. He should give all the details to me and I am ready to go into these details.

[Translation]

Mulayam Singhji raised the issue of the prices of milk and wheat. Last year the CACP had fixed the prices of wheat and the Government of India had made an improvement in that regard.

[English]

We had not only accepted it but we have improved on it.

[Translation]

As far as the prices of milk are concerned, the Government of India does not fix it. When we fix the minimum support price, it is our responsibility to ensure that if the prices go below that level,

[English]

then the Government has to enter into the market. We are not capable to purchase or procure milk throughout India. That is impossible for any Government and particularly for the Government of India. That is why, we do not fix milk prices. The State Governments decide milk prices according to the availability.

[Translation]

Rajnath Singhji raised some questions. One was in regard to subvention. It is true that the provision is less than our requirement in regard to what we had decided about subvention. However, a discussion had taken place with the hon'ble Finance Minister in this regard.

[English]

And he has committed, he has assured us that whatever decision has been taken, additional money would be provided. So, there will not be any problem. Secondly, the question is about the taxes for these cooperative banks. In fact, it is not proper for me to discuss tax proposals here. But whatever is the view of those who are involved with the cooperative movement, I have already communicated their views to the hon. Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You can make a strong recommendation.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: As for the insurance, the previous Government has taken the decision to introduce farm insurance. After that one Committee was appointed. That Committee was asked to go into details and consult the State Governments on this. The Report has been submitted to the Government of India. In that, there is one thing about the pilot project on farm income insurance scheme. The majority of the States were not keen to implement the scheme as yield and the price had an obsessing behaviour. That is one of the reasons which they have not accepted.

The second point which they have said is that some of the States were of the view that the guaranteed income was not attractive since the market price of the superior variety grown was never below MSP. They have given that reason. Thirdly, they have mentioned about the non-availability of the past and also current data at implementation level. That was also a hindrance for the smooth implementation of the scheme. These were two or three reasons that were communicated by the State Governments. They have not shown the interest. That is why, the pilot scheme was stopped and the new scheme has been introduced.

There is only one problem about the new scheme. The Government of India wants that a village should be a unit as compared to a tehsil or a district. In fact, this concept does not give justice to the farmers.

[Translation]

Some villages in a single tehsil or block witness rain and some others do not witness it. If its benefits do not accrue to the farmers, it will be of no use. That is why, a visit is needed. Ultimately the land of the farmers needs to be taken into view, however, the experience of crop cutting is required in this regard. The responsibility of the crop cutting experiment is on the State Government. All the State Governments are of the opinion that they do not have full machinery to take the crop cutting experiment of each farmer and tender the govt. their suggestion in this regard. However, to carry out its implementation in a proper way, it has been decided to call a meeting of all the Chief Ministers of the States. In that meeting, we will submit this point. Besides, in the instalments, 50 per cent share has to be borne by the Union and the State Governments respectively. But the State Governments are not ready to accept that. This point will also be discussed in the Chief Ministers' meeting and some steps will be taken in this regard. After resolving these two issues, we could get success in removing the limitations and shortcomings in this regard.

The third question he has raised is about acquisition. This is true that the Cabinet had appointed a committee in regard to land acquisition under my chairmanship. One of the recommendations of this committee is that no IS a need to acquire the barren lands. As such, it is required that the Bill introduced in the House should be improved upon. So far as I remember, a meeting of the Cabinet is to be held tomorrow itself and this issue has been put before it and the last decision thereon will be taken by the Cabinet, which will be subsequently put before the House. I would like to submit this much only that that is in its last stage.

He asked about the organic farming. The Union Government has formulated a policy on organic farming and some facilities and subsidies are envisaged to be extended, I do not have the details thereof with me at present, however, I would send these facts to him in writing. He had raised an important point about cooperative movement. It is true about cooperative movement that timely elections are not held there, political interference is witnessed at times, which hampers the proper functioning of cooperative institutions. As such, we had introduced in the Rajya Sabha during the last session an amendment to the constitution to bring about a rectification in this regard. I believe that at some point of time the need to make amendment in the Constitution would be reckoned and approval would be given in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha which will grant more freedom to co-operative institutions and the onus to conduct timely elections would be on them. The right of State Government of Political intervention will be forfeited, the Members of General Body would be empowered, all these kinds of suggestions have been given in the cooperative Act.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (Ahmadnagar): The reply in regard to issue of cow slaughter raised by him has not been given.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: No, I do not have the subject of cow slaughter today and our intention on the subject are clear that it is unnecessary to burden the farmer with what he cannot handle, I am totally opposed to it. What he can handle, he should handle, that is fine. However, if a ban is imposed on cow slaughter and the helpless farmer who can hardly take care of the needs of his family is legally bound to take care of four to six animals, is in my opinion not in their interest.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: No farmer would like his cow to be killed no matter how old it is.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Alright, he does not want to kill it, he will take care of it, I am not opposed to it, however, I am not in favour of legally binding him by putting a ban on it. Shri Rajiv Ranjan raised this issue, he would have found it contradictory. I cited the example of Brazil, its sugar mills have a crushing capacity of 35000 tonnes, where as the mills in India have an average crushing capacity of 2000 tonnes. The crushing mills having 35000 tonnes capacity have two systems. One is producing sugar exclusively and another is producing Ethanol exclusively. When the market of Ethanol is high, they shut the production of sugar. When the prices of sugar are high they stop producing Ethanol.

We cannot have this situation here in India, because here the price of sugar is fluctuating. Here the Government fixed the minimum support price for farmers. In Brazil the sugarcane producer is owner of the mill, so his responsibilities are different. He is himself the producer and owner of the mill so he is facing such problems. In India the sugarcane grower and the mill owner are too different persons. The mill has to give the statutory minimum price fixed by the Government of India. Due to this reason the production of Ethanol will not be a profitable proposition. So, the Government of India took a conscious decision to produce Ethanol from waste and sugar from the sugarcane juice. I am ready to give exemption to the Government of Bihar for three years to install Ethanol plant but they should not come to me in case there is a loss. ...(*Interruptions*) Ask the Government to give me in writing.

[*English*]

On this guarantee, if the Government is ready to give me in writing, I am ready to consider it for three years; I am ready to give exemption and let them exempt. ...(*Interruptions*)

CACP is there; I do not want to suggest anything. Generally, we always accept CACP's recommendation. ...(*Interruptions*) In this country out of the credit taken by the farmer seventy per cent credit is for crop; when he takes 70 per cent credit, which is provided for the crop, the Government of India is taking that burden. Thirty per cent is for investment credit, which might be for tractor and others; for that, NABARD is supplying money at eight per cent because NABARD is raising money from the market; then, they are paying this money to farmers. So, it is not possible for the Government of India to take that responsibility. The crop loan responsibility is what we have taken, which is giving

advantage to 70 per cent farmers and we are happy about that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, two years ago wheat was imported at the rate of Rs. 1800 to Rs. 2100 per quintal. Why farmers cannot be given Rs. 1375 per quintal? The farmer will increase his production if he is given proper price. They imported wheat at the rate of Rs. 1800 per quintal.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. Please sit down.

Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani has moved the cut motions. They are not withdrawn.

I shall now put cut motion nos. 70, 71, 77, 84 and 85 moved by Dr. Prasanna Kumar Patasani to the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture to the vote of the House.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2010, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1, 2 and 3 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture."

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS IN RESPECT OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE FOR
2009-2010 VOTED BY THE LOK SABHA

No. & Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account Voted by the House on February 24, 2009		Amount of Demands for Grants Voted by the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	3965,97,00,000	28,17,00,000	7856,70,00,000	64,38,00,000
2. Department of Agricultural Research and Education	1104,92,00,000	...	2209,85,00,000	...
3. Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries	456,19,00,000	6,18,00,000	1108,76,00,000	12,37,00,000

The Motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums

necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2010, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 16 and 17 relating to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.”

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS IN RESPECT OF MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION FOR 2009-2010 VOTED BY THE LOK SABHA

No. & Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account Voted by the House on February 24, 2009		Amount of Demands for Grants Voted by the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
16. Department of Consumer Affairs	150,25,00,000	10,05,00,000	300,50,00,000	20,10,00,000
17. Department of Food and Public Distribution	28814,08,00,000	249,85,00,000	25209,70,00,000	499,70,00,000

The Motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up 'Zero Hour' matters. I would request the Members to only raise the issue and take not more than two minutes each.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government in regard to widening of national highway no. 7 and 75 of my Lok Sabha constituency. National highway no. 7 and 75 pass through my electoral constituency Satna. The condition of both the routes is so poor that road accidents have become order of the day owing to their being narrow. Hundreds of people have lost their lives in those accidents. As per the National Highway rules there is a provision of an ambulance and crane within every 40 km distance whereas there is no such provision upto hundred kilometer stretch of national highways that pass through my Lok Sabha Constituency. I demand that national highway no. 75 from Jhansi to Vela should be 4 laned and since Satna has become densely populated so sanction to construct a bypass should immediately be given. Besides approval for four laning of national

highway no. 7 from Vela to Jhukehi passing through my Lok Sabha constituency should be given. Besides approval for constructing over bridge at railway crossing in Meyher on BOT basis was given 3 years ago, however, final approval from the Ministry is still awaited. Immediate sanction may please be given. It is my demand.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Tikamgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are a large number of places, which are important from religious and tourism point of view in Madhya Pradesh. There is Orchha Naari in Tikamgarh of Madhya Pradesh which is center of faith of all religions and is thronged daily by a large number of people, however, during rainy season Jamni and Betwa rivers near Orchha are flooded due to which one can reach there only taking circuitous route via niwari. The 8 km road from Chandrapura to Orchha on Orchha to Prithvipur route from Tikamgarh to Prithvipur is under construction, however, if a bridge is constructed on Betwa and Jamni river along with this route then one can save time and money as it would reduce travelling distance by 25 kms. So, the Union Government is requested to expedite construction of road on the Orchha to Prithvipur route being constructed from Central Road Fund and the overbridge on Betwa and Jamni rivers should be constructed at the earliest.

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from the Nawada parliamentary constituency and have been chosen by the people of that area to represent them here. I am raising a question. The fall of Kakolat is one of nation-level and in 1967 the then Government at the Centre had sent technical committee over there and that Committee had recommended that 10 MW power could be generated from that fall. The fall is visited by thousands of national and international tourists everyday. Through you, I would like to urge the Government to take action on the recommendation of the committee and announce to recognise Kokolat as a national tourist site.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (Bikaner): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the decision taken in the meeting of the Bhakra-Vyas Management Board held in Manali, Himachal Pradesh on 25.05.2009. It was decided in that meeting that the Government of Punjab would release 8900 cusec water to Rajasthan from 1st June to 5th June, 2009 and 7300 cusec to the canals of Rajasthan from 6th June to 10th June. Rajasthan Government gave advertisement in the newspapers to this effect. The farmers sowed the crops accordingly, but only 1500-2000 cusec water was released due to which the crops got ruined. Through you, I would request the Union Government to provide compensation to the farmers by sending its team over there on the lines of the provision of compensation in case of natural calamities, because it is also a kind of calamity but falls under the category of man-made or Government made calamity.

Sir, villages situated at the tail-end are facing acute crisis of water due to which water mafias have cropped up like land mafias. These mafias are supplying water by taking Rs. 200-300 from the people of the villages everyday for a tanker. Though the Rajasthan Government has taken action in this regard, but even then tankers are being supplied at a cost of Rs. 200-300 each. Thousands of villages are there, so how these tankers will serve the purpose? Through you, I would like to submit that all arrangements for water should be made and compensation to farmers be provided by treating it a calamity for the crops that have got ruined.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Botcha Jhansi Lakshmi, I think this matter has already been covered in today's discussion. So, do you still want to raise this matter?

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (Vizianagaram): No, Sir, this matter has not been covered. Kindly allow me to raise it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI: Sir, the stocks of boiled rice are piling up in Andhra Pradesh. As per one estimate, a total of 48 lakh tonnes of boiled rice are lying, out of which, 28 lakh tonnes are lying with rice millers and another 20 lakh tonnes with suitable paddy for boiled rice are with farmers. In this connection, I may submit that because of lack of demand the millers are not purchasing boiled rice from the farmers and out of distress the farmers are selling the boiled rice at a throw away price. Even then many millers are not coming forward to buy the boiled rice from farmers.

The new agricultural season has started and if these stocks are not cleared, the rice millers will not enter into the market to purchase new boiled rice. Our hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, has written a detailed letter to the Union Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sharad Pawarji, highlighting the present problems of paddy farmers of the State.

Sir, to overcome this urgent and sensitive farmers' problem, I would request the Union Minister of Agriculture to intervene and purchase the stocks of boiled rice through FCI or come with alternative plans like export of this boiled rice immediately.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the Indo-Nepal border adjoining Uttar Pradesh. This border area comprises four districts of Uttar Pradesh—Maharajganj, Kushinagar, Shravasti and Bahraich, where Maoists have set up bunkers along the bordering areas of Nepal. Sohngibarva is a part of the Indian territory which lies in the Maharajganj district area. Maoists are reported to have set up their training camps over there. Since the area is surrounded by dense forests, it has no road connectivity due to which neither the SSB nor the local police can move over there. In view of the open Indo-Nepal border, SSB was deployed there during the time of the NDA Government at my request to the then Minister of Home Affairs. However, presently proper attention is not being paid to the area. If the Maoists of Nepal succeed in setting up bunkers and operating anti-India naxalite and Maoist activities from there, it will

pose a great threat to the security of not only India's northern borders but also to the security of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Through you, I would like to request that the bunkers set up in Sohngibarva area, which is a part of district Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh and also those set up in Kushinagar, Shravasti and Bahraich be got dismantled at the earliest. Stringent action should be taken against them and these should be uprooted.

[English]

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (Coimbatore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important subject. The *aam aadmi* for whom this Government claims to have commitment is now suffering a lot because of rise in prices of essential commodities. Although inflation is reported to have become negative, the *aam aadmi* has to pay more for his vegetables by 10 per cent. Due to the hike in prices of petrol and diesel, the prices of essential commodities have risen steeply. All essential commodities are being sold at very high prices. In a situation when there is less rain and also a danger of drought, the hike in prices of petrol and diesel has affected the interests of the farmers gravely.

Now, because of the rise in prices of essential commodities, there is speculative online business and forward trading and hoarding by big traders. The refusal of the UPA Government to undo retrograde changes in the Essential Commodities Act made by the NDA Government is facilitating hoarding and black-marketeering.

Sir, therefore, I would like to request the Central Government that the provisions for supply of the Essential Commodities at subsidized rates through PDS to all the poor people through the universal Public Distribution System may be reintroduced all over the country. Necessary action must be taken by the Government in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Bhind): Mr. Chairman, I want to raise the issue of Guna-Etawah railway line during this zero hour. Guna-Etawah railway line has been completed upto Bhind, but the rest of the stretch from Bhind to Etawah which is only 36 kilometre long has not been completed in the last five years. I would submit to the union Government that if Bhind to Etawah railway line is not completed, proper benefit of this project will not accrue to the people of this area. In this project, stretch of Uttar Pradesh Madhya Pradesh is 18 Kilometres each. Uttar Pradesh Government has been given compensation for the land by the railways, but the Madhya Pradesh Government has not been given the same.

I want the Union Government to interfere in this regard and get the railway line laid at the earliest so that proper benefits of this Guna-Etawah railway line could reach the people of this area. I would request the Union Government once again to get the said railway line completed at the earliest.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Vinay Kumarji, I am not allowing your submission because it is a State matter. All other Members have been called and some are absent. But I am not allowing your submission. The House stands adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, July 21, 2009 at 11.00 a.m.

19.48 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, July 21, 2009/Asadha 30, 1931 (Saka).

ANNEXURE I

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