

M.A.

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Thursday, December 10, 2009

Agrahayana 19, 1931 (Saka)

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Third Session

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 10, 2009/Agrahayana 19,
1931 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MADAM SPEAKER in the Chair]

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

[English]

Human Rights Day

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today is the Human Rights Day. It was on 10th December, 1948 that the United Nations General Assembly adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The day reminds us of our commitment towards securing social, economic and cultural as well as civil and political rights for all mankind, in general and our citizens, in particular. These holy objectives find a prominent place in the Preamble of our Constitution and the country has taken several initiatives to attain them.

Let us, on this occasion, rededicate ourselves to fully achieving these objectives as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, let us go to the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): Madam Speaker, at this moment, we express our sincere thanks to the Union Government, the hon. Prime Minister, and the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for considering formation of a separate State of Telangana.

MADAM SPEAKER: All right. Thank you.

11.02 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Manish Tiwari, Q. No. 301.

Safety Measures in Oil Depots

*301. SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the composition of the inquiry committee constituted to probe the incident of fire at the oil depot in Jaipur in early November, 2009 alongwith its terms of reference;

(b) whether the inquiry committee has been asked specifically to look at the sabotage angle allegedly by the Oil Company employees to cover up loss of petroleum products on account of alleged pilferage by the Oil Company employees;

(c) whether any independent agency of the Ministry monitors stock verification of different oil depots or it is left to the Oil Marketing Companies;

(d) whether there are any local level committees, or other structure to monitor the adherence of safety norms at oil Depots;

(e) whether petrol pumps in intensely populated areas are subjected to safety audits covering pilferage, leakage, electricity safety, etc; and

(f) if so, the detail thereof?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) A seven member inquiry committee under the chairmanship of Shri M.B. Lal, Technical Member (PNG), Appellate Tribunal for Electricity and Ex-Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) was constituted by the Ministry on 30-10-2009 to probe the incident of fire at oil depot in Jaipur. The composition of the Committee is as follows:

1. Shri M.B. Lal, Technical Member (PNG), Appellate Tribunal for Electricity, Ex C and MD, HPCL—Chairman
2. Shri Govind Sharma, Pr. Secretary (Mines and Minerals), Government of Rajasthan—Member.

3. Shri M.K. Joshi, Director (Technical) Engineers India Limited—Member.
4. Shri J.B. Verma, Executive Director—Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD)—Member.
5. Shri P.B. Yedla, Jt. Chief Controller of Explosives (Incharge—PESO)—Member.
6. Shri S.K. Hazra, Ex-MD, Ageis Logistics—Member.
7. Shri B.K. Dutta, Executive Director (Supplies), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited—Member.

The committee will inquire into the causes of the incident and suggest remedial measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The Committee will submit its report within 60 days.

(c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) themselves monitor stock verification at their own POL depots.

(d) The Chief Inspector of Factories of the State Government and the local office of Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) are the statutory authorities to monitor the adherence of the safety norms at local level.

(e) and (f) Retail Outlets (ROs) are set up by OMCs after obtaining statutory approvals from various Government Authorities like Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE), No Objection Certificate (NOC) from District Magistrate, etc. These agencies issue licenses after thorough scrutiny of documents, location of proposed ROs, facilities to be provided as against the prescribed norms/respective rules. NOC is issued by the District Magistrate after getting internal clearance of various departments like Public Works Department (PWD), Town Planning, Police, Fire Brigade, etc.

In addition, OISD has issued a standard on "Storage, Handling and Dispensing at Petroleum Retail Outlets". These guidelines are being followed by Oil PSUs for their retail outlets on self regulatory basis. Safety audits are carried out for all RO from time to time, which covers safety aspects of pipeline leakages and electrical safety and various other safety aspects at ROs.

OMCs have also resorted to third party certification of all the ROs selling more than 100 Kilo Litre (KL) per month. During the audits conducted by these agencies, the maintenance of equipments, upkeep of the RO and safety related issues are inspected, noted for compliance and subsequently addressed. The performance of the RO is evaluated on various parameters, which include safety, maintenance of equipments/ROs etc.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Madam Speaker, may I commence my Supplementary by acknowledging that within hours of the inferno, the Minister personally got there to monitor the efforts to contain it. However, the Minister may be aware that in August, 2009, the Central Bureau of Investigation had unearthed a major pilferage scam in the same depot, which caught fire. Now, there are reports in the public domain, which suggest that the cause of the fire could be arson to destroy the evidence of this pilferage. Similar reports of pilferage are also in the public domain from Bhatinda, from parts of Gujarat, from Jalandhar, from Laldu and various other parts of the country.

My question to the Minister is that considering the multiplicity of agencies, which are investigating the cause of the Jaipur fire, would the Government consider that since the Central Bureau of Investigation is already investigating the pilferage, the Jaipur fire inquiry could also be entrusted to them?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, the hon. Member is very correct in saying that there is already a pending inquiry as far as the CBI's inquiring into the theft that has happened in that particular depot in Jaipur is concerned. But the fire happened about 3 months after the theft and the Minister had gone there the very next day and announced that there would be a Committee, which would inquire into the causes of the incident. So, the CBI's role is primarily to check whether there was any criminal activity involved. But the Committee that has been formed by the hon. Minister here, is to inquire the causes of the incident, be it were there any failure in procedures, were there any lapses in the safety guidelines; and come out with remedial measures.

So, various agencies are inquiring into various aspects concerning them. The CBI is inquiring into the

theft that has happened and the Committee that has been formed by the hon. Minister is inquiring into the lapses that have happened with regard to safety, primarily.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI: Madam, in the *suo motu* statement on the same subject, which was laid by the Minister on the Table of the House on 20th of November, 2009, he stated that the depot, which caught fire, was equipped with all the safety infrastructures. But, however, in the same *suo motu*, the Minister concedes that the fire ultimately died out; in the sense that it was allowed to burn itself out, it could not be contained. Now, that is not a very satisfactory situation. Would the Minister care to enlighten the House as to (a) what are the steps, which the Government proposes to take so that such a reoccurrence does not take place in the future; and (b) whether there is any proposal to shift mega oil units/depots/refineries out of densely populated areas.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, let me just begin by narrating the incidents that led to this fire. There was some lapse, negligence that had come to our notice, primarily. Ultimately, the report will come. When the report comes, we will come to know exactly what happened.

But because of the leakage and the spill that happened, a vapour cloud was formed of petrol gas which by an unidentified spark, any little spark in the vicinity, triggered off the fire, and a blast occurred. Simultaneously, all 11 tanks, which were in that vicinity, caught fire. So, there was no time with which you could activate the fire fighting system. But since the blast was of such magnitude that even the fire activation system could not be turned on and that also caught burnt with the fire.

After that, now the Committee has been formed. My senior Minister has taken meetings on 3rd November, 2009 and we have come out with ways and standards and procedures to enhance safety and security measures. A security and safety audit of all installations has been ordered and by 31st of December, the Report will come.

We are, in the Ministry, already examining places

which are at risks, which are putting people at risks and looking at ways to shifting those depots outside the vicinity. Usually, what has happened is that initially these depots have come up far off from the city. But the cities and the population have moved to these areas and surrounded the depots. As a result of which, now they are looking as if there are security hazards.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Madam, Speaker, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important issue. Oil Depot at Jaipur caught fire on 29 October, wherein, 12 people lost their lives and approximately over 125 people got injured. In addition to the loss of 12 thousand crore litre oil, huge loss was also caused to the industrial units located around the said oil depot. The government provided Rs. 50 crore as interim help. A committee has been constituted to inquire into the causes of fire. GIC or any other agency will conduct a survey with regard to the loss suffered so that the affected people can be given compensation at the earliest. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the relief of Rs. 50 crore is adequate? All the industrial units around the oil Depot have suffered losses. Windows and windowpanes of 11-degree colleges located in depot's proximity have been broken. The damage has also been caused to the nearby houses. People are living in polluted atmosphere. The amount of Rs. 50 crore is quite inadequate. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if the amount of Rs. 50 crore is adequate?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): The amount of Rs. 50 crore has been provided at initial stage. The committee is working out the loss caused. More money can be given as per the requirement.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Madam, Speaker, the said tragedy was so serious that we were stunned. The hon. Minister, in his reply, has stated that the relief of Rs. 50 crore has been provided at the initial stage. I would like to apprise the House that the crops sown in 90 kms. radius have been totally destroyed and people living there have suffered a lot. The fire could not be doused for 8-10 days emitting huge quantity of carbon dioxide. All the crops have been destroyed within a

radius of 60-70 km. the condition of people already suffering from asthma or respiratory problems has further worsened. Some people have died. Delhi has also been affected. The crops of farmers have been destroyed. Buildings around the depot have been damaged. One day, Shri Arjun Charan Sethi said that a gas pipeline in his area was also damaged in the fire. The buildings, schools, industrial units which suffered losses should be compensated. I would like to know what is the policy of the government to provide relief to the small businessmen living around the said oil depot who have lost their livelihood and farmers whose crops have been damaged who are now suffering from respiratory ailments caused by the fire that engulfed the said oil depot.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, Speaker, so far as environmental hazards caused by the said fire are concerned, the Rajasthan Pollution Control Board has been assigned the responsibility to inquire into it. A committee has been constituted in this regard under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Deptt. of Environment, Government of Rajasthan. The committee will inquire into various environmental hazards caused by the said fire. Prima facie we have observed that the quantity of oxides of nitrogen and sulphur dioxide in the air is within permissible limits. So far as our refineries are concerned, we are trying to comply Euro-3 and Euro-4 norms so as to keep sulphur content within permissible limit. The content of sulphur in oil was quite less. Consequently, the extent of pollution caused by the said fire was not so grave, which may have been harmful to the people.

Madam, so far as crops are concerned, if there is a rainfall during this period then pollutants present in the atmosphere will fall on the crops with rainwater which may cause some harm to the crops but it is not that it can totally destroy the crops. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Let the hon. Minister complete his reply. Question No. 302, Shri Jagdanand Singh

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright, we are on the next question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: I said that we will inquire into it after we receive committee's report. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright, we are on the next question.

[English]

Revival of Textile Mills

+

*302. SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH:

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Government owned textile mills are lying closed;

(b) if so, since when these mills are lying closed and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of workers rendered jobless as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken for revival of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government of India in the Ministry of Textiles is managing textile mills through its two Public Sector Undertakings, National Textile Corporation Ltd. (NTC) and British India Corporation Ltd. (BIC). 77 unviable mills have been closed by NTC under Industrial Disputes (I.D.) Act in accordance with the Revival Scheme approved by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Date of closure of these mills is enclosed as Annexure.

(c) So far 60859 employees have opted to leave NTC under the Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) involving a total compensation of Rs. 2206.05 crores. Out of this, 43914 employees are from the 77 closed mills, who have been paid compensation of 1493.75 crores.

(d) Does not arise. There is no proposal to revive the formally closed mills.

Annexure*List of 77 Mills Closed under ID Act*

Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Date of Closure
Rajasthan		
1.	Edward Mills	06-05-2002
2.	Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	Jan/Feb., 2009
Punjab		
3.	Dayalbagh Mills	01-09-2003
4.	Panipat Woollen Mills	15-05-2004
5.	Kharar Textile Mills	Jan/Feb., 2009
6.	Suraj Textile Mills	Jan/Feb., 2009
Madhya Pradesh		
7.	Kalyanmal Mills	31-05-2002
8.	Swadeshi Textile Mills	31-05-2002
9.	Hira Mills	31-10-2002
10.	Indore Malwa United Mills	31-03-2003
Chhattisgarh		
11.	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills	31-10-2002
Maharashtra		
12.	Kohinoor Mills No. 2	01-06-2002
13.	Kohinoor Mills No. 3	01-06-2002
14.	India United Mills No. 4	31-10-2002
15.	India United Mills No. 2	31-03-2004
16.	India United Mills No. 3	31-03-2004
17.	Jam Mfg. Mills	31-03-2004
18.	Shri Sitaram Mills	31-03-2004
19.	Model Mills	05-06-2004
20.	R.S.R.G. Mills	05-06-2004
21.	Vidharbha Mills	05-06-2004

Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Date of Closure
22.	Kohinoor Mills No. 1	27-12-2006
23.	India United Mills No. 6	24-01-2007
24.	Bharat Textile Mills	01-04-2004
25.	Digvijay Textile Mills	01-04-2004
26.	Elphinstone Spinning and Weaving Mills	01-04-2004
27.	Jupiter Textile Mills	01-04-2004
28.	Mumbai Textile Mills	01-04-2004
29.	New Hind Textile Mills	01-04-2004
30.	Podar Processors	01-04-2004
31.	Shree Madhusudan Mills	01-04-2004
32.	Finlay Mills	October, 2009
Gujarat		
33.	Petlad Textile Mills	06-05-2002
34.	Rajkot Textile Mills	06-05-2002
35.	Viramgam Textile Mills	31-07-2002
36.	New Manekchowk Textile Mills	31-07-2002
37.	Mahalaxmi Textile Mills	30-09-2002
38.	Rajanagar Textile Mills 2 (Green field mill being relocated)	31-10-2002
39.	Ahmedabad Jupiter Mills	31-03-2003
40.	Himadari Textile Mills	30-09-2003
41.	Jehangir Textile Mills	30-06-2004
42.	Ahmedabad New Textile Mills	Jan/Feb., 2009
Andhra Pradesh		
43.	Adoni Cotton Mills	06-05-2002
44.	Natraj Spinning Mills	06-05-2002
45.	Netha Spinning and Weaving Mills	06-05-2002
46.	Ananthapuram Cotton Mills	Jan/Feb., 2009

Sl. No.	Name of the Mills	Date of Closure
47.	Azam Jahi Mills	31-10-2002
	Karnataka	
48.	Mysore Mills (merged with Minerva Mills)	
49.	M.S.K. Mills	06-05-2002
50.	Sree Yallamma Cotton Mills	Jan/Feb., 2009
	West Bengal	
51.	Bangasri Cotton Mills	06-05-2002
52.	Bengal Fine Spinning and Weaving Mills No. II	06-05-2002
53.	Manindra B.T. Mills	06-05-2002
54.	Jyoti Weaving Factory	06-05-2002
55.	Central Cotton Mills	06-05-2002
56.	Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills	06-05-2002
57.	Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills	25-10-2003
58.	Rampooria Cotton Mills	25-10-2003
59.	Bengal Fine Spinning and Weaving Mills No. I	25-10-2003
	Assam	
60.	Associated Industries	Jan/Feb., 2009
	Bihaar	
61.	Gaya Cotton and Jute Mills	06-05-2002
62.	Bihar Cooperative Mills	Jan/Feb., 2009
	Tamil Nadu	
63.	Kishnaveni Textile Mills	31-05-2002
64.	Om Parasakthi Mills	31-05-2002
65.	Kaleeswarar Mills 'A' Unit	21-07-2002
66.	Somasundaram Mills	31-10-2002
67.	Balaram Varma Mills	06-01-2003
	Uttar Pradesh	
68.	Atherton Mills	11-03-2004

Si. No.	Name of the Mills	Date of Closure
69.	Bijli Cotton Mills	11-03-2004
70.	Laxmirattan Cotton Mills	11-03-2004
71.	Lord Krishna Textile Mills	11-03-2004
72.	Muir Mills	11-03-2004
73.	New Victoria Mills	11-03-2004
74.	Rae Bareli Textile Mills	11-03-2004
75.	Shri Vikram Cotton Mills	11-03-2004
76.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	11-03-2004
77.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	Jan/Feb., 2009

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: Madam, these mills were serving very important national purpose. Cloths for the poor used to be manufactured by these mills only. These mills used to spin cotton yarn and weavers used to manufacture cloth out of it. More than 60 thousand employees have sought voluntarily retirement. More than 43,000 employees of the 77 mills closed after BIFR's recommendations have opted for voluntary retirement. Now, the NTC has decided to modernize 24 mills. Besides, 16 mills will form joint ventures and operate. Under the present scenario, I would like to ask the hon. Minister what is the difficulty in operating the rest of the sick mills in joint venture when we have already decided to revive 40 mills.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): Madam, the reason these mills were nationalized was because of the severe losses which these mills made. These mills were in the private sector and leading private sector companies could not run these mills profitably. In fact, because of the strike, they could not even pay the salaries. That is the reason why these mills were nationalized. When these mills were nationalized, it was seen that not all the mills were able to be run profitably. The Government in its wisdom decided that there was no point in paying salaries like

that. But they ought to ensure that these mills are all made to run profitably.

That is the reason why a decision was taken after the Textile Research Committee assessed these mills and found that 77 mills were not worth running. It was decided by the Government that a revival plan should be made by the NTC and ensure that no government money is used for its revival, but instead, the assets sold from these mills should be used for the revival. In this plan nearly 22 mills are being modernized or on the revival path. 16 mills have been identified for joint venture. But, unfortunately, because of global recession, these joint ventures could not take off as expected. The Government is looking at the joint ventures to see whether they can take off or find other solutions to do it. This is the situation at the moment.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: Madam Speaker, the closure of all these mills will lead to the monopoly of private industries. The public institutes are getting out of the competition. 40 mills are being modernized and 24 and 14 mills are being revived. For this a condition has been laid down that those mills may mobilize funds by selling their excess land and the mills may be revived with that money.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know

from the hon. Minister when thousands of crores of rupees are lying with the government exchequer on account of disinvestment and the hon. Minister of Finance had stated that it would be spent as capital expenditure, whether the textile industries are not covered under this category?...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask your question

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: Madam Speaker, I am coming to my question. It is a matter of regret that when NTC is working for modernization of the mills and other industries are setting up joint ventures, one textile mill of Bihar was closed in February, 2009. On the one hand, we are talking about revival and modernization of the closed mills while on the other hand mills are being closed in industrially backward states like Bihar. One mill in Karnataka, four in Kerala, five in Maharashtra, one each in Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal, two in Madhya Pradesh and four mills in Tamil Nadu have been closed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Ask your question.

SHRI JAGDANAND SINGH: Madam Speaker, my question is this. When NTC is working on such a large scale, funds mobilized from disinvestments are lying with the government exchequer and two lakh crore rupees were spent for revival and sustainability of other industries, why our textile industry cannot provide funds for revival of other textile mills?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, I would like to answer the hon. Member that the NTC has not completed the sale of its entire assets. It is on the process. Till now, NTC was able to collect around Rs. 4,400 crore from the sale of assets and they also had borrowed a huge amount of money. Out of this, a major portion was used to settle the payment to labourers especially on the Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Nearly an amount of Rs. 3,000 crore has been allocated for the settlement to the labourers because they had volunteered to take the VRS. An amount of Rs. 760 crore has been used till now for the modernisation plan.

In fact, NTC is in the process of selling the excess

land. Basically, the NTC Board, on its wisdom, took a decision because of the recession prevailing in the real estate not to sell any of these lands at a lower cost. It is a mandate from the Government to NTC that it has to sell the land to make sure that it is able to modernise and is able to compete with the private sector. The process is not complete and at this moment the priority is to make sure that the NTC is running profitably and is on the process. The process is not yet complete.

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY JAISWAL: Madam Speaker, if the question is long, the reply to the question becomes lengthy and there is no direct reply. I have a simple question. One of the Hon. Members has also asked just now as to what is the status of revival plan in Bihar and under which circumstances the cooperative mills have been closed in Bihar? When the said cooperative mills of Bihar are likely to be revived and what type of assistance is being provided for those mills?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, I would like to say that when it comes to the cooperative mills, it is the duty of the State Governments and it is for the State Governments to take appropriate actions and do it. Until and unless...*(Interruptions)* If they do not come to us, we cannot help. We have a scheme whereby we do try to provide assistance to such closed mills provided they are declared closed under the Industrial Disputes Act or the State Government announces it. Till that is done, on the part of NTC, NTC cannot do anything about it.

Madam, I would also like to say that, please understand, textile industry is totally in the private sector. It is for the State or cooperatives or the individuals to do it. Sometimes we do realize that some mills do close down temporarily, but they revive on their own.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Madam, though my question is not directly related to the main Question, since it is a very important issue related to the closure of mills, I wish to get a reply, through you, from the hon. Minister.

The average requirement of cotton by textile mills is around estimated at 2.5 crore bales every year. This year, it is estimated that cotton production will be more than 2.8 crore bales. In our country, bulk of the cotton is purchased mainly by three multinational companies and exported. May I ask the hon. Minister whether, in order to prevent textile mills in our country from closure, he would consider allowing purchase of cotton up to January every year and permit export only after February so that Indian millers can purchase cotton at reasonable rates? I wish to get a categorical reply from the hon. Minister.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, I am sure that all Members from my State would be happy with my reply.

In this year, we expect the total cotton production in our country to be around 290 lakh bales. We have already a carry forward stock of 43 lakh bales. So, we are going to be in possession of 340 lakh bales. In the peak of exports in the last couple of years, we found that the maximum export, which had taken place out of our country, for cotton was of only 85 lakh bales. But there is a sudden and knee-jerk reaction in the industry, feeling that there will be a shortfall in the global cotton production and lot of cotton will be exported from India. This has prompted a lot of registration to take place, and even now the registration is taking place, to the tune of 47 lakh bales, but the actual export has been around seven lakh bales. This is merely a speculation.

At this point, we feel that it is wise to wait, and not to panic and join along with traders and spinning mill owners. We are sure that we have enough and comfortable stock of cotton in our country to be utilized by our industry and there is no need to panic or, in knee-jerk reaction, to take any action of stopping export of cotton at this moment.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, National Textile Corporation is a Central public sector undertaking. It is a pathetic picture which is emerging from the statement of the hon. Minister. There are 77 mills which have been closed—they have been closed under the Industrial Disputes Act—and 60,859 employees have

been thrown out of their jobs. The Government is not at all in a mood to revive any such unit. What are the reasons for it, mainly for its falling behind? Can it not be revived through a joint-venture proposal? Why are these proposals not being taken up at topmost priority by the Government for revival of these units? When the private textile mills are running so promptly or efficiently and minting millions of rupees, why has the NTC, a very proud national institute of the country, fallen up to this level? Why is the Government not considering revival of these units with a fresh outlook—with a positive outlook and positive imagination—and extending Central Government's extra monetary support? I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would think about this.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, through you, I would like to answer the hon. Member. The history of NTC mills is not of the last decade, but it goes back right from 1968 when the nationalization process had taken place. Hence, there is a long legacy behind it.

As I said earlier, these mills were not run by the Government of India. These mills were run by the private sector enterprises and famous private companies. But these companies were not able to run these mills profitably, and they were not even able to pay for their salaries. So, at that time...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, why is he stating the history of NTC? We are aware about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Madam, I feel that I have to state the history because these mills came as a legacy, and they did not come with modern machinery. The machines in those mills were machines that were imported during the British period. It was the Textile Research Committee that looked into it, and it found that they were not able to do it. In fact, when I decided to take over these mills and tried to modernize them, they did not give a normal Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), but they gave a modified VRS where excess payment was given to them. In fact, most of the employees volunteered by themselves to take the VRS because they knew that they wanted to look into it. Hence, this is the reason that it has been done.

Frankly, it is a fact that the private sectors units were doing good because they had modern machinery, and the reason NTC was not able to cope up with them was that they had obsolete machinery. Thereafter, it was decided that we have to take the right step to compete with the private sector, and we also needed to arm the NTC with the best machinery. The process of the Government is this. We said that we will not spend money, and they will have to find their own resources. Thereafter, the Government had instructed the NTC to find its own resources, and NTC had to sell its assets and do it. They also had to make sure that they concentrate on the profit-making and more profitable units.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, hon. Minister.

MADAM SPEAKER: Q. 303, Shri Yogi Aditya Nath—not present.

Shri Bhausaheb Rajaram Wakchaure

[Translation]

Improving Justice Delivery System

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*303. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:

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

(a) whether the Vision Document released recently envisages creation of National Arrear Grid, improvement in selection, training and performance, assessment of judicial officials, for improving justice delivery system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other important suggestions/recommendations made in the Vision Document; and

(c) the further action taken/proposed on the same?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) A "National Consultation for Strengthening the Judiciary towards reducing Pendency and delays" was held on 24th-25th October, 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, which was, among others, attended by the Chief Justice of India, other Supreme Court Judges, Chief Justices of High Courts along with another Judge of every High Court, two District Court Judges from every High Court, State Law Secretaries, Advocate Generals of State Governments, representatives of academia, eminent jurists and the President and office bearers of the Bar Council of India. A Vision Statement presented to the Chief Justice of India in the National Consultation was considered and deliberated. In the Vision Statement, the following measures were suggested for implementation:

- (i) Creation of National Arrears Grid/Identification of Arrears;
- (ii) Identification of bottlenecks in crisis areas;
- (iii) Tackling the Bottleneck Areas;
- (iv) Adoption of innovative measures for expeditious case disposal;
- (v) Focus on selection, training and performance assessment of judicial personnel and court management executives;
- (vi) Efficient utilization of the judicial system and existing infrastructure through effective manning, effective planning and timely management by increasing the use of technology and management methods;
- (vii) Uncluttering the System: Removing dead weeds and preventing their re-growth;
- (viii) Procedural changes;
- (ix) Management and administrative changes.

For filling up vacancies in the judiciary, the following improvements were suggested:

- (i) There should be lucid and comprehensive

guidelines which the Collegium should follow in the matter of selection of judges,

- (ii) The Executive and the Legislature must take initiative in recommending the best possible talent for selection to the judiciary.
- (iii) The Collegium should be given a timeline to clear the back-log in vacancies.
- (iv) The Government and the Collegium should work hand in hand while appointing Judges, so that the difference between the two does not lead to delay in appointment.
- (v) Government should also be given the power to suggest outstanding lawyers and jurists as Judges.

The Vision Statement also suggested various measures with regard to computerisation of courts, tackling the criminal justice system, creation of an Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for funding and removal of bottlenecks and the role of Bar Council and Lawyers.

The Vision Statement was endorsed by a Resolution accepted for implementation at the end of the Consultation. A copy of the Resolution is enclosed as Annexure.

(c) The Government has considered the recommendations made in the above Consultation and decided, in principle, to setup a National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms which proposes to undertake several strategic initiatives to (i) outline policy changes (ii) re-engineer procedures (iii) focus on Human Resource Development and (iv) leverage Information and Communication Technology and tools for better justice delivery. The National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms will be serviced by a Registered Society in the nature of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) that will manage and implement the various action plans of the Mission. The Society will be centrally funded.

Annexure

Resolution dated 25th October, 2009

The Participants,

Reiterating the Constitutional promise to deliver

equal justice under law to all citizens and to provide access to justice to all, particularly the weaker sections of society.

Noting that the President of India in her address to the Joint session of Parliament delivered on June 3rd 2009 had emphasized the need for a roadmap for judicial reforms.

Noting that the Prime Minister of India in his address to the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices on August 16th 2009 described the huge arrears and case backlogs as the prime source of concern in relation to the Indian legal system.

Recalling the consensus of all those present, including the Honourable Chief Justice of India, the Honourable Union Minister for Law and Justice, the Honourable Attorney General of India and the Learned Solicitor General of India and others that the pendency and delays in the courts calls for urgent and immediate action.

Reaffirming the commitment of those present including the Justices of the Supreme Court of India and other members of the Judiciary, Judicial officers, Law officers, Members of the Bar, representatives of the Union Ministry of Law and Justice and members of the public to dedicate themselves to reduce the pendency of cases from 15 years to 3 years and to work together to implement the various steps required to ensure expeditious, quality and inclusive justice.

Taking Note of the Vision Document presented by the Honourable Union Minister of Law and Justice to the Honourable Chief Justice of India.

Adopt the Vision Statement and Action Plan as a public commitment for redesigning the justice delivery system to reduce pendency and delays.

Urge all constituents to recognise their special role and responsibility to implement the Action Plan.

Decide that to implement the Action Plan the National Arrears Grid and the Special Purpose vehicle be incorporated no later than 26th November 2009, Law Day.

Recommend the High Court's make available all the data for the National Grid by 30th November 2009.

Also decide that the implementation of the Action Plan should focus on human resource development, infrastructure development and procedural reforms.

Commit to comprehensive human resource development in all sectors including judges lawyers, law officers, prosecutors and court staff in an inclusive manner.

Further commit to efficient and optimum utilization of existing infrastructure and improvements and additions to physical and technological infrastructure.

Also commit to specific implementation of procedural reforms at all levels in a time bound manner including curtailment of adjournments, introducing a system of continuous hearing in civil cases and criminal trials and expediting execution proceedings by removing unnecessary delays.

Acknowledge the initiative undertaken by the Government of India to frame a National Litigation Policy by 31st December 2009 with a view to ensure conduct of responsible litigation by the Central Government and urges every State Government to evolve similar policies.

Welcome and Applaud the idea of an SPV as an autonomous and flexible means to provide infrastructural, managerial, technological and manpower services to the Judiciary and the singular contribution of Dr. Sam Pitroda in the conceptualisation of the SPV and the implementation of its programs.

Bearing in mind that all such changes should focus on inclusive growth reaching all levels of society and acknowledging the need to create an Indian model.

Request the Central Government to make available adequate and committed resources to implement and support the Action Plan.

Recognize the need for mediation and other methods of dispute resolution as an organized mainstream justice delivery mechanism.

Further recognize the principle behind judicial appointments should be delivery of quality and expeditious justice and public service.

Commend for consideration the establishment of

a All India Judicial Service through an open competitive examination ensuring the best possible selection.

Welcome the suggestion of the Honourable Chief Justice of India for a notional increase in the sanctioned strength of judges by 25% in order to enable the judiciary to make advance selection for appointment as soon as the vacancy arises.

Also recognise the need for appointment of ad hoc judges at all levels of the judiciary on a temporary basis from amongst retired judges and members of the bar.

Recommend the creation of a National Pool of Judicial Officers from retired judges to enable persons from the pool to be appointed as HC judges in various states.

Recommend assigning special judges to deal with all pending criminal cases where the term is less than 3 years.

Welcome and Applaud the leadership given by the Chief Justice of India, Judges of the Supreme Court and Chief justices of the various High Courts and their colleagues, Bar Councils of India and Bar Associations for their positive role in initiating and furthering a meaningful dialogue to further the objectives of the vision document.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Madam Speaker, I would like to know from hon. Minister, through you, whether there has been substantial increase in the number of cases pending in the Supreme Court, High Court and the District Courts. What steps have been taken by the government to ensure disposal of these pending cases?

[English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam Speaker, we are faced with very serious problems of arrears, very serious problems of manpower, and many other things. It is true. Hence, we have evolved a comprehensive reform package, which has five components. One is the National Litigation Policy that is relating to the litigation from the Government or against the Government where

it is found that the major litigant in the judiciary is the Government—both State and Central. The idea is that we would like to see that the Government at all levels becomes the thinnest litigant within three years, and we are working out a strategy for it.

As regards arrears, there are as many as 3.70 crore litigations pending right from the subordinate courts to the highest judiciary at the national level. Now, we have worked out a policy of National Arrear Grid by which the idea is to reduce it to 3 years from 15 years, and this plan will have to be executed in these three years. We have to get to that kind of a stage within three years from today. We have worked out the methodology of the Judicial Management and Cash Management System; focus on Human Resource Development; and leverage Information and Communication Technology and tools. I must assure the House that with all these measures we will be in a position to resolve it.

We conducted a National Consultation from 24 October to 25 October, and we involved all the stakeholders in this, namely, all the Supreme Court judges including the Chief Justice of India; all the Chief Justices of the High Courts; Advocate-Generals of State Governments, etc. Everybody was involved in this discussion on both the days.

We have done it in absolute consonance with the judiciary and the stakeholders, including the Bar Council and others. By putting all these people together and by putting our minds and acts together, we will be in a position to achieve the objective which we would like to attain.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Has the government made some new provisions in judicial system with a view to provide justice to the poor? What are the details in this regard?

[English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: That is an important aspect. In fact, we have evolved a plan, Madam Speaker, to prioritize the cases in respective, various courts so that the cases pertaining to the poorest, the

disabled, the senior citizens, women and children, will have to be taken on fast-track and also disposed of at the earliest stage. The ultimate aim is not the rich people who will anyway get justice, but it is the last man in the queue who will have to get justice. Access to justice will be the main theme of all our legal reforms.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: One of the ways to ensure that justice is made available, not justice but judicial redress is made available, is to increase the number of courts. Uttar Pradesh has a demand for a long time. Because it is such a large State very few people can go to Allahabad from Western Uttar Pradesh. They have been asking for a court either in Meerut or in Bareilly for a long time. I would like to know what view you have taken on this matter.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam Speaker, we have a number of demands for opening of Circuit Benches and Permanent Benches all over the country. If it is only one or two, of course, we could have addressed it. We have a Supreme Court Judgment now which has clearly laid down that unless the Chief Justice of the respective High Court agrees for the constitution of a Circuit Bench or a Permanent Bench, it should not be conceded. So, we are in a fix. Earlier, there was one Commission called the Jaswant Singh Commission which had laid down the actual parameters. Now, I think we need to cross this barrier. That is why, we are just contemplating to constitute a committee so that parameters could be laid down, and we could approach the Supreme Court to revise the decision which was already taken. That committee will give a report within six months, and then a number of pressing demands, legitimate demands, from various States could be responded to. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: There is no need to open more benches of High Court in Uttar Pradesh as it will lower the status of Allahabad High Court. There is already a bench of High Court in Lucknow...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please do not do this, let other Members ask their questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Madam
 ...*(Interruptions)* It is essential. We oppose it
 ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I will
 call your name.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down. How can you
 do this?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY BAHADUR SINGH: There is no
 distance factor in the delivery of justice. ...*(Interruptions)*
 India is a large country, should there be four Prime
 Ministers?

MADAM SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: It's alright. Now let him ask
 his question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Alright. Please do not stand
 up like this. If you keep on standing, you will have no
 question answered.

*(Interruptions)...**

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record,
 except what the Minister has said and Shri T.R. Baalu
 is going to say.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam Speaker, the Minister
 of Law and Justice has said that about 370 lakh cases
 are pending in various courts. But to my knowledge,
 as of 2008, 303 lakh cases are pending, that is, 48,838
 cases in Supreme Court; 38,82,074 cases in 21 High
 Courts; and 2.64 crore cases are pending in sub-courts.
 All put together 303 lakh cases are pending in various
 courts of India. The Law Commission recently has
 recommended that there should be 50 judges per million
 people.

That means one judge per twenty thousand people.
 I do not think it will be possible to achieve. The
 recommendation is not possible because more than
 55,000 judges have to be appointed. At the same time,
 my friend hon. Moily has come forward with a Vision
 Document in which he said that that there will be one
 National Arrears Grid. The National Arrears Grid would
 be represented by one senior judge of the Supreme
 Court, the Deputy-Chairman of Planning Commission,
 Attorney General of India, Solicitor General of India,
 Chief Justices of three High Courts, representative of
 the C and AG, Financial Controller, and a representative
 from the Judicial Academy. Madam, the largest litigants
 in the country are the State Governments and the public
 sector undertakings. There are representatives of
 judiciary, Central Government and many other institutions
 on the National Grid of Arrears but the State
 Governments, which are the largest litigants, are not
 given representation on it. I would like to know whether
 giving representation to the State Governments on the
 Grid would be considered by the hon. Minister. I say
 this because judiciary, advocates' associations, State
 Governments, Central Government are all the stake-
 holders of this system.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam Speaker,
 representatives of the Union Government and the State
 Governments are invariably there. They are the people
 who are the conveners of this body. We have already
 collected the requisite data from the High Courts and
 the State Governments. We have also collected the data
 from the Union Government. I have in fact immediately
 addressed letters to all the Union Ministers. I must tell
 you that all the Union Ministers responded very quickly.
 We have the details available and we will be in a
 position to launch this kind of a drive immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam, Speaker,
 whose question is it? Just now, an hon. Member asked—
 why not open a bench in Meerut. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will you let me ask the question or you will speak yourself. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You address the chair and ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, already a bench of Allahabad High Court has been set up in Lucknow. If benches of High Courts are set up in each district then there would be demands for setting up benches of the Supreme Court and then there will be demands for carving out more states. Will the government accept that the states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar should be divided, as there has been demand for Telangana. It is very dangerous proposition. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: The hon. Minister has just said in this House that a commission will be constituted which will submit its report in six months. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that if the commission recommends setting up of benches in each district, will the government do so? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, I associate myself with this question. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: Madam Speaker, when we say that demands are made for opening of circuit benches or permanent benches at different places, that does not mean it would be done in every District. Viability of establishment of such benches will be not only studied by the Committee, we have also the statistics, feedback on these proposals which will also be filtered by various High Courts, the State Government and also the Union Government. As you have already seen, the trend of starting District Benches has not set in fortunately till today. We need not exaggerate that. But the question is, as you know very well very rarely in exceptional cases only these benches

have been created. If there are legitimate demands, which will be filtered by the High Courts, which will be filtered by the State Governments, which will also be filtered by the particular reference and the parameters which will be laid down with which this Commission will go into the matter.

I do not think this kind of danger of proliferation of Benches will not arise. Hindi by HS and walk out.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, I have not got clearcut reply to my question. *(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Now your question is complete. The Minister has replied to what you asked.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister has not given a clear cut answer to my question, therefore I walkout from this House.

11.40 hrs.

(Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other Hon'ble Members then left the House)

[English]

SHRI VIJAY BAHUGUNA: Madam, Speaker, the answer which the hon. Minister has given, we appreciate the steps which the UPA Government is taking to address the problems of arrears. Through you, Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that two main problems are the arrears in the High Courts and second is the frivolous litigations in which the Central Government and its instrumentalists are involved. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he proposes to issue directions to the Departments under the Central Government that they should review the cases which they have filed in courts and in cases in which there is no merit, at least those cases should be withdrawn so that arrears come down and in the case of the appointment of Judges, it should be sped up.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY: I think I have answered this question. We have initiated the National

Litigation Policy, which would lay down the parameters and that is why I have said that the Government as a major litigant and as a responsive litigant would make efforts to reduce the cases so that there would be thinnest litigation ever possible. This is what we want to achieve by three years from today.

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 304. Shri Gorakh Prasad Jaiswal—Not present. He has informed that he will not be present.

Shri Sudarshan Bhagat—Not present.

Question No. 305, Shri R.K. Singh Patel.

[*English*]

International Status to Airports

*305. SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for giving any airport the status of an international airport;

(b) the details of the facilities made available to these airports;

(c) the airports which have been accorded the status of international airports so far;

(d) whether the Government proposes to accord international status to more airports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

Statement

(a) Declaration of an airport as an "International Airport" needs fulfillment of certain parameters which meet the Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) stipulated by the Director General of Civil Aviation in India/ International Civil Aviation Organization (Annex 9 Facilitation). These parameters are (i) Runway length should be 9000 feet or more to cater to at least medium

capacity long-range aircraft or equivalent type of aircraft, as these aircraft constitute majority of aircraft used in international operations, (ii) Availability of Ground Lighting Facilities, Instrument Landing System, for operation of aircrafts at night, (iii) International sector traffic potential, (iv) Requirement/demand from Scheduled National/ International Airline Operators, (v) Availability of Customs, Immigration, Health, animal and plant quarantine services, (vi) Bilateral agreement between the States (Nations) under which it may be offered as a point-of-call to foreign carriers for operations, (vii) International Cargo Complex, and (viii) Adequate size of terminal building to handle international and transit passengers. Based on the above parameters and approval of Union Cabinet an airport is declared international airport.

(b) Various passenger facilities made available at the International Airports belonging to Airports Authority of India (AAI) which include both airports and civil enclaves are; Bank/Money Exchange, Postal/telegram facilities, Air Insurance, Prepaid taxi service and car rental, Free passenger luggage trolleys, Tourist Information, Hotel Booking, Retiring room accommodation, Restaurant/Snack bars, Drinking water with disposable glasses, Duty Free shopping, Separate toilets for ladies, gents and physically challenged persons, Flight information display system with public address system Passenger information and guidance signages, PCOs for local/STD/ISD calls (manned and unmanned), Reserved Lounge as per entitlement, Child care/infant lobby, Service for Lost and found property, Redressal of Grievance Cell in Duty Manager's office, Conveyor belts for baggage handling, Escalators and elevators, First aid facility, Car parking and car hailer and Entertainment TV etc. In addition, AAI has also provided Precision Approach Runways and associated facilities like Night Landing facilities, Instrument Approach Landing System, etc. with round-the-clock operations.

(c) So far, seventeen airports in the country have been accorded "International Status". These airports are Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Calicut, Chennai, Guwahati, Jaipur, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kochi, Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur, Goa, Port Blair and Srinagar. Of these, eight airports, namely, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Calicut, Chennai, Guwahati, Jaipur, Kolkata and Thiruvananthapuram belong to AAI

and three Civil Enclaves, namely, Goa, Port Blair and Srinagar are maintained by AAI. AAI provides CNS/ATM services for five airports managed by Joint Venture Companies at Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai and Nagpur and for one private airport at Kochi. At Goa, Port Blair and Srinagar, which belong to Defence, AAI only maintains Civil Enclaves and CNS/ATM services are provided by Defence. In addition, Tirupathi airport has been declared as an international airport subject to the condition that the international airport may be made operational only after requisite facilities have been put in place.

(d) and (e) Grant of International status is an ongoing process depending upon airports modernisation, passenger demands and operational requirements of airlines. Some airports are notified as Custom airports which can also cater to international flights. The Custom airports are Varanasi, Tiruchirapalli (Trichy), Patna, Mangalore, Lucknow, Gaya, Coimbatore and Pune (civil enclave).

[Translation]

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: Madam Speaker, thank you. When there were no aeroplanes in the world, we used to manufacture aeroplanes in India, aeroplanes used to fly and there were aerodromes in India. Our history is testimony to it. Be it Dwapar Yuga, Treta Yuga or Satyuga. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: You ask the question.

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: Whatever age it was, aeroplanes used to fly in India. Yesterday, Ayodhya issue was raised here. Lord Rama took birth there and he spent his 14 years exile in Chitrakoot. During that period Ravana used an aeroplane to abduct Sita. It means there were aerodromes during that age, then only it was possible to abduct Sita and take her to Sri Lanka. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Kindly maintain silence in the House. Shri R.K. Singh Patelji, you ask your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: Madam Speaker, I am asking question only. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Do not make such a lengthy background.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: Madam Speaker, I am directly putting a question to the hon. Minister. Whether the government proposes to announce construction of an aerodrome at Ayodhya and Chitrakoot, the places where Lord Rama was born and spent 14 years of exile. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Silence please. Since you have asked your question, you take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Please listen to the reply of the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam Speaker, I was thinking from which point should I start the reply. Starting from the Vedas, the Puranas or Hanumanji. ...*(Interruptions)* Who is the protector of my Ministry. So, from where Should I start my reply. I would like to say that the question is relating to the places where international airports are located and the norms for declaring any airport as an international airport? ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Why are you interrupting?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: It is a difficult to tell at this moment whether an airport will be constructed in Ayodhya or not. But I would like to say that wherever airports are to be constructed, the state government has first of all to forward a proposal in this regard. We examine the proposal and thereafter take a decision. We have not received any such proposal so far. We will have to go to Ayodhya for getting information in this regard.

SHRI R.K. SINGH PATEL: Madam Speaker, Allahabad is also a religious city for the Hindus. There is only one flight from here to Allahabad. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether

he is likely to take a decision to declare Allahabad and Khajuraho as international airports.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Madam, both the cities, which have been referred to here, have airports. There is an airport of Indian Air Force in Allahabad and we have constructed a civil enclave there. The air service to Allahabad has been started on special requests from our friend Shri Shailendra Kumarji and Shri Rewati Raman Singh. There are several criteria including passenger demand for construction of international airports and upgradation of the airports as international airports. I would like to tell you that at present, there are seventeen international airports in the country which cater to the whole country. In addition to these airports we have notified several customs airports from where international flights operate. Hence it can be considered in future if there is any such demand.

[English]

SHRI MANICKA TAGORE: In the answer, the hon. Minister has replied that granting of international status depends upon modernization of airports. In southern Tamil Nadu many passengers travel to Chennai or abroad. Through you, Madam, I would like to ask as to whether the Ministry would consider granting 'international status' to Madurai airport, which is undergoing modernization.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: As I said, the hon. Member has rightly pointed out my answer that this is an on-going process—granting international status or notifying customs airport. In Tamil Nadu, we already have customs airport in Trichy. I am sure that if there is a demand, we can consider that.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: In the last 10 years, Mangalore airport has been upgraded as a modern airport and a new alignment of runway has also been laid there, which is more than 9,000 feet. It is a close distance flight between Mangalore-Sharjah-Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Therefore, my request and question to the hon. Minister, through you, Madam, as to whether he is going to upgrade this customs designated airport as a regular international airport as a New Year's gift to Karnataka.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I would like to make it clear that these are very thin line between calling it an international airport or a customs notified airport. After all, in Mangalore, not only is the modern terminal almost ready, there are also international flights already operating. Shri Moily, myself and even the Chief Minister of Karnataka were all been there to see the process of modernization, flights are operating internationally and more and more as and when required will be given to Mangalore. So, there is no reason actually to really go into the fine line between the international airport and a customs notified airport. Both are virtually doing the same thing.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Hon. Minister has stated that it is an on-going process. The hon. Minister and the House know that one of the tourist destinations is Bhubaneswar in Orissa. As per the demand and requirement, the State Government and the Ministry of Civil Aviation decided that this particular airport has to be developed. It has been developed and the State Government has also requested the Centre to declare it as one of the international airports of the country, in view of the special tourist destination in Orissa.

May I ask whether the hon. Minister or the Ministry of Civil Aviation is going to declare Bhubaneswar Airport as one of the international airports in the country?

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Again, I repeat that it is a question of demand. If there is any airline which wishes to operate internationally 'from and to' Bhubaneswar, we can definitely consider it because we do appreciate that Bhubaneswar, in that part of the region of our country, has a very big tourist potential. It is also a fact that it is one of the airports which is going through a modernization process; it will be upgraded to international standards. So, I see no reason—if there is a demand, why can it not be granted. If there is any airline willing to operate from there, we will consider it; there is no issue at all.

[Translation]

MADAM SPEAKER: Question No. 306. Shri Lalji Tandon—Not Present.

Shri Tufani Saroj.

Import of Crude Oil

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*306. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

SHRI LALJI TANDON:

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

(a) whether more than 70 per cent of the requirement of petroleum, oil and lubricants is met through import at present in the country;

(b) if so, whether there has been continuous rise in import of crude oil;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the steps taken by the Government in the recent years have made any impact on our dependency on crude oil import; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) The country's dependence on imports for meeting its crude oil requirements is more than 70%.

(b) and (c) The rise in import of crude oil during the last five years is given in the Table below.

Year	Qty. (MMT*)
2004-05	95.9
2005-06	99.4
2006-07	111.5
2007-08	121.7
2008-09 (Prov.)	132.8

*MMT—Million metric tonne

(d) and (e) Several measures have been taken to accelerate hydrocarbon exploration and production:

- (i) Carving out more and more areas for exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM). So far 203 Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed under NELP which have resulted in 73 oil and gas discoveries. As regards production of crude oil from NELP blocks, production has commenced from KG-DWN-98/3 and CB-ONN-2000/1 blocks.
- (ii) Quicker development of discovered reserves for enabling commencement of production. The Mangala Oil field in Barmer District of Rajasthan, which has commenced production in August, 2009, is projected to produce 2.2 Million Tonne (MMT) of crude oil during the current financial year. At peak production, it is expected to produce 8.9 MMT per annum of crude oil during 2011-12, which will account for about 25% of the total domestic crude oil production, and reduce the country's crude oil import bill by about 8%, at current prices.
- (iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.
- (iv) Arresting decline from ageing fields by application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/ Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.
- (v) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil. ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) produced 8.77 MMT of oil and oil equivalent gas during 2008-09 from its producing assets abroad.

The increase in the country's refining capacity from about 70 MMTPA as of 01-04-1999 to about 179 MMTPA presently has necessitated greater imports of crude oil. The increase in the country's refining capacity, coupled with a steadily rising domestic demand, is not likely to bring down the country's oil import dependence significantly.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Madam Speaker, our country is a big consumer of oil. We can say that India is the third largest oil consumer in Asia. About 70 per cent crude oil is imported in our country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to which private companies are importing crude oil and the quantum of such import per annum.

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, as hon. Member has said, our country is dependent on import of crude oil and more than 70 per cent crude oil is imported. Mostly our oil marketing companies like Indian Oil Corporation, BPCL and HPCL import crude oil. So far as figures are concerned, 95.9 million metric tonne crude oil was imported during the year 2004-2005. As per the provisional figures for the current year, 132 million metric tonne crude oil has already been imported. I would like to tell the hon. Member that our import bill has been rising.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Madam Speaker, I would like to know whether the private companies in our country are also exporting oil. I would also like to know whether some of our private companies have signed any agreement for oil exploration in foreign countries and which companies have been given licence to explore and produce oil?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam, so far as the private companies are concerned, all the private companies, which have refineries, import crude oil for their refineries. I will provide the list of those companies to the hon. Member. ESSAR and Reliance are among those and I will provide the hon. Member with the details of quantum of crude oil imported by those companies.

[English]

SHRI P.K. BIJU: The hon. Minister has confirmed that we have started some work in different parts of the country, and that we are dependent on different countries for crude—more than 70 per cent of crude oil is being imported from various countries.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what

is the present status of the crude oil exploration in Cochin and when is this project likely to be completed?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: As far as Cochin is concerned, there are exploration activities underway by the ONGC. As far as the exact status of it is concerned, I can get back to the hon. Member—I can give him the present status in detail.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam Speaker, the hon'ble Minister has clearly admitted in his reply that 70% of our country's crude oil requirement is met through imports and he is expecting the production to be 8.9 MMT by 2011-2012 which would be about 25% of the total domestic production and would reduce the country's export bill by 8%. However, it would not be sufficient to cater to our demand which is rising day by day.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that as we have found oil in Bombay high, oil is available in the same west-cost in Konkan area of Maharashtra near Ratnagiri. ONGC has conducted operations to discover oil there. Is crude oil really available there, if so, by when exploration is likely to start from there?

SHRI JITIN PRASADA: Madam Speaker, so far as oil exploration is concerned, it is done under a specified process through which oil reserves are discovered. However, commercial production is not possible at every discovered reserve. Sometimes, profit earned from a discovered reserve is not good enough that it could be used for commercial activity. So far as Ratnagiri is concerned, discoveries might have been made there but till now it has not been finalised whether this site would be used for commercial production. The production of 8.9 MMT mentioned by you is from Barmer region which will be during 2011-2012 and it would reduce the import bill by 25%. As on date we are producing 25% crude oil, which is a major achievement. Our crude oil production has increased by 7% and even gas production has been increased by 53%. It means 50% increase has been registered in the existing production which is a major achievement for our country.

[English]

Corporate Frauds

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*307. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided/proposes to set up a Specialized Research and Analysis wing to scrutinize media reports, corporate press releases and advertisements which can have a bearing on share prices of companies to avoid corporate frauds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further steps proposed to be taken, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Government has set up a Market Research and Analysis Unit in the Serious Fraud Investigation Office with the objective of improvements in the regulatory system in Corporate Sector. The unit will *inter-alia* perform following main functions:

(i) Repository of Information

To collect information from various sources including media, other investigating agencies, employees, investors, deposit holders, banks, financial institutions etc. and analyse the trends.

(ii) Improving investigation skills

To analyse all the completed investigation cases to see if investigation process was followed in letter and spirit. Any deviation and

its resultant effect on the outcome of investigation would be brought out to form a base for further improvement in investigation skills.

(iii) Inputs for adopting best international practices

To study investigation cases carried out by the investigation departments of the respective agencies in other countries to analyse the procedure and systems followed in those countries. Investigation modules based on best international practices shall be developed by the Unit for guiding cases of investigation.

(iv) Coordination with other investigative agencies

To co-ordinate with other investigative agencies on continuous basis to collect the requisite information on managerial and corporate behaviour. The information thus collected would be synthesised with the information collected through media and the data gathered from MCA-21 project. This information bank can be used to throw early alerts on deviation from the legally accepted behaviour of the corporate entities.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: I thank the Minister for an extremely comprehensive reply but I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you that what interventions does the Government plan for investor protection in the new Company Bill that you are planning to.

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam Speaker, there are already several initiatives that the Ministry has taken for protection of investors particularly by keeping them informed about the status of companies in which likely investments would take place. As far as the Companies Bill 2009 is concerned, which is now before the Standing Committee, a major step forward will be providing for special possibilities of litigation where class actions will be permitted for the first time. Investors and other stakeholders will be able to apply to the tribunal for relief if there has been fraud or any other misdemeanor on behalf of the company.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Normally when these things occur it is the investor who never gets his money back. So, would there be a foolproof system—there is nothing like foolproof—or would the Government make interventions to protect the investor the most or the penalties be so strong that we do not have another Satyam case happening very soon?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam, we have taken considerable steps forward so that we can avoid something like Satyam happening again. There is an early warning system that has been put in place. Particularly in the new Bill we will provide for stricter penalties, greater disclosures, greater participation of shareholders in terms of scrutiny of company records and most important disgorgement of any profits made by officers or a company at the expense of shareholders.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Madam, I am very glad that the Specialised Research and Analysis Wing has been set up by the Government to control the fraudulent activities of the corporate bodies. The investors have already suffered a loss of more than Rs. 14,000 crore because of the Satyam Computers.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask your question as very little time is left.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: In view of that, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to introduce in the Bill at least what is called the class action suits provision. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: There is not much time left. Direct your question immediately.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the class action suit provision has been included in the Companies Bill of 2009 just to claim the compensation by the investors and shareholders?

SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED: Madam, I just replied that there is provision for class action suits and

I think the Bill is being circulated. My learned friend can look at the Bill and see if he is satisfied with that.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Opening of New Railway Stations

*304. SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL:
SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for opening of new railway stations in the country;

(b) the number of new railway stations opened during the last three years;

(c) whether demands have been received for opening of new railway stations during the last three years; and

(d) the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) New stations generally are opened during the commissioning of a new railway line. On existing lines, opening of a new block station depends on operational requirement, technical feasibility, need for providing connectivity to freight sidings etc. Halt stations are opened on public demand, if found financially viable and feasible from operating and engineering point of view.

(b) 156 stations have been opened during the last 3 years which include 81 halt stations and 75 block stations.

(c) and (d) Yes madam. Demands for opening of 232 new stations were received during the last 3 years of which 39 halt stations and 9 block stations have been sanctioned. A list of the sanctioned stations is attached as Statement.

Statement

List of Stations Sanctioned/Opened for which Demands were Received during the Last Three Years i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09

Sl. No.	Railway	Name of the proposed halt station	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	Central	Gopal Nagar	Already sanctioned
2.	Eastern	Biman Bandar	Already Opened
3.	Eastern	Jessore Road	Already Opened
4.	Eastern	Ghogi-Bariarpur	Already Opened
5.	Eastern	Ghorghat	Already Opened
6.	Eastern	Chint-Makhanpur	Already Opened
7.	Eastern	Murahara	Already Opened
8.	Eastern	Pipradihi	Already Opened
9.	Eastern	Telia	Already Opened
10.	Eastern	Rishikund	Already Opened
11.	Eastern	Patam	Already Opened
12.	Eastern	Abuganj	Already Opened
13.	Eastern	Kamarganj	Already Opened
14.	Northern	Taj Nagar	Sanctioned
15.	North Eastern	Baraipatti Mathiani	Sanctioned
16.	North Eastern	Bangra	Sanctioned
17.	North Eastern	Bahuara	Sanctioned
18.	Southeast Central	Nagara	Sanctioned/under construction
19.	Southeast Central	Magardhara	Sanctioned/under construction
20.	East Central	Mahatvaniya	Opened
21.	East Central	Agreer	Opened
22.	East Central	Sahid Baba Parav	Opened

1	2	3	4
23.	East Central	Mokar	Opened
24.	East Central	Chanka	Opened
25.	East Central	Meera Bigha	Opened
26.	East Central	Ghosia Kalan	Opened
27.	East Central	Bairi	Opened
28.	East Central	Sundarpur	Opened
29.	East Central	Baba Raghunai Halt Dwarika	Sanctioned but yet to be opened
30.	East Central	Chand Pipar	Sanctioned but yet to be opened
31.	East Central	Nonar	Opened
32.	East Central	Jagdishpur	Opened
33.	East Central	Jharkhand Mahadev	Opened
34.	East Central	Bhojpur Rohtas Border	Opened
35.	East Central	Shivpur	Opened
36.	East Central	Hasan Bazar	Opened
37.	East Central	Ghusia	Opened
38.	East Central	Sameli	Sanctioned but yet to be opened
39.	East Central	Sukhdas Gram	Sanctioned but yet to be opened
40.	East Central	Teka Bigha	Sanctioned
41.	East Central	Lemuabad	Sanctioned
42.	East Central	Nandini Lagunia	Sanctioned
43.	East Central	Chakmakaran	Sanctioned
44.	East Central	Chamua	Sanctioned
45.	East Central	Ghoshwar	Sanctioned
46.	East Central	Karjara	Sanctioned
47.	East Central	Karota	Sanctioned
48.	Southern	Nagercoil Town	Sanctioned

Road Over Bridges

*308. SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Road Over-Bridges (ROBs) which are under construction in different States as on date, project-wise;

(b) whether the Railways propose to construct more ROBs including one in Khaga, Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the pending proposals will be decided?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Details of Road Over-Bridges (ROBs) under construction in different States as on 1-12-2009 is attached as Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes Madam. Railways construct Road over/under bridges in lieu of existing level crossings (LC)

on cost sharing basis if the traffic density at the L.C. reaches at one lakh Train Vehicle Units (TVUs-A unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains to the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossings in 24 hours) otherwise on deposit terms, proposals for which are sponsored by concerned State Government duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules viz. undertaking to bear their share of cost, closure of LC on completion of work, advance action to acquire land for approaches, etc. Level crossing (LC) No. 37 at Km. 907/31-33 near Khaga has a traffic density of 3,14,963 TVUs. This qualifies for replacement by ROB on cost sharing basis. State Government has been furnished with the list of LCs having traffic density of one lakh or more TVUs and requested to make proposals for ROBs in lieu thereof. This LC is also included in that list but no proposal has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Proposal will be decided after it is sponsored by State Government.

Statement

*State-wise ROB/RUBs Projects sanctioned upto 2009-10
(as on 01-12-2009)*

Sl. No.	State	Cost Sharing No. of Works	Other Category Works				Cost Sharing Works	
			Deposit	BOT	NHAI	Total	Rly's share (Rs in crores)	State's share (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	104	17	8	21	150	642	968
2.	Assam and NE Region	1	11	0	12	24	9	0
3.	Bihar	60	0	0	17	77	529	468
4.	Chandigarh (UT)	1	0	0	0	1	6	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	13	4	0	0	17	86	131

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	Delhi	19	15	0	0	34	191	365
7.	Gujarat	21	9	0	4	34	83	119
8.	Haryana	44	5	6	0	55	381	548
9.	Jharkhand	17	0	0	0	17	128	98
10.	Karnataka	61	31	1	27	120	311	317
11.	Kerala	59	11	0	10	80	309	289
12.	Maharashtra	31	32	14	13	90	135	230
13.	Madhya Pradesh	28	7	1	4	40	81	93
14.	Orissa	19	0	0	2	21	237	261
15.	Pondicherry	3	0	0	0	3	15	15
16.	Punjab	38	4	11	0	53	241	409
17.	Rajasthan	30	6	11	8	55	122	133
18.	Tamil Nadu	144	20	0	73	237	785	800
19.	Uttar Pradesh	94	16	0	47	157	665	780
20.	Uttarakhand	1	2	0	0	3	8	105
21.	West Bengal	41	1	0	4	46	255	241
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	1	0	0	2	6	10
Total		830	192	52	242	1316	5224	6389

[English]

Railway Projects for North-Eastern Region

*309. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to construct new stations and new rail lines in North Bengal as well as in North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount allocated for the said projects in the current financial year; and

(c) the time by which the said projects are likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) to (c) There are 11 new line projects in progress in Northeast Frontier Railway which covers portions of West Bengal and Northeast Region. The details of the ongoing new line projects alongwith amount allocated in the current financial year with date of completion, wherever fixed, is given in the Statement enclosed. The details given also include the number of new stations proposed to be created under New Lines.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	No. of new stations proposed to be created in the project	Anticipated Cost as per Budget 2009-10	Expenditure upto March, 2009	Outlay 2009-10	Present status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Jiribam-Imphal	9	2492.53	73.63	50.00	Final Location Survey in 84 km completed. Earthwork and bridges taken up where land has been acquired. Jiribam-Tupul targeted for March, 2014 and Tupul-Imphal for March, 2016.
2.	Azra-Byrnihat	2	546.47	0.34	5.00	Survey work suspended in Assam portion due to obstruction by local people. State Government has desired for change of alignment. Target—March, 2014.
3.	Dimapur-Zubza (Kohima)	7	850.00	0.83	5.00	Final Location Survey from km 0.00 to km 42 taken up. Final Location Survey was stopped between km 5.00 to km 8.00 due to objection by villagers. Target is March, 2015.
4.	Bogibeel Bridge	5	3087.44	1391.71	110.41	South Bank line from Moranhat to Chalkhowa (44 km) has been completed. Main bridge substructure and guide bunds have been taken up. The main bridge superstructure tender has been opened. The project is targeted for completion by March, 2014.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Agartala-Sabroom	9	813.34	1.14	30.00	Final Location Survey from Agartala to Sabroom completed and land acquisition taken up. Project completion target—March, 2014.
6.	Bhairabhi-Sairang	4	619.34	0.58	5.00	Final Location Survey taken up between km 0.00 to km 9.0. Project completion target—March, 2014.
7.	Sivok-Rangpo	6	1339.48	0.00	10.00	Final Location Survey taken up. The work has been entrusted to IRCON for execution. Target is December, 2015.
8.	Dudhnoi-Mendipathar	2	86.22	4.1	5	Final Location Survey completed. Land acquisition taken up. Earthwork and Road under Bridges taken up. Target: March, 2013.
9.	Eklakhi-Balurghat and Gazole-Itahar	2	285.93	222.41	15.00	Eklakhi to Balurghat (87 km) completed. Land acquisition for Gazole-Itahar taken up. Contract fixing for civil works taken up. Target: Not fixed.
10.	Harmuti-Itanagar	3	160.48	34.01	35.00	Final Location Survey for Harmuti to Naharlagun (21 km) completed. 56.60 hect. land acquired and earthwork, minor bridges, major bridges etc. taken up. Joint survey for land acquisition in Assam portion (km 0 to km 9) completed. Land acquisition in Arunachal Pradesh area taken up. Target: March, 2014.
11.	New Maynaguri-Jogighopa	15	1480.71	305.37	109.00	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges taken up in New

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						<p>Maynaguri-New Cooch-behar-Golakganj section. Land acquisition and major bridges taken up in Gauripur-Jogighopa (Abhay-puri) (84.90 km). Overall progress: 26%. The targets are as under:</p> <p>(i) Golakgunj-Gauripur-March '10</p> <p>(ii) New-Coochbehar-Golakgunj-Dec. '10</p> <p>Balance portion will be completed as early as possible.</p>

For the National Projects, 25% funding is through normal Railway Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) and 75% as an additionality by Ministry of Finance. The outlays shown above are through Railway GBS.

Textiles Export

*310. SHIRI P. KUMAR:

SHRI M. ANANDAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether appreciation of the rupee has adversely affected exports in the textile sector thereby benefiting the competitors in the field;

(b) if so, the measures initiated by the Government to meet this challenge; and

(c) its impact so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (c) The cumulative exchange rate of the Indian rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar during 2008-09 was Rs. 45.99 which has since depreciated to Rs. 48.33 during the current financial year i.e. April-October 2009 (on a cumulative basis). However, on a monthly basis, it is observed that the rupee has started to appreciate

after July, 2009 when the exchange rate was INR 48.48 and has since appreciated to INR 46.57 in December, 2009. The exchange rates of the competitor countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and China have remained more or less stable compared to the US dollar and has even depreciated as in the case of Pakistan; but the exports of textiles and clothing of all these countries to US have declined during the current calendar year (January-September '09), except for Bangladesh which has posted an increase of around 4%.

The decline in the export of textiles and clothing cannot, therefore, be attributed to the rupee appreciation factor alone. The decline in India's export of textiles owes itself to the recession in the major economies viz. US and EU etc. which are major destinations for India's textiles products. The Government has introduced following measures from time to time to meet the adverse effect of the global economic slowdown and to strengthen the textiles sector in general.

Stimulus Scheme Announced on 07-12-2008

- (1) General reduction of 4% in CENVAT rates. As a result, the textile machinery had 10%

- (Previously 14%) and Non-cotton textile have 4% (Previously 8%) CENVAT rate.
- (2) 4% optional CENVAT on cotton textiles has been abolished.
 - (3) NAPTHA has been exempted from import duty (Previously 5%) for use in the power sector.
 - (4) Rate of C. Excise duty on cotton textiles reduced from 4% to Nil (Notification No. 59/2008 (C. Excise dated 07-12-2008).
 - (5) The benefit of Service Tax refund (Already available to 19 other services, which are not in the nature of "input services" but could be linked to export goods) is now extended to service provided by a clearing and forwarding agent to exporters.
 - (6) The Threshold limit of refund of service tax paid by exporters on foreign commissioner agent service has been enhanced from 2% of FOB value to 10% of FOB value of exports.
 - (7) Draw back benefit can now be availed of simultaneously with refund of service tax paid in respect of exports.
 - (8) Pre and post-shipment export credit for certain specific sectors including textiles belongs to SME sector is being made more attractive by providing an interest subvention of 2% upto 31-03-2009 subject to minimum rate of interest: 7% per annum.
 - (9) An additional allocation of Rs. 1400 crore will be made to clear the entire backlog in TUF Scheme.
 - (10) All items of handicrafts will be included under 'Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana. All items of Handicraft included under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana (VKGUY) Scheme, under which exports are eligible for Duty Credit Scrip equivalent to 5% of FOB value.
 - (11) To boost collateral free lending, the current guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee

Scheme for Micro and Small enterprises on loans will be extended from Rs. 50 lakh to Rs. 1 crore with guarantee cover of 50 per cent.

- (12) Government back-up guarantee for ECGC to the extent of Rs. 350 crores to enable it to provide Guarantees for exports to difficult markets/products, to continue the single buyer policy.
- (13) Additional fund of Rs. 1100 crores for refund of Terminal Excise Duty (TED).
- (14) Additional provision of Rs. 350 crores for export incentive schemes.

DEPB/DBK Scheme Announced on 02-01-2009

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

Interim Budget 2009-10

- (19) General rate of Central Excise Duty is reduced from 10% to 8%. As a result Central Excise Duty on Textile Machinery is reduced from 10% to 8%.

- (20) Rate of Service Tax on taxable services is reduced from 12% to 10%.

Second Stimulus Package Scheme Announced on 24-2-2009

- (21) Customs Duty—The facility of exemption from Basis Customs Duty on imports of Naptha for generation of Electric energy is being extend beyond 31-03-2009.
- (22) Excise Duty:
- (a) General Reduction in Excise Duty rates by 4% made w.e.f. 7-12-2008 is being extended beyond 31-03-2009.
- (b) Further reduction in the rate of Excise Duty by 2%; i.e. from 10% to 8%.
- (c) Retaining the rate of Central Excise Duty on goods currently attracting Ad-Valorem rates of 8% and 4% respectively.
- (23) Service Tax—The rate of Service Tax on taxable services has been reduced from 12% to 10%.
- (24) Exemption from Income Tax for SEZ/s—Removed the anomaly in computation of export profits with reference to the total turnover of the assesses in SEZ/s.

Major Supplementary Trade Facilitation Measures Announced under Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009 (on 26-02-2009)

- (25) Rs. 325 crore provided under promotional Schemes for Leather, Textiles etc., for exports made with effect from 1-04-2009. It is in the form of 2% duty credit scrip of FOB value of exports under market linked focused product scheme exclusively for exports into US and EU.
- (26) Benefit of 5% duty credit scrip of FOB value of exports under Focus Product Scheme has been notified for exports of handmade carpets, in lieu of 3.5% benefit allowed earlier under VKGUY scheme (Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana).

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

- (28) Under EPCG scheme, in case of decline in exports of a product by more than 5%, the export obligation of that product is to be reduced proportionately. This provision has been extended for the year 2009-10, for exports during 2008-09.
- (29) DEP/B/Duty credit scrip utilization extended for payment of duty for import of restricted items also.
- (30) Procedure for claiming duty drawback refund and refund of terminal excise duty further simplified.
- (31) Re-credit of 4% SAD, in case of payment of duty by incentive scheme scrips such as VKGU, Focus product and Focus Market, was allowed.
- (32) Export obligation period against Advance Authorizations extended up to 36 months.
- (33) Permitted supply of intermediate product/s by the domestic producer directly from the factory to the port of shipment against Advance Intermediate Authorization.
- (34) Dispensed with the requirement of MODVAT/ CENVAT certificate in cases where the Customs Notification itself prescribed for payment of CVD, in respect of Advance Licences issued prior to 01-04-2002.
- (35) Export House—Reduced the threshold limit for recognizing Premier Trading Houses from Rs. 10,000 crore in the preceding three years and current year to Rs. 7,500 crore.

Additional Scheme Announced on 04-03-2009

- (36) The Government announced facility of refund of service tax paid on all input services, irrespective of whether they are consumed inside or outside the zone, to Special Economic

Zones (SEZ) units and developers. Previously, the government exempted SEZ developers/units from paying a tax on services that were consumed within the zone.

Other Facilitation Measures

- (37) Re-imburement of Additional Duty of Excise levied on fuel under the Finance Act would also be admissible in respect of EOU's.
- (38) Re-credit of 4% SAD, in case of payment of duty by incentive scheme scrips such as VKGVY, FPS and FMS, has now been allowed.
- (39) Simplification of the provision for getting refund of Terminal Excise Duty/Deemed Export Benefits and now exporters can submit a statement certified by Central Excise Authorities in lieu of individual invoices and a monthly statement confirming duty payment in lieu of ER-1/ER-3.
- (40) Krishnapatnam seaport included for the purpose of Export Promotion Schemes.
- (41) Electronic Message Transfer facility for Advance Authorization and EPCG Scheme established for shipments from EDI ports w.e.f. 01-04-2009.
- (42) Requirement of hard copy of Shipping Bills dispensed with for Export Obligation discharge.

RBI's Measures (25-03-2009)

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

Strengthening of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme

- (45) TUFs has been extended till 31-3-2012.

(46) In the current financial year the Government has made a provision of Rs. 2890 crore as against Budget Estimates of Rs. 1090 crore during 2008-09.

(47) The Government released a subsidy of Rs. 2546 crore under TUFs on 6-8-2009 in a single tranche and the amount was credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries within 72 hours. With this release commitments under TUFs upto 30-06-2009 have been substantially met and the cash flow of beneficiaries has substantially improved.

Major Incentives introduced under Foreign Trade Policy—2009-2014

- (48) Incentive Schemes have been expanded by addition of new products and markets.
- (49) 26 new markets have been added under the Focus Market Scheme. These include 16 new markets in Latin America and 10 in Asia-Oceania.
- (50) The incentive available under Focus Market Scheme (FMS) has been raised from 2.5% to 3%.
- (51) The incentive available under the Focus Product Scheme (FPS) has been raised from 1.25% to 2%. This covers a large number of products from various sectors have been included for benefits under the FPS. These include Jute and Sisal products, Technical Textiles and vegetable textiles.
- (52) Market Linked Focus Product Scheme (MLFPS) has been greatly expanded by inclusion of products classified under as many as 153 ITC (HS) Codes at 4 digit level. This covers textiles madeups, knitted and crocheted fabrics.
- (53) MLFPS benefits also extended for export to additional new markets for certain products. These include apparels among others.
- (54) Higher allocation for Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) scheme is being provided.

- (55) To aid technological Upgradation of export sector, EPCG Scheme at Zero Duty has been introduced for apparels and textiles among others.
- (56) To impart stability to the Policy regime, Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) Scheme is extended beyond 31-12-2009 till 31-12-2010.
- (57) To simplify claims under FPS, requirement of 'Handloom Mark' for availing benefits under FPS has been removed.

It is too early to quantify the positive effects of these measures on India's exports of textiles and clothing.

Theft of Oil from Oil Depots

*311. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

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

- (a) whether cases of pilferage from oil depots of

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have been brought to the notice of the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of such cases occurred during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether CBI arrested some officials for pilferage of oil from Sitapur Depot in Jaipur recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the punitive action taken by the Government against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that there have been 19 cases of pilferage from oil depots during the last three years including current year. Details are Annexed as Statement.

(c) to (e) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had arrested seven employees of OMCs for pilferage of oil from Sitapur Depot in Jaipur. CBI investigation is in progress.

Statement

Details of Cases of Pilferage from Oil Depots of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies during the last Three Years including Current Year

Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Sl. No.	Name of State	Location	Present status	Date of incident
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Maharashtra	Sewerie-II depot	Case with police.	September 2009
2.	Maharashtra	Akola Depot	Case with police.	July 2009
3.	Kerala	Irumpanam Terminal	Inquiry is in progress.	August 2009
4.	Rajasthan	Jaipur Terminal	Case with CBI.	August 2009
5.	Gujarat	Rajkot	Case with police.	July 2009
6.	Gujarat	Dumad	Action taken as per Corporation rules.	May 2008

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Gujarat	Kandla Fore Shore Terminal	Action taken as per Corporation rules.	March 2007
8.	West Bengal	Haldia Terminal	Enquiry in progress.	February 2009
9.	Tripura	Dharamnagar Depot	Action taken as per Corporation rules.	March 2008
10.	Karnataka	Banglore Terminal	Case with police.	May 2007
11.	Uttar Pradesh	Jhansi Depot	Case with police.	August 2006
Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited				
1.	Haryana	Rewari	Show cause letter issued to transporter. Claim has been lodged on the transporter.	September 2007
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Visakha	One officer and one workmen suspended.	September 2007
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Ghatkesar	Officer suspended.	September 2009
4.	Delhi	Bijwasan	Two officers have been suspended.	August 2008
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Mathura	One officer and one executive staff have been suspended. FIR lodged. Investigation in progress.	April 2009
6.	Rajasthan	Sanganer	Case is under investigation by CBI.	August 2009
7.	Punjab	Bhatinda	Case is under investigation.	September 2009
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Sagar	Theft of petrol by security guard. Bill of security agency kept on hold by Bhopal office.	August 2009

[Translation]

World Heritage Status

312. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure/criteria outline for declaring a railway station as world heritage site by UNESCO;

(b) the details of the railway lines accorded world heritage status by the UNESCO in the country so far;

(c) the details of the other railway lines which are in the process of being designated on world heritage sites by UNESCO; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue to Indian Railways after certain rail lines are accorded world heritage status?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) An application is to be made in the prescribed format to UNESCO for inclusion of the property in the tentative list. UNESCO considers the

application for its inscription as World Heritage Site and takes decision based on the unique heritage features of the property.

(b) The following three Railway lines in India have been inscribed as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO:—

- (i) Darjeeling Himalayan Railway—between New Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling.
- (ii) Nilgiri Mountain Railway—between Mettuppalayam and Udhagamandalam.
- (iii) Kalka Shimla Railway—between Kalka and Shimla.

(c) The following three Railway lines in India are being processed for World Heritage inscription:—

- (i) Matheran Light Railway—between Neral and Matheran.
- (ii) Kangra Valley Railway—between Pathankot and Joginder Nagar.
- (iii) Gwalior Light Railway—between Gwalior and Sheopur Kalan.

(d) World Heritage inscription is the highest heritage recognition for the Railway lines that are a part of the rich rail heritage of the great Indian Railways. World Heritage inscription is also, a catalyst for benefits arising out of tourism.

[English]

Alco Test for Crew

*313. SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE:
SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases reported to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) where pilots were found alco-positive in the pre-flight medical test during the last one year;

(b) the number of Air-India flights delayed due to such incidents during the last one year;

(c) whether the Government proposes to review the punitive provisions in the existing framework in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) 24 cases have been reported to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) from 01-01-2009 to 30-11-2009 where pilots were found alco-positive in the pre-flight medical test.

(b) Air India Express flight IX-684 of 27-02-2009, operating Chennai-Singapore was delayed by 30 minutes as the pilot was found positive on breathalyzer test.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR), Section 5, Series F, Part 3, Issue/dated 13-11-2009 issued by DGCA stipulates the punishment to be awarded to erring pilots/cabin crew. The punitive provisions contained therein are appropriate.

Dr. Arjun Sengupta Committee Report

*314. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had constituted an ad hoc group of experts (AGE) headed by Dr. Arjun Sengupta to consider issues relating to the public sector enterprises;

(b) if so, whether the AGE has submitted its Report;

(c) the major recommendations made by the AGE; and

(d) the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Yes, Madam. The Ad-hoc Group of Experts (AGE) submitted their report in April 2005.

(c) The executive summary of the recommendations made by the AGE in their report is annexed as Statement.

(d) The recommendations of AGE were processed by the Government in two stages. Initially, the recommendations of AGE relating to enhancing the powers delegated to Navratna, Miniratna and other profit making CPSEs were placed before the Cabinet. The Cabinet in their meeting held in July, 2005 approved the proposals for enhancement of powers delegated to Navratna, Miniratna and other profit making CPSEs and necessary orders were issued in August, 2005. The Note on the remaining recommendations of AGE was considered by the Cabinet in their meeting held in June, 2006 and it was decided that the matter may, in the first instance, be considered by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM headed by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the External Affairs Minister, considered the remaining recommendations of AGE in their 2 meetings held in November, 2006 and February, 2007 respectively. Based on the recommendations of GOM, the Note was formulated which was considered by the Cabinet in their meeting held in April, 2007 and was approved. The orders in this regard were issued in May, 2007.

Statement

Executive Summary of the Recommendations made by Ad-hoc Group of Experts (AGE)

1. For effective governance of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), their ownership functions, the powers and operational procedures of the Board of Directors and their responsibilities together with suitable checks and balances for exercising control over the Management should be properly designed and implemented.
2. The Ad-hoc Group of Experts (AGE) recommends that any decision to reduce Government share holding to a level less than 51% in case of Category I CPSEs i.e. Navratna, Miniratnas and consistently profit making CPSEs, should be taken only with the consent of the Parliament. The Board of Directors should have all the powers to raise equity capital from the market so long as the Government's share of the overall equity remains above 51%. However, in case of Category II CPSEs i.e., other than those mentioned above, Government should have full flexibility of owning or disinvesting their shares.
3. The AGE recommends that governance of CPSEs, especially the Navratnas and Miniratnas and other profit making companies, should continue to be supervised by the three tier system, namely, the Ministry concerned representing the Government, the Board of Directors and the Management, with the role, powers and Junctions of each of them clearly defined and codified.
4. The AGE recommends that an institutional arrangement is required in order to ensure harmonious relations and interactions among the three tiers and to provide for the redressal of grievances of the stakeholders. To fulfill this requirement, the establishment of six overarching Supervisory Bodies, each consisting of ten members (three Ministers, five independent distinguished experts of the relevant sector and Secretary of the Ministry/Department and CMD concerned) is considered essential. The AGE has suggested the setting up of such Supervisory Bodies for six different sectors.
5. The Supervisory Body should not give any direct instructions to the CPSEs. The Body should give its views only on matters referred to it.
6. The Ministry should effectively perform the role of the sole/major shareholder as well as owners of the company. The Ministry should consult other Ministries, including Finance and other relevant Departments and, where necessary, obtain the approval of the Cabinet. It should assist the implementation of the projects of CPSE in its charge in line with Government Policy.
7. Adverse actions like reprimand, suspension, premature termination, denial of extension of

- tenure, supercession of the recommendations of PESB, etc. must be referred to the Supervisory Body and the ACC should take its views into account before taking any decision on such matters. Appointments to Board level positions in CPSEs may be made for the period until superannuation instead of fixed tenures.
8. The Ministry should not give instruction directly or indirectly to the Management. It should be the responsibility of the concerned Board of Directors. The views of the Ministry should be communicated to the Board through Government Directors.
 9. If the Ministry considers it necessary to issue mandatory instruction to a CPSE, the same must be given in the form of a Presidential Directive. The issuance of such Presidential Directives should have the approval of the Cabinet.
 10. The Ministry should not normally review the functioning of the company more than twice a year. Such reviews should be based on the reports of the relevant Board of Directors and selected major performance indicators. Since the profitability of CPSEs is influenced by several factors such as the administered price mechanism and fluctuations in international price of the commodities, the Group recommends that the Ministries concerned should develop CPSE-specific criteria to determine their overall performance, independent of profitability.
 11. There should be a negative list of areas which must be kept away from the intervention of the Government (except for respective jurisdiction of CAG and CVC).
 12. The current restrictions regarding capital expenditures, joint ventures, etc. need to be done away with. Such decisions should be left entirely to the Board of Directors. However, if that is not possible at one stroke, as the first step towards this desirable goal, enhanced powers should be given to Navratna/Miniratna and other profit making companies in respect of Capital expenditure, setting up of Joint Ventures (JVs)/Subsidiaries, subsequent investment in JVs. JVs between Navratnas, merger and acquisition, appointment of Directors in subsidiaries and JVs etc. The Chief Executive of CPSE concerned should be a member of Search Committee for selection of non-official Directors.
 13. There should be detailed procedural guidelines including limits of financial expenditure on foreign travel of Chief Executives and Board Members, formulated by the Board of Directors of the CPSEs concerned and no reference to the Government for approval should be necessary unless deviation from such guidelines is intended.
 14. The Board of Directors should be fully responsible for the supervision and control over the Management of the company.
 15. Subject to statutory requirements, Government policy and regulatory guidelines issued by the RBI, the Board of Directors should have full powers of pursuing new lines of business, deciding on suitable Acquisitions and Mergers, setting up Subsidiaries and exiting from any line of business, as also of making Capital expenditure up to the levels indicated in Para 2.15, without any prior clearance from the Government.
 16. No more than two officers should be nominated as Board Members by the Government on the Board of Directors of Navratna, Miniratna or other profit making CPSEs. The performance of Government Directors must be suitably reflected in their personal CRs. An appraisal system for performance review of Independent Directors should be formulated.
 17. The Chief Executives and the Functional Directors should also be entitled to performance linked bonus/incentive within the permissible limit of 5% of distributable profit. The

Compensation Committee of the Board as constituted under the 'Listing Agreement' should have the authority to decide on the quantum of such performance-linked incentives on the basis of individual's performance and contribution during the year under review. Such bonus/incentive would, however, be governed by the limits prescribed in the Companies Act.

18. The Chief Executive should be entirely responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the company under the overall supervision of the Board of Directors.
19. The Management should be free to exercise all powers explicitly delegated by the Board of Directors. It should function under the supervision of the Chief Executive and Functional Directors on the Board.
20. The Management should be responsible for implementation of the decisions of the Board of Directors, and compliance of all statutory requirements as well as policy guidelines.
21. **Audit of Government Companies:—**The AGE has made various suggestions for streamlining of the present system of test/supplementary/transaction audit of CPSEs in order to save time and to avoid duplications.
22. **Article 12 of the Constitution and CPSEs:—**The AGE has suggested that the issue relating to amendment of Article 12 of the Constitution could be revisited by the Policy makers at an appropriate time.
23. **Parliamentary Accountability:—**The AGE has made some suggestions in regard to Parliamentary accountability of CPSEs in order to enable them to focus on their business and to avoid disclosure of commercially sensitive information.
24. **Vigilance Management in CPSEs:—**The AGE, after taking into suggestions made by Arvind Pande Committee, has made several recommendations in regard to Vigilance related issues concerning CPSEs.

Expansion of RGGLVY

*315. SHRI PRATAP SINGH BAJWA:

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend "Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana" (RGGLVY) to all parts of the country in order to increase rural penetration of LPG and to cover remote areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the scheme will be fully implemented in all parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. As per the "Vision-2015" adopted for LPG sector, 5.5 crore new LPG connections are targeted to be released by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) by the year 2015 to raise LPG population coverage to 75%. The focus would be on rural areas and areas where LPG coverage is low.

As a step towards achieving this objective, a new scheme of rural LPG distributor namely, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) for small size LPG distribution agencies has been launched on 16-10-2009. Advertisements inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been released in 8 States where the reach of LPG is low namely, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal covering 1215 locations. The State-wise details are as under:—

Name of States	No. of locations	Date of advertisement
1	2	3
Bihar	251	17-10-2009
Chhattisgarh	39	19-10-2009
Jharkhand	80	17-10-2009
Madhya Pradesh	97	19-10-2009

1	2	3
Orissa	101	20-10-2009
Rajasthan	192	17-10-2009
Uttar Pradesh	280	17-10-2009
West Bengal	175	17-10-2009

Identification of locations under RGGLVY for other States of the country is in progress. The setting up of LPG distributors under this scheme will now be a continuous process till all parts of the country are covered by LPG network. However, no time limit can be indicated for achieving 100% LPG coverage.

Supply of Concrete Sleepers

*316. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA:

SHRI K. SUGUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways' track expansion plans are getting delayed due to shortage in the supply of concrete sleepers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up more concrete sleeper manufacturing units in the country including in Southern Zones of Railways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Madam. A close watch is kept on the availability of sleepers for various projects/ track renewal works.

(c) and (d) A constant review is made by Ministry of Railways to augment sleeper production and to set up new plants in various Zonal Railways including Southern Zones of Indian Railways. In Southern Zone, it has been approved to set up three new plants on South Western Railway and one plant on South Central Railway.

(e) Besides setting up of new sleeper plants, Ministry of Railways has taken steps to shift concrete sleeper plants from surplus Railways to deficient Railways.

Road Map for Civil Aviation Sector

*317. SHRI S. ALAGIRI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive road map for the development of civil aviation sector is being prepared;

(b) if so, the outline thereof alongwith its present status;

(c) the details of the areas identified for focused attention and thrust to make air travel affordable and hassle-free and also to improve the operational efficiency of the aviation industry so as to face competition from the private airlines; and

(d) the steps taken to ascertain the views of the various concerned interests in formulating the new road map?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Keeping in view of the growth of the Civil Aviation sector, a comprehensive road map has been prepared and which is being implemented by Government of India whose major components are: modernization and improvements of operational airports, operationalization of smaller airports for improving air connectivity, particularly of North-Eastern States; strengthening of regulatory framework by constituting Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA); formulation of Route Dispersal Guidelines; strengthening of DGCA, BCAS, etc.

Higher User Charges

*318. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has commented on the mismatch of high user charges and services provided at Indian airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether IATA has commented that the airport

operators should not be permitted to hike airport charges or levy user charges just to offset non-fulfillment of targets mentioned in contracts;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether IATA has also called for strong penalties on airport operators like revocation of concession agreements with the private airport developers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam. International Air Transport Association (IATA) has not commented on the mismatch of high user charges and services provided at Indian airports.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Enhancement/Upgradation of Processing Capabilities

*319. SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the various schemes implemented by the Union Government for enhancement and Upgradation of processing capabilities in the country;

(b) whether the Government provides financial and technical assistance to women self help groups engaged in food processing sector in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which the schemes have enhanced/upgraded the processing capabilities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) Under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/

Modernization/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grants-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakh in general area and 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakh in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. The Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries is aimed at creation of new processing capacity and upgradation of existing processing capabilities, modernization of Food Processing Sector to include Milk, Fruit and Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, fishery, cereal, consumer items, oil seeds, rice milling, flour milling, pulse etc. Women Self Help Groups can also avail assistance under this scheme.

The financial assistance extended in the last 3 years under the scheme is as under:

Year	Allocation (Rs. in crore)	Financial assistance (Rs. in crore)
2007-08	113.50	119.36
2008-09	91.50	96.87
2009-10	66.00	55.47*

*As on 04-12-2009.

There has been substantial increase in rate of growth of the food processing industry from 7% in 2003-04 to 13.14% in 2006-07 and the increase in total investment in food processing sector to 40,000 crores in 2006-07 which has contributed to reduction of wastage and better value addition.

For the development of the food processing sector, the Government has taken various initiatives to strengthen the Food Processing Infrastructure, Government has approved a scheme for Mega Food Parks, Cold Chain, Value Added Centres and Modernization of Abattoirs. The Infrastructure scheme envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well

established supply chain. It aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages.

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

Modernization of Abattoirs is a scheme targeting infrastructure for the meat processing industry. It aims to upgrade qualitative and quantitative capacities of the abattoirs, which will be linked, with commercial processing of meat, both for domestic consumption and exports. The financial assistance (grant-in-aid) is being extended at 50% and 75% of the cost of plant and machineries and technical civil works in general and difficult areas respectively subject to a maximum of Rs. 15 crores for each project. The Ministry has approved setting up ten abattoirs in the country with a total cost of Rs. 127.00 crores. An amount of Rs. 10.85 crores has been released.

Further, the Ministry has several other schemes for promotion of the food processing industry similarly Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, R and D and Promotional Activities, is aimed at motivating the food processing industries for adoption of food safety and quality assurance mechanisms such as TQM including ISO 14000, ISO 22000, HACCP, GMP, GHP, and preparing them to face global competition in post WTO Regime. The scheme is also aimed at ensuring that end product/outcome/findings of R and D work should benefit Food Processing Industries in terms of

product and process development, improved packaging, value addition and leading to innovative products and processes, with commercial value.

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

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

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

Direct Investment is under 100% automatic route for most of the processed food products.

Cold Storage Facilities at Airports

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

(a) the details of airports where cold storage facilities exist to facilitate smooth export of perishable food items;

(b) whether a sizeable percentage of perishable food items are spoiled due to inadequate infrastructure for handling of export of perishables at airports;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up more cold storage facilities at airports to overcome this difficulty; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to provide this facility at all airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The cold storage and cargo handling facilities are available at all the key airports viz. New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Nasik, Goa, Bagdogara and Amritsar. Walk in type refrigerated container facilities are available at Jaipur, Lucknow, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Ahmedabad and Coimbatore.

(b) and (c) No, Madam. The above cold Chain infrastructure has helped in curtailing spoilage of perishables at the airports.

(d) and (e) Yes, Madam. To boost the export of perishable cargo, centres' for perishable cargo have been established in collaboration with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) and Ministry of Agriculture.

External Assistance in Developing Railway Stations

3355. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have sought any external assistance for the development of railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided by the various external institutions/bodies during the last three years;

(c) whether some railway stations have been identified for the same particularly the stations under Southern Railway;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is also a proposal to set up cinema halls at various stations and its surplus land; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

Flights from Delhi and Mumbai Airports

3356. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private aircraft and chartered flights that take off daily from Delhi and Mumbai Airports;

(b) whether it is proposed to build separate terminals for them to ease congestion at these airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) On an average, 25 private and chartered flights takes off daily from Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Delhi and 15 private and chartered flights takes off from Chhatrapati Shivaji International (CSI) Airport, Mumbai.

(b) and (c) As per Master Plan of IGI Airport, Delhi provision exists for an exclusive terminal for general

aviation flights. A separate General Aviation Terminal has been commissioned at CSI Airport, Mumbai cater to the requirements of domestic and international general aviation flights.

[Translation]

Changes in Electronic Voting Machines

3357. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rajasthan High Court has directed the Election Commission to consider the representation received by it regarding changing of electronic voting machines;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Election Commission in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the secrecy/safety and proper functioning of these machines?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) The Election Commission has intimated that no Orders or Directions regarding Electronic Voting Machines have been received from the Rajasthan High Court.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Statement specifying the steps taken by the Election Commission to ensure the secrecy/safety and proper functioning of these machines is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The steps taken to ensure the secrecy/safety and proper functioning of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)

The following Administrative measures and safeguards are taken to ensure the secrecy/safety and proper functioning of the EVMs.

- During non-election period, the EVMs are kept in the custody of the District Election Officer.
- Preparatory to the elections, the EVMs undergo a first level checking. Every aspect

of EVM's functionality is checked by the Bharat Electronics Limited/Electronics Corporation of India Limited (manufacturers) engineers and serviced.

- To provide further confidence and comfort, two level randomization of EVMs is done with the involvement of political parties, candidates and their agents for the random allotment of the EVMs to various constituencies and subsequently to various polling stations.
- After the list of candidates is finalized (after withdrawal of candidatures), EVMs are prepared for poll. Preparing the EVMs for the poll involves setting the control units and ballot units in the presence of the candidates/their agents, provision for various thread seals and paper seals and protection against any unauthorized access to the EVMs after preparation.
- Thereafter, the EVMs are put in a storage/strong room in the presence of the candidates or their agents and the room is sealed in their presence. Candidates/their agents are also authorised to put their seals/locks on the storage/strong room.
- On the day of departure of polling parties for the poll day, EVMs are taken out from the storage/strong room in the presence of the candidates or their agents and the Commission's Observers.
- Before actual poll, mock poll is conducted at the polling station in presence of the polling agents to ensure and demonstrate the correct functionality of the EVM. A written certificate is given by the Presiding Officer and the polling agents who participated in the mock poll.
- After this, control unit is sealed by thread and paper seals and the polling agents of the candidates are authorised to put their signatures on such paper seals.
- At the poll the voter is first identified, serial

- number of the voter is entered in the Register of Voters (Form 17 A), his/her signature obtained in the said Register of Voters, and the particulars of identification documents are noted therein. Thereafter, indelible ink is marked on the index finger of the left hand of the voter.
- At the next table, the indelible ink mark is verified by the Polling Officer/Presiding Officer. Thereafter, the Polling Officer/Presiding Officer enables the Ballot Unit (kept behind a screen in the voting compartment) by pressing 'Ballot Button' on the Control Unit. Thereupon, a Ready Lamp (Green Colour Light) goes 'ON' in the Ballot Unit kept inside the voting compartment. The voter then proceeds to the Voting Compartment where the Ballot Unit is kept and votes there in secrecy.
 - The Ballot Unit has a conventional Ballot Paper (with names and symbols of the contestants) displayed and secured under a transparent protective cover. Alongside the ballot paper placed in the ballot unit, there is a candidate's button next to each candidate's symbol. The voter presses the blue button ('candidate's button') on the ballot unit against the Candidate/Symbol of his/her choice. Immediately, a light adjacent to the blue button glows 'red' followed by a long beep sound, indicating that the vote has been recorded for that candidate.
 - After conclusion of poll, the control unit is closed for poll by pressing the 'close' button after which no further vote can be recorded in the machine. The EVM is then sealed further and candidates/their polling agents also allowed to put their seals thereon.
 - These are then escorted back to the strong room. On their way back to strong room, the polling agents have a right to accompany and escort the EVMs. The ECI facilitates this.
 - The EVMs are put into the strong room under full video coverage and in the presence of the candidates and their agents as well as the Observers of the Commission.
 - The candidates/their agents have a right to put their own seal on the lock of the strong room or even to put their own lock on it.
 - The candidates are allowed to guard the strong room, where the EVMs are kept, round the clock, and DEO/RO makes basic arrangements where needed for such guard parties to stay.
 - On the counting day, again the seal of the EVM strong room is opened in the presence of the candidates or their agents and the EVMs taken out to the Counting Tables.
 - After the counting, EVMs are put back into the strong room in the presence of candidates/their agents.

MNC in FPI Sector

3358. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several multinational companies are engaged in food processing sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the small and cottage industries engaged in food processing are getting discouraged by the presence of these multinational companies in the sector; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the remedial measures taken by the Government to protect the interests of the indigenous industries?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The details of the food processing units sanctioned and set up by foreign entrepreneurs in the country during last three years, State-wise and details of the amount of FDI inflows as on 9-7-2009 are enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) There is no definitive indication about the adverse impact of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on the small food processing units and no data is available centrally regarding effect of FDI on the domestic industry. FDI complements and supplements domestic investment. FDI brings in, apart from capital, state-of-art technology and best managerial practices, thereby providing better access to the domestic industry to foreign technology and integration into the global market. The extant policy permits FDI under the

automatic route in most sectors/activities, including Food Processing Industries. However, proposals requiring prior Government approval are considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), an inter-Ministerial recommendatory body, which takes into account the policy and sectoral guidelines for FDI. The FIPB also examines whether the proposal would jeopardize an existing joint venture or technology transfer/trade mark agreement if any, in the same field in India.

Statement

(Amount in million)

Sl. No.	Regional Offices of RBI	States Covered	2006-07 Apr.-Mar.		2007-08 Apr.-Mar.		2008-09 Apr.-Mar.	
			Rs.	US\$	Rs.	US\$	Rs.	US\$
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	315.62	6.85	227.23	5.72	79.11	1.78
3.	Bangalore	Karnataka	667.32	14.87	566.66	14.02	1,838.49	43.35
4.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	12.61	0.27	7.85	0.19	0.22	0.01
5.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.01
6.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	131.29	2.88	175.12	4.36	1,136.01	24.37
7.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	7.85	0.17	0.00	0.00	450.02	10.68
8.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	4.11	0.10	4.79	0.10
9.	New Delhi	Delhi, part of Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana	911.98	19.75	1,683.64	42.71	325.54	7.58
10.	Panaji	Goa	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11.	Region not Indicated		2,361.73	53.44	81.03	1.99	718.47	14.77
Grand Total			4,408.60	98.24	2,745.65	69.08	4,553.04	102.64

(Amount in million)

Sl. No.	Regional Offices of RBI	States Covered	2009-10 Apr.-Sep.		Cumulative Total (from April 2006 to September 2009)	
			Rs.	US\$	Rs.	US\$
1	2	3	10	11	12	13
1.	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	420.29	8.70	420.29	8.70
2.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	7.22	0.15	629.18	14.50
3.	Bangalore	Karnataka	14.87	0.31	3,087.34	72.54
4.	Kochi	Kerala, Lakshadweep	78.89	1.65	99.57	2.12
5.	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.24	0.01
6.	Mumbai	Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu	740.09	15.35	2,182.51	46.96
7.	Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	457.87	10.86
8.	Kolkata	West Bengal, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands	5.89	0.12	14.79	0.32
9.	New Delhi	Delhi, part of Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana	4,247.56	87.78	7,168.72	157.82
10.	Panaji	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.35	0.01
11.	Region not Indicated		85.48	1.76	3,246.72	71.95
Grand Total			5,600.28	115.82	17,307.57	385.78

As per the FDI-Data base, RBI's Regional Office Chandigarh (covering the Region/States: Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh) has not received any inflow in the Food Processing Sector for the period April 2006 to September 2020.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Airport at Jhajjar

3359. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the proposal for setting up of a greenfield International Airport at Jhajjar, in Haryana;

(b) the reasons for delay in sanctioning it, if any; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Haryana Government is required to submit a formal proposal for setting up the airport. Further, there are legal and contractual issues which need examination keeping in mind the aerial distance of 150 km from Delhi international airport.

Railway Stations in Kerala

3360. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to develop Neman Railway Station as a satellite station in Trivendrum;

(b) if so, the details of expansion/upgradation of Railway Station in Kerala;

(c) whether there is a proposal to extend all trains from Kochuveli to Neman Station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated for the purpose so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) At present expansion/upgradation/improvement works like extension of platform, provision of platform shelter, improvement to booking office, provision of foot over bridge, concrete aprons, improvement to circulating area, raising of platforms, yard remodeling etc. are in progress at a number of stations in Kerala.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

Outstanding Dues from Spicejet Airlines

3361. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the dues from Spicejet Airlines and other private airlines towards purchase of fuel for their aircrafts as on 30th September, 2009;

(b) the rule/legal provision under which fuel was given on credit basis to private airlines;

(c) whether above facilities of credit are given to other consumers including retail outlet operators; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for cent per cent recovery of the dues of the various private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) As on 30th September 2009, private airlines i.e. Spicejet, Go Air, Kingfisher Airlines, Jet Airways, Indigo and Paramount Airways owed Rs. 1987.12 crore to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.

(b) to (d) OMCs give credit facility to Private Airlines within the rules laid down by Board of Directors of OMCs and the commercial agreements between the OMCs and the Airlines.

OMCs extend credit facility to their consumers/dealers in accordance with the credit policy in-vogue.

In case Airlines fails to pay their dues, OMCs take action for recovery of dues in line with the mutually agreed commercial terms between them and airlines. The defaulting airlines are also put on 'Cash and Carry' and interest is recovered on overdue payments.

The issue of outstanding dues was taken up with

Ministry of Civil Aviation which advised the Airlines to clear their outstanding dues promptly.

Coaching to Minority Students

3362. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students from minority community admitted in coaching institutes for admission in higher education, technical, professional courses and for securing jobs during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the criteria laid down for identification of such coaching institutes in each State; and

(c) the number of such coaching institutes identified during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Number of students

coached under Free Coaching and Allied Scheme during the last three years and the current year are as under:—

Year	No. of Students coached
2006-07	690
2007-08	4097
2008-09	5522
2009-10	4582

(b) Only those institutes are examined for selection by the Ministry whose proposals are received duly recommended by the respective State/UT Governments, complete in all respects and fulfilling the eligibility conditions prescribed under the Scheme.

(c) The number of coaching institutes identified during the said period, State-wise is given at Statement enclosed. This information in details is also available on the website of this Ministry www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	3	3	1
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
4.	Assam	—	4	—	1
5.	Bihar	—	—	—	2
6.	Chandigarh	—	—	1	—
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	1	1	1
8.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
9.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—
10.	Delhi	—	6	7	2
11.	Goa	—	—	—	—
12.	Gujarat	—	—	1	—

Sl. No.	State	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
13.	Haryana	—	1	2	1
14.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	1
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	1	—	—
16.	Jharkhand	—	—	1	—
17.	Karnataka	—	7	11	1
18.	Kerala	—	—	2	—
19.	Madhya Pradesh	—	2	5	3
20.	Maharashtra	—	—	5	3
21.	Manipur	—	3	2	2
22.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	1
23.	Mizoram	—	2	1	1
24.	Nagaland	—	—	1	—
25.	Orissa	—	3	3	3
26.	Punjab	—	1	1	1
27.	Rajasthan	5	12	1	10
28.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—
29.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—
30.	Tripura	—	—	1	—
31.	Uttar Pradesh	—	13	18	1
32.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—
33.	West Bengal	—	—	4	1
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	—	—	—	—
Total		5	59	71	36

Recruitment of Ex-Servicemen in PSUs

3363. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) are earmarking reservations for all categories of ex-servicemen in respect of providing age relaxation for these recruitment on an equal footing;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government contemplates to ensure that all CPSUs implement the uniform policy for recruitment and age relaxation policy for the ex-servicemen while filling vacancies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government contemplates to carry forward the unfilled vacant posts reserved for ex-servicemen in CPSUs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) to (d) Government has issued instructions vide O.M. dated 13-3-1980 which provides for certain facilities to the ex-servicemen including reservation in posts and services on permanent basis including age relaxation. The percentage of reservation in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is 14.5% and 24.5% in Group 'C' and 'D' posts respectively.

Regarding relaxation in age limit, special provision exists to the effect that for appointment to any vacancy in Central Civil Services Group 'C' and Group 'D', whether reserved or not under these rules, every ex-serviceman who has put in not less than six months continuous service in the Armed Forces of the Union shall be allowed to deduct the period of such service from his actual age and if the resultant age does not exceed the maximum age limit prescribed for the post or service for which he seeks appointment by more than three years, he shall be deemed to satisfy the condition regarding age limit. These instructions were extended to CPSEs by Government's circular No. 6/55/79-BPE(GM-I) dated 22nd January, 1980.

Implementation of these instructions in CPSEs is monitored by the administrative Ministries/Departments concerned with CPSEs.

(e) and (f) Public Sector Enterprises are not to de-reserve any vacancy reserved for ex-servicemen, unless a non-availability certificate is given by the Directorate General (Resettlement), Ministry of Defence.

[Translation]

Handing Over of Airstrips

3364. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether request has been made to hand over airstrips located in Satna, Panna and Khandva districts to the state administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which approval is likely to be accorded by the Government?

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

(b) and (c) The approval of Central Government is subject to consideration of the proposal by the Board of Directors of Airports authority of India (AAI).

Sale of Euro-IV Fuel

3365. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deadline of April 2010 for starting the sale of fuel meeting 'Euro-IV' emission norms is not likely to be met;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The deadline for supply of Euro-IV complaint Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) in Delhi/National Capital Region (NCR), Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Pune, Surat, Kanpur, Agra, Lucknow and Solapur from 1st April, 2010, as laid down in Auto Fuel Policy, will be met.

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

*[English]***Bifurcating of Oil Block in Assam**

3366. SHRI JOSEPH TOPPO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently decided to bifurcate any oil block in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has consulted with the State Government of Assam before taking up bifurcation work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The Oil Block in Assam has not been bifurcated. However, the exploration block AA-ON/7 in Assam-Arakan Basin comprising of an original area of 1934 sq km was spread partly in the state of Assam (1126 sq km) and partly in the state of Nagaland (808 sq km).

Assam Government awarded the Petroleum Exploration License (PEL) for Assam part of the Block on 27-03-2001. Nagaland Government awarded PEL for Nagaland portion of the Block on 09-08-2006.

The Contractor, comprising of Canoro Resources Limited and Assam Company Limited completed their work commitment (Minimum Work Programme as per Production Sharing Contract (PSC) stipulations) in Assam part on 26-03-2008 after completion of exploration. However, Contractor proposed to carry out additional work in Nagaland portion of the Block, as PEL was not available earlier.

The Government has approved proposal of the Contractor to carry out additional work programme in Nagaland portion of the Block, by signing a separate ring fenced PSC for Nagaland portion of the Block.

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

*[Translation]***Commercial Pilot Licence**

3367. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to reduce the required number of flying hours of trainee pilots for issuing Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment of the safety of air flights has been made in regard to reducing the flying duration for issuing CPL;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the steps are being taken to provide proper training to pilots for ensuring safety in flying; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

*[English]***Increase in Natural Gas Price**

3368. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether revenue of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) is likely to go up after the Government has approved the proposed increase of 31.25 per cent in the price of natural gas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely impact of the increase on consumers thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Revision of price of natural gas produced from nominated blocks of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

ROB/RUB on National Highways

3369. DR. SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering to construct Rail Over Bridge/Rail Under Bridge at Railway Gate No. 74-B on Allahabad Pratapgarh National Highway and Gate No. 33-B on Sultanpur-Kudwar National Highway on account of huge traffic congestion; and

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be constructed alongwith details thereof?

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

(b) Both the works have been proposed by the State Government for taking up on cost sharing basis. The feasibility of proposals is being examined.

[English]

Funds for Railway Projects, Andhra Pradesh

3370. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the sanctioning of funds for railway projects and new projects which are to come up in Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes Madam. Request from Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has been received for allotment of funds for ongoing projects and taking up new projects. Funds are allotted for sanctioned works yearly, keeping in view stage of the project and availability of resources. About Rs. 800 crore has been provided in Railway Budget 2009-10 for the projects falling partly/fully in Andhra Pradesh. For new projects, surveys have been conducted/taken up wherever necessary.

Setting Up of Plant by IOC

3371. SHRI RAMESH RATHOD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is to build 1000 MW Nuclear Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stake of each organization from such Nuclear Power Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) on 4-11-2009 for its venture into Nuclear Power. Various opportunities available in the field of nuclear energy and the nature of role to be played by both the parties with a view to define their participation will be firmed up. Type of projects, level of involvement and related techno-commercial modalities shall be firmed up in due course of time.

Kerosene Marker Scheme

3372. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to withdraw kerosene marker scheme in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No Madam. In order to check diversion of subsidized Public Distribution System (PDS) Kerosene for adulteration of transport fuels, a Marker System was introduced w.e.f. 01-10-2006 throughout the country by doping of kerosene with marker at all the supply locations of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The contract for supply of Marker expired on 31-12-2008. Consequently doping of kerosene with marker had been discontinued w.e.f. 01-01-2009. At present, OMCs are in process to find a suitable marker system.

MoUs Signed by NMDC and SAIL

3373. SHRI RAJIAH SIRICILLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) have signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. NMDC and SAIL have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 16th November 2009, at New Delhi to work together for the development of the

limestone mine at Arki in Himachal Pradesh for supply of low silica high grade limestone primarily to the steel plants of SAIL and NMDC. SAIL and NMDC would have equal shareholding in the proposed Joint Venture.

Demand of Diesel

3374. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of diesel is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the details of the demand of diesel during 2008-09 and 2009-10 so far as compared to corresponding period of previous year;

(c) whether the various oil companies are importing the diesel to meet such increasing demand;

(d) if so, the details of the diesel imported by various oil companies during the said period; and

(e) the rate at which these oil companies are importing diesel alongwith the details of the foreign exchange incurred on such import during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Details of consumption of diesel in the country during 2009-10 (April-September 2009) and corresponding period of previous year i.e. 2008-09 is given below:—

Year	Quantity (In Thousand Metric Tonnes)	Growth (%)
2008-09 (April-September 2008)	25034	8.5
2009-10 (April-September 2009)	27172	8.5

(c) to (e) Diesel is imported by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to meet the domestic demand. The company-wise breakup of quantity of diesel

imported during 2008-09 and April-September, 2009 alongwith the rate at which it was imported and the value of foreign exchange is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Name of Oil Company	2008-09 (Provisional)			2009-10 (April-October, 2009)		
	Quantity (TMT)	Average Rate (USD/MT)	Value (USD Million)	Quantity (TMT)	Average Rate (USD/MT)	Value (USD Million)
IOCL	373	877.63	327.58	330	471.17	155.53
BPCL	1057	780	825	1282	518	664
HPCL	1250.44	807.53	1009.77	313.31	491.87	154.11

Removal of Exclusion Class

3375. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has demanded the removal of exclusion class in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) that bars textile units availing the benefits under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) has requested the Government for removal of the restrictive clause in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2009-14 that bars units availing Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) benefits from getting zero duty benefit of imports under EPCG Scheme. Government has not taken any decision in this regard.

Purchase of Boeing Aircraft

3376. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has placed the orders for aircraft to United States Boeing Company;

(b) if so, the number of aircraft to be purchased, the amount involved and the time schedule of their delivery;

(c) whether the aircraft are being supplied as per the time agreed to; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Air India had signed a purchase agreement with M/s Boeing Company, USA for purchase of 68 aircraft for Air India at a cost of Rs. 35,000 crores (approximately). The aircraft were scheduled to be delivered from November 2006 to 2011. This is now revised to 2014 due to delay in the delivery of the B787.

Courts for Human Trafficking Cases

3377. SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up designated courts to try human trafficking cases;

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

(c) whether certain guidelines have been issued to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) As per the information received, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an Advisory wherein it has been advised to State Governments that

Under Section 22-A of The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act 1956, the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, and after consultation with the High Court, establish one or more Courts for providing speedy trial of the offences under the Act.

[Translation]

Guidelines to Employment Exchanges

3378. DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to various employment exchanges/departments with regards to providing employment to minorities in view of the recommendations of Sachar Committee;

(b) if so, the date on which these guidelines were issued alongwith the salient features and details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities provides for giving special consideration to minority communities in recruitment of police personnel, Central police forces, railways, nationalized banks and public sector enterprises and for this purpose, the composition of selection committees should be representative. In pursuance of this, the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) has issued Office Memorandum on 8th January, 2007. The Salient features of this Office Memorandum are as follows:—

- (i) The composition of Selection Committees should be representative. It should be mandatory to have one member belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe and one member belong to minority community in Selection Boards/Committees for making recruitment to 10 or more vacancies.
- (ii) Where the number of vacancies against which

selection is to be made is less than 10, efforts should be made to have the Scheduled Caste/Tribe officer and a Minority community officer included in such Committees/Boards.

(iii) Wide publicity should be given to all appointments in Government, public sector enterprises and public sector banks and financial institutions. Advertisements should be issued in the language(s) spoken by a large number of people of the State/UTs, apart from English and Hindi. Further, for Group C and D level posts, having only basic qualifying requirements, information about vacancies for recruitment should also be disseminated through schools and colleges in that area, in addition to normal channels.

(iv) Where there is concentration of minority community population in local areas, the vacancy circular in local language may be distributed in those areas by suitable arrangements.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Rail Projects in Rajkot and Vadodara

3379. SHRI PRABHATSINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of completed/ongoing rail line works in Rajkot and Vadodara Divisions of Western Railways during the last three years alongwith the total number of road over/under bridges and manned/unmanned crossings built therewith;

(b) whether all these works were executed/are progressing as per schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Details of ongoing projects in the Rajkot and Vadodara division area and their status is as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Projects	Status with target wherever fixed
1.	Chhota Udepur-Dhar (157 km) New line	Final Location Survey taken up. Target not yet fixed.
2.	Bharuch-Samni-Dahej (62.36 km) Gauge conversion	Project is being executed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. Earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
3.	Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur (99.27 km) Gauge conversion	Pratapnagar-Dabhoi-Bodeli section (70 km) completed.
4.	Ankleshwar-Rajpipla (62.89 km) Gauge conversion	Work taken up and MG trains stopped for conversion under Mega Block to BG.
5.	Surendranagar-Dharangdhara (34.48 km) Gauge Conversion	The work is nearing completion.

In completed section of Pratapnagar-Dabhoi-Bodeli of Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur gauge conversion project, 7 additional Road Under Bridges have been built.

The projects are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Non-Employment of Local People in AGCP

3380. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the on-going protests of different groups for non-employment of local people in Assam Gas Cracker Project;

(b) if so, the steps the Government is taking to protect the interest of the local people;

(c) the total employments made in the said project;

(d) the percentage of local people employed in the project in category-wise and post-wise against the total posts;

(e) the percentage of minorities employed out of total appointments made so far; and

(f) the current status of Assam Gas Cracker Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. Brahmaputra Cracker

and Polymer Limited (BCPL) has been advised to encourage deployment of persons belonging to North East States subject to the rules and regulations applicable to a Central Public Sector Enterprise. Further, BCPL have advised contractors to recruit local candidates for contractual jobs as per availability and qualifications. BCPL in association with Government of Assam is carrying out specialized training courses for equipping local people to meet the manpower requirement of the project. BCPL is carrying out recruitment of its manpower, wherever possible, through campus interview at institutions in North East States.

(c) to (e) A total number of 33 employees have so far joined BCPL, out of which 15 (46%) are from North East and 2 (6%) are from minorities. The category-wise breakup of employees from North East is GET(Mech)-3, GET(Inst.)-3, GET(Chem)-3, GET(Elec.)-1, GET (IT)-4 and ET(PR/CC)-1.

(f) 1157 Acres of land has been acquired and possession taken thereof. Capital subsidy amounting to Rs. 287.67 crores has been released and total expenditure of Rs. 444.07 crores has been incurred till November, 2009. Contracts have been awarded to Licensors for LLDPE/HDPE and PP Units. Process packages for LLDPE/HDPE swing units have been received in September 2009, while Basic Design Engineering Package (BDEP) for polypropylene unit was received in August, 2009. The BDEP for ethylene cracker has been received in November, 2009. Civil construction activities relating to construction power, site

grading, administrative block building, product warehouse, plant and non-plant building have started. Financial Closure of BCPL has been successfully completed and loan agreements for Rs. 1756 crores have been signed.

**Revival of Ramagundam
Unit of FCIL**

3381. SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding revival of the Ramagundam unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL):

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for early revival of Ramagundam unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited. In this context, the Government of India has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) including the Ramagundam unit of FCIL subject to assured availability of natural gas. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units of FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendations regarding the suitable financing option. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

Guidelines for COCO Petrol Pumps

3382. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:
SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR

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

(a) whether the Government has issued broad guidelines to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for operation of Company-Owned-Company-Operated (COCO) retail outlets;

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

(c) the likely impact of these guidelines on the workings of COCO petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, vide letter dated 06-09-2006, has advised Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to operate permanent Company-Owned-Company-Operated (COCO) retail outlets (ROs) under the direct supervision by their own officers and to phase out temporary COCO ROs by handing them over to pending Letter of Intent holders under various social objective categories.

In respect of permanent COCO ROs, OMCs may post their own staff for running the ROs and in case sufficient number of their own staff cannot be deployed, the balance manpower may be arranged through labour contractors selected through an open and transparent manner, through advertisement only. Uniform objective parameters are adopted by OMCs for evaluation of candidates for labour contractorship.

[Translation]

Construction of Dehradun-Kalsi Rail Line

3383. SHRI GAJENDER SINGH RAJUKHEDI:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey for the Dehradun-Kalsi railway line has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the budgetary provisions made for the said railway line; and

(c) the time by which the work on said rail line is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Field survey has been completed. Survey report is under preparation.

(c) Does not arise as the work is not sanctioned.

[English]

Malpractices by TTEs

3384. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received complaints against Train Ticket Examiners (TTEs) indulging in malpractices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes Madm. Some cases of malpractices e.g. overcharging, demanding money for providing accommodation, carrying passengers without proper tickets etc. against Train Ticket Examiners (TTEs) have come to notice through complaints and also during Railway's internal checks. Regular preventive checks are conducted and special drives are launched to curb such activities. Defaulting staff is taken up severely.

Loco Running Staff

3385. SHRI PURNMASI RAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) has made any request to the railways regarding restriction of duty hour for loco running staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to restrict their working hours to eight hours forthwith?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. All India Loco Running Staff Association has represented for reduction in duty hours of running staff.

In accordance with the provisions of the Railways Act 1989, running staff on Railways are classified as 'Continuous' and, as such, they are statutorily required to work for 54 hours a week on an average in a two weekly period of 14 days. But their rostered hours have been fixed as 52 hours per week on an average in two weeks.

At present, duty hours of running staff are governed by guidelines given by Central Administrative Tribunal, Ernakulam. Accordingly, running duty at a stretch should not ordinarily exceed 10 hours from departure of the train and overall duty should not exceed 12 hours from 'signing on' to 'signing off' save in exceptional circumstances like accidents, floods, agitations, equipment failures etc. All efforts are made to contain the duty hours within 104 hours in a fortnight.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Train at Safdarjung Railway Station

3386. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal for providing stoppage to the train number 4235/4236 at Safdarjung Railway Station in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Rail Link to Coastal Areas of Kerala

3387. SHRI K.P. DHANAPALAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any request for construction of a rail line from Edappally to Thirur in Kerala for linking the coastal areas of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its status as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There have been demands for construction of Idappalli-Tirur new line. In this area, work of Tanur (Tirunavaya)-Guruvayur new line has already been taken up. However, local people are objecting to the proposed alignment for this new line. Further, an updating survey for Guruvayur-Idappalli new line has been taken up.

[Translation]

Reservation Quota

3388. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of seats/berths reserved for the VIP's in the trains running from Nanded to Amritsar, Nanded to Mumbai and Nanded to Hyderabad, class-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase this quota;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways propose to increase the number of seats/berths in the 1st Class AC and 1Ind Class AC in these trains due to growing demand; and

(e) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The class-wise details of emergency quota available at Nanded in trains going towards Amritsar, Mumbai and Hyderabad are enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(d) and (e) The existing Emergency Quota available at Nanded is considered adequate to cater to the present demand.

Statement

The class-wise details of emergency quota available at Nanded in trains going towards Amritsar, Mumbai and Hyderabad are as under:—

Sl. No.	Train No.	No. of berths in different class of Accommodation					
		1A	2A	3A	FC	CC	SL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	564 Nanded-Hyderabad Passenger	-	-	-	6	-	18
2.	1402 Nanded-Mumbai CST Nandigram Express	-	04	12	-	-	24
3.	2715 Nanded-Amritsar Sachkhund Express	-	08	12	-	-	20
4.	7058 Secunderabad-Mumbai CST Devagiri Express (Ex. Nanded)	02	06	04	-	-	18
5.	7063 Manmad-Secunderabad Ajanta Express	-	05	06	-	-	20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	7618 Nanded-Mumbai CST Tapovan Express	-	-	-	-	10	-
7.	7640 Nanded-Kacheguda Intercity Express	-	-	-	-	6	-

1A—First Class Air-conditioned,
FC—First Class,

2A—Air-conditioned two-tier,
CC—Air Conditioned Chair Car,

3A—Air-conditioned three tier,
SL—Sleeper Class.

[English]

Land on Rent in Kandala Airport

3389. SHRI PURNMAJI RAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land was given on rent on Kandala Airport area of Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the details thereof including rate and time period of lease;

(c) whether despite expiring of lease deed, the land is under the control of the lessee;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the matter was brought to the notice of Union Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Biometric Fingerprint Scanners at the Airports

3390. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce the Biometric Fingerprint Scanners at the Airports for the passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Modernization of Abattoirs

3391. SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from various States for High Tech Slaughter Houses and modernization of existing abattoirs/establishment of new modern abattoirs in the country;

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

(c) The financial assistance provided under various schemes for setting up of such slaughter houses/modernization of abattoirs during the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes Sir. Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance for the establishing/Modernization of Abattoirs in the country with the involvement of local bodies (Municipal Corporations and Panchayats) and will have flexibility for the involvement of private investors/Exporters/FDI on a Built-Operate-Own (BOO)/Built-Operate-Transfer (BOT)/Joint Venture (JV) basis, under the Scheme of Infrastructure Development in Food Processing Sector for Setting up/Modernization of Abattoirs.

(b) and (c) A statement of financial assistance provided for Setting up/Modernization of Abattoirs during the last three years and for the current year is enclosed.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of Executor	State	Total Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Total Amount Disbursed (Rs. in lakhs) during 2006-07	Total Amount Disbursed (Rs. in lakhs) during 2007-08	Total Amount Disbursed (Rs. in lakhs) during 2008-09	Total Amount Disbursed (Rs. in lakhs) during 2009-10 (upto 07-12-2009)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Delhi Municipal Corporation	Delhi	400.00	100.00	300.00	—	—
2.	Kolkatta Municipal Corporation	West Bengal	1287.34	—	—	128.73	—
3.	Dimapur Municipal Council	Nagaland	1437.50	—	—	143.75	—
4.	Jammu Municipal Corporation	Jammu and Kashmir	1500.00	—	—	150.00	—
5.	Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation	Andhra Pradesh	1478.98	—	—	147.90	—
6.	Municipal Corporation, Shimla	Himachal Pradesh	1142.00	—	—	114.20	—
7.	Municipal Corporation, Patna	Bihar	1097.21	—	—	109.72	—
8.	Directorate of A.H.V., Shillong	Meghalaya	1500.00	—	—	—	150.00
9.	Jammu and Kashmir Sheep and Sheep products Development Board, Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir	1410.00	—	—	—	141.00
10.	Ahmednagar Goat Federation Co-op Ltd.	Maharashtra	Under Process	—	—	—	Under Process
11.	Municipal Corporation Ranchi	Jharkhand	Under Process	—	—	—	Under Process

Study on Safety of Air Passengers

3392. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to evaluate the safety of air passengers during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any mechanism in place to monitor the safety aspects of air passengers from time to time to avert air disasters;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Ensuring safety of passengers is one of the primary responsibilities of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and is a dynamic process.

(c) to (e) DGCA conducts audits, surveillance and various inspections of airlines and airport operators to ensure that safety oversight functions of these organisations are not compromised. The deficiencies so observed are conveyed to the concerned organisations for compliance within stipulated time frame.

NIFT at Bhubaneshwar

3393. SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN:

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state::

(a) whether the Government is proposing to set up a National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) at Bhubaneshwar in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Orissa has requested the Union Government for opening of additional cotton procurement centres in the State;

(d) if so, the details alongwith current status of the proposal;

(e) whether it is also proposed to set up an office of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts at Bhubaneshwar providing better institutional support for increasing exports of Orissa handloom products; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A proposal have been received from the State Government of Orissa for opening a Centre of NIFT at Bhubneshwar in Orissa which is being examined by NIFT.

(c) and (d) Yes Madam. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI), a Public Sector Enterprises under the Ministry of Textiles, has been asked to operate as many as possible centres in the state of Orissa and ensure that farmers are not put to difficulties for sale of their produce. The CCI has commenced Minimum Support Price (MSP) purchases in the state of Orissa at seven procurement centres i.e. at Karlapada, Kesinga, Rayagada, Kantabhanji, Gunupur, Jogimunda and Utkala during current cotton season 2009-10. As on 3-12-2009, CCI has purchased 12040 quintals of kapas equivalent to 2179 bales in the state of Orissa.

(e) and (f) No Madam, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) is at present located at Bhubneshwar provides institutional support for the promotion of Handicrafts Products. While, there is no proposal by EPCH pesently to set up an office for Orissa Handloom Products.

[Translation]

Opening of LPG Agencies in Gujarat

3394. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI
BAVALIA:

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to open more LPG agencies in Gujarat during 2009-10 for fulfilling the demand of people in the State;

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

(c) the time by which new LPG agencies are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) As on 01-10-2009, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 545 LPG agencies in the State of Gujarat.

OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 1340 locations in the country including 41 in the State of Gujarat for setting up of new LPG agencies, mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations. The advertisements for all the locations have been released and selection for the same is in progress as per policy. The district-wise details are available with Directors (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

The selection of candidate for LPG agencies is made by OMCs themselves, in terms of laid down guidelines. Commissioning/opening of distributors involved Field Verification of Credentials of the selected candidate, construction of godown/showroom and obtaining statutory clearances. It is therefore, not possible to indicate any time frame for commissioning/opening of LPG agencies, but every effort is made to do so as quickly as possible.

[English]

Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline

3395. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI:

SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRI S. SEMMALAI:

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

(a) whether China is replacing India on the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project;

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

(c) the status of the project as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No official communication has

been received regarding China joining IPI gas pipeline project.

(c) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, viz., pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, security of supplies, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

[Translation]

Passenger Amenities

3396. SHRI MAHESH JOSHI:

SHRI IJYARAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken any decision to privatise the basic amenities being provided to passengers in trains and stations;

(b) if so, the details of those services likely to be assigned to private sector;

(c) the extent to which the passengers are likely to be benefited as a result thereof;

(d) the other steps taken/being taken by the Railways towards making itself a world class network; and

(e) the facilities being provided for the convenience of pregnant women, senior citizens, disabled persons and their kills travelling by trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Large scale privatization of basic facilities/amenities provided in trains and at stations is not envisaged at present. However, there are certain activities which Railways are now getting done through private organizations, important among them are mechanized cleaning of trains at selected locations, On Board Housekeeping Services in identified trains, architectural improvements to stations/ service buildings, maintenance and operation of pay and use toilets at stations, etc.

(c) With framing out activities of provision of various facilities/amenities to professional organizations in the respective field, Railways hope to enhance the quality standards of these services. Such enhanced quality standards of services will be for the benefit of railway passengers.

(d) In the context of passenger amenities, Indian Railways have taken various measures which include improved design of Rolling Stock, better passenger information system, development of world class Railway Stations etc.

(e) For the welfare of senior citizens, disabled persons and their attendants, pregnant women and their kins travelling by trains, Railways have provided various facilities viz. earmarking of separate reservation quota, earmarking of separate reservation counters at major computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centres, allotment of lower berth (subject to availability at the time of booking), allotment of lower berth falling vacant in train by on-board Ticket Checking staff on priority etc.

[English]

New Flights from Bangaluru Airport

3397. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new flights from Bangaluru International Airport has been introduced to other countries;

(b) if so, the details of the same for the last one year till date; and

(c) the details of International flights scrapped from the airport during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India has international operations from Bangaluru to Singapore, Maldives, UAE (Dubai) and Oman and Kingfisher Airlines has to Dubai. Apart from these, 14 foreign carriers have operations to/from Bangaluru. Among these, Hong Kong Dragon Airlines, Oman Air, Tiger Airways and Saudi Arabian Airlines have introduced services during the last year.

(c) During the last two years, Jet Airways has discontinued its services to Brussels and Kingfisher Airlines has discontinued its services to London and Colombo from Bangaluru. No foreign airline has discontinued their operations from Bangaluru in the last two years.

[Translation]

Production of Gas from Krishna-Godavari Basin

3398. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS
LALAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the production of gas in the D-6 Oil Block Krishan-Godavari Basin is likely to be more what was estimated earlier;

(b) if so, the quantity of production finally estimated;

(c) whether Government has received less revenue due to the difference between these estimates; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, madam. The earlier estimate was 40 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) as plateau peak production which has been revised to 80 MMSCMD.

(c) and (d) No, madam. In fact, the Government revenue is expected to increase.

Doubling and Electrification of Rail Lines

3399. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:
SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects for doubling and electrification of railway lines in the country lying pending;

(b) the reasons for the pendency of the projects;

(c) whether the Railways propose to take concrete steps for speedy completion of these pending projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of railway lines proposed to be taken up for doubling and electrification in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) As on 01-04-2009, there are 126 ongoing doubling and 19 railway electrification projects having throwforward of Rs. 11234 crore and Rs. 2739 crore respectively. The details of the ongoing projects are given in the Railway Budget Documents. The works are being progressed as per the availability of resources.

(c) and (d) A number of steps have been taken to generate extra-budetary resources through Public Private Partnership, additional funds for National Projects, participation by State Government and beneficiaries and implementation of projects by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited. This would expedite completion of all ongoing projects including doubling and electrification projects. The conditions of contracts have also been modified to bring in efficiency in contract management.

(e) 13 new doubling projects have been included in the Railway Budget 2009-10. No new electrification project has been taken up during 2009-10.

Insurance Cover

3400. SHRI RAMKISHUN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recovery of insurance fee is linked with all reserved tickets according to the journey class; and

(b) if so, the reasons for discontinuing railway passenger insurance scheme, alongwith the details of the alternative chalked out by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. In case of death/injury in accident, it is the responsibility of the Indian Railways under the Railways Act, 1989 to pay the compensation as decreed by the

Railway Claims Tribunal. The insurance cover bought from general Insurers is an internal mechanism to get the reimbursement of the compensation paid by the Railways to the claimants. Payment of compensation to the victims of train accidents does not get affected whether insurance cover is there or not.

Disruption of Railway Operations

3401. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the incidents of staging dharna/demonstration at Railway compounds creating obstructions in official works in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during each of the last three years and the current year, zone-wise and case-wise;

(c) the details of the loss incurred by the Railways as well as rail passengers due to each of such incidents;

(d) whether there is lack of cooperation between the Railways and the State Governments to check such incidents; and

(e) if so, the details of the action taken by the Railways against such miscreants so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. There is an increase in these incidents from 2006 to 2008. However, during 2009, there is a decrease in such incidents. A Statement showing the number of incidents reported of Dharna/Demonstration at Railway compounds creating obstructions in official work during the last three years and current years i.e. 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 (Upto October) is enclosed.

As regards loss incurred by Railways, the details are being collected from the zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) There is healthy co-operation between the State Governments and Railways regarding law and order in Railway premises, proper coordination is maintained with the State Governments at all level.

Statement

Railway	Year	Number of cases		
		Dharna	Demonstration	Creating obstruction in official work
1	2	3	4	5
CR	2006	34	36	1
	2007	98	33	1
	2008	54	18	0
	2009 (Upto October)	21	6	0
ER	2006	21	97	0
	2007	25	124	0
	2008	28	126	0
	2009 (Upto October)	22	115	0
ECR	2006	80	59	77
	2007	82	69	36
	2008	107	76	41
	2009 (Upto October)	47	30	36
ECoR	2006	39	20	0
	2007	39	21	0
	2008	72	19	0
	2009 (Upto October)	55	16	0
NR	2006	12	8	5
	2007	9	17	4
	2008	69	14	5
	2009 (Upto October)	27	16	3
NCR	2006	6	12	0
	2007	6	15	0
	2008	6	25	0
	2009 (Upto October)	8	4	0

1	2	3	4	5
NER	2006	13	6	0
	2007	5	4	0
	2008	2	0	0
	2009 (Upto October)	2	2	0
NFR	2006	34	23	1
	2007	26	47	0
	2008	35	37	1
	2009 (Upto October)	28	35	3
NWR	2006	12	160	0
	2007	13	149	0
	2008	14	190	0
	2009 (Upto October)	13	196	0
SR	2006	153	463	23
	2007	141	496	21
	2008	129	665	17
	2009 (Upto October)	99	435	10
SCR	2006	45	8	0
	2007	94	59	0
	2008	103	13	2
	2009 (Upto October)	11	10	1
SER	2006	18	57	0
	2007	13	87	0
	2008	25	128	0
	2009 (Upto October)	21	61	0
SECR	2006	20	28	0
	2007	29	28	0
	2008	5	48	0
	2009 (Upto October)	6	34	0

1	2	3	4	5
SWR	2006	45	6	
	2007	21	43	
	2008	49	58	0
	2009 (Upto October)	28	27	0
WR	2006	8	18	0
	2007	20	17	0
	2008	14	13	0
	2009 (Upto October)	13	11	0
WCR	2006	10	82	0
	2007	22	150	3
	2008	24	118	2
	2009 (Upto October)	17	52	1
Total	2006	538	1075	102
	2007	634	1342	61
	2008	667	1534	63
	2009 (Upto October)	391	1034	51

[English]

Employees of BOGL

3402. Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of employees of M/s Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL) at Durgapur have been denied the Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) benefits; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to grant them VSS benefits for smooth liquidation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

(SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) M/s Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. (BOGL) at Durgapur was a sick company and under reference to BIFR since 1992. BIFR ordered its winding up on 19-6-2003. With the approval of the Cabinet, it was decided to accept the decision of the BIFR and take action for closure of the company under ID Act, 1947 after offering VSS to all the existing employees. The company, accordingly opened VSS from 3-8-2006 for three months. Only 25 employees (18 non-executives and 7 officers) applied for VSS out of which the Management recommended the case of 17 non-executives. VSS was not recommended by the Company to the 7 officers on the ground that it would take some time for phase-wise reallocation of jobs. One non-executive posted in Chennai was not recommended VSS due to operational reasons. In the meantime, on

9-7-2007, the Hon'ble Court ordered winding up of the Company and appointed Official Liquidator to take over its assets.

On a prayer from the employees, the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta in order dated 7-5-2008 directed for release of Rs. 199.15 lakh to the Official Liquidator (OL) for payment to the ex-employees of BOGL-VSS to 16 employees and retirement due of one employee (Rs. 87.15 lakhs), pending salary and wages from 1-1-2006 to 31-3-2007 (Rs. 98.00 lakhs) and statutory dues from 1-1-2006 to 31-3-2007 (Rs. 14.00 lakhs). The Official Liquidator was directed to make the payment after proper verification of the claims. As per information from OL, Rs. 87.15 lakhs on account of VSS has been disbursed but the remaining amount is lying unspent as many of the ex-employees have refused to receive it.

Six employees out of the 25, who were not recommended by the BOGL management for VSS have now requested the Government in their representation dated 21-11-2009 to give them the benefit.

Another group of 26 employees had filed a Writ Petition in 2008 before the Calcutta High Court praying for VSS benefits, stating that they had applied for the same within the stipulated period. However, on inspection of the records of the company, through the OL, their applications were not found to have been received in the Personnel Department of the Company.

Investment in NFL

3403. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to step up investments in National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) for capacity augmentation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has undertaken Energy saving and Capacity Augmentation Projects at Vijaipur Unit. The installed Urea capacity of

Vijaipur-I and Vijaipur-II, shall be enhanced from 1729200 MT to 2066130 MT per annum. The Estimated Cost of these Projects is Rs. 900 crores which are expected to be completed by 2011-2012 and will be funded by the NFL from internal resources and commercial borrowings. Post Commissioning of these Projects, Company's annual installed capacity of Urea will be augmented from 32,30,700 MT to 35,67,630 MT.

NFL is also undertaking Conversion of its three high cost Fuel Oil Based Plants at Panipat, Bathinda and Nangal at an estimated cost of Rs. 4064 crores to low cost Natural Gas. However, there would be no change in the installed capacity of Urea at these plants at 15,01,500 MT. The Public Investment Board in its meeting held on 05 and 13-11-2009 has recommended these proposals for approval of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. The conversion Projects are to be funded by the NFL from commercial borrowings to the extent of 95% and balance from internal resources. Post Conversion, as per the policy, Government of India (GOI) would reimburse the total Project cost to the Company through Post Conversion subsidy in the form of special fixed cost component and saving in energy for a period of five years. Subsequently, the saving will be accruing to the GOI. These projects are expected to be completed in three years after zero date.

Sub-Urban Services in Kerala

3404. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala to start sub-urban services (MEMU) in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The proposal has been examined but has not been found feasible at present.

[Translation]

Catering Facilities in Trains

3405. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have started implementing various provisions made out in Railway Budget 2009-10 regarding improvement in catering facilities in trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon during the current fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Action has already been initiated to improve the catering services as pronounced in Railway Budget 2009-10 such as:—

- (i) Ensuring proper coordination for provision of good quality and hygienic food.
- (ii) Revamping availability of Janata meals.
- (iii) Opening of JANAHAAR cafeterias for sale of affordable meals.
- (iv) Quality control measures introduced in base kitchens, mobile catering units and stalls.
- (v) Proper maintenance of pantry cars and equipments.
- (vi) Improvement in quality of food especially in mobile catering units and stringent action against licensees whose performance is found unsatisfactory.
- (vii) The catering policy is being reviewed.

[English]

Booking Office at Nilambur Railway Station

3406. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are planning to construct a new building for Booking Office at Nilambur Railway Station in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other passenger facilities which are likely to be provided at this railway station?

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

(b) Feasibility of construction of new Booking Office at opposite side of the Nilambur Road railway station has been examined. Other works/facilities sanctioned at the station include provision of new waiting hall, computerized announcement system, shelter (4 bays) on platform no. 1 and foot over bridge.

Intercity Express Train

3407. SHRIMATI POONAM VELJIBHAI JAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat for introduction of an intercity express train between Gandhidham-Ahmedabad or Gandhidham-Vadodara;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Some representations have been received from various quarters for introduction of trains between Gandhidham-Ahmedabad/Vadodara. The matter has been examined but it has not been found feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

However, 2937/2938 Gandhidham-Howrah Express (weekly) via Ahmedabad-Vadodara has been announced in Railway Budget 2009-2010.

Export of Natural Gas

3408. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of natural gas exported/being exported to certain countries, company-wise and country-wise during the last three years and the current year; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom by the Government during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No export of natural gas is made from India.

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

[Translation]

Introduction of Marker System

3409. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to re-introduce marker system to check adulteration in petrol-diesel at petrol pumps across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the customers are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. The process for selection of a new and efficient marker is under process by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). On behalf of Oil Industry, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (R and D) has floated a global tender for procurement of new marker system. The Oil Industry has not found any of the parties which responded to the marker tender, meeting the tender requirements in totality and as such none of the marker system in its present form could be accepted for implementation.

This Ministry has advised Oil Industry to re-issue the tender after a period of 3-4 months by which time some manufacturers may be able to develop a system which meets the requirements. Further, the Oil Industry has also been advised to explore the possibility of developing an indigenously produced marker through R and D in consultation with institutions of repute like Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP), Dehradun, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) etc.

Safety Measures in Railways

3410. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:

SHRI PURNMASI RAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the safety measures taken by the Railways upon the various reports of Railway Safety Commissioners;

(b) whether around 90,000 safety related posts are lying vacant in the Railways;

(c) if so, the steps taken to fill up all those posts;

(d) whether the safety camps organized by Zonal Railways are not running successfully;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the other safety programmes that the Railways are planning to initiate; and

(g) the steps taken so far towards Human Resource Development of the staff and result achieved in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Safety measures taken by Railways upon recommendations of Railway Safety Commissioners include action against the staff held responsible with emphasis on training to all safety category staff, and taking corrective action as recommended by them.

Some of the other important Safety measures taken by Railways include concerted efforts for timely replacement of the over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of Track, Rolling Stock, Signalling and Interlocking systems, Safety Devices and Inspections at regular intervals to educate the staff for observance of safe practices.

(b) and (c) As on 31-3-2009, 89204 safety related posts are lying vacant. As per the policy, Railway administration intends to fill up available vacancies promptly as per laid down procedure. Special emphasis has been given to hold expeditious selections.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Amongst the programmes being undertaken are timely rehabilitation, renewal and replacement of assets alongwith modernization and technological upgradation and capacity generation to augment Rail Infrastructure etc.

(g) Training is accorded highest priority and there are well laid down training programmes for improving knowledge, skills and competency levels of safety category staff. The training modules are revised periodically in keeping with the changes in the technology.

[English]

Repair of ROB/RUB

3411. SHRI SUBHASH BAPURAO WANKHEDE:
SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an overbridge had collapsed on the local train in Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, the details of incident alongwith the number of casualties taken place;

(c) the details of the ROB/RUB in the country which have outlived their utility, zone-wise;

(d) the details of the projects for repair of old ROB/RUBs which are lagging behind the schedule alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways for early completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. On 23-10-2009 at 10.45 hrs. local Train No. K-37 derailed due to collapse of a Concrete Girder of under construction Road Over Bridge (ROB) of Thane Municipal Corporation between Mulund and Thane Stations of Mumbai Division of Central Railway. The collapse of the girder also caused breakage of adjoining pipe line. In this accident, the Motorman of the train

and one Passenger lost their lives, 4 persons were grievously injured and 8 sustained simple injuries.

(c) There is no ROB/RUB on Indian Railways which has outlived its life.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Allocation of Oil Fields to Public/Private Sector

3412. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the oil fields allotted to public and private sector companies for oil exploration are still not producing oil;

(b) if so, the number of oil fields allotted to public and private sector companies and where the production of oil is being produced as per the terms and conditions;

(c) whether these companies have been penalized for violating the terms and conditions;

(d) if so, the details of penalties;

(e) whether the responsibility for the financial loss being incurred due to low production of oil in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Total 24 oil fields were awarded under Small and Medium sized Field rounds. Out of these, one small size field has been relinquished and oil production is yet to start from two small sized fields. Oil is being produced for the remaining 21 fields under Private/Joint Ventures.

(c) to (f) Does not arise as no Production Sharing Contract (PSC) term has been violated.

*[English]***Allocation of Gas for Power Project**

3413. SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:

SHRI GUTHA SUKHENDER REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government has received a request from the State Governments of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh for allocation of 3.15 MCMD gas for Pipavav Power Project and 9.5 MMSCMD gas for power project at Karim Nagar district of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal to Central Government on 02-09-2009 for supply of 3.15 mmscmd for the proposed Pipavav Power Project and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a memorandum on 20-06-2009 for allocation of 8 mmscmd of natural gas for the proposed 2100 MW Combined Cycle Power Project at Nedunur Village of Karimnagar District of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) It has been decided that, subject to the availability of gas, necessary allocations from KG D6 fields will be made to these projects as and when they are ready to commence production.

Insurance for Weavers and Artisans

3414. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any health insurance policy for weavers and artisans;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of beneficiaries during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the procedure to facilitate more weavers and artisans avail this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government of India is implementing Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) for handloom weavers and Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana (RGSSBY) for the artisans in the country.

(b) The Government of India is implementing a **Health Insurance Scheme (HIS)** for handloom weavers. The scheme covers not only the weaver but his wife and two children also. It covers all pre-existing diseases as well as new diseases. The annual limit per family is Rs. 15000 out of which OPD cover is Rs. 7500. The total annual premium is Rs. 896 per annum plus Service Tax @ 10.3% out of which Rs. 809.10 plus Service tax is borne by Government of India and Rs. 179.20 is contributed by the handloom weaver/State Government. The State-wise beneficiaries covered under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year is as under:

Name of State	Beneficiaries covered (HIS)			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto Oct., 2009)
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	34831	127594	121481	33485

1	2	3	4	5
Arunachal Pradesh	2133	12318	16590	1292
Assam	—	464635	445947	—
Bihar	—	7783	31226	10712
Chhattisgarh	82	—	3722	258
Delhi	—	289	—	—
Gujarat	1170	1341	3725	723
Haryana	—	—	25977	4188
Himachal Pradesh	316	—	10940	1775
Jammu and Kashmir	89	—	517	271
Jharkhand	661	23000	24600	5843
Karnataka	20000	40437	44600	11880
Kerala	4703	5974	12779	3860
Madhya Pradesh	822	21368	16601	499
Maharashtra	—	—	1523	891
Manipur	7455	18866	44507	58
Meghalaya	—	17000	33822	1352
Mizoram	—	—	187	168
Nagaland	—	—	32677	3956
Orissa	21331	45812	47872	9651
Rajasthan	2395	2047	5765	3691
Sikkim	—	—	118	—
Tamil Nadu	143890	284646	289023	47747
Tripura	62	24003	39444	—
Uttar Pradesh	88372	431921	371617	28322
Uttarakhand	5299	—	6161	1406
West Bengal	67516	245000	246913	39201
Total	401127	1774034	1878334	211229

The **Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojana** implemented for Handicrafts artisans aims at providing health and insurance cover to an artisan's family of four, including self and any three out of spouse, children and dependent parents. The scheme is to cover medical coverage of Rs. 15000 including Rs. 7500 for OPD, cashless facilities and pre-existing diseases as well. An insurance coverage of Rs. 1.00 lakh is also available for accidental death/disability of the insured artisan. The

total annual premium under the scheme is Rs. 897 plus Service Tax @ 10.3% i.e. Rs. 92.40. A general category artisan will contribute Rs. 200 and those belonging to SC/ST, BPL and NER community will contribute Rs. 100 only. The Government of India will contribute the balance amount of annual premium as well as service tax at the applicable rates. The State-wise beneficiaries covered under the scheme during each of the last three years and the current year is as under:

Name of State	Beneficiaries covered (HIS)			
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (upto Oct., 2009)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	3865	19097	41152	14169
Arunachal Pradesh	170	1336	4417	2688
Assam	2894	157343	233042	24765
Bihar	1654	6021	8667	8591
Chhattisgarh	242	930	1664	2592
Delhi	439	1934	4174	3495
Gujarat	6280	4353	30652	4054
Goa	318	—	937	1118
Haryana	822	1754	3931	3602
Himachal Pradesh	1130	1105	2876	1795
Jammu and Kashmir	1710	15333	16580	11101
Jharkhand	1342	3055	5697	4838
Karnataka	1442	15034	19429	3967
Kerala	1804	11247	17433	9190
Madhya Pradesh	1149	4937	7531	5272
Maharashtra	987	—	6067	4717
Manipur	3487	44876	79841	4659
Meghalaya	184	7341	14511	4406

1	2	3	4	5
Mizoram	150	186	681	1226
Nagaland	925	1957	5047	3295
Orissa	2611	5654	10994	8344
Pondicherry	180	3262	—	—
Punjab	687	6646	15783	4830
Rajasthan	2777	11102	17222	6923
Sikkim	123	316	4568	1495
Tamil Nadu	3549	26360	33269	9936
Tripura	441	12443	23803	12218
Uttar Pradesh	4945	298074	272276	33917
Uttarakhand	2269	5996	7014	4511
West Bengal	3343	214108	125152	11052
Total	51919	882000	1010300	212766

(c) To facilitate the beneficiaries to avail these schemes, State Governments are required to be actively associated with the implementation of the scheme by way of sensitizing the beneficiaries to join the scheme. Instructions have also been given to the implementing agency viz. ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd., to take all steps to popularize the scheme among the weavers through out the country by various means including advertising the information about the scheme in vernacular language. The implementing agency has been organizing health camps and awareness camps regularly in collaboration with the State Governments.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to NGO

3415. SHRI YASHBANT LAGURI:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commissioner for Handicrafts has

reviewed the working of the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) which have been allocated funds under various handicrafts schemes during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details indicating the names of such NGOs found diverting the funds for other purposes; and

(c) the strategy prepared by the Government to prevent such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The working of the Non-Governmental Organizations executing projects under any of the schemes of the Government of India in the handicraft sector is regularly reviewed by conducting physical inspection of the activity under implementation. However, also at the stage of selection of an NGO for implementation of project under any scheme, a system of objective grading which is in vogue, since a long time, is adopted.

(b) No such instance has come to the notice of

the Government indicating diversion of funds by the NGOs implementing a project for other purposes.

(c) Does not arise in view of 'b' above.

Air Connectivity to Gaya

3416. SHRI HARI MANJHI:

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide air connectivity to Gaya from Delhi;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) It is up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

(b) and (c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

Oil Depots

3417. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PATIL GAWALI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of oil depots of various oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) located in tribal areas of Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the storage capacity in tones of the said depots, district-wise; and

(c) the contribution of the said depots and Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the employment

generation and integrated development of their respective areas and also the surrounding areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) District-wise details of depots of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in districts with tribal population in Maharashtra along with storage capacity is enclosed as Statement.

(c) Local people are benefited by way of direct employment, indirect employment such as haulage contract, security personnel contracts, transport contracts etc. Apart from the above, local people are also benefited by way of timely supply of petroleum products due to close proximity of supply locations.

Statement

District-wise details of Depots of Oil Marketing Companies in Tribal Areas of Maharashtra along with their Storage Capacity

Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Name of District	Name of Location	Tankage Capacity (In Metric Tonnes)
Chandrapur	Tadali	14400

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

Name of District	Name of Location	Tankage Capacity (In Metric Tonnes)
Nasik	Panewadi	267249
Nagpur	Borkhedi	14620

[English]

Profit from KG Basin

3418. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received first

instalment of profit from the Gujarat refinery of Vadodara in the recent past;

(b) if so, the share of Gujarat refinery of Vadodara on production of crude oil and other petroleum products in each calendar year in last two decades;

(c) the difference of share of profits shown in Jamnagar Essar and Reliance refineries in comparison of Gujarat refinery of Vadodara; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

PRASADA): (a) and (b) Gujarat Refinery at Vadodara does not produce crude oil. The refinery processes indigenous and imported crude oil to produce various petroleum products. The contribution in profit to Government of India is in the form of dividend which is given on the basis of corporate profits of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) and not on the basis of profits of Gujarat Refinery alone. The share of Gujarat Refinery in respect of production of petroleum products by IOCL from the year 1991 to 2008 is given in the Statement.

(c) and (d) Essar and Reliance refineries at Jamnagar, being private refineries, information is not available.

Statement

Year	Total Major Products of Gujarat Refinery (in TMT)	Total Major Products of IOC (in TMT)	% of (2) vis-a-vis (3)
1	2	3	4
1991	8779.4	22344.1	39.3
1992	9329.7	21764.3	42.9
1993	8796.8	22284.5	39.5
1994	8993.6	22984.7	39.1
1995	9299.4	23352.5	39.8
1996	9507.5	22186.1	42.9
1997	9868.5	24813.2	39.8
1998	10134.4	26894.2	37.7
1999	10002.0	29326.4	34.1
2000	11775.1	30669.8	38.4
2001	10780.0	30757.9	35.0
2002	11598.8	31736.1	36.5
2003	11688.0	33535.2	34.9
2004	11978.7	34625.2	34.6

1	2	3	4
2005	10019.4	33904.1	29.6
2006	11726.0	37424.5	31.3
2007	12189.3	41163.9	29.6
2008	12773.7	43131.7	29.6

[Translation]

Unmanned Railway Crossings

3419. SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to replace dozens of unmanned railway crossings situated in district Bhadohi between Allahabad and Varanasi in Eastern Uttar Pradesh by manned railway crossings in order to prevent recurrence of accidents;

(b) if so, the names of places that have been identified for the purpose; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Railways have identified two unmanned level crossings for manning. These are level crossing number 25C and 26C located at railway kilometer 244/9-245/0 and 246/9-247/0 situated in between Kataka and Madhosingh stations. These are targeted to be manned by March 2010.

(c) There are nine more unmanned level crossings in district Bhadohi. These are having low train vehicle Units (TVU). Hence, these do not qualify for manning.

[English]

Maulana Azad Education Foundation

3420. SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR:
SHRI NARAHARI MAHATO:

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased

to state:

(a) the details of grants sanctioned by Maulana Azad Education Foundation (MAEF) to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which are not Muslim minority institutions/organizations, during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted by the Government to select the organizations to which grants are sanctioned under the said schemes;

(c) whether grants to non-Muslim institutions are permissible;

(d) if so, the details of provisions thereof; and

(e) the percentage of total grants sanctioned to such organizations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) Maulana Azad Education Foundation sanctions grants-in-aid to Non Government Organisations (NGOs) managing institutions where, *inter alia*, number of beneficiaries from educationally backward minorities is more than 50% subject to other eligibility criteria, which are available on the Foundation's website www.maef.nic.in. The grants-in-aid are sanctioned on fulfillment of the prescribed conditions and the laid down eligibility criteria and not on the basis of religious affiliation of the institution and/or of the persons managing it. The list of NGOs which have been sanctioned grants-in-aid by the Foundation is available on its website www.maef.nic.in.

(e) Does not arise.

**Investment by Oman Oil
Company in BPCL**

3421. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oman Oil Company propose to invest additional amount in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed in this respect recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) No Sir. Oman Oil Company (OOC) does not propose to invest additional amount in Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).

However, OOC is proposing to invest additional amount in Bharat Oman Refineries Limited (BORL), which is jointly promoted by BPCL and OOC, at Bina, Madhya Pradesh, along with related crude oil import facilities and cross country crude pipeline. BPCL, BORL and OOC have signed an agreement on 15-11-2009 in Oman related to investment of Rs. 1220 crores by OOC in BORL in addition to their present investment of Rs. 75.50 crores making total investment by OOC to Rs. 1295.50 crores in this project.

[Translation]

Recruitment of New Staff

3422. SHRIMATI MEENA SINGH:
SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:
SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY:
SHRI SANJAY SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have lifted ban on the recruitment of new staff;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which notice for inviting applications for new recruitment is likely to be issued;

(d) the number of vacancies in each zone, post-wise;

(e) the number of candidates likely to be recruited along with the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Railways to streamline the workings of Railway Recruitment Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Streamlining of procedure has been done to make recruitment process more transparent and fair. Issue of notifications for recruitment is a continuous and on-going activity.

(d) The number of vacancies of Zonal Railways as on 31-3-2009 is given in the table below:—

Zonal Railways	Group 'C'	Group 'D'	Total
Central Railway	7898	3304	11202
Eastern Railway	10668	2065	12733
East Central Railway	10225	6817	17042
East Coast Railway	6972	2735	9707
Northern Railway	14220	4793	19013
North Central Railway	8131	914	9045

Zonal Railways	Group 'C'	Group 'D'	Total
North Eastern Railway	5202	491	5693
Northeast Frontier Railway	6961	1914	8875
North Western Railway	5400	1875	7275
Southern Railway	9794	-1936	7858
South Central Railway	8383	2086	10469
South Eastern Railway	8185	3376	11561
South East Central Railway	8189	1677	9866
South Western Railway	5949	2600	8549
Western Railway	4779	6052	10831
West Central Railway	5217	3173	8390
Total	126173	41936	168109

(e) The process for recruitment of candidates in Group 'C' and in Group 'D' is at different stages in various Zonal Railways and Railway Recruitment Boards.

(f) It has been decided that examinations for a particular post will be held on the same date simultaneously by all the Railway Recruitment Boards and the Question Papers for Railway Recruitment Board examinations shall be set in local language(s) listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India falling within the jurisdiction of that Railway Recruitment Board, in addition to Hindi, Urdu and English.

Railway Projects in Indore Division

3423. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new railway lines, doubling and gauge conversion of railway lines, electrification of railway lines in Indore Division;

(b) whether the Railways have received any proposal to develop new Rajender Nagar Railway Station

in Indore Division;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There is no Railway Division in Indore. Indore is a part of Ratlam Division. Three ongoing projects connecting Indore are Dahod-Indore new line, gauge conversion of Ratlam-Mhow-Khandwa-Akola and Ujjain-Indore Electrification. Electrification project is targeted for completion by 31-03-2010. Other projects would be progressed and completed in the coming years as per availability of resources.

(b) to (d) New Rajendranagar station was planned as a part of Dahod-Indore new line project. Since gauge conversion of Ratlam-Akola has been taken up and existing stations Rau and Rajendranagar will get converted to broad gauge stations, there may not be any need for New Rajendranagar station.

*[English]***Ground Handling Services at Airports**

3424. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:

SHRI CAJANAN D. BABAR:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to unveil new ground handling policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had cleared a proposal to allow only three agencies to take up ground handling services at the six major metro airports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which it has helped to bring international standards to airports in metropolitan cities and restrict the number of agencies involved in ground handling services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a), (b) and (e) Yes, Madam. The Airline operators had expressed their concerns about the new Ground Handling Policy. Matter was examined by the Government and it was decided that the exit of non-entitled entities including domestic airlines will be implemented only after undertaking a comprehensive review and with inter-ministerial consultation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. For the metropolitan airports i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bangalore and Hyderabad, following provision was made:—

- (i) The respective airport operator itself or its joint venture partner.
- (ii) Air India and its subsidiaries/joint venture companies specialized in ground handling services. Third party handling will also be permitted to these subsidiaries.
- (iii) Any other ground handling service providers

selected through competitive bidding process by the airport operator.

Disinvestment of Andrew Yule and Company Limited

3425. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4511 on August 06, 2009 and state:

(a) whether SBI Capital Market Ltd. has been appointed as consultant to assist disinvestment process of AYCL's stake in Tide Water Oil Co. Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether SBI Capital market Ltd. has given its advise/data for disinvestment;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) the time by which the disinvestment process is likely to be started and completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) No, Madam. SBI Capital Market Ltd. has been selected as Consultant to assist in the disinvestment process of AYCL's stake in Tide Water Oil Co. Ltd. (TWOL). Appointment order is yet to be issued.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The disinvestment process has started and is likely to be completed in 8-12 months.

Textile Mills at Mumbai

3426. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills still functioning in the Mumbai city under Public Sector and Private Sector;

(b) the number of textile mills already closed during the last three years in the city; and

(c) the alternative arrangements made by the Government to rehabilitate these workers who lost their

jobs due to closure of mills during the last three years in Mumbai city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As on 30-9-2009 total 21 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills are functioning in Mumbai.

(b) No mill has been registered as closed during the last three years.

(c) Government of India under Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) provides interim relief to the textile workers rendered unemployed as a consequence of permanent closure of any particular portion or entire textile unit. Assistance under the Scheme is payable to eligible workers only for the purpose of enabling them to settle in another employment. Any worker is eligible provided he/she is engaged in a closed textile unit on the date of its closure continuously for five years or more and earning a wage equivalent of Rs. 2500 per month or less for the mills closed between 6-6-1985 to 1-4-1993 and Rs. 3500 or less thereafter. They should be contributing to the Provident Fund maintained by the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner of the State concerned.

Ex-Servicemen Recruitment in PSUs

3427. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) to maintain a roster of ex-servicemen recruited against vacant posts reserved for them in a particular year;

(b) if so, whether some Central PSUs are not maintaining the roster;

(c) if so, the names of PSUs which do not abide by the rules; and

(d) the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) As per the instructions issued

by the Government, the reservation for ex-servicemen and dependents of those killed in action in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is 14.5% in Group 'C' and 24.5% in Group 'D'. The Government has further advised the CPSEs to identify the posts where ex-servicemen could be appointed. A comprehensive list of those posts, together with their pay scales and qualitative requirements, is to be forwarded by the CPSEs to the Director General (Resettlement), Ministry of Defence, to enable them to sponsor suitable persons for these jobs. CPSEs are required to give preference to the ex-serviceman for appointment to the posts in their security departments.

When suitable ex-servicemen are not made available by the local Employment Exchange for filling up the reserved vacancies in Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts, CPSEs are required to write to the Directorate General (Resettlement) for sponsoring suitable ex-servicemen against such posts.

(b) to (d) Implementation of these instructions in CPSEs is monitored by the administrative Ministries/Departments concerned with CPSEs.

Public Sector Enterprises are not to de-reserve any vacancy reserved for ex-servicemen, unless a non-availability certificate is given by the Directorate General (Resettlement), Ministry of Defence.

Green Toilets on Trains

3428. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are going to introduce green toilets on trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the time by which this scheme will be implemented and the names of the trains identified for implementing this project?

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

(b) Indian Railways are in the process of developing environment friendly "green toilets" before adopting such toilets in coaches as a regular measure. Field trials are presently on with various designs of "green toilets" in

New Delhi-Rewa Express, Howrah-Guwahati Saraighat Express, Ahmedabad-Patna, Azimabad Express and Chennai-Jammu Tawi Andaman Express.

Revenue Earnings of Western Railway

3429. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has a dominant/major contribution in the revenue earnings of Western Railways network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the share of Gujarat in freight and passenger traffic carried by Western Railway has increased considerably;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways are likely to establish a separate Sub-Zonal Headquarter at Ahmedabad to meet the growing needs of railway traffic in Gujarat; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Railway earnings is accounted for Zonal Railway and not State-wise.

(e) and (f) A divisional headquarter of Western Railway already exists at Ahmedabad to cater the needs of the area. There is no plan at present to set up Sub-Zonal Headquarter at Ahmedabad.

Construction of ROB/RUB

3430. SHRI N. PEETHAMBARA KURUP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have proposed to have a common priority agenda with various State Governments and complete the Railway over bridges/ Rail under bridge at Railway Crossings in the country; and

(b) if so, the time by which the implementation process is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The works of Road over bridges and under bridges (ROB/RUBs) are sanctioned on cost sharing basis with State Government concerned @ 50:50 in lieu of level crossings (LCs) having traffic density of one lakh or more Train Vehicle Units (TVUs). Works are even undertaken on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) concept, Deposit terms and those undertaken by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). With these provisions as on date, 1316 works are in progress viz. 830 works are sanctioned on cost sharing basis with State Governments, 192 on deposit terms, 52 under BOT concept and 242 undertaken by NHAI, and above works are at different stages of planning and execution.

[Translation]

Strike by Jet Airways Pilots

3431. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pilots of the Jet Airways went on strike in the country recently;

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

(c) the extent of loss suffered by the aviation sector due to the above strike;

(d) whether the credibility of the aviation sector is affecting adversely in the country due to such strikes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. 539 out of 760 Indian pilots of Jet Airways went on mass sick leave from the night of 7th September 2009 due to termination of the services of two pilots by the Management. Following the signing of Memorandum of Agreement between the Management and Pilot's representatives on 12th September 2009, the pilots began duty from 13th September 2009.

(c) The strike affected only one airline i.e. Jet

Airways, who have estimated a loss of approx Rs. 80 crores.

(d) and (e) In view of the mass leave taken by the pilots of Jet Airways recently, Directorate General of Civil Aviation directed the airline to set up control rooms at the airports, make arrangements to transfer passengers to other airlines, refund of air tickets to be made immediately and provide information of cancellation to all concerned passengers. In addition, in pursuance of sub-rule (4) of Rule 135 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued directions to all the scheduled domestic airlines to charge tariff prevalent just before the pilots of Jet Airways went on mass leave, which were complied with by all scheduled domestic airlines.

[English]

100 Steps in 100 Days Schemes

3432. SHRI K.R.G. REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "100 Steps in 100 days" Scheme has been successful in initiating the steps taken under this scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The implementation of the "100 steps in 100 days" agenda of the Ministry is a continuous process. As a part of the implementation of this agenda, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries organized the 1st Conference of State Food Processing Ministers on 6-10-2009 at New Delhi. A number of issues relating to the development of the sector were discussed. Among the issues that were discussed include development of food processing infrastructure, formulation of food processing policies, capacity building, financing for the sector, food safety and quality and institutional strengthening.

Apart from the above, the Ministry has taken various other initiatives such as increasing coordination with National Skill Development Coordination Board in Planning Commission and providing critical inputs for the study conducted by National Skill Development

Corporation for identifying gaps in skilled manpower in food processing sector. The Ministry has also taken up with Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Labour and Employment for suitable action for inclusion of food processing sector in their respective schemes. One business incubation centre has been inaugurated by Secretary, FPI on 28-8-2009 at Thanjavur.

Under the Scheme of Setting up/Technology Upgradation/Expansion/Modernization of Food Processing Industries, Ministry has extended the financial assistance to 320 new industries in this period in the fields of fruits and vegetables processing, meat processing, dairy processing, fish processing, grain processing and consumer industry in the country within the available funds. One national level workshop of Industrial, scientific and research institutions for identifying evolving areas of research in food processing sector was convened on 31-7-2009. An exhibition-cum-training programme at regional level for stakeholders in the sector relating to technology upgradation, quality, packaging and market access has been organized at Aahar, Chennai. A new website, including a magazine on food processing sector have been launched for the Ministry. The funds have been disbursed for the construction of modern abattoir at Dimapur, Nagaland and Shilong in Meghalaya.

Track Doubling Work in Assam

3433. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal for track doubling on broad-gauge line till Tinsukia, Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to construct a rail over-bridge at Sungsari railway crossing in Assam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. However, patch doubling of New Guwahati-Digar (29.81 km) has been taken up.

(c) and (d) No place called Sungsari could be

located. There is a place called Changsari where ROB is being constructed by NHAI in lieu of Level Crossing no. SK/2 (Railway km 389/8-9, Road km 1114) between Changsari and Agyathuri.

Grahak Santushti Scheme

3434. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has started a new scheme called 'Grahak Santushti';

(b) if so, the objectives, scope and the benefits of the said scheme; and

(c) the time by which the said scheme is likely to be implemented in the country including Maharashtra?

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

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

[Translation]

Exploration of Oil in River Basins

3435. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of river basins in the country from which oil is being explored at present and proposed to be explored in future;

(b) the ground on which the exploration of oil from river basins;

(c) the names of river basins from which sufficient oil reserve have been found so far; and

(d) the time by which the exploration of oil reserve is likely to be started in the rest of rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Out of the 26 Sedimentary Basins in

India, the major river basins under Oil and Gas exploration are Ganga Valley, Assam Shelf, Assam-Arakan, Bengal, Mahanadi-NEC, Krishna, Godavari and Cauvery Basins on the East Coast and Kutch-Saurashtra, Cambay, Rajasthan, Mumbai and Kerala-Konkan Basins on the West Coast. These basins are also extended in the Offshore areas and cover large sedimentary areas which are presently under exploration.

(b) River basins are the areas, where more thickness of sediments in the past geological ages is expected to have been deposited and these are the best locales for exploration of Oil and Gas Deposits.

(c) The names of the river basins where Oil Reserves have been found are Assam-Arakan, Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery, Cambay, Rajasthan and Mumbai offshore.

(d) In case of some Category IV Basins such as Spiti-Zanskar, Bhima-Kaladgi, Cuddaph, Bastar and Chhattisgarh, limited exploration works like Geochemical Samplings and Geological Mappings have been carried out. In case of Deep/Ultra Deepwater Basins Kori-Comorin, 85° E and Narcodam, no exploration activities have been carried out so far.

It is envisaged to award about 80%, of the total Sedimentary Area of the Country for exploration by the end of XI Plan Period.

[English]

Air India Discount to Senior Citizens

3436. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI BHASKARRAO BAPURAO PATIL
KHATGAONKAR:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is offering a 20 per cent discount to senior citizens for first and executive class seats on international routes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to

give discount to the senior citizens, women and students who are going for examinations/interviews in Air India on domestic flights in every class on the line of Railways;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Air India offers a 20% discount to senior citizens (65 years and above) for travel on any international sector on all fares in First and Executive class w.e.f. November 17, 2009 and is valid for outbound travel commencing on/before March 31, 2010.

(c) to (e) No, Madam. However, 50% discount on normal sector fares for travel in Economy Class is offered to senior citizens (age 65 years for Male passengers and 63 years for Female passengers) on the domestic sectors. 50% discount on Normal sector fares for travel in Economy class is offered to students upto the age of 26 years. Travel is permitted from place of study to home town and vice versa.

[Translation]

Doubling of Azamgarh-Lucknow Route

3437. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether trains from Mau Junction on the Azamgarh-Shahganj-Lucknow route run late as there is a single track on this route;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Railways for track doubling on this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. Single line track has sufficient cushion for judicious crossing and precedence of trains. Therefore, trains are not running late due to single track only. There is no proposal at present for doubling work in the section.

[English]

Setting Up of Plastic Technology Institute

3438. SHRI MUKESH BHAIKAVDANJI GADHVI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for setting up of a plastic technology institute at Palampur; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) No, Madam.

Introduction of Luxury Tourist Train

3439. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various southern States in the country are keen to expedite the proposal to start a luxury tourist train linking the four southern States to develop a specialised southern tourist circuit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The 'Golden Chariot' luxury tourist train presently operating in a circuit covering the States of Karnataka and Goa has also been planned to operate in a circuit covering Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

[Translation]

Policy for Allotment of Petrol Pumps

3440. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sale of petrol from the Government-owned petrol pumps is constantly decreasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the policy of petrol pump allotment;

(c) whether the Government propose to engage any management institute to review this situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) have reported that the sale of petrol from their petrol pumps is increasing. At present, there is no proposal to engage any management institute to review this situation.

Conference of State Minorities Commission

3441. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any conference of the States Minority Commission has been held during the last two years;

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

(c) whether any demand had been made to provide the minorities their proper representation in the Government and private jobs;

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

(e) the steps being taken for the socio-economic development of the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Madam. The Annual Conference of State Minorities Commissions was held in January 2008 and 2009.

(b) to (d) As per the National Commission for Minorities Act, the recommendations for the effective implementation of safeguards for the protection of the interests of minorities by the Central Government will

be laid before each house of Parliament along with the Action Taken Memoranda.

(e) The following affirmative schemes are implemented by the Ministry for the socio-economic development of the minorities:—

- (1) Pre-matric scholarship scheme
- (2) Post-matric scholarship scheme
- (3) Merit-cum-means based scholarship scheme
- (4) Free coaching and Alliea scheme
- (5) Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) for minority concentration districts. The Details of the above socio-economics schemes are available on the ministry's website viz. www.minorityaffairs.gov.in.

[English]

Accident Relief Trains

3442. SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the time accident relief trains reach accident sites late; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken to ensure that relief trains reach the accident site within the shortest possible time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Madam. Relief Trains proceeding to the site of accident are accorded highest priority for movement. Further, steps taken by the Railways to ensure prompt reaching of Accident Relief Trains (ARTs) include prescribing minimum time for despatch of ARTs after an accident, progressively increasing the speed of ARTs to 100 kilometers per hour, introduction of Self Propelled Accident Relief Trains, etc.

LPG Connections

3443. SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that many districts of Karnataka like Raichur, Bellary, Davangere, Chitradurga etc. have less than 5 per cent of households using LPG;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to allot more LPG connections in these districts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) As on 01-10-2009, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 486 LPG agencies in the State of Karnataka. Through these agencies, OMCs are serving about 63.9 lakh LPG customers including 5.43 lakh LPG customers in Raichur, Bellary, Davangere and Chitradurga district of Karnataka.

(b) and (c) OMCs do not made any allocation for release of new LPG connections, per se, and the entire demand for new connections is being met by existing LPG agencies with connections being released within a period of 60 days, after due verification.

Pilgrim Centre at Chengannur Railway Station

3444. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to set up a Pilgrim Centre at Chengannur Railway Station in Kerala because of its religious importance; and

(b) the total estimated expenditure for the project alongwith the facilities likely to be provided to pilgrimages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and b) Three pilgrim centres with roof, cement/tiled flooring, lights and fans are available at Chengannur railway station. Besides, construction of a pilgrim complex alongwith development of low lying area near RPF station, is approved at a cost of Rs. 95 lakhs.

In addition, following works are approved and are

in progress at Chengannur station, details of which are as under:

- (i) Chengannur-Chingavanam doubling work at a cost of Rs. 13225 lakhs. In this work, additional platform with station building and other amenities on platform have been planned.
- (ii) Reroofing of station building and vegetarian refreshment room at a cost of Rs. 19 lakhs.
- (iii) Provision of VIP lounge, upper class waiting room, Station Managers Room and raising of platform no. 2 and 3 at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs.

Toilets and bathroom facility, water supply, announcements in Telugu, Kannada and Tamil languages in addition to Hindi, English and Malayalam for guidance of passengers, one Janatha Khana outlet, parking facility, medical facility, pilgrim assistance booth, retiring room and one newly constructed waiting room are also provided for pilgrims.

[Translation]

Fertilizer Subsidy to Farmers

3445. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Consultancy Services has submitted any study report regarding direct subsidy on fertilizers to the farmers;

(b) if so, the main findings of the said report;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any initiatives in light of the above report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The Fertilizers Association of India has conducted a study through the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on alternative mechanisms for delivery of subsidy to the farmers. The salient features of the report of TCS are:—

- (i) Direct subsidy disbursement to farmers/tillers through smart cards.

- (ii) Farmers and dealers need be registered at district level.
- (iii) The subsidy disbursement is linked to purchase of fertilizer products (or nutrients).
- (iv) A district (within every state) will be the unit for provisioning/budgeting fertilizer subsidy.

The report was considered in the Department and the issue was flagged for consideration in Group of Ministers (GOM), which was constituted under the Chairmanship of Agriculture Minister to look into sustainable use of fertilizers and pertinent pricing and subsidy issues. The GOM in its final recommendations has not recommended any change in the existing delivery mechanism for fertilizer subsidy through the producers.

The Government intends to move towards a Nutrient Based Subsidy regime instead of the current nutrient based pricing regime, in order to ensure balanced application of fertilizers and increase in agricultural productivity, which can consequently lead to better returns to the farmers. The proposal of Nutrient Based Subsidy regime is under consideration of Group of Ministers constituted to examine the nutrient based subsidy policy and measures for rationalization of fertilizer subsidy disbursement.

[English]

Cancellation of Air India Flight

3446. SHRI S.R. JEYADURAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has cancelled Air India's Chennai-Tiruchi-Sharjah flight;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the decision to stop this flight has put many people of southern States who are working in Gulf countries into difficulty;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to restore this service keeping in view the difficulties of people working in Gulf Countries; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) As part of an exercise to rationalize the services operated by Air India and its subsidiaries on common routes, the airline has withdrawn its Chennai-Trichy-Sharjah flight and has replaced it with Air India Express daily service on Chennai-Trichy-Dubai route (the distance between Dubai and Sharjah airport is about 20 kms). The erstwhile A320 service under the IC Code was incurring losses because of tough competition despite good load factor and drastic reduction in fares by the competitors. This low cost carrier route has been introduced to meet the competition. Air India does not have plans to restore the services ex-Trichy to Sharjah in view of the reasons mentioned above.

Fertilizer Factories Run by IFFCO

3447. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of fertilizer factories run by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO);
- (b) whether the said factories have achieved their target fixed for production; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The details of fertilizer factories run by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Ltd. (IFFCO) together with plant-wise/product-wise target and actual production for the year 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April-November, 2009) are at Statement.

IFFCO plants have achieved the targeted production during the current year 2009-10 (April-November 2009). The actual production during the year 2008-09 was slightly below the target due to (i) non-availability of adequate Natural gas, (ii) unforeseen shutdowns, and (iii) shortage of raw materials coupled with fluctuation in its prices in the international market.

Statement

Plant-wise/Product-wise Annual Installed Capacity and Production of Fertilizer by IFFCO during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 (April to November, 2009)

('000 MTs)

Name of Unit/ Plant	Product Name	Installed Capacity (as on 1-4-2009)	Production			
			2008-09		2009-10 (April to Nov. 2009)	
			Target	Actual	Target	Actual
IFFCO: Kandla	DAP	1200.0	283.0	214.7	64.0	722.5
	10:26:26	515.4	525.0	1041.1	701.0	579.1
	12:32:16	700.0	1392.0	538.0	502.0	398.8
Total (IFFCO/Kandla):		2415.4	2200.0	1793.8	1267.0	1700.4
IFFCO: Paradeep	DAP	1500.0	623.0	436.5	220.0	283.2
	20:20	100.0	539.0	869.5	840.0	701.8
	10:26:26	160.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	12:32:16	160.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total (IFFCO/Paradeep):		1920.0	1212.0	1306.0	1060.0	985.0
IFFCO: Kalol	Urea	544.5	576.0	559.9	402.0	407.4
IFFCO: Phulpur	Urea	551.1	700.0	662.5	468.4	469.8
IFFCO: Phulpur Expn.	Urea	864.6	983.0	840.6	654.0	643.7
IFFCO: Aonla	Urea	864.6	1000.0	986.9	641.0	642.4
IFFCO: Aonla Expn.	Urea	864.6	1035.0	1018.4	655.0	657.2
Total (IFFCO):		3689.4	4249.0	4068.3	2820.4	2820.5
Grand Total IFFCO		8024.8	7706.0	7168.1	5147.4	5505.9

Note: The capacities of DAP and complexes are interchangeable and therefore their production varies from time to time depending upon the nature of demand and supply and availability of raw materials.

Construction of Hangar

3448. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for construction of a new Hangar for parking State Government Helicopter in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the same?

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

(b) and (c) The request of Andhra Pradesh Aviation Corporation Ltd. (A company owned by Government of Andhra Pradesh), for allotment of 8880 sqm. land at Hyderabad for construction of hangar for parking of helicopters has been approved by Airports Authority of India.

[Translation]

Helicopter Crash

3449. DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has directed to investigate the helicopter accidents which have occurred during the last three years, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, helicopter accident-wise as on date;

(c) whether the investigation has been completed, accident-wise;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to constitute any independent agency for the enquiry of the air crashes; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Details are enclosed as Statement.

(e) and (f) The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has recommended that investigative and regulatory functions of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) should be independent of each other. DGCA has been asked to prepare a roadmap on separation of accident/incident investigation from its regulatory functions. Planning Commission is preparing the Blue Print for National Transport Safety Board (NTSB) for inquiring all cases of transport accidents including air crashes.

Statement

Details of Accidents during last three years

Year 2007

Sl. No.	Date/Place	Helicopter Type Regn. No.	Operator	Fatalities	Damage Details	Details of accidents probable cause
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	19-10-2007 Bangalore	Multi Engine Schweizer VT- HAI	HAL Rotary Wing Academy	Nil	Substantial	Uncontrolled movement of helicopter during hover exercise and delayed corrective action by instructor resulted in crash landing of helicopter. Investigation completed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	21-05-2007 Kedarnath Helipad	Single Engine Alloute III VT-EGK	Prabhatam Aviation (P) Ltd.	One	Minor	During landing at Kedarnath helipad, main rotor blades ground crew resulting in fatal injury to ground crew. Investigation completed
3.	14-07-2007 Near Lanji, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	Multi Engine EC 135 T1 VT-CGH	Government of Chhattisgarh	04	Destroyed	The probable cause of accident was non adherence of the SOP wherein the flight crew failed to maintain adequate terrain clearance. Bad weather and improper crew detailing who were not qualified for such operation was the contributory factor. Investigation completed
Year 2008						
1.	18-01-2008 Mysore	Single engine Bell-206-L3 VT-DAK	Deccan Aviation, Bangalore	Nil	Substantial	During landing pilot experienced loss of tail rotor effectiveness at hover and entered into right yaw due changing wind conditions which resulted in loss of control and crash landing of helicopter. Wrong location of the wind sock at the helipad was contributory factor to the accident. Investigation completed
2.	03-08-2008 near Kodijutta Gutta, Vekatapuram (AP)	Multi engine Bell 430 helicopter VT-REO	M/s. Ran Air	04	Destroyed	Helicopter descended bellow the minimum safe altitude due bad weather and collided with the hill en route. Contributory factors

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						<p>1. Crew did not obtain the meteorological briefing before departure.</p> <p>2. Selection of the improper route by the crew.</p> <p>Investigation completed</p>
Year 2009						
1.	09-7-2009 Near Amarnath Cave (J and K)	Single Engine Lama 315 B VT-WEX	M/s. Himalayan Heli Services (P) Ltd.	01	Substantial	<p>During landing at Amarnath cave helipad, Pilot experienced problem and landed around 500 metres before the helipad. During landing one of the pilgrim on ground came in contact of helicopter and received fatal injury. Pilot and two passenger on board received minor injuries. The helicopter was substantially damaged.</p> <p>Accident is under investigation</p>
2.	02-09-2009 Near Serai Salem Hill, Kurnool (AP)	Multi engine Bell 430 VT-APG	Government of Andhra Pradesh	05	Destroyed	<p>Helicopter flying from Begumpet airport, Hyderabad to Chitoor went missing in bad weather in Nalla Mala forest, Kurnool. The wreckage of the crashed helicopter was found near Serai Salem Hill, Kurnool. All the five persons on board received fatal injuries.</p> <p>Accident is under investigation</p>

[English]

**Complaints Against LPG
Distributors, Punjab**

3450. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

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

(a) whether award of any LPG distributorship by Punjab State Office, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCI), Chandigarh had been investigated by CBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) and IOCL had taken any action on the report submitted by CBI;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any complaints had been received by IOCL relating to the scam of issuance of fabricated experience and salary certificates issued by various LPG distributors of IOCL in the State of Punjab during the period from 2006 to 2008; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Yes, Madam. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that they have received a report from CBI, Chandigarh pertaining to irregularities committed by one Shri Vivek Bajaj who was one of the applicants for allotment of LPG agency for the location Phagwara-I in the State of Punjab and after selection process, was empanelled at the 1st position. CBI in its report has brought out that Shri Vivek Bajaj, placed at No. 1 in the selected panel for Phagwara-I location had made false statement, concealed facts and submitted forged documents in his application to the IOC. While forwarding their report, CBI have recommended appropriate action, as deemed fit, may be taken against Shri Vivek Bajaj. After interview/preparation of panel, IOC undertakes Field Verification Credential (FVC) and the

report of CBI will be taken into consideration while undertaking FVC in respect of this location.

(e) and (f) Complaints were received in the year 2008 regarding submission of bogus experience certificates by the applicants for the location Nakodar and Jalandhar in the State of Punjab. For the location Bachwind, enquiry conducted by IOC in the year 2008 found that the experience certificate submitted by one candidate was false.

Accounting Standards

3451. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the National Advisory Committee on the Accounting Standards;

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

(c) whether the existing accounting standards are not fit for proper checks;

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

(e) whether the Government has shared the views of the experts before strengthening of the National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards in the country;

(f) if so, the details in this regard; and

(g) the remedial measures taken by the Government in response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (g) The constitution of National Advisory Committee on Accounting Standards has been provided in section 210A of the Companies Act, 1956 which comprises of a chairman and representatives from professional Institutes, Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Reserve Bank of India, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Securities and Exchange Board of India and Industry Associations/Chambers. There is no proposal to change this constitution. The

existing Accounting Standards are constantly reviewed and updated for improvements and are adequate for proper checks.

[Translation]

**Reports of National Commission
for Minorities**

3452. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to implement the reports of National Commission for Minorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) Yes Madam. In accordance with Section 13 of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992, the Annual Report of the Commission, together with a Memorandum of Action Taken on the recommendations contained therein, in so far as they relate to the Central Government, and the reasons for the non-acceptance, if any, of any such recommendations, and the audit report is to be laid before each House of Parliament.

The Government have so far tabled in the Parliament thirteen Annual Reports of the Commission along with Action Taken Memoranda (ATMs) on recommendations contained therein.

(c) Does not arise.

Electrification of Gorakhpur-Lucknow Rail Line

3453. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of electrification work on the Gorakhpur-Gonda-Lucknow section of North-Eastern Railway;

(b) the details of funds sanctioned for the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Lucknow-Barabanki rail line is already electrified. Gorakhpur-Gonda-Barabanki rail line is a part of Barauni-Gorakhpur-Gonda-Barabanki (729 Route Kilometres) electrification project on which work is in progress.

(b) The project was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 679.96 crore in May 2007. Rs. 94.32 crore has been allotted for this project during 2009-10.

(c) the electrification of entire section is targeted by June 2012.

[English]

Cost Sharing Railway Projects

3454. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

SHRI MEHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of States have agreed to share cost of railway projects;

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

(c) the cost of projects likely to be borne by State Governments and Railways separately;

(d) the status of each of the project; and

(e) the action taken to complete these projects in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Some of the State Governments have agreed to share cost of selected railway projects in their States. Details of the State Governments, Railway projects and the share of the State Governments alongwith status are as under:—

Sl. No.	Projects	State	Cost (Rs. in crore)	State share (% age)	Status
New Line					
1.	Kottur-Harihar via Harpanhalli	Karnataka	328.06	66.67	Earthwork, bridge, etc. in progress. Targeted for 2009-10.
2.	Wardha Nanded	Maharashtra	697	40	Final location survey taken up.
3.	Rewari-Rohtak	Haryana	475.17	50	Rewari-Jhajjar is targeted for 2009-10 and balance for 2010-11.
4.	Jind-Sonipat	Haryana	234.45	50	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
5.	Cuddapah-Bangalore (Bangarapet)	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh	1000.23	50 (Andhra Pradesh Government)	Final location survey taken up.
6.	Dallirajahara-Rowghat-Jagdapur	Chhattisgarh	968.6	*	Land acquisition taken up. Work entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.
7.	Bidar-Gulbarga	Karnataka	554.55	50	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
8.	Mandarhill-Rampurhat via Dumka (Jharkhand portion)	Jharkhand, West Bengal	676	66.67% of Dumka-Rampurhat	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
9.	Giridih-Koderma	Jharkhand	451.35	66.67	Koderma-Maheshpur has been completed and on balance formation works are in progress.
10.	Deoband-Muzzaffarnagar-Roorkee	Uttarakhand	164.8	50	Final location survey completed. Land acquisition taken up.
11.	Koderma-Ranchi	Jharkhand	1099.2	66.67	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.

12.	Deogarh-Dumki	Jharkhand	335	66.67	Deogarh-Ghoramara completed and balance is targeted for 2009-10.
13.	Koderma-Tilaiya (Jharkhand portion)	Jharkhand, Bihar	418.17	66.67% (of Jharkhand portion)	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
14.	Bhanupalli-Bilaspur Beri	Himachal Pradesh	1046.88	25	Final location survey taken up.
15.	Munirabad-Mehboobnagar	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh	497	50% (of Karnataka portion)	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
16.	Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Bajinath	Maharashtra	462.67	50	Land acquisition, earthwork, bridge works etc. taken up.

Gauge Conversion

17.	Shimoga-Talguppa	Karnataka	158.59	50	Targeted for completion during 2009-10.
18.	Ranchi-Lohardaga with extn. to Tori	Jharkhand	449.83	66.67	Ranchi-Lohardaga gauge conversion has been completed. Work on new line portion taken up.
19.	Bardhaman-Katwa	West Bengal	346.47	50	Contract finalized for Bardhaman-Balgona and work taken up.
20.	Cuddalore-Salem	Tamil Nadu	556.64	50	Cuddalore-Salem gauge conversion completed. Final location survey for new line portion from Chinnasalem to Kallakurichi taken up.

Doubling

21.	Ramanagaram-Mysore incl. electrification of Kengeri-Mysore	Karnataka	498.54	66.67	Earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
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*State Government will provide Government land free of cost meet cost, meet cost of land acquisition and exempt royalty and State Taxes on minerals and materials required for construction of this line.

(e) All the above projects are in various stages of progress. The cost sharing by the State Government has improved the fund position for these projects for expediting their completion. Efforts are being made to complete them as per the targets.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Technical Institutes

3455. SHRI RAKESH SACHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up a technical institute on railway land in Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh under public-private partnership;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the work on the project will start; and

(d) the names of other places in the country where such institutions are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) It is proposed to establish Eighteen Medical Colleges attached to existing Railway Hospitals through Public Private Partnership. These places are Chennai, Hyderabad, Bilaspur, Lucknow, Barasat, Bhubaneswar, Mysore, Kharagpur, Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Jodhpur, Gardenreach, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, B.R. Singh Hospital/ Kolkata, Bhopal, Jammu and Trivandrum.

Seven Nursing Colleges are to be established attached to existing Railway Hospitals through Public Private Partnership. These places are Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai (Kalyan), Chennai, Secunderabad, Lucknow and Jabalpur.

Railways also propose to set up a training institute at Dankuni (West Bengal).

[English]

Selection of LPG Distributors

3456. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:

SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP:

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

(a) whether interviews were conducted by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for selection of LPG Distributors for the period from 01 April, 2007 to 31 March, 2009;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of LPG Distributors commissioned by PSUs, OMCs during that period;

(c) whether any complaints had been received by the Government against the selection for LPG Distributors made by PSUs, OMCs particularly from Northern Region;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) During the period 1st April 2007—31st March 2009, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have conducted interviews for 812 locations for setting up of LPG distributors in the country, out of which 138 LPG distributors have been commissioned. The details are available with Directors (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

(c) to (e) During the period 1st April 2007—31st March 2009, OMCs have received 594 complaints against the selection of LPG distributors in the country including 104 from Northern Region. All the complaints are investigated by the competent authorities of concerned OMCs as per policy under the grievance redressal system.

[Translation]

Fire in Trains

3457. SHRIMATI DEEPA DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of fire in trains and railway premises during each of the last three years and the current year, division-wise;

(b) the details of investigation undertaken in these

cases and the outcome thereof including action taken thereon;

(c) whether any task force has been constituted to check incidents of fire in trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Export of Carpet

3458. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of export of carpet during each of last three years and the current year, country-wise;

(b) whether Carpet Export Promotion Council has urged the Government for initiating measures to revive

Carpet Industry; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The details of Hand-knotted Carpets exported during each of the last three years, country-wise as reported by Carpet Export Promotion Council is as per statement attached.

The details of carpets exported during the current year, country-wise is not available. However, carpets to the tune of Rs. 1538.07 crores has been exported to various countries upto November, 2009.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to revive Carpet Industry include Special Focus Product Scheme for entitlement of Duty Credit Scrip on FOB value, Interest subvention on export credit and restoration of Duty Drawback Rates.

Carpet Export Promotion Council

Country-wise Exports of Handmade Carpets and other floor coverings for the last 3 years:

Sl. No.	Country	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09 (Prov.)	
		Rupees Crores	U.S. \$ Million	Rupees Crores	U.S. \$ Million	Rupees Crores	U.S. \$ Million
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Argentina	6.98	1.53	7.20	1.79	10.52	2.33
2.	Australia	51.08	11.23	62.56	15.54	68.81	15.20
3.	Austria	27.92	6.13	19.11	4.75	23.70	5.25
4.	Belgium	33.80	7.43	58.02	14.41	11.56	2.56
5.	Brazil	17.25	3.79	17.70	4.41	4.69	1.04
6.	Canada	49.97	10.98	59.33	14.74	40.27	8.92
7.	Denmark	26.09	5.73	28.36	7.05	18.82	4.17
8.	Finland	18.74	4.12	16.27	4.04	14.67	3.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	France	56.96	12.52	56.78	14.11	48.84	10.82
10.	Germany	698.22	153.52	646.71	160.67	613.24	135.85
11.	Italy	45.56	10.01	105.94	26.32	25.50	5.65
12.	Japan	65.04	14.30	59.83	14.86	48.75	10.80
13.	Netherlands	36.38	7.99	44.02	10.94	19.09	4.23
14.	Norway	8.81	1.93	8.94	2.22	6.41	1.42
15.	Sweden	29.03	6.38	46.41	11.53	18.28	4.05
16.	Switzerland	18.00	3.95	9.13	2.27	26.86	5.95
17.	Spain	38.95	8.56	82.07	20.39	24.38	5.40
18.	U.S.A.	1,833.02	403.04	1,668.86	414.62	1,359.29	301.12
19.	U.K.	189.25	41.61	183.07	45.48	112.18	24.85
20.	Others	423.81	93.19	344.42	85.57	212.87	47.20
Total		3,674.86	807.94	3,524.73	875.71	2,708.73	600.06

(Source: NIC, Ministry of Commerce Web-Site)

[Translation]

Passenger Reservation System

3459. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of installing Passenger Reservation System (PRS) at Hydergarh Railway Station in Barabanki District in Uttar Pradesh is under consideration of the Railways;

(b) if so, the time by which the said work is likely to be completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes Madam. At least six months will be required after sanction of the work for making arrangement of equipment and providing connectivity.

[English]

Production Cost of LPG

3460. SHRI S. ALAGIRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production cost of LPG has been assessed by the Government;

(b) if so, the average production cost of LPG during the last three years and the current year; and

(c) the percentage of taxes, cess and surcharges of the Central and State Governments levied on LPG during the aforesaid years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) In petroleum refining, crude oil is processed through numerous processing units. The finished petroleum products are produced from a blend of various intermediate streams. The major element of

cost in the refining process is the cost of crude oil, which constitutes around 95% of total cost of production. In addition, the refineries incur operating expenses towards salaries and wages, chemicals and catalysts, power and water, repairs and maintenance, depreciation and other overheads. The blending of intermediate products streams from various process units for making finished petroleum products results in difficulty in allocating the total costs to individual refined products, with a reasonable degree of accuracy. Therefore, individual product-wise costs are not calculated by the Companies separately

(c) Domestic LPG is a subsidized product. Customs and Excise Duties on Domestic LPG have been made "NIL" w.e.f. 1st March, 2005 by the Union Government. Further, Domestic LPG was made a "Declared Goods" under the Central Sales Tax Act, capping the maximum Sales Tax/VAT rate at 4% effective 19-4-2009 across the country.

Increase in Crude Oil Prices

3461. SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether international crude prices have risen beyond 80 dollars per barrel and likely to stay around as demand is fast picking up globally;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase the prices of oil products like petrol and diesel; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) During the current year 2009-10, the prices of crude oil have risen steadily. The average price of Indian basket of crude oil from April 2009 to November 2009, is given below:

		Crude oil (Indian Basket) \$ per barrel
1	2	
April, 2009	50.21	

1	2
May, 2009	57.75
June, 2009	69.12
July, 2009	64.82
August, 2009	71.96
September, 2009	67.70
October, 2009	73.07
November, 2009	77.39

(b) and (c) Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will take suitable pricing decisions at the appropriate time.

[Translation]

Increase in Production of Agro-Chemicals

3462. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of agro-chemicals in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the production of agro-chemicals has increased during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether physical targets set for the period have been achieved;

(e) if not, the reason for shortfall in production; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The details of production of agrochemicals during 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in the table at (b) below.

(b) and (c) Yes Madam. There has been increase

in production of agrochemicals during the first half of the current year (April to September 2009, for which production details are available) as compared to

corresponding figures for the last year. The details are given in the table below:

(Figures in MT)

Product	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2008-09 (April-Sep., 08)	2009-10 (April-Sep., 09)
Agrochemicals	84999	83423	85338	42967	45929

(d) to (f) Since the agrochemical industry is deregulated, no production targets are fixed by the Government.

[English]

Import of Natural Gas from Bangladesh

3463. SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to import natural gas from Bangladesh for commercial use in the country, particularly in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) India had pursued the import of natural gas from Bangladesh. However, Bangladesh held the view that considering their internal demand of gas, they do not have sufficient quantity of gas to export. So presently India does not have a proposal to import gas from Bangladesh.

Road under Bridge at Udumalaipettai

3464. SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any plan to construct Road under Bridge (RuB) at Udumalaipettai Railway Station in the Dindigul Pondanu line; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The work of road over bridge (not under bridge) at Udumalaipettai has already been sanctioned on cost sharing basis during Works Programme of 2006-07 in lieu of existing level crossing No. 95 at km. 92/16-17 between Udumalaipettai and Gomangalam stations. General Arrangement Drawing has also been approved. 40% progress has already been made. State Government is to take up the work of approaches.

Aviation Regulations Advisory Panel

3465. SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up an Aviation Regulations Advisory Panel;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the jurisdiction of the Panel;

(c) the procedure adopted to select the Members to the Panel and their expertise;

(d) the details of body of experts constituting the Panel; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to submit the report/suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Madam. Aviation Regulations Advisory Panel (ARAP) has been constituted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on 03-09-2009.

(b) The areas covered by ARAP are Airworthiness, Flight operations, Flight safety, Licensing of personnel, Air Transport services, Aerodrome and Air Navigation services and any other area.

(c) and (d) The members were selected on the basis of the recommendations received from the aviation industry. The panel includes experts from DGCA, airlines and airport operators.

(e) The ARAP has been constituted to advise on specified area of jurisdiction and its working is a dynamic process with reports being submitted from time to time.

[Translation]

Opening of CNG Stations

3466. SHRI KUNVARJIBHAI MOHANBHAI
BAVALIA:

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

SHRI P.T. THOMAS:

DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

SHRI JAGDISH THAKOR:

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

(a) the total number of CNG filling stations opened in Rajasthan, Kerala and Gujarat, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) the total number of new CNG stations set up in each of the States; district-wise during the current financial year;

(c) whether the number of CNG stations are sufficient to meet the demand keeping in view increase in demand of vehicles; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) According to information provided, the State-wise details of total number of CNG filling stations in the country is given in the Statement enclosed. Presently, City Gas Distribution has not been started in any city of Rajasthan and Kerala till now.

(c) The conversion of vehicles into CNG mode is a continuous process. CNG stations are developed by the authorized entities based on market demand, availability of natural gas and local factors.

(d) City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities authorized by Central Government, including Joint Ventures of GAIL, are undertaking activities to expand the CNG network. Further, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is in the process of authorizing entities for undertaking CGD activities in other cities. 834,631 standard cubic metres per day (SCMD) gas has been allocated from KG D-6 to various CGD entities for supply to transport and domestic sectors.

Statement

Existing CNG station (as on 30-11-2009)

State	Cities	Existing CNG Station	CNG Station Setup during Fy 2009-10
1	2	3	4
Delhi-NCR	Delhi	173	2
	Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad	11	3
Total Delhi (NCR)		184	5
Maharashtra	Mumbai	123	13

1	2	3	4
	Thane	8	
	Mira Bhayandar	3	
	Navi Mumbai	2	
	Pune	10	3
Total Maharashtra		146	16
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	7	
	Bareilly	1	
	Lucknow	4	
	Agra	3	
	Moradabad	2	1
Total Uttar Pradesh		17	1
Gujarat	Vadodara	3	2
	Surat, Bharuch, Ankleshwar	29	7
	Rajkot, Saurashtra, Central Gujarat, South Gujarat	63	38
	Ahmedabad, Vadodara	54	5
	Gandhinagar	10	1
	Anand and Near by Village	1	
	Ahmedabad	15	7
Total Gujarat		175	60
Andhra Pradesh	Vijayawada	6	
	Hyderabad	4	1
	Rajamundry	1	
Total Andhra Pradesh		11	1
Tripura	Agartala	1	0
Total Tripura		1	0
Madhya Pradesh	Indore	5	0

1	2	3	4
	Ujjain	1	0
Total Madhya Pradesh		6	0
Haryana	Gurgaon	3	2
	Faridabad	2	0
Total Haryana		5	2
West Bengal	Asansol and Durgapur	5	2
Total West Bengal		5	2
Daman and Diu	Daman and Diu	1	1
Total Daman and Diu		1	1
Total		551	88

Sale of Packed Kerosene

3467. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme for sale of packed kerosene;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefit likely to accrue to the people living below the poverty line from this scheme; and

(d) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) To prevent diversion of Public Distribution System kerosene, a pilot project was undertaken by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. to assess the feasibility of selling packed kerosene in recoverable pack. But it could not produce desired result and also there has been literally no demand for the product at full price. In view of this, it has been decided to discontinue the project.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

Oil and Gas Blocks Allotted to Private Companies

3468. SHRI SUDERSHAN BHAGAT:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) whether the sites where oil and gas have been explored by public sector agencies have been allotted to private companies for exploration of gas;

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

(c) the amount of funds spent by the Government on the said exploration during the last three years; and

(d) the reasons for allotting these sites to private agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The blocks where oil and gas have been explored by Public Sector agencies are periodically relinquished and new blocks are carved out for offering to Private Companies/Joint Ventures as well as National/State Oil Companies under New Exploration

Licensing Policy (NELP) regime through International Competitive bidding for exploration.

The following blocks have been carved out from the areas relinquished by the Public Sector companies and offered under NELP-VIII:—

- (i) VN-ONN-2009/1
- (ii) VN-ONN-2009/2
- (iii) VN-ONN-2009/3
- (iv) HF-ONN-2009/1
- (v) CB-ONN-2009/1
- (vi) CB-ONN-2009/2
- (vii) CB-ONN-2009/3
- (viii) CB-ONN-2009/4

(c) Expenditure is incurred by the Company(s) to whom oil and gas blocks are awarded for exploration. No funds have been spent by the Government for the exploration of oil and gas.

(d) NELP rounds blocks are offered through international competitive bidding system on the basis of transparent and quantifiable Bid Evaluation Criteria (BEC) indicated in Notice Inviting Offers (NIO) wherein both public sector companies and private companies participate. This has been done with a view to attract investment in exploration of oil and gas. The blocks are awarded to successful bidders based on BEC.

[English]

Demand of Steel

3469. SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand of steel is likely to outstrip supply with demand from sectors like infrastructure, housing and automobiles in recent months;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to meet the demand of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) Steel demand in the country is being met both through domestic production and imports. Therefore, the availability of steel in the domestic market is able to match the demand which is being met from domestic steel production as well as through imports. The steel consumption in the country is, however, growing at a rate faster than the domestic production. During the April-November period of the current year, as per the provisional figures released by JPC, the domestic production has grown by 3%, whereas steel consumption has shown a growth of 8.1%. Most of the steel consumption growth in India is taking place on account of housing, infrastructure automobile and consumer goods sectors.

(c) However, considering that the steel demand in India is likely to grow in the future, Government is facilitating setting up of new steel production capacities in the country. The public sector units under Ministry of Steel, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have already undertaken major capacity expansion plans. SAIL has planned to increase its present capacity from 13.82 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of crude steel to 23.46 mtpa by the year 2012-13. Similarly, RINL is also undertaking its liquid steel capacity from 3.0 mtpa to 6.3 mtpa by the year 2011-12.

Facilities for Disabled Persons

3470. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are considering any proposal to change the location of coaches meant for disabled persons in the various trains; and

(b) the other steps taken by the Railways to facilitate disabled and physically challenged people both in trains as well as at Railway Stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. There is no such proposal at present.

(b) In pursuance to implementation of Disability Act, amenities to make stations more accessible to handicapped persons have been planned to be provided in

a phased manner. In the first phase, all A-1 and A category stations have been provided with standard ramp, parking lots, non-slippery walkway, signages, toilets, water taps, "May I Help You" booths and wheel chairs. These facilities have been planned for completion at all B category stations by March 2010. For stations of other categories, these facilities are proposed to be suitably equipped subsequently.

[Translation]

Technical Textiles

3471. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual growth rate of technical textile sector and textile manufacturing sector during the

each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government carried out any study for ascertaining the reasons for the said difference in the growth rates of technical textile sector and textile manufacturing sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the average annual fund disbursed to the technical textile sector under the technology upgradation fund scheme (TUFS)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The yearwise data for production of technical textiles is not available with the Government. However based on the Expert Committee on Technical Textiles (ECTT) report and ICRA Management Consultancy Services Ltd., Report on baseline survey of technical textile industry in India the details on market size are given below:

Sl. No.	Year	Technical Textile Market Size (in Rs. Crore)	Growth Rate (%)	Traditional Textiles [Fabrics (including Khadi, wool and Silk)] Prod. (Mn. Sq.mtr.)	Growth Rate (%)
1.	2005-06	23787.36 [#]		49577	
2.	2006-07	26525.68 [#]	11.51	53389	7.69
3.	2007-08	41756.00 ^{\$}		56025	4.92
4.	2008-09	46321.42 ^{\$}	10.93	54966*	-1.89

Note:—(#-ECTT Report, \$-IMaCS Report and *-Provisional)

As per the ECTT report, the estimated market size of technical textiles for 2003-04 is Rs. 19129.59 crore and projected market size of technical textiles for 2007-08 is Rs. 29579.23 crore. Based on the report the market size for 2005-06 and 2006-07 were arrived on the basis of Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)%.

As per the IMaCS report, the estimated market size of technical textiles for 2007-08 is Rs. 41756.00 crore and projected market size of technical textiles for

2012-13 is Rs. 70151.00 crore. Based on the report the market size for 2008-09 was arrived on the basis of CAGR%.

(b) No study has been carried out by the Government in this regard. However, considering the scope for technical textiles and its nascent stage of production in the country, the growth rate of technical textile sector is expected to be higher rate than normal textile sector.

(c) The annual fund disbursement details of

technical textiles under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) are not available. However the progress

under TUFS of technical textile units including non-wovens from 01-04-2009 to 20-06-2009 is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Sector	Received			Sanctioned			Disbursed	
	No. of applications	Project Cost*	Amount of loan required	No. of applications	Project Cost*	Amount	No. of applications	Amount
Non SSI	213	1936.2311	931.7035	213	1935.7391	915.8761	213	862.4041
SSI	179	204.1618	108.518	177	199.4818	103.5846	177	96.3554
Total	392	2140.3929	1040.2215	390	2135.2209	1019.4607	390	958.7595

*Project cost would include equity (non-loan amount), loan for non-TUF eligible investment.

[English]

Losses Suffered by AAI

3472. SHI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the majority of the airports operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) incur heavy losses due to under utilisation and poor management;

(b) if so, the steps Government is taking for improving the situation;

(c) the sources of AAI's revenue by airports for last three years including current year; and

(d) the profit/loss statement of last three years

including current year, airport-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Madam. However some airports do cause losses. The main reason of losses to Airports Authority of India (AAI) is due to lower traffic and less aeronautical revenue generation many of its airports.

(b) The steps are being taken to enhance non-aeronautical revenue, reduce the operational cost and also initiating austerity measures.

(c) The details about the sources of AAI's revenue are enclosed at Statement-I

(d) Airport-wise details are given Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

Sources of AAI Revenue

(Rs in crores)

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4
Route Navigational Facility Charges	1121.76	1288.59	1339.95
Landing Parking Housing	333.25	376.15	313.75

1	2	3	4
Terminal Navigational Landing Charges	191.40	230.33	249.94
Passenger Service Fees	560.33	638.75	469.55
Public Admission Fees	20.90	19.61	14.66
Trading Concessions	189.36	284.79	298.83
Rent and Services	137.42	136.69	223.83
Cargo Revenue	169.77	170.51	177.94
Interest on Deposits	144.84	172.24	92.79
Other Misc. Income	857.20,	226.10	184.45
Income from leasing of Airports	0.00	745.45	820.25
Total	3726.23	4289.21	4185.94

Statement-II*Airports Authority of India**Statement showing details of Revenue/Expenditure and Profit during the last Three Years*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Year		2006-07			2007-08		2008-09		
	Name of the State	Name of Airport	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Profit/Loss before Tax	Total Expenditure	Profit/Loss before Tax	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Profit/Loss before Tax
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Profit Making International Airports										
1.	Delhi	Delhi	61962.39	13727.98	48234.41	16963.72	51899.63	69713.170	20776.490	48936.680
2.	Maharashtra	Mumbai	62602.36	15080.93	47521.43	18855.79	45319.60	67721.470	22562.160	45159.310
3.	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	48838.55	18205.67	30632.88	18596.18	44885.35	65522.640	25604.210	39918.630
4.	West Bengal	Kolkatta	24435.02	16355.09	8079.93	19937.03	10953.56	33397.450	24083.160	9314.290
5.	Karnataka	Bangalore	21420.22	5138.20	16282.02	3633.67	21056.55	12689.080	4647.040	8042.040
6.	Goa	Goa (CE)	4931.00	1195.40	3735.60	1393.55	4445.40	5401.040	2849.000	2552.040
7.	Maharashtra	Pune (CE)	3198.00	1205.42	1992.58	3288.04	377.10	4414.220	2091.240	2322.980
8.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	7899.00	5402.87	2496.13	5780.40	5167.91	10718.180	8311.820	2406.360

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9.	Kerala	Calicut	5691.36	3812.02	1879.34	5244.67	1151.62	8819.380	6745.960	2073.420
10.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	22516.74	6364.95	16151.79	6818.89	15402.18	9615.920	8229.580	1386.340
Profit Making Domestic Airports										
1.	Maharashtra	Juhu	1649.00	452.83	1196.17	558.73	1252.70	1917.40	520.91	1396.49
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar (CE)	1236.30	1351.21	-114.91	2658.34	-1304.46	3003.51	2165.55	837.96
3.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh (CE)	313.52	541.76	-228.24	667.71	-205.96	822.54	762.65	59.89
Loss Making International Airports										
1.	Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	2246.08	1618.16	627.92	2005.50	984.76	2818.60	2823.58	-4.98
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu (CE)	936.96	821.00	115.96	886.00	71.08	1078.10	1181.41	-103.31
3.	Andaman and Nicobar	Portblair (CE)	904.87	651.96	252.91	700.16	508.53	781.96	1061.45	-279.49
4.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	2575.28	2687.09	-111.81	3300.24	778.03	3923.47	4405.28	-481.81
5.	Kerala	Trivandrum	7162.39	4801.24	2361.15	5317.39	3640.71	8248.75	9105.12	-856.37
6.	Punjab	Amritsar	2158.46	2563.58	-405.12	3530.89	-314.99	3085.43	5370.8	-2285.37
7.	Assam	Guwahati	3081.93	5956.24	-2874.31	5221.62	-1246.33	3317.96	6160.61	-2842.65
8.	Maharashtra	Nagpur (Sonagad)	2667.00	3615.28	-1348.28	5497.74	-2585.03	2836.09	6531.64	-3695.55

Airports Authority of India

Statement Showing Details of Revenue/Expenditure and Profit during the Last Three Years

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Year		2006-07			2007-08		2008-09		
	Name of the State	Name of Airport	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Profit/Loss before Tax	Total Expenditure	Profit/Loss before Tax	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Profit/Loss before Tax
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Loss Making Operational Airports										
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rajamundry	97.91	287.08	-189.17	223.12	-64.49	294.28	441.23	-146.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2.	Tirupathi	298.85	627.49	-328.64	1042.12	-631.19	366.35	1242.3	-875.95	
3.	Vijaywada	126.69	465.75	-339.06	497.00	-321.00	191.8	653	-461.2	
4.	Vishakha- patnam	640.99	947.94	-306.95	1841.38	-811.70	1336.94	2075.08	-738.14	
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	Tezu CE	0.00	20.14	-20.14	21.12	-21.12	0	31.2	-31.2
6.	Assam	Dibrugarh (Moha)	347.09	1117.72	-770.63	1080.90	-797.69	343.38	2721.48	-2378.10
7.	Jorhat (CE)	79.32	282.35	-203.03	259.07	-170.90	108.41	316.96	-208.55	
8.	Lilabari (North)	14.51	357.76	-343.25	949.18	-929.29	18.8	1176.21	-1157.41	
9.	Silchar (CE)	171.56	511.34	-339.78	608.67	-386.07	139.23	2015.57	-1876.34	
10.	Tezpur (CE)	-7.03	175.86	-182.89	510.27	-505.03	2.42	497.10	-494.68	
11.	Bihar	Gaya	189.74	1303.96	-1114.22	1726.25	-1534.18	210.73	2029.24	-1818.51
12.	Patna	855.95	1932.58	-1076.63	2286.87	-1099.03	1020.50	2839.88	-1819.38	
13.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur (Manna Cantt)	773.00	850.01	-77.01	1151.43	209.20	1201.40	1605.49	-404.09
14.	Diu	Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.78	82.18	-50.40
15.	Delhi	Delhi (Safdarjung)	60.04	1073.70	-1013.66	1519.94	-1368.13	185.32	1992.89	-1807.57
16.	Gujarat	Bhavnagar	113.00	487.99	-374.99	661.95	-523.83	130.24	994.50	-864.26
17.	Bhuj (CE)	183.00	505.19	-322.19	514.39	-229.63	315.40	557.81	-242.41	
18.	Jamnagar (CE)	165.00	213.74	-48.74	381.26	-141.34	140.6	304.07	-163.47	
19.	Kandla	4.00	149.42	-145.42	216.17	-152.49	44.17	193.90	-149.73	
20.	Keshod (Junagar)	2.00	87.85	-85.85	545.03	-544.49	0.34	191.69	-191.35	
21.	Porbandar	30.00	343.24	-313.24	511.41	-477.24	52.39	655.17	-602.78	
22.	Surat	8.00	82.67	-74.67	447.12	-305.59	68.35	1369.13	-1300.78	
23.	Rajkot	352.00	810.09	-458.09	887.95	-506.18	308.97	1182.77	-873.80	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24.		Vadodara (Baroda)	1139.00	1545.11	-406.11	1969.46	-456.58	1456.13	2541.17	-1085.04
25.	Himachal Pradesh	Kullu (Bhuntar)	35.19	452.98	-417.79	586.13	-536.32	189.08	745.53	-556.45
26.		Kangra (Gaggal)	7.17	292.58	-285.41	411.04	-376.04	349.35	460.61	-111.26
27.		Shimla	7.14	252.71	-245.57	345.86	-316.11	21.53	441.65	-420.12
28.	Jammu and Kashmir	Leh (CE)	227.44	349.07	-121.63	328.73	-53.41	323.63	389.44	-65.81
29.		Kargil	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	265.79	-265.79
30.	Jharkhand	Ranchi	435.49	1173.21	-737.72	1583.89	-714.22	782.79	2029.30	-1246.51
31.	Karnataka	Belgaum	52.00	875.72	-823.72	990.76	-924.62	45.58	628.22	-582.64
32.		Hubli	52.84	132.67	-79.83	343.95	-192.94	129.05	406.75	-277.70
33.		Manglore	1243.44	2134.47	-891.03	2494.45	-480.34	2133.03	3405.25	-1272.22
34.		Vidyanagar@	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.66	-3.66	0.00	3.47	-3.47
35.	Lakshadweep Island	Agatti	19.38	201.93	-182.55	310.25	-273.85	28.18	355.41	-327.23
36.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	551.00	1566.32	-1015.32	1988.46	-1251.24	730.36	2318.95	-1588.57
37.		Gwalior (CE)	36.95	298.99	-262.04	349.37	-311.68	26.58	406.87	-380.29
38.		Indore	1051.00	1276.48	-225.16	1628.86	-18.48	2050.77	2171.64	-120.87
39.		Jabalpur	44.00	341.16	-297.16	669.38	-605.49	81.34	629.19	-547.85
40.		Khajuraho	235.20	907.26	-672.06	1289.47	-1012.58	593.25	1418.21	-824.96
41.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad	332.00	817.73	-485.73	751.04	-232.76	545.96	1952.53	-1406.57
42.		Gondia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	0.00	79.82	-79.82
43.	Manipur	Imphal	462.47	1211.97	-749.50	1563.11	-824.99	724.05	1925.30	-1201.25
44.	Meghalaya	Shillong (Barapa)	6.57	146.10	-139.53	295.40	-289.06	28.77	590.31	-561.54
45.	Mizoram	Lengpui (Aizwal)	52.86	168.77	-115.91	189.67	-128.60	59.07	203.21	-144.14
46.	Nagaland	Dimapur	-131.39	441.31	-572.70	1165.37	-1059.61	69.55	1300.16	-1230.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
47.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar	964.25	2002.73	-1038.48	2373.52	-404.64	1765.09	3121.22	-1356.13
48.		Jharsuguda	0.66	78.77	-78.11	83.73	-83.37	0.00	154.79	-154.79
49.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	10.41	56.55	-46.14	95.92	-83.71	148.61	163.50	-14.89
50.	Punjab	Ludhiana	2.22	201.18	-198.96	217.22	-213.94	7.33	214.29	-206.96
51.		Pathankot	9.04	273.36	-264.32	324.84	-297.82	0.00	226.73	-226.73
52.	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer (CE)	0.05	34.51	-34.46	38.47	-28.68	1.80	79.11	-77.31
53.		Jodhpur (CE)	307.08	585.99	-278.91	672.98	-345.01	209.41	735.42	-526.01
54.		Kota	10.97	72.54	-61.54	71.30	-39.21	25.88	91.59	-65.71
55.		Udaipur	702.83	1137.25	-434.42	1995.72	-1065.66	1707.77	2326.95	-619.18
56.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai	517.22	817.08	-299.86	1250.55	-477.75	778.42	1955.51	-1177.09
57.		Salem	4.22	33.78	-29.56	44.54	-43.79	1.03	90.77	-89.74
58.		Tiruchirapalli	826.72	1376.52	-549.80	1859.63	-618.13	1371.23	2994.84	1623.61
59.		Tuticorin	32.00	89.60	-57.60	141.03	-85.40	62.52	274.17	-211.65
60.		Vellore	0.02	6.95	-6.93	11.12	-10.81	-0.01	18.78	-18.79
61.	Tripura	Agartala	614.18	1785.29	-1171.11	2336.73	-1420.43	843.73	2171.46	-1327.73
62.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra (CE)	59.10	526.17	-467.07	585.34	-491.32	123.18	619.89	-496.71
63.		Allahabad (CE)	45.81	150.59	-104.78	440.42	-398.24	73.44	661.78	-588.34
64.		Gorakhpur (CE)	10.70	44.70	-34.00	60.21	-42.24	37.47	120.31	-82.84
65.		Kanpur	12.46	336.54	-324.08	396.56	-366.81	45.69	434.07	-388.38
66.		Lucknow	1962.21	3022.05	-1059.84	3567.74	-1135.79	2913.45	4550.86	-1637.41
67.		Varanasi	976.91	2122.66	-1145.75	2573.11	-1261.02	2446.28	3014.10	-567.82
68.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun	55.04	228.31	-173.27	935.14	-927.39	109.34	994.61	-885.27
69.		Pant Nagar	22.26	133.21	-110.95	273.04	-229.92	28.62	355.39	-326.77
70.	West Bengal	Bagdogra (CE)	545.45	900.66	-355.21	732.98	-47.47	842.37	945.77	-103.40

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
71.		Balurghat	0.30	4.81	-4.51	10.48	-10.48	0.00	10.76	-10.76
72.		Behala	0.00	24.88	-24.88	51.36	-43.64	0.00	112.59	-112.59
73.		Cooch- Behar	-153.81	-93.09	-60.72	270.25	-270.14	0.00	171.58	-171.58
74.		Malda	0.31	23.07	-22.76	36.48	-36.48	0.00	56.41	-56.41

*Airports Authority of India**Statement showing details of Revenue/Expenditure and Profit during the Last Three Years*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Year		2006-07			2007-08		2008-09		
	Name of the State	Name of Airport	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Profit/Loss before Tax	Total Expenditure	Profit/Loss before Tax	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure	Profit/Loss before Tax
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Loss Making Operational Airports										
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Cuddapah	0.04	10.51	-10.47	14.50	-14.48	0.47	42.33	-41.86
2.		Donakonda	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
3.		Nadirgul (Flying)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
4.		Warangal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
5.	Arunchal Pradesh	Along (CE)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
6.		Daporizo (CE)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
7.		Passighat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
8.		Zero (CE)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
9.	Assam	Rupsi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
10.		Shella	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
11.	Bihar	Jogbani	0.00	0.50	-0.50	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
12.		Muzzafarpur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13.		Raxaul	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
14.	Chhattisgarh	Bilaspur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
15.	Gujarat	Dessa (Palampur)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
16.	Jharkhand	Chakulia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
17.	Karnataka	Hassan	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
18.		Mysore	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	13.88	-13.88
19.	Kerala	Cochin (CE)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
20.	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
21.		Panna	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
22.		Satna	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
23.	Maharashtra	Akola	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
24.		Hadapsar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
25.		Sholapur (SG)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
26.		Kolhapur (SG)	5.00	11.12	-6.12	11.41	-5.81	4.56	36.09	-31.53
27.	Mizoram	Turial (Aizwal)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
28.	Rajasthan	Nal (Bikaner)	0.56	100.29	-99.73	101.71	-101.71	0	22.72	-22.72
29.	Tripura	Kaiklashahar	0.00	1.24	-1.24	0.00	0.00	0	6.94	-6.94
30.		Kamalpur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
31.		Khowai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
32.	Uttar Pradesh	Jhansi	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
33.		Kanpur (Chakeri)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
34.		Lalitpur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00
35.	West Bengal	Asansol	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0.00

(C.E.)=Civil Enclave

(S.G.)=Leased to State Government

Greenfield Airpot

1. Kerala	Cochin (CIAL)@2905.29	1038.60	1866.69	566.56	3674.54	4961.36	1034.79
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Setting Up of Brownfield/ Ammonia Complex

3473. Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request for setting up one brownfield urea/ammonia complex at the site of presently closed Durgapur Plant of HFCL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The Matrix Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (MFCL) had submitted a proposal for setting up of one Brownfield Ammonia-Urea project at the site of presently closed Durgapur plant of HFCL using Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Gas. Since the selection of investors for revival of the closeci units of HFCL is to be done through a transparent process, no decision on the proposal could be possible. Later, MFCL has informed of setting up a Greenfield ammonia/urea project in Burdwan district of West Bengal based on Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Gas which will be supplied to them by Essar Oil Limited's Raniganj CBM block.

[Translation]

Non-Operational Airports in Bihar

3474. DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make operational the closed airports in Bihar like Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur etc. for civilian operations;

(b) if so, the time by which these airports are likely to be made operational; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Muzaffarpur airport in Bihar belongs to Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI has no proposal to make it operational. Darbhanga airport in Bihar belongs to Indian Air Force (IAF).

(c) Neither any Airlines operator nor the State Government has demanded/requested for operation of regular scheduled flights to these airports.

[English]

Medical Facilities in Trains

3475. SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

SHRI S. PAKKIRAPPA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken necessary steps to ensure availability of doctors and first aid facility in case of emergency in long distance running trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) First Aid Facilities are provided for travelling passengers in all the long distance trains. Proposal to depute a doctor on few long distance trains, having practically no stoppages en-route, is under process.

(b) All long distance passenger carrying trains are provided with First Aid Boxes containing essential drugs and dressing materials. The First Aid Box is available with the Guard of the train. In addition, Augmented First Aid Boxes with wider range of medicines, disposable medical material, etc. have been provided with the Train Superintendents of Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express trains and Guards of other nominated trains. Services of doctors travelling as passengers are also utilized to attend to passengers who are in need of urgent medical assistance. The front line staff viz. Train Superintendents, Train-Conductors, Travelling Ticket Examiners, etc. are also trained in rendering first aid. Trains can also make unscheduled halts, if necessary, at the stations en-route in emergencies. The Station Masters have details of doctors, clinics and hospitals, both Government and Private, in the vicinity of the station, so that their services could also be availed, in emergencies. In addition, a database has also been developed regarding availability of the non-railway medical facilities along railway tracks and at stations en-route, for providing

emergency medical care to sick passengers in the Trains.

(c) Does not arise.

High Length Platform at Nilambur

3476. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to construct 18 coach high length platform at Nilambur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Diamonds by NMDC

3477. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) is also involved in mining of diamond;

(b) if so, the quantum of diamond extracted from the year 2004 to October 2009, year-wise;

(c) whether the NMDC has fixed any target for the production of diamond for the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which the set target has been achieved by NMDC so far; and

(f) the carat for which environmental clearance has been granted to the company?

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

(b) The year-wise diamond production from 2004 to October 2009 is as follows:

Year	Diamond Production (in carats)
2004-2005	78,217.12
2005-2006	43,877.75
2006-2007	1,703.20
2007-2008	Nil
2008-2009	Nil
2009-Oct., 2009	5,819.17

(c) to (e) Yes Madam. NMDC has fixed a target of 15,000 carats for production during the current financial year. Out of this, NMDC has produced 7464.45 carats of diamonds up to 30-11-2009.

(f) 1,00,000 carats per year.

Production of Crude Oil by Cairn India Ltd.

3478. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether Cairn India Limited of the British Company is producing crude oil at several places in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the States where the production had been started by this company by September, 2009;

(c) the per day barrel of crude-oil produced in each area;

(d) whether production cost of this crude oil in the country has been estimated from 5 dollar per barrel to 2 dollar per barrel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Cairn Limited is

producing crude oil from Rawa field in Eastern Offshore, CB-OS/2 (Laxmi and Gauri fields) in Gujarat Offshore and Mangala field in RJ-ON-90/1 block in Barmer District of Rajasthan.

(c) The present average Crude Oil Production from the above fields is as under:

Ravva	31,000 BOPD*
CB-OS/2	8,900 BOPD
Mangala	17,000 BOPD

*BOPD—Barrels of Oil Per Day

(d) and (e) Cost of producing crude oil from the above fields in about US \$ 6 per barrel.

[English]

Delay/Cancellation of Flights due to Fog

3479. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of flights both National and International delayed/cancelled due to fog every year alongwith the loss of revenue during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government plan to train its pilots to fly under the foggy conditions;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps being taken to make all airlines to train their pilots for operating in CAT-III B conditions; and

(e) the measures likely to be taken to provide better amenities to passengers particularly during foggy days?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Due to visibility falling below operating minima during fog,

many a time, flights get delayed/cancelled. Most airlines do not maintain details related to delays due to 'landing restrictions' or late clearance for take off.

(b) and (c) Pilots of scheduled domestic airlines are trained for CAT II/III operations during low visibility conditions as per Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) regulations. All the scheduled domestic airlines have confirmed that they have sufficient number of trained CAT III pilots commensurate with CAT III compliant aircraft in their fleet.

(d) In accordance with ICAO guidelines, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already installed CAT III B ILS at IGI airport, New Delhi, which permits operation of aircraft up to Runway Visual Range [RVR] of 50 meters which can be used by airlines with certified pilots. All airlines are directed/encouraged to plan their operations with aircrafts and pilots capable of operating under such low visibility conditions. In addition, Instrument Landing Systems (ILS) have also been installed at 42 other airports to enable aircraft operation in low visibility conditions.

(e) A coordination meeting is conducted to interact with airline operators, agencies and concessionaires to gear up to cater to additional number of passengers, visitors and aircraft movements during the period. The passengers are informed by the airlines in advance about rescheduling of flights due to fog. In case of cancellations, passengers are given option to either take refund or avail next available flight. Light refreshments are provided to the passengers in case of delays beyond two hours. In addition, other passengers facilities like display on CCTV monitors regarding delayed flights, availability of trolleys, additional personnel are deployed for manning of the toilets and ensure cleanliness inside and city side of terminals, advise to airlines operators to coordinate arrangements for stay of the stranded passengers of delayed flights etc.

Production of Secondary Steel

3480. SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to boost the production of secondary steel from ship recycling; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) to (b) Steel sector in the country is deregulated and therefore, the choice of input material for any industry depends upon the technology, availability and affordability of input material. The final choice regarding use of input material including iron and steel scrap generated from ship recycling vests with the business decision of the user industry.

Development of Vadodara Airport

3481. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether land has been allotted by the local authority to Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development of Vadodara Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the AAI has demanded additional land from the State Government;

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Government thereon; and

(e) the status of the development works being undertaken at the airport?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated action for construction of New Integrated Terminal Building at Vadodara Airport for which tender has been floated.

City Side Development Works at Airports

3482. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to undertake city side developmental works at some of the airports like providing hotels, convention centres and such other facilities;

(b) if so, the names of the airports which are proposed to be developed for such purposes and the facilities to be provided at each of the airports; and

(c) the cost involved and the time by which the work is to be taken in hand and the schedule for completion?

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

(b) The city side development was proposed to be undertaken at 24 airports namely Kolkata, Hyderabad (Begumpet), Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Trivandrum, Lucknow, Madurai, Mangalore, Khajuraho, Surat, Vadodara, Bhopal, Indore, Raipur, Vizag, Trichy, Bhubaneswar, Varanasi, Aganala, Dehradun, Ranchi and Dimapur has been planned. However, it has now been considered that, in the 1st phase, ten airports namely Kolkata, Hyderabad (Begumpet), Vishakhapatnam, Bhubaneswar, Lucknow, Indore, Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Guwahati and Jaipur should be taken up for city side development.

Some of the facilities planned to be made available are hotels, restaurants, convention centres, food court, night kitchen, petrol pump, retail shops, cargo facilities, parking etc.

(c) The land available at the airports on the city side is to be carried out and leased through open tender for development of facilities. The amount to be spent for city side development at each airport would depend upon the bid to be submitted by the successful bidder selected through competitive bidding.

Oil and Gas Exploration by Suntera Resources

3483. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Cyprus based Suntera Resources Limited has decided to exit all the six oil and gas exploration blocks in Indian;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of Suntera stake with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL);

(d) the impact on ONGC and OIL projects as a result thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, M/s Suntera Resources Limited was awarded seven exploration blocks, as Consortium Partner. Out of these, one block has been relinquished. In remaining 6 Blocks, M/s Suntera has defaulted on contractual obligation.

However, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) have expressed their interest in continuing with these Blocks. Therefore, no adverse impact on the progress of project is expected.

Environment Protection Technology

3484. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Kochi Refinery has developed an environment protection technology for removing toxic hydrogen sulphide gas produced when crude oil is heated to high temperature; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to promote and market this technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Vacuum Distillation is employed in Petroleum Refineries along with Atmospheric Distillation to recover the valuable hydrocarbon cuts like Vacuum Diesel and Vacuum Gas Oil from crude oil. During the

process, low molecular weight gas containing considerable amount of Hydrogen Sulphide Gas (H_2S) (as high as 25%—depending upon the Sulphur content of the crude process) is generated from vacuum distillation column. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Kochi Refinery has developed an in house Technology which helps in reducing environment pollution, through absorption of this toxic Hydrogen Sulphide gas and converting into solid sulphur. While the BPCL has taken up the development of a robust model for marketing this technology, it has filed an application for 'Patent' before the Controller of Patents and Design, Government of India, Chennai.

[Translation]

Textile Schemes in Madhya Pradesh

3485. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes being run to promote textile industry in the country particularly Madhya Pradesh during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the current schemes have been proved unsuccessful in its objectives;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts being made to make those schemes more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The names of the schemes run to promote textile industry in the country are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) All scheme are ongoing schemes. Review or assessment of the schemes to ascertain the effectiveness of the scheme is conducted at the end of the Plan period. However all the schemes have shown good progress.

Statement

I. Schemes run through Ministry of Textiles

(i) Development of Mega Cluster Scheme

- (ii) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS)
- (iii) Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC)
- (iv) Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) Scheme
- (v) Powerloom Scheme
 - (a) 20% Margin Money Subsidy Scheme
 - (b) Modified Group Workshed Scheme
 - (c) Group Insurance Scheme
 - (d) Integrated Scheme for Powerloom Cluster Development
- (vi) Jute Technology Mission (JTM)
- (vii) Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP)
- (viii) Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS)
- (ix) Studies for Export Promotion Scheme
- (iv) Human Resource Development Scheme
- (v) Rajiv Gandhi Shilpi Swasthya Bima Yojna
- (vi) Janashree Bima Yojna for Handicraft Artisans
- (vii) Research and Development Scheme

[English]

Congestion at Airports

3486. SHRI SOMEN MITRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to congestion at the International/National airports, landing and take-off take longer time which results in delay of flights;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the average number of flights operated in a day from each of the International/National airports in the country at present;

(d) whether the Government is thinking to put cap on operation of new flights due to decongestion of the airports; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to decongest the pressure at International/National airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Madam. In normal circumstances flights do not get delayed. But some times delay occurs due to bunching of flights on account of bad weather, technical/operational reasons, etc.

(c) The average number of flights operated in a day from each of the International Airports in the country is as under: Mumbai (MIAL)—654, Delhi (DIAL)—666, Chennai—306, Bangalore (BIAL)—280, Kolkata—231, Hyderabad (GHIAL)—219, Cochin—112, Ahmedabad—107, Guwahati—90, Trivandrum—71, Goa—64, Calicut—50, Jaipur—66, Nagpur—48, Port Blair—15, Srinagar—27, Amritsar—27, Pune—66, Indore—61, Juhu—60, Bhopal—59, Lucknow—56, Vadodra—54, Bhubaneswar—50, Coimbatore—42, Visakhapatnam—33, Ranchi—32, Raipur—31, Mangalore—30, Patna—27, Jammu—23,

II. Schemes run through Ministry of Textiles, Office of the Development Commission, Handlooms:—

- (i) Scheme for Supply of Yarn at Mill Gate Price
- (ii) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme
- (iii) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme
- (iv) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme
- (v) Handlooms Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme
- (vi) 10% Rebate Scheme (Non-Plan) for a period of three year i.e. 2006-07 to 2008-09
- (vii) Handloom Mark Scheme

III. Schemes run through Ministry of Textiles, Office of the Development Commissioner, Handicrafts:—

- (i) Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojna (AHVY)
- (ii) Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme
- (iii) Marketing Support and Services Scheme

Agartala—23, Trichy—21, Chandigarh—21, Udaipur—21, Imphal—19, Madurai—20, Bagdogra—19, Varanasi—16, Aurangabad—14, Silchar—11, Tirupati—9, Jodhpur—7, Leh—6, Rajkot—6, Gaya—1.

(d) and (e) Various steps have been taken up to decongest the pressure at major Airports:

1. Airport operators have initiated measures for high speed exit taxi-ways at Delhi and Mumbai airports. A parallel taxi-tracks has been constructed at Delhi airport by which runway occupancy time has been reduced considerably.
2. Delhi International Airport Ltd. has constructed third runway to accommodate more arrivals and departures at Delhi Airport.
3. Simultaneous use of both runways at Delhi and Mumbai airports has been started during the traffic congestion period.
4. The beginning of runway 32 and 27 have been joined by constructing a new taxi-track and beginning of runway 27 is being joined from international apron at Mumbai to reduce runway occupancy time.
5. AAI has already taken up the project for upgradation of 35 non-metro airports enable to handle the increased air traffic at those airports.
6. Improved ATC procedures have been designed.
7. Clearance Delivery Position has been established at Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad international airports to reduce R/T congestion.
8. Ban on general aviation aircraft during peak period at Mumbai airport has been imposed.
9. Advance Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (ASMGCS) along with surface

movement radar has been installed and in operation at Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports.

10. Kolkata ILS is being upgraded to CAT II ILS.
11. At the time of slot allocation schedule arrival and departure time are spread in such a manner that bunching should not take place resulting into delays.
12. The number of hourly movements of flights has been optimised at Mumbai and Delhi airports as per availability of runway/terminal building capacity.

Issuance of Licence to Airlines

3487. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any license during the last three years for non-scheduled airline operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of airlines that have commenced operations; and

(c) the policy adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Madam. For non-scheduled operations Government has issued 11, 37 and 11 NSOP (Non-Scheduled Operator Permit) in the year 2007, 2008 and 2009 respectively.

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

(c) Desirous Operator is to fulfill laid down Civil Aviation Requirements (CAR) issued by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for various category of non-schedule operations which are as under:—

NSOP-Pax-CAR Sec 3 Series C Part III

NSOP-Charter-CAR Sec 3 Series C Part V

NSOP-Cagro-CAR Sec 3 Series C Part IV

Statement*Details of NSOP issued in 2007, 2008 and 2009***Year 2007**

Sl. No.	Name of Operator	Permit No.	Date of issue
1.	M/s. Venture Aviation	01/2007	15-01-2007
2.	M/s. MDLR Airlines Pvt. Ltd.	02/2007	27-04-2007
3.	Government of Rajasthan	03/2007	09-05-2007
4.	M/s. Dove Airlines Pvt. Ltd.	04/2007	08-06-2007
5.	M/s. SKB Infracons Pvt. Ltd.	05/2007	21-06-2007
6.	M/s. GMR Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	06/2007	07-08-2007
7.	M/s. Sky Airways	07/2007	24-08-2007
8.	M/s. Fly Tech Aviation Ltd.	08/2007	20-09-2007
9.	M/s. GMR Industries Ltd.	09/2007	09-10-2007
10.	M/s. D.L.F. Ltd.	10/2007	18-10-2007
11.	M/s. Omega Airlines Ltd.	11/2007	07-12-2007

Year 2008

1.	M/s. E-Factor Adventure Tourism Pvt. Ltd.	01/2008	02-01-2008
2.	M/s. Reliance Commercial Dealers Pvt. Ltd.	02/2008	15-01-2008
3.	M/s. International Air Charters Operation (India) Ltd.	03/2008	16-01-2008
4.	M/s. Airmid Aviation Services Pvt. Ltd.	04/2008	30-01-2008
5.	M/s. SAR Aviation Service Pvt. Ltd.	05/2008	14-02-2008
6.	M/s. Welspun Logistics Ltd.	06/2008	28-02-2008
7.	M/s. Sun T.V. Network Ltd.	07/2008	28-03-2008
8.	M/s. VRL Logistics Ltd.	08/2008	04-04-2008
9.	M/s. Privilege Airways Pvt. Ltd.	09/2008	04-04-2008
10.	M/s. Malhotra Helicopter Pvt. Ltd.	10/2008	04-04-2008
11.	M/s. Saraya Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	11/2008	24-04-2008
12.	M/s. Confident Airlines India Ltd.	12/2008	07-05-2008

Sl. No.	Name of Operator	Permit No.	Date of issue
13.	M/s. Golden Wings Pvt. Ltd.	13/2008	08-05-2008
14.	M/s. Kestrel Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	14/2008	09-05-2008
15.	M/s. Air Charter Services Pvt. Ltd.	15/2008	15-05-2008
16.	M/s. Business Jets India Pvt. Ltd.	16/2008	23-05-2008
17.	M/s. A.A.A. Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	17/2008	11-06-2008
18.	M/s. SSP Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	18/2008	16-06-2008
19.	M/s. Punj Lloyd Aviation Ltd.	19/2008	26-06-2008
20.	M/s. Spencers Travel Services Ltd.	20/2008	27-06-2008
21.	M/s. GVK Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	21/2008	23-07-2008
22.	M/s. Gujarat Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	22/2008	07-08-2008
23.	M/s. Orbit Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	23/2008	26-08-2008
24.	M/s. Abir Constructions Pvt. Ltd.	24/2008	11-09-2008
25.	M/s. Pinnacle Air Pvt. Ltd.	25/2008	03-10-2008
26.	M/s. Deccan Charters Ltd.	26/2008	07-10-2008
27.	M/s. Visa Aviation Ltd.	27/2008	22-10-2008
28.	M/s. North East Shuttles Pvt. Ltd.	28/2008	23-10-2008
29.	M/s. Aerial Advertising Pvt. Ltd.	29/2008	24-10-2008
30.	M/s. Futura Travels Ltd.	30/2008	07-11-2008
31.	M/s. Amber Aviation India Pvt. Ltd.	31/2008	14-11-2008
32.	M/s. Quick Flight Ltd.	32/2008	28-11-2008
33.	M/s. I.L.C. Industries Ltd. Hospet	33/2008	01-12-2008
34.	M/s. Coromandel Travels Ltd.	34/2008	08-12-2008
35.	M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.	35/2008	23-12-2008
36.	M/s. Bajaj Auto Ltd.	36/2008	24-12-2008
37.	M/s. Oxford Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	37/2008	24-12-2008
Year 2009			
1.	M/s. Heligo Charters Pvt. Ltd.	01/2009	11-2-2009
2.	M/s. MSPL Ltd.	02/2009	12-2-2009

Sl. No.	Name of Operator	Permit No.	Date of issue
3.	M/s. Indra Air	03/2009	12-2-2009
4.	M/s. Mega Corporation Ltd.	04/2009	13-2-2009
5.	M/s. Camping Retreats of India Pvt. Ltd.	05/2009	24-2-2009
6.	M/s. Jai Prakash Associated Ltd.	06/2009	26-02-2009
7.	M/s. Global Projects and Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	07/2009	04-03-2009
8.	M/s. K.R. Chawla Infra and Aviation Academy Pvt. Ltd.	08/2009	05-03-2009
9.	M/s. Ranjit Pura Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.	09/2009	18-03-2009
10.	M/s. EON Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	10/2009	20-03-2009
11.	M/s. Swajas Air Chaters Pvt. Ltd.	11/2009	26-03-2009
12.	M/s. Ashok Leyland	12/2009	02-04-2009
13.	M/s. Aryan Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	13/2009	08-04-2009
14.	M/s. Simm Samm Airways	14/2009	09-04-2009
15.	M/s. Ashok Sawhny (M/s. Monarch International)	15/2009	09-04-2009
16.	M/s. Chimes Aviation	16/2009	17-04-2009
17.	M/s. Bhushan Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	17/2009	13-05-2009
18.	M/s. V.S.L. Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	18/2009	15-05-2009
19.	M/s. Spirit Air Pvt. Ltd.	19/2009	05-06-2009
20.	M/s. Turbo Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	20/2009	18-06-2009
21.	M/s. Crescent Air Cargo Services Pvt. Ltd.	21/2009	07-07-2009
22.	M/s. A.K. Aviation Pvt. Ltd.	22/2009	17-07-2009
23.	M/s. Shamanur Sugars Ltd.	23/2009	29-07-2009

Losses to Oil Companies

3488. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY:
SHRI AMARNATH PRADHAN:

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

(a) the total loss in terms of rupees suffered by the oil companies on per litre petroleum products like

petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG, company-wise;

(b) whether the Petroleum Ministry has urged the Finance Ministry for more compensation for oil companies incurring huge losses on fuel sales;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which the Finance Ministry has agreed to provide compensation to oil companies;

(e) whether the Government propose to increase the fuel prices; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Based on the Refinery Gate Prices applicable for the 1st fortnight of December, 2009, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), viz., Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) are incurring under-recoveries on the sale of sensitive petroleum products; namely, Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG. The details are given below:

(Rs./Litre/Cylinder)

Products	Under-recovery
Petrol	3.10
Diesel	2.55
PDS Kerosene	17.30
Domestic LPG	241.03

The under-recoveries incurred by the OMCs on the sensitive petroleum products during the period April 2009 to September 2009 are given below:

(Rs. crore)

Products	IOC	HPC	BPC	Total
Petrol	1016	560	621	2197
Diesel	1011	375	420	1806
PDS Kerosene	5029	1462	1268	7759
Domestic LPG	2108	981	1005	4094
Total	9164	3378	3314	15856

*Gross under recovery without upstream assistance and oil bonds.

The under-recoveries incurred on Petrol and Diesel amounting to Rs. 4,003 crore have been compensated by the Public Sector Upstream Oil Companies through price discounts on crude oil and products. For the balance under-recoveries of Rs. 11,853 crore on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG and the projected under-recoveries of Rs. 9,019 crore on these products for the period October 2009 to December 2009, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has made a request to the Ministry of Finance for sanction of Oil Bonds of this amount.

(d) Ministry of Finance has informed that the compensation to oil companies has not been covered in the First Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2009-10, which has been presented in Parliament on 08-12-2009.

(e) to (f) Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will take suitable pricing decisions at the appropriate time.

Late Running of Trains

3489. SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the various Bihar bound trains are constantly running late due to chain pulling and other disruptive activities; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to improve this situation alongwith the number of persons held responsible and punished for such incidents?

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

(b) The steps taken are:—

- (1) Chain pulling prone and notorious sections are identified.
- (2) Mail/Express trains on identified sections are escorted by GRP and RPF.
- (3) Regular security drives as well as Magistrate checks are conducted.
- (4) Close liaisoning with State officials is maintained.

State-wise data of the number of persons held responsible for chain pulling and other disruptive activities and punished for such incidents is not maintained. However, on East Central Railway the details with respect to Alarm chain pulling are as under:—

Number of persons prosecuted Jan-Nov. 09	=	1222
Number of persons convicted Jan-Nov. 09	=	1222

[Translation]

Opening of Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies

3490. DR. BALIRAM:

SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV:

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

(a) the number of petrol pumps/gas agencies propose to be open in Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Haryana and Chhattisgarh by the various agencies during the year 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 district-wise and locations-wise:

(b) the details of the procedure adopted by the Government for opening/starting these agencies; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the selection procedure of these agencies in order to start petrol pumps and gas agencies at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The number of Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships/LPG distributorships commissioned/to be commissioned by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Haryana and Chhattisgarh during 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are as follow:

Name of OMCs	No. of RO dealerships/LPG distributorships commissioned/ to be commissioned during 2008-09 to 2010-11	
	RO	LPG
IOC	554	37
BPC	137	91
HPC	164	93

The district-wise and location-wise details are available with Director (Marketing) of OMCs.

(b) and (c) New retail outlets/LPG distributorships are set up by OMCs at identified locations based on surveys and feasibility studies. Locations found to be having sufficient potential and which are economically viable are rostered in the State-wise Marketing Plans for setting up retail outlets/LPG distributorships. Setting up of retail outlet dealership/LPG distributorship involves various steps like issue of advertisements, scrutiny of applications, scrutiny of sites offered by candidates, interviews/selection of dealers, field verification of credentials of selected candidates, issue of Letter of Intent (LOI) procurement of land, obtaining various Statutory approvals, construction work, etc. The endeavour of the OMCs is to commission the RO dealership/LPG distributorship at the earliest after obtaining all the statutory approvals.

Malls at Railway Station

3491. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have taken a decision to open malls at railway stations across 64 cities;

(b) if so, the names of such stations identified; and

(c) the other sources identified by the Railways to mobilise additional resources for the development of Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 66 Railway stations serving places of pilgrimage, industry and tourist interests have been identified for development of Multi Functional Complexes (MFCs) for providing rail users facilities like shopping, food stalls and restaurants, book stalls, PCO/STD/ISD/FAX booths, medicine and variety stores, budget hotels, underground parking, etc. List of stations identified for development of MFCs is enclosed as Statement.

(c) In order to mobilize additional financial resources railways have set up Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) through the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2005 to undertake commercial development of vacant railway land and air space, which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs. Other methods followed by Government to mobilize additional resources for development of Railways are borrowing by Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and private participation in a number of areas. Activities like development of world class stations, setting up of rolling stock manufacturing units, investments in wagons and hospitality and tourism are some of the areas which have been identified for possible execution through private participation.

Statement

Sl. No.	Stations identified for development of Multi-Functional Complexes
1	2
1.	Alipurduar Jn.
2.	Allahabad

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

1	2
30.	Jhansi
31.	Jodhpur
32.	Kanniyakumari
33.	Kannur
34.	Kathgodam
35.	Katra
36.	Khajuraho
37.	Kottayam
38.	Kozhikkode
39.	Kurukshetra
40.	Madurai Junction
41.	Manmad
42.	Mysore Jn.
43.	Nainital
44.	Nasik Road
45.	New Alipore
46.	Palakkad Jn.
47.	Parasnath
48.	Rae-Bareli Jn.
49.	Raipur
50.	Rajahmundry
51.	Rajgir
52.	Rajkot
53.	Rameswaram
54.	Ranchi
55.	Shirdi
56.	Silchar

1	2
57.	Silliguri
58.	Talcher
59.	Tarapith Rd. (Rampurhat)
60.	Tiruchchirappalli Jn.
61.	Tiruvalla
62.	Trichur
63.	Udaipur City
64.	Ujjain
65.	Vadodara
66.	Visakhapatnam

[English]

Revamping of Rail Museum

3492. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to revamp the Rail Museum at New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details along with the attractions likely to be added particularly for the children and the revenue earned during each of the last three years through ticketing and also the details of expenses;

(c) whether there is also a proposal to enhance the existing facilities and to familiarize the existence of museum to the visiting tourists and make it disabled friendly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) It is proposed to improve the presentation of existing exhibits and to make them more interactive. Children are a major target audience. Revenue only from ticketing and expenditure for the last 3 years is as under:

Year	Revenue by Ticketing Rs. (In lakh)	Expenses in Rs. (In Lakh)
2006-07	37,44,341	150,06,763
2007-08	27,62,457	110,16,440
2008-09	35,31,609	206,50,712

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. Tourists are a target audience. Familiarization is achieved through the website and periodic advertisements. On date, wheel chair facility for disabled exists on demand.

[Translation]

Freightmiser Instrument

3493. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to install imported freightmiser instrument in the train engines for checking the rise in train accidents and also saving fuel;

(b) if so, whether any test in regard to the utility of freightmiser instrument has been conducted;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Railways are going to set up a plant for manufacturing freightmiser in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes Madam. Limited quantity of freightmiser instruments are being installed on diesel and electric locomotives for saving of HSD oil and electrical energy respectively. The trials are under progress on diesel locos. The equipment for electric loco has recently been received and trials are likely to start shortly.

(d) No, Madam.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Medical Colleges

3494. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have announced to start Medical Colleges in the country particularly in Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount earmarked for this purpose?

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

(b) Since the proposal is at an initial stage, it is not feasible to earmark the amount at present.

Reservation to Minorities

3495. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the constitution to provide reservation to the minority communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the alternative measures being taken by the Government to help the minority communities in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Madam. However, providing reservation to Backward Classes of Muslims minority community within 27% OBC quota is under active consideration of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government is implementing various affirmative schemes viz. Pre-matric scholarship, Post-matric scholarship, Merit-cum-means scholarship for technical and professional courses, Free coaching and allied and Multi-sectoral development programme for minority concentration districts for the five notified minority communities all over the country including Andhra Pradesh.

Demand and Supply of Steel

3496. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

SHRIMATI J. SHANTHA:

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Steel Association has predicted decline in demand of steel globally;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production of steel in the country during the last three years and current year company-wise;

(d) the details of gap between the demand and supply of steel in the country during the above period; and

(e) the steps taken to bridge the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) According to the Short Range Outlook released by the World Steel Association (WSA) in October, 2009, global apparent steel use is projected to decline both in 2008 and 2009 but is likely to increase in 2010. The World Steel Association projections are summarized below.

Year	Projected World Apparent Steel Use	
	Qty (million tonnes, or mt)	% change over last year
1	2	3
2008	1207 (actual)	-1.4%
2009	1104	-8.6%

Year	Total Finished Steel (non-alloy + alloy)			
	Production for sale	Import	Export	Consumption
2006-07	52.53	4.93	5.24	46.78
2007-08	56.08	7.03	5.08	52.12
2008-09*	56.42	5.72	3.66	52.05
April-Nov. 2009-10*	38.57	4.58	1.78	35.97

Source: JPC; * = provisional

1	2	3
2010	1206	9.2%

Source: World Steel Association

(c) producer/Producer-group-wise production of crude steel during the last three years is given in Statement enclosed. For the period April-November 2009-10 the figure is as below:

(in million tonnes)

Producer/ Group	Crude steel production: April-November 2009-10*
SAIL	8.97
RINL	2.01
Tata Steel Ltd	4.27
Major Producers	8.6
Other Producers	14.05
Total	37.9

Source: JPC; * = provisional

(d) Data on production for sale, import, export, consumption of total finished steel (non-alloy + alloy) in the country during the last three years and April-November 2009-10 is given in the table below and indicates that supply has always been able to meet the steel consumption during the period concerned:

(in million tonnes)

(e) Considering that the steel demand in India is likely to grow in the future, Government is facilitating setting up of new steel production capacities in the country. The public sector units under Ministry of Steel, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have already undertaken major capacity expansion plans. SAIL has planned to increase its present capacity from 13.82 million tonnes

per annum (mtpa) of crude steel to 23.46 mtpa by the year 2012-13. Similarly, RINL is also undertaking its liquid steel capacity from 3.0 mtpa to 6.3 mtpa by the year 2011-12.

There are also similar capacity expansion projects by the private sector, for which Government is providing all facilitation for timely completion of the projects.

Statement

Production for Sale of Finished Steel

(Non-Alloy and Steel)

('000 tonnes)

Plants	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09 (Prov.)
1	2	3	4
A. Public Sector			
Bhilai Steel Plant	3232	3603	3604
Durgapur Steel Plant	707	685	671
Rourkela Steel Plant	1939	2059	1944
Bokaro Steel Plant	3612	3592	3274
IISCO Steel Plant	316	316	318
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam	3042	2899	2558
Alloy Steel Plant	29	30	35
Salem Steel Plant	183	231	180
Visvesvaraya I and S Plant	131	133	89
Less Interplant Transfer	15	27	
Sub Total (A):	13176	13521	12673
B. Private Sector			
Tata Iron and Steel Co.	4423	4472	4543
Majors (Essar, Ispat, JSW and JSPL)	11629	13000	12775
Others	28418	30332	32225

1	2	3	4
Less Own Consump (Majors and Others)	5117	5250	5800
Sub Total (B):	39353	42554	43743
Total Production for Sale (A+B)	52529	56075	56416

Source: JPC

[*Translation*]

Increase in Prices of Drugs

3497. SHRI BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM WAKCHAURE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether patent law is likely to result in many fold increase in prices of medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the increase in the prices of essential and life saving drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) The existing Indian Patent Act and Drugs (Price and Control) Order, 1995 contains provisions which would take care that the patients are provided medicines at reasonable price.

[*English*]

Supply of Natural Gas to NTPC's Plants

3498. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Power had requested the Government to intervene in the matter of supply of natural gas by Reliance Industries Ltd. to NTPC's Kawas and Gandhar Power Plants;

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

(c) the details of the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Power's proposal for distribution of KG D6 gas to power sector vide their letter dated 17-3-2009, *inter alia*, recommended that existing power plant outside Andhra Pradesh be supplied KG D6 gas to enable them to operate at 60.5% Plant Load Factor (PLF), entailing allocation of 1.76 mmscmd and 0.30 mmscmd to Kawas and Gandhar power plants respectively. Accordingly, the mentioned quantity was allocated to NTPC's Kawas and Gandhar plants.

Subsequently, Ministry of Power vide their letter dated 8-6-2009 informed that, in view of litigation between RIL and NTPC regarding supply of gas for the latter's expansion projects in Kawas and Gandhar, NTPC would not take any KG D6 gas for their existing plants at Kawas and Gandhar. It was requested that gas earmarked for NTPC's Kawas and Gandhar plants be supplied to NTPC's plants in Northern part of the country and an equivalent quantity of Administered Price Mechanism (APM)/ Panna-Mukta-Tapti (PMT) gas should be diverted from NTPC's plant in the Northern part of the country to its Kawas and Gandhar power plants. Accordingly, Government agreed to the proposed swapping arrangement and decided to swap 2.71 mmscmd to enable NTPC's plants to operate at 70% PLF.

[*Translation*]

Construction of ROB

3499. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding construction of railway over bridges at railway crossings at L.C. 176-A in Barabanki-Faizabad section and L.C. 1-A in Barabanki-

Gonda section on Barabanki Deva road (Uttar Pradesh) is under consideration of the Railways;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to start after getting necessary approvals; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Although State Government has sponsored proposal for construction of over bridges but the requisite undertaking for closure of level crossing on completion of over bridge has not been furnished by them. Proposals can be considered on receipt of all the undertakings and fulfillment of other formalities required under extant rules.

[English]

Rail Projects in Tamil Nadu

3500. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA:

SHRI K. SUGUMAR:

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of ongoing/pending railway projects, survey of laying new railway line and road over bridge/ under bridge in Tamil Nadu alongwith target fixed for their completion;

(b) the amount allocated and spent thereon till date, project-wise;

(c) whether the Railways have any proposal to link Chamaraj Nagar with Mettupalaiyam in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Railways thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Details of the ongoing new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects, surveys for laying of new lines and Road Over/ Under Bridges falling fully/partly in the State of Tamil Nadu, outlay provided during 2009-10, expenditure incurred thereon and target date for completion, wherever fixed, are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) The work of Mysore-Chamarajanagar with extension to Mettupalayam was included in the Budget 1997-98. The survey of Chamarajanagar-Mettupalayam new line could not be done as Tamil Nadu Forest Department had not permitted Railways to conduct survey in the Forest area as the proposed line passes through important Elephant Corridor of Western Ghats.

On being denied permission by Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Railway has approached Central Empowered Committee (CEC), constituted under the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court for permission to conduct survey. CEC, after hearing the petition, has been unable to recommend the survey work.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Ongoing Projects	Expenditure incurred upto March, 2009	Outlay 2009-10	Status and target date for completion, wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5
New Line				
1.	Tindivanam-Gingee Tiruvannamalai (70 Km)	4.45	10	State Government is yet to hand over required land. Work on 04 major bridges has been taken up wherever land is available.

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Tindivanam-Nagari (179.2 Km)	9.05	25	State Government is yet to hand over required land. Work on major bridge across Palar river taken up. Tenders for earthwork, minor bridges and road bridges awarded.
3.	Attipattu-Puttur (88.30 Km)	0.31	45	Work entrusted to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL) for execution. Final location survey completed.
4.	Erode-Palani (91.05 Km)	0	02	Final location survey taken up.
5.	Chennai-Cuddalore via Mahabalipuram (179.28 Km)	0.01	02	Final location survey taken up.
6.	Karur-Salem (85 Km)	231.23	35.99	Earthwork, bridges, etc. taken up.
7.	Bangalore-Satyamangalam (260 Km)	0.28	0.10	Tamil Nadu Forest Department has not granted permission to carry survey through Reserve Forest Area. Central Empowered Committee constituted by Hon'ble Supreme Court has also not recommended this project as it will cause damage to Elephant Wild Life Sanctuary. State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been requested for their views on dropping of this project.

Gauge Conversion

1.	Villupuram-Katpadi (161 Km)	364.56	50	Katpadi-Vellore (10 Km) section completed. Vellore-Villupuram (151 Km) is targeted for 2009-10 which is nearing completion.
2.	Manamadurai-Virudhunagar (66.5 Km)	41.56	21	Earthwork, bridge works, etc. taken up.
3.	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat and Podanur-Coimbatore (224.88 Km)	54.20	31	Work on Podanur-Coimbatore (6 Km) section has been completed and work on Pollachi-Palghat (58 Km) and Dindigul-Pollachi (141 Km) sections have also been taken up.
4.	Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur-Karaikudi and Tiruturaipundi-Agastiyampalli (224 Km)	14.18	15	Earthwork, bridges, in Mayiladuturai-Tiruvarur section have been taken up. Final Location survey for Tiruvarur-

1	2	3	4	5
				Karaikudi section (149 Km) has been taken up.
5.	Madurai-Bodinayakkanur (90.41 Km)	0	01	Tenders for some bridges and Final Location Survey have been processed.
6.	Tiruchchirappalli-Nagore-Karaikal (200 Km) with extension of Nagapattinam-Velankanni-Tiruturaipundi via Tirukuvalai (43 Km)	332.42	30	Tiruchchirappalli-Thanjavur-Tiruvarur-Nagore section has already been commissioned. Nagapattinam-Velankanni new line is targeted for completion during 2009-10. Work on Nagore-Karaikal and Nagapattinam-Tiruturaipundi new line sections have also been taken up.
7.	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (357 Km)	473.55	70	Virudhunagar-Tenkasi-Sengottai (131 Km) and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur (61 Km) sections have been commissioned. Work on Quilon-Ponalur (45 Km) section is targeted for completion during 2009-10. Work on balance portion also taken up.
8.	Thanjavur-Villupuram	496.85	42	Completed. Section is awaiting inspection of Commissioner of Railway Safety.
Doubling				
1.	Chennai Beach-Korukkupet 3rd line (4.1 Km)	0.21	02	The work involves exchange of railway land at Royapuram with Chennai Port Trust and the same has been processed.
2.	Chennai Beach-Attipattu 4th line (22.1 Km)	0.16	11	The work involved exchange of railway land at Royapuram with Chennai Port Trust and the same has been processed.
3.	Chengalpattu-Villupuram (103 Km)	73.01	73	Earthwork, bridge works and ballast collection have been taken up.
4.	Villupuram-Dindigul with electrification (273 Km)	0.01	15	This work has been transferred to RVNL for execution. Final location survey has been taken up.
5.	Tiruvallur-Arakkonam 4th line (26.83 Km)	0	01	This work has been transferred to RVNL for execution. Final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition papers have been processed.
6.	Attipattu-Korukkupetta 3rd line (18 Km)	97.95	02	Korukkupet-Ennore (12 Km) section has already been commissioned. Work on

1	2	3	4	5
				Ennore-Attipattu (6 Km) has also been taken up and this work is likely to be completed during 2009-10.

II. Ongoing Surveys for New Rail Lines

Sl. No.	Survey	Length in km.	Status and Expected target date for completion
1.	Rameshwaram-Tuticorin-Kanyakumari	240	Survey taken up. March, 2010.
2.	Karaikudi-Tuticorin via Ramanathapuram	220	Survey taken up. March, 2010.
3.	Madurai (Bodinayakkanur)-Kottayam	211	Survey taken up. June, 2010.
4.	Madurai-Ernakulam (Cochin)	200	New survey included in the budget 2009-10. Target June, 2010.

III. Road over bridge/under bridge

In Tamil Nadu, 132 Road Over Bridges and Road Under Bridges are taken up which are in various stages of progress. Total cost of these works is Rs. 1584.90 crore and an expenditure of Rs. 87.16 crore has been incurred on these works upto October 2009. An outlay of Rs. 78.71 crore has been provided during 2009-10.

Railway Projects under PPP

3501. SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI:

SHRI BAIJAYANT PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set-up multi-functional complexes, develop of world class stations and set-up locomotive and Railway factories and undertake other developmental projects under the public-private partnership model;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Railways propose to take up such projects in the under-developed and developing areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Certain areas such as development of world class stations, setting up of manufacturing units for rolling stock and port connectivity projects have been identified for possible execution through public private partnership route. 39 Railway Stations have so far been identified for development into world class station.

Greenfield Electric Locomotive factory at Madhepura (Bihar), Diesel Locomotive Factory at Marhaura and ancillary units of Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and Diesel Locomotive Works at Dankuni (West Bengal) have been identified for development through partnership with Private Sector. Development of multi-functional complexes has been envisaged by Railway at 66 stations, either on its own or through Rail Land Development Authority in Joint Venture with Railway's Public Sector Undertakings, such as, IRCON International Limited, RITES Limited and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.

(c) and (d) These projects are taken up in a need based manner and not in terms of State jurisdictions.

V-Satellite

3502. SHRI N. CHELUVARAYA SWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have set up Satellite hub

to provide V-SAT connectivity to remote and inaccessible locations for operation requirement in the agency throughout the country including the State of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of such V-SAT hubs, State-wise and locations-wise; and

(c) the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The main satellite hub is located at New Delhi and the States-wise list of the locations which have been connected through very Small Aperture Terminals (V SAT), is given in the Statement.

(c) The system works on INSAT 4CR satellite Data from remote locations is received via INSAT 4CR satellite at the hub in New Delhi from where it is routed to different servers for further processing.

Statement

State-wise list of V-SAT Location

Sl. No.	State	Location
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Coal Mine, Sasti
2.		Coal Screening Plant, Ram Krishnapur, Mandamari
3.		Coal Siding, Manuguru
4.		Dubbada Railway Station
5.		Fertilizer Corporation, Vizag Port
6.		Godavari Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited, Kakinada
7.		Goods Siding, Vishakhapatnam Railway Station
8.		HPCL Siding, Vijayawada
9.		HPCL Siding, Vizag port
10.		IOC Siding, Vizag port
11.		Main Building, Vizag port
12.		Manchiryar Coal, Sri Rampur, Adilabad
13.		NALCO Siding, Vizag port
14.		Ramagundam Railway Station
15.		Coal Siding, Rudrampur
16.		RTPP Siding, Muddanuru Railway Station
17.		Secunderabad, Rail Nilayam
18.		Simhachalam Railway Station
19.		Thermal Power Station, Kothagudam

Sl. No.	State	Location
20.		Vijayawada Thermal Power Station, Vijayawada
21.		Vizag Steel Plant, Vishakhapatnam
22.		Zuari Cement Siding, Yerraguntala
23.	Assam	Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemical Ltd., New Bongaigaon
24.		Hebargaon Railway Station
25.		Ledo Railway Station
26.		Numaligarh Refinery Siding
27.	Bihar	Barauni Railway Station
28.	Chhattisgarh	ACEL, Bhatapara, Raipur
29.		Akaltara Railway Station
30.		Bacheli Railway Station
31.		Bhatgaon Siding, Karonji
32.		Bhilai Steel Plant, Durg, Shillai
33.		Bishrampur Railway Station
34.		Chirimiri Railway Station
35.		Curcha Coal Siding, Baikunthpore
36.		Dalliraja Railway Station
37.		Dipika Colliery, Korba
38.		Duman Hill, Darittola
39.		Grasim, Hathband, Raipur
40.		Himgiri Railway Station
41.		Jagdapur Railway Station
42.		Junadih Gevra Road Station
43.		Kirandul Railway Station
44.		Kirodimalnagar JSPS Siding, Raipur
45.		Koria Siding, Darittola
46.		Kotkona Siding, Katora

Sl. No.	State	Location
47.		Kumda Siding, Karonji
48.		L and T, Hathband, Raipur
49.		NACAST, Mandhar Cement Factory, Raipur
50.		New Kusunda Siding, Korba
51.		Old Kusmunda, Gevra Road Station
52.	Delhi	Baroda House, New Delhi
53.		CRIS, New Delhi
54.		IP siding, Delhi Railway Station
55.		IRPMU HQ, New Delhi
56.		Thomson Road, New Delhi
57.	Gujarat	Anara, Mundra Port, Kutch
58.		Gujarat State Electricity Corporation, Dhruvaran, Anand
59.		Halvad Railway Station
60.		Kalol Railway Station
61.		Maliya Miyana Railway Station
62.		Navlakhi Railway Station
63.		Pethapur Railway Station
64.		Reliance Rail Terminus, Karnalus
65.		Surendra Nagar Railway Station
66.		Wanakbori Thermal Power Station, Taluk—Thasara, Kheda
67.	Haryana	Bhatu Railway Station
68.		Bhua Railway Station
69.		Goods Shed, Bhadli Railway Station
70.		Gurgaon Railway Station
71.		Hissar Railway Station
72.		NFL Siding, Diwana Railway Station
73.		Sirsa Railway Station

Sl. No.	State	Location
74.	Himachal Pradesh	Pendara Road, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh
75.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu Tawi Railway Station
76.	Jharkhand	A Siding, Gidi Railway Station
77.		Bakudih Railway Station
78.		Barharwa Railway Station
79.		Barkakana Railway Station
80.		Barwadih Railway Station
81.		Bokaro Steel City
82.		Bokaro Steel City, Bokaro
83.		Coal Washery, Dugdha
84.		Coal Washery, Jamadoba
85.		Coal Washery, Khatara
86.		Coal Washery, Sudamdih
87.		Dongoposi Railway Station
88.		Garwah Road Railway Station
89.		Hazari Bagh Railway Station
90.		Jojebera Tata Private Mill, Singhbhum
91.		Kanudih Railway Station
92.		Katrasgarh Railway Station
93.		Khalari Railway Station
94.		Lohardage Railway Station
95.		Mahuda Railway Station
96.		Mahukunda Railway Station
97.		Meralgram Railway Station
98.		Patherdih Railway Station
99.		Patratu Railway Station
100.		Phusro Railway Station

Sl. No.	State	Location
101.		Rajarappa Washery, Ramgarh
102.		Ray Railway Station
103.		Ropeway Siding, Gomoh
104.		Ropeway Siding, Naomundi
105.		Singhbhum Railway Station
106.		Tisco Works, Jamshedpur
107.		Tori Railway Station
108.	Karnataka	CGS office, Sasalu Railway Station
109.		Chief Yard Master Office, New Mangalore
110.		Hubli Railway Station
111.		Raichur Thermal Power Station, Raichur
112.		Ranjitpura Railway Station
113.		Torangallu Railway Station
114.	Kerala	BPCL, Irumpamam
115.		Ernakulam Railway Station
116.		Nagercoil Railway Station
117.		Shoranur Railway Station
118.		Trivandrum Railway Station
119.	Madhya Pradesh	Amlai Railway Station
120.		Bhaga Railway Station
121.		Bijuri Coal Siding, Sahdol
122.		Burhar Coal Siding, Sahdol
123.		Dhansar BCCL, Dudhichua
124.		Gwalior Railway Station
125.		Jamuna OCM Siding, Harada
126.		Mudaria SGPT Siding, Birshinpur
127.		Nauradabad Railway Station

Sl. No.	State	Location
128.		Rajnagar Coal Siding, Bijuri
129.		Ratlam Railway Station
130.		Singrauli Railway Station
131.	Maharashtra	Goberwahi Railway Station
132.		Jasai/Panvel Railway Station
133.		Khapri Kheda Railway Station
134.		Koradhi Railway Station
135.		Marathwara Cement Work, Chandrapur
136.		New Pandharpavani, Chandrapur
137.		Sunflag Siding, Bhandara
138.	Orissa	Barsunam. PS Tensa, Dist. Sindargam
139.		Belapur Railway Station
140.		Bumapanka Railway Station
141.		Cement Siding, Dudwa
142.		Damanjori Railway Station
143.		EB Siding Deojhar, Banspani Railway Station
144.		FMP Siding, Joda
145.		Gadchandur Railway Station
146.		Goods Office, Kiriburu Railway Station
147.		Jajpur Keonihar Road Railway Station
148.		Jeypore Railway Station
149.		Joda East, Banspani Railway Station
150.		Joda Siding, Joda Keonjhar
151.		Kurdaroad Jn. Railway Station
152.		Nergundi Railway Station
153.		OCL Siding, Ajgainpur
154.		Paradeep Phosphate Ltd, Paradeep

Sl. No.	State	Location
155.		Paradeep Railway Station
156.		Paradeep Railway Station II
157.		Puri Railway Station
158.		Rourkela/HSL, Rourkela
159.		Straw Siding, Singapur Road
160.		Sukinda Road Railway Station
161.		Talchar Railway Station
162.		Vizag Steel, Damanjori Railway Station
163.	Punjab	Barnala Railway Station
164.		Dhandarikalan Railway Station
165.		Dhuri Railway Station
166.		Kotkapura Railway Station
167.		NFL, Nangaldam
168.		Rampuraphul Railway Station
169.		Sangrur Railway Station
170.		Sunam Railway Station
171.	Rajasthan	Band Baretha Railway Station
172.		Bhonra Railway Station
173.		Cement Siding, Banas, Ajmer
174.		Chanderiya Railway Station
175.		Hanumangam Railway Station
176.		Jaisalmer Railway Station
177.		Nawacity Railway Station
178.		Shambhupura Railway Station
179.		Suratgam Railway Station
180.		Thaiyat Hamira Railway Station
181.	Tamil Nadu	Attaptau Railway Station

Sl. No.	State	Location
182.		Coimbatore North
183.		Coimbatore Railway Station
184.		Erode Railway Station
185.		Madurai Railway Station
186.		Mettur Thermal Power Plant, Mettur
187.		Perambur Railway Station
188.		Talayuthu Railway Station
189.		Trichurupalli Railway Station
190.		Triunelveli Railway Station
191.		Vedalur Railway Station
192.		Virarakkiyam Railway Station
193.	Uttar Pradesh	Ait Railway Station
194.		Alamnagar Railway Station
195.		Babrala/TCL, Indradhan
196.		Bansi Paharpur Railway Station
197.		Bhim Sen Railway Station
198.		Bina Colliery, Dudhichua
199.		Chalesar Railway Station
200.		Chirgaon Railway Station
201.		Chopan Railway Station
202.		Etmadpur Railway Station
203.		Fatehpur Sikri Railway Station
204.		Goods Office, Subedarganj Railway Station
205.		Harduaganj Railway Station
206.		IFFCO, Phulpur
207.		IFFCO/Bisharatganj
208.		IOC Siding, Panki

Sl. No.	State	Location
209.		Jamuna Bridge Railway Station
210.		Kalpi Railway Station
211.		Kirauli Railway Station
212.		Konch Railway Station
213.		Kuberpur Railway Station
214.		Lalpur Railway Station
215.		Mirakur Railway Station
216.		Nakha Jungle Railway Station
217.		NTPC Siding, Dadari
218.		Paman Railway Station
219.		Panki Thermal Power House, Panki
220.		Parischa Railway Station
221.		Patholi Railway Station
222.		Renukoot Railway Station
223.		Roopwas Railway Station
224.		Roza Railway Station
225.		Sholaka Railway Station
226.		Thermal PH, Unchahar
227.		Thermal Power Station, Tanda
228.	West Bengal	Anara Railway Station
229.		Asansol Divisional Office
230.		Burnpur Railway Station
231.		Coal Washery, Bhojudih
232.		Durgachak Railway Station
233.		Haldia Dock Complex, Haldia
234.		Madhukunda Railway Station
235.		Pakur Railway Station

Sl. No.	State	Location
236.		Pandabeswar, Eastern Coal Field Limited
237.		Radhanagar Railway Station
238.		Rajgram Railway Station
239.		Ramkanali Jn. Railway Station
240.		Rukni Railway Station
241.		Sankrail, Howrah
242.		Santaldih Railway Station
243.		Sonachar, Eastern Coal Field Limited
244.		Ukhra, Eastern Coal Field Limited, Sonpur Bazar

SEZ for Food Parks

3503. SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extent benefits of Special Economic Zones to food parks so that the country could quickly emerge as a regional hub for food processing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) benefits are available only to SEZ Developers and units. Mega Food Park Scheme presently operates under different set of guidelines framed by the Government. In the 11th Plan the Ministry has approved a new scheme to establish 30 Mega Food Parks with a view to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure for food processing sector in the country on a pre-identified cluster basis with a strong backward and forward linkage and to provide value addition of agriculture commodities including poultry, meat, dairy, fisheries etc. in a demand driven manner. The ownership and management of the Mega Food Park would vest with a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in which organized retailers, processors, service providers, farmer groups etc. may be the equity holders. The products of the Food Processing Industries located in a

Mega Food Park can be sold to domestic as well as export market.

Demand and Production of Alcohol

3504. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the various sectors in the country use alcohol as raw material for their products;

(b) if so, the demand of alcohol in the country during 2008-09 and 2009-10 so far;

(c) whether the production of alcohol has decreased during the said period as compared to corresponding period of previous years in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of alcohol in view of the growing demand of alcohol in various sectors in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Alcohol is used by following three sectors as raw material:

1. Potable Sector by diluting and blending
2. By chemical industry for production of Acetic

Acid, Acetic Anhydride, Ethyl Acetate, MEG etc.

3. For blending with Petrol under the Ethanol Blending in Petrol Programme

(b) The demand of Alcohol in the country during 2008-09 was 2900 Million Litres approximately and that during 2009-10 (upto November, 2009) is estimated to be 2000 Million Litres approximately.

(c) and (d) The year-wise production of Alcohol in respect of major producing states was as follows:

Year	Production (Million Litres)
2004-05	1197.3
2005-06	1669.9
2006-07	2502.9
2007-08	2482.8
2008-09	2264.9

The above details indicate that the production of Alcohol is cyclic in nature.

(e) Government is exploring alternate sources for production of Alcohol to augment the growing demand. In order to ensure that adequate quantities of ethanol is supplied by the sugar industry, the Central Government vide notification issued on 9-10-2007 permitted conversion of sugarcane juice directly into ethanol by sugar factories. Therefore, in addition to the traditionally used raw material, viz. molasses for production of ethanol, the country can now produce ethanol directly from sugarcane juice also.

[Translation]

Salary to Foreign Pilots

3505. SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has been providing 25 per cent more salary to foreign pilots as against their Indian counterparts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this approach would not leave an adverse affect on the morale and professional interest of the Indian pilots;

(d) whether Air India recruits foreign pilots ignoring the Indian pilots; and

(e) the details of pilots working with the Air India at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There is no difference in the overall wage package of foreign pilots versus Indian Pilots.

(c) and (d) No, Madam.

(e) At present, 151 foreign pilots are working in Air India.

Sick Public Sector Fertilizer Units

3506. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy to let the private sector run the sick public sector fertilizer units on revenue sharing basis in order to revive them;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the detailed out line of this policy;

(c) whether the assessment of the sick public sector production units has been done before contemplating on the said policy; and

(d) if so, the total assets of these units as of now and the time by which such assessment was done and the institute involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) The Government has decided to explore the feasibility of revival of the closed public sector fertilizer units of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation

Limited (HFCL) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL) subject to assured availability of natural gas, to meet the emerging demand production gap of urea in the country. The Government has constituted an Empowered Committee of Secretaries (ECOS) with the mandate to evaluate all investment options for revival of the closed units of FCIL/HFCL and to make suitable recommendations for consideration of the Government. ECOS has already considered various possible investment options for revival of each of the closed units and have finalized its recommendations regarding the suitable financing option. The recommendations of ECOS are under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Coal Bed Methane

3507. SK. SAIDUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a few companies namely M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. (GEECL), Essar Oils, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) are engaged in exploring Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the rate of production, details of consumption and the optimum production level to be achieved by each of them along with the projected time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) M/s Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. (GEECL), Essar Oil Ltd. (EOL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), are operating one Coal Bed Methane (CBM) block each in the State of West Bengal. Commercial Production commenced since July, 2007 from only Raniganj (South) block, operated by GEECL.

At present, CBM gas production rate from Raniganj South is about 0.11 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD). Apart from internal consumption, the Gas is being sold to local Industries and is also being utilized as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

As per the approved Development Plan, the estimated peak production of gas @ 1.49 MMSCMD is

likely to be achieved by 2013 from Raniganj South Block.

The other two CBM blocks, operated by ONGC and EOL, are under exploration phase.

Shortage of Steel

3508. SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country is facing acute shortage of steel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the international and domestic price of steel during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the production of steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): (a) and (b) No, Madam. There is no shortage of steel in the country; as the domestic steel requirement are met both through domestic steel production as well as through imports from other countries. Provisional data for April-November 2009 also indicates that domestic availability of total finished steel (alloy + non-alloy) was at 41.37 million tonnes which is an increase of 7.1% as compared to same period of last year.

(c) The quarterly trend in indicative steel prices in respect of domestic and international market for two representative categories of steel, Hot Rolled Coil (Flat category) and TMT/Rebar (Long category) is given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) The Government is facilitating setting up of new steel production capacities in the country. The public sector units under Ministry of Steel, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) have already undertaking major capacity expansion plans. SAIL has planned to increase its present capacity from 13.82 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of crude steel to 23.46 mtpa by the year 2012-13. Similarly, RINL is also undertaking its liquid steel capacity from 3.0 mtpa to 6.3 mtpa by the year 2011-12.

There are also similar capacity expansion projects all facilitation for timely completion of the projects. by the private sector, for which Government is providing

Statement

I. Domestic and International Price Movements (on quarterly basis) of TMT Bars.

(i) Domestic Prices (including of all taxes and duties)

(Rs/tonne)

Period	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
April	29325	32250	46000	34122
July	27150	30800	43335	33274
October	26000	32550	40253	32328
January	28700	37450	36448	—

(Source: Joint Plant Committee)

(ii) International FOB (Average Price in US Dollar)

(Rs/tonne)

Period	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
April	—	487.5	920	480
July	—	525	1050	530
October	—	610	625	505
January	407.5	735	580	—

(Source: Steel Business Brief)

II. Domestic and International Price Movements (on quarterly basis) of HR Coil

(i) Domestic (including of all taxes and duties)

(Rs/tonne)

Period	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
1	2	3	4	5
April	33275	37450	49000	34491
July	34950	34700	45327	34419

1	2	3	4	5
October	34850	35425	44984	35503
January	32975	35350	34831	—

(Source: Joint Plant Committee)

(iii) International (FOB Average price in US Dollar)

(Rs/tonne)

Period	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
April	492.5	575	875	495
July	560	525	1040	530
October	485	595	625	475
January	495	675	575	—

(Source: Steel Business Briefing)

Regulatory Control of DGCA

3509. SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is mulling to issue a set of guidelines to bring aircraft and helicopters operated by the States under the purview of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether only two State Governments in the country operate their aircraft with Non Scheduled Operators Permit (NSOP);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some States do not comply with the laid down regulations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has prepared a draft Civil Aviation Requirements on the issue of operations, airworthiness and Safety

aspects of aircraft/helicopters belonging to State governments.

(c) and (d) Yes, Madam. The Governments of Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan are operating their aircraft under Non-Scheduled Operator Permit.

(e) and (f) State Governments are required to comply with the regulations laid down by DGCA. Adherence to laid down regulations is duly checked during the safety audit, spot checks and the surveillance inspections by DGCA and the deficiencies/observations observed during such inspections are taken up for corrective/remedial measures.

Hike in CNG Prices

3510. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to hike in CNG prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of its likely impact on the prices of transport sector and essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) CNG is sold by City Gas Distribution Companies, none of which are Central Public Sectors Undertakings (CPSUs). Further, approval of the Government is not needed for determining the prices of CNG. The price of CNG depends on various factors.

Private Airlines

3511. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private airlines in the domestic and international aviation sector presently operating and the sectors covered by them;

(b) whether the Government has received requests for permission to operate in the domestic and international sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is demand for covering such of the sectors which have so far remained unlinked by airlines; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to cover all the important sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Amongst private scheduled airlines, Jet Airways, JetLite and Kingfisher operate scheduled domestic and international air services. The details of domestic and international sectors covered by them are given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) All operators have to comply with the mandatory 5 years of flying within the Country and must have a fleet size of 20 aircraft, if they wish to fly overseas.

(d) and (e) For domestic operations, Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government.

Statement

Domestic Route

From	To	Jet Airways	JetLite	Kingfisher Airlines
Agartala	Guwahati	✓		✓
Agartala	Kolkata	✓		✓
Agatti	Cochin			✓
Agra	Delhi			✓
Ahmedabad	Bangalore			✓
Ahmedabad	Chennai		✓	
Ahmedabad	Delhi	✓	✓	✓
Ahmedabad	Hyderabad			✓
Ahmedabad	Indore	✓		✓
Ahmedabad	Mumbai	✓	✓	✓

From	To	Jet Airways	JetLite	Kingfisher Airlines
Aizawl	Kolkata			✓
Amritsar	Delhi	✓		✓
Aurangabad	Delhi	✓	✓	
Aurangabad	Hyderabad			✓
Aurangabad	Mumbai	✓		✓
Bagdogra	Delhi	✓		✓
Bagdogra	Guwahati	✓		✓
Bagdogra	Kolkata	✓		✓
Bangalore	Bhubaneshwar			✓
Bangalore	Calicut			✓
Bangalore	Chennai	✓		✓
Bangalore	Cochin	✓		✓
Bangalore	Coimbatore	✓		✓
Bangalore	Delhi	✓	✓	✓
Bangalore	Goa	✓		✓
Bangalore	Hubli			✓
Bangalore	Hyderabad	✓	✓	✓
Bangalore	Indore			✓
Bangalore	Kolkata	✓	✓	
Bangalore	Madurai			✓
Bangalore	Mangalore	✓		✓
Bangalore	Mumbai	✓	✓	✓
Bangalore	Pune	✓		✓
Bangalore	Trivandrum	✓		✓
Bangalore	Vijawada			✓
Bhavnagar	Mumbai	✓		✓
Bhopal	Delhi	✓		

From	To	Jet Airways	JetLite	Kingfisher Airlines
Bhopal	Indore	✓		
Bhopal	Mumbai	✓		
Bhopal	Raipur	✓		
Bhubaneswar	Delhi		✓	✓
Bhubaneswar	Kolkata		✓	✓
Bhubaneswar	Mumbai			✓
Bhuj	Mumbai	✓		✓
Calicut	Cochin			✓
Calicut	Mangalore			✓
Calicut	Mumbai		✓	
Chandigarh	Delhi	✓		✓
Chandigarh	Jammu			✓
Chandigarh	Mumbai	✓		✓
Chennai	Cochin	✓		✓
Chennai	Coimbatore	✓		✓
Chennai	Delhi	✓	✓	✓
Chennai	Goa		✓	
Chennai	Hyderabad	✓	✓	✓
Chennai	Kolkata	✓		
Chennai	Madurai	✓		✓
Chennai	Mumbai	✓		✓
Chennai	Portblair			✓
Chennai	Pune			✓
Chennai	Salem			✓
Chennai	Trichy			✓
Chennai	Trivandrum	✓		✓
Chennai	Tuticorin			✓

From	To	Jet Airways	JetLite	Kingfisher Airlines
Chennai	Vizag		✓	✓
Cochin	Delhi		✓	
Cochin	Hyderabad		✓	✓
Cochin	Mangalore			✓
Cochin	Mumbai	✓		✓
Cochin	Trivandrum			✓
Coimbatore	Hyderabad	✓		
Coimbatore	Mumbai	✓	✓	✓
Dehradun	Delhi			✓
Delhi	Dharamshala			✓
Delhi	Goa		✓	✓
Delhi	Gorakhpur		✓	
Delhi	Guwahati	✓	✓	✓
Delhi	Hyderabad	✓	✓	✓
Delhi	Indore	✓	✓	✓
Delhi	Jabalpur			✓
Delhi	Jaipur	✓	✓	✓
Delhi	Jammu		✓	✓
Delhi	Jodhpur	✓		
Delhi	Kolkata	✓	✓	✓
Delhi	Kullu			✓
Delhi	Leh	✓		✓
Delhi	Lucknow		✓	✓
Delhi	Mumbai	✓	✓	✓
Delhi	Nagpur		✓	
Delhi	Patna	✓	✓	
Delhi	Pune	✓	✓	✓

From	To	Jet Airways	JetLite	Kingfisher Airlines
Delhi	Raipur			✓
Delhi	Ranchi			✓
Delhi	Shimla			✓
Delhi	Srinagar	✓		✓
Delhi	Thoise	✓		
Delhi	Udaipur	✓		✓
Delhi	Vadodara	✓		
Delhi	Varanasi	✓		✓
Delhi	Vizag		✓	
Dibrugarh	Guwahati		✓	✓
Dibrugarh	Kolkata		✓	
Dimapur	Imphal			✓
Diu	Portbandar	✓		
Gaya	Kolkata			
Goa	Hyderabad	✓		✓
Goa	Mangalore			✓
Goa	Mumbai	✓	✓	✓
Goa	Pune			✓
Guwahati	Imphal		✓	✓
Guwahati	Jorhat		✓	✓
Guwahati	Kolkata	✓	✓	✓
Guwahati	Lilabari			✓
Guwahati	Mumbai			✓
Guwahati	Silchar			✓
Hubli	Mumbai			✓
Hyderabad	Kolkata	✓		✓
Hyderabad	Mumbai	✓	✓	✓

From	To	Jet Airways	JetLite	Kingfisher Airlines
Hyderabad	Nagpur		✓	✓
Hyderabad	Pune	✓	✓	✓
Hyderabad	Raipur	✓		✓
Hyderabad	Rajamundry	✓		✓
Hyderabad	Tirupati	✓		✓
Hyderabad	Vijaywada			✓
Hyderabad	Vizag		✓	✓
Imphal	Kolkata			✓
Imphal	Silchar			✓
Indore	Mumbai		✓	✓
Indore	Nagpur		✓	✓
Indore	Pune			✓
Indore	Raipur			✓
Jaipur	Jodhpur			✓
Jaipur	Kolkata	✓		
Jaipur	Mumbai	✓		✓
Jaipur	Udaipur	✓		
Jammu	Srinagar		✓	✓
Jamshedpur	Kolkata			✓
Jodhpur	Mumbai	✓		
Jodhpur	Udaipur			✓
Jorhat	Kolkata	✓		✓
Kandla	Mumbai			✓
Khajuraho	Varanasi	✓		✓
Kolhapur	Mumbai			✓
Kolkata	Lucknow		✓	
Kolkata	Mumbai	✓	✓	✓

From	To	Jet Airways	JetLite	Kingfisher Airlines
Kolkata	Patna		✓	✓
Kolkata	Portblair		✓	
Kolkata	Raipur		✓	✓
Kolkata	Ranchi		✓	✓
Kolkata	Silchar			✓
Kolkata	Vizag		✓	
Latur	Mumbai			✓
Lucknow	Mumbai		✓	✓
Mangalore	Mumbai	✓		✓
Mumbai	Diu	✓		
Mumbai	Nagpur		✓	✓
Mumbai	Nanded			✓
Mumbai	Nasik			✓
Mumbai	Patna			✓
Mumbai	Pune	✓		
Mumbai	Raipur		✓	
Mumbai	Rajkot	✓		
Mumbai	Sholapur			✓
Mumbai	Trivandrum	✓		✓
Mumbai	Udaipur	✓		✓
Mumbai	Vadodara	✓		✓
Nagpur	Bangalore			✓
Nanded	Latur			✓
Patna	Ranchi			✓
Porbandar	Mumbai	✓		

**International Routes Operated by Jet Airways,
JetLite and Kingfisher Airlines**

Jet Airways

1. Chennai-Singapore-Chennai
2. Chennai-Kuala Lumpur-Chennai
3. Chennai-Colombo-Chennai
4. Chennai-Brussels-New York and VV
5. Chennai-Dubai-Chennai
6. Cochin-Muscat-Cochin
7. Cochin-Doha-Cochin
8. Cochin-Kuwait-Cochin
9. Cochin-Sharjah-Cochin
10. Delhi-Singapore-Delhi
11. Delhi-Bangkok-Delhi
12. Delhi-London-Delhi
13. Delhi-Kathmandu-Delhi
14. Delhi-Dhaka-Delhi
15. Delhi-Dubai-Delhi
16. Delhi-Abu Dhabi-Delhi
17. Delhi-Brussels-Toronto and VV
18. Delhi-Hong Kong-Delhi
19. Hyderabad-Dubai-Hyderabad
20. Kolkata-Bangkok-Kolkata
21. Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata
22. Mumbai-Singapore-Mumbai
23. Mumbai-Bangkok-Mumbai
24. Mumbai-Hong Kong-Mumbai
25. Mumbai-London-Mumbai
26. Mumbai-Muscat-Mumbai
27. Mumbai-Dubai-Mumbai

28. Mumbai-Doha-Mumbai
29. Mumbai-Abu Dhabi-Mumbai
30. Mumbai-Bahrain-Mumbai
31. Mumbai-Brussels-Newark and VV
32. Mumbai-Jeddah-Mumbai
33. Mumbai-Riyadh-Mumbai
34. Mumbai-Kuwait-Mumbai
35. Mumbai-Kathmandu-Mumbai
36. Trivandrum-Muscat-Trivandrum
37. Bangkok-Gaya-Varanasi-Bangkok

JetLite

1. Chennai-Colombo-Chennai
2. Delhi-Kathmandu-Delhi

Kingfisher Airlines

1. Bangalore-Dubai-Bangalore
2. Chennai-Colombo-Chennai
3. Kolkata-Bangkok-Kolkata
4. Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata
5. Mumbai-Hong Kong-Mumbai
6. Mumbai-London-Mumbai
7. Mumbai-Singapore-Mumbai

*[Translation]***Introduction of Indore-Pune Passenger Train**

3512. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to introduce Indore-Pune (9311/12) passenger train on a daily basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Madam. At present, there is no proposal to increase the frequency of 9311/9312 Indore-Pune Express (tri-weekly).

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Passengers of Kaifiyat Express

3513. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are aware that the passengers are facing a lot of inconvenience due to non-availability of pantry car, lack of sanitation and water in the toilets in Kaifiyat Express;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said train often reaches several hours behind its scheduled time at its destination; and

(d) if so, the various steps being taken by the Railways to improve the amenities in the said train and ensure timely arrival of this train?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) To provide catering services to train passengers, train side vending facilities have been provided in Kaifiyat Express. Although no recorded complaint has been received regarding lack of sanitation and water in the toilet, instructions have been given to closely monitor the passenger amenities in the train. There are frequent complaints of loss in punctuality of Kaifiyat Express. Punctuality drive is being launched to effectively monitor the train. Provision of sanctioned work of 4th running line at Azamgarh and 3rd running line at Khurhat, Saraimir, Sarai Rani, Mohammadabad and Khurasan Road Stations will further improve its punctuality.

[English]

Supply of Potassium Chloride

3514. SHRI VARUN GANDHI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government supplies Potassium chloride to fertilizer companies at subsidized rate;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government imports Potassium Chloride; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and particulars about the use and allocation of the imported chemical?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) Potassium Chloride or Muriate of Potash (MOP) is a decontrolled and decanalized fertilizer. Government does not supply Potassium Chloride or MOP to fertilizer companies. Potassium Chloride or Muriate of Potash (MOP) is a straight Potassic fertilizer, which is included under the Concession Scheme and is provided to the farmers at subsidized rate. The country is entirely import dependent for meeting the requirements of MOP. MOP is imported and supplied by importers for agricultural use. Government has indicated Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of Rs. 4455 per MT at which MOP is made available to the farmer in the country for agricultural purpose. Gap between the total delivered cost of imported MOP and the MRP is provided to the importers as concession by the Government. Manufactures of potash containing complex fertilizers also import MOP for production of such complex fertilizers. Government provides concession for potash containing complex fertilizers also. MOP is not allowed to be sold in the country at subsidized price for purpose other than agriculture.

(c) and (d) Potassium Chloride or MOP is a decontrolled fertilizer and its import is on OGL. As such, Government does not import MOP and there is no direct involvement of Government in import of MOP. Importers bring MOP in the country and supply to the farmers for agricultural use in different states for which they claim concession from the Government. Year-wise import of MOP in the country for last five years is as follows:

Year	Quantity of MOP imported (lakh MT)
1	2
2004-05	34.09

1	2
2005-06	45.78
2006-07	34.48
2007-08	44.21
2008-09	53.46
2009-10 (upto Sept. 09)	8.83

[Translation]

Late Arrival/Departure of Flights

3515. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passengers are facing difficulties due to late arrival/departure of flights in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has taken any precautionary measures/ taking cognizance of the above situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to tackle the problem of late arrival/departure of flights; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) Passengers are inconvenienced in case the airlines are unable to adhere to their scheduled arrival/departure times. In order to ensure compliance of flight schedules by the airlines, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an Air Transport Circular 10 of 2009 on procedure to be followed by airlines, Air Traffic Control units and airport operators to mitigate delays. In addition, DGCA monitors on-time performance of scheduled airlines on monthly basis, which is displayed on DGCA's website.

[English]

Providing of Fertilizers through PDS

3516. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR: Will the

Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide fertilizers at the reduced rates through Public Distribution System (PDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) At present, there is no proposal to provide fertilizers at the reduced rates through Public Distribution System (PDS).

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, question do not arise.

Uniform Price of Natural Gas

3517. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government proposes to administer a uniform price of natural gas delivered to urea plants across the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has sought a common pooled price of natural gas delivered from different sources such as Administered Price Mechanism (APM), imported Reglassified-LNG (R-LNG) and D6 gas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also propose to review the existing transportation tariff policy to negate any specific advantage/disadvantage to the industry on account of its proximity distance from the source of natural gas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Government has asked GAIL (India)

Ltd. to undertake a study on pooling of prices of natural gas in the country. GAIL (India) Ltd. has engaged M/s Mercados EMI Pvt. Ltd., a premier consultancy organization, for the same.

(e) Presently, there is no such proposal under consideration.

(f) Do not arise.

Share of Revenue from RIL

3518. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN:

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

(a) whether RIL is not sharing with the Government the revenue it is collecting from customers under the marketing margin;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action initiated by the Government to claim its share of revenue from the marketing margin from RIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Under the provision of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government and the Contractor under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), the Government has approved a price formula for sale of KG-D6 gas at the PSC delivery point. The PSC provides for the sharing of the revenue between the Government and the Contractor of the sale of gas at the said price at the delivery point.

The marketing margin is beyond the delivery point and arises as a result of Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) signed between the Seller and the Buyer. The PSC does not envisage sharing of revenue earned by the Contractor on marketing margin between the Government and the Contractor.

(c) Does not arise.

Safety Regulations

3519. SHRI R. DHROVANARAYANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked the Government to prevent severely stressed Indian carriers from inducting more aircraft into their fleet till such time that they meet all the safety regulations for existing fleet and their finances improve;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the DGCA has also asked for detailed financial audit of severely strained airlines;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has undertaken an audit of the functioning of domestic carriers last April ascertaining the wage payment status, dues to airports, dues to oil companies and overall income/expenditure status; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has carried out Financial Condition and Rapid Growth/ Downsizing Assessment of Scheduled domestic Airlines in April 2009 to ensure that safety oversight functions of the airlines are not compromised.

(c) to (f) Based on the above study, DGCA has recommended that detailed financial audit of airlines in deep financial distress be considered and fleet expansion of airlines to be commensurate with the capability of the carrier to comply with various regulatory provisions.

Fuel Pipeline between Chennai to Thiruchirapalli

3520. SHRI K. SUGUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Tamil Nadu network of fuel pipeline connecting Chennai to Thiruchirapalli and Madurai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCI) has laid a 683 km long, 1.8 million metric tonne

per annum (mmtpa) petroleum product pipeline from Chennai to Thiruchirapalli and Madurai with a branch pipeline from Asanur to Sankari in 2005. The pipeline is being augmented to 2.3 mmtpa.

Further, Government has authorized Reliance Gas Transportation Infrastructure Ltd. (RGTIL) for laying Kakinada-Belore-Chennai, Chennai-Bangalore-Mangalore and Chennai-Tuticorin natural gas trunk pipelines.

[Translation]

Production Cost of Fertilizers

3521. SHRI JAGDISH SHARMA:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

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

(a) whether the production cost of Naphtha based fertilizer manufacturing units is more than the gas based fertilizer manufacturing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the average production cost of fertilizer manufacturing units of both naphtha based and gas based at national level in 2008-09;

(c) whether the number of gas based manufacturing units have increased in the country during the last three years to minimize the production cost of fertilizers; and

(d) if so, the details and the number of such units during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) So far as production cost of urea is concerned, the provisional weighted average concession rates for urea for 2008-09 for gas based and naphtha based is as under:—

	Gas based units	Naphtha based units
Weighted Average provisional concession rate during 2008-09 (Rs. Per MT of Urea)	10891 (20 units)	23352 (4 units)

So far as complex fertilizers are concerned, three NPK complex producing units namely Madras Fertilizers Limited (MFL), The Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) and Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Company Limited (GNVFC) are compensated under

the Concession Scheme on the basis of naphtha feedstock. The details of average production cost of some fertilizer units in naphtha and gas categories for the period 2008-09 (from 18-6-2008 to March 2009) are as under:—

Naphtha based prices				(Rs/MT)
Name of Units	NPK product	MRP 18-6-2008	Subsidy	Average cost of production
1	2	3	4	5
MFL	17:17:17	6295	24196	30491
FACT (Cochin)	20:20:0:13	6295	23196	29491
FACT (Udyogmandal)	20:20:0:13	6295	23296	29591
GNVFC	20:20:0:0	5343	19665	25008

1	2	3	4	5
		Gas based prices		(Rs/MT)
GSFC (Baroda)	20:20:0:13	6295	19041	25336
Deepak Fertilizers	23:23:00	6145	17691	23836
RCF	15:15:15	5121	18733	23854

(c) and (d) The following naphtha based units have converted to gas based in the last three years:

- (i) Gadepan-II unit of Chambal Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited
- (ii) Phulpur-II unit of Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative
- (iii) Kota unit of Shriram Fertilizers.

[English]

Railway Projects in Kerala

3522. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:

SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

SHRI M.I. SHANAVAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of ongoing/pending projects, doubling and gauge conversion of rail lines, survey for laying the new rail lines and ROB/RUB in Kerala alongwith the target fixed for their completion;

(b) the amount allocated and spent thereon till date, project-wise; and

(c) the details of broad gauge and metre gauge railway lines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Details of the ongoing new line, gauge conversion and doubling projects, surveys for laying of new lines and Road Over/Under Bridges falling fully/partly in the State of Kerala, outlay provided during 2009-10, expenditure incurred thereon and target date for completion, wherever fixed, are given as under:—

I. Ongoing Projects

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Expenditure incurred upto March, 2009	Outlay 2009-10	Status and target date for completion, wherever fixed
1	2	3	4	5
New Line				
1.	Tirunavaya-Guruvayur (35 km)	8.74	26.74	Local People are objecting to the alignment being fixed for this new line. Final location survey held up due to public protest.
2.	Angamali-Sabarimala (116 km)	45.12	15.00	State Government is yet to hand over required land to Railways. Hon'ble High

1	2	3	4	5
				Cout of Kerala has directed Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Environment and Forest to examine the representations received from local people.
Gauge Conversion				
1.	Dindigul-Pollachi-Palghat and Podanur-Coimbatore (224.88 km)	54.20	31	Work on Podanur-Coimbatore (6 km) section has been completed and work on Pollachi-Palghat (58 km) and Dindigul-Pollachi (141 km) sections have also been taken up.
2.	Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur and Tenkasi-Virudhunagar (357 km)	473.55	70	Virudhunagar-Tenkasi-Sengottai (131 km) and Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur (61 km) sections completed. Work on Quilon-Ponalur (45 km) section is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
Doubling				
1.	Mulanturutti-Kuruppantara (24 km)	21.03	15.00	State Government is yet to hand over required land to Railways. Bridge works taken up.
2.	Kuruppantara-Chingavanam (26.54 km)	2.82	15.00	Final location survey completed. Requisition for 30 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over.
3.	Chengannur-Chingavanam (26.5 km)	9.03	26.00	Requisition for 18.88 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over.
4.	Mavelikara-Chengannur (12.3 km)	40.66	10.00	Work is slow due to frequent stoppages of earthmoving vehicles by local people and State Authorities. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
5.	Cheppad-Kayankulam (7.76 km)	27.22	11.00	Contracts for all works have been finalised. Work is affected due to frequent interruption by local people. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
6.	Cheppad-Haripad (5.28 km)	12.98	8.00	Work is slow due to frequent stoppage of earth moving vehicles by locals and failure of contracts. New contracts have

1	2	3	4	5
				been processed. Work is targeted for completion during 2009-10.
7.	Ambalapuzha-Haripad (18.13 km)	1.98	10.00	Requisition for 16 hectare of land has been submitted to State Government. No land is handed over.

II. Ongoing Surveys for New Rail Lines

Sl. No.	Survey	Length in km	Status and expected target date for completion
1.	Madurai (Bodinayakkanur) Kottayam	211	Survey taken up. March, 2010.
2.	Madurai-Ernakulam (Cochin)	200	New survey included in the budget 2009-10.
3.	Erumell-Pathanamthita-Punalur-Thiruvananthapuram	136	New Survey included in the budget 2009-10.
4.	Idappalli-Guruvayur	77	Updating survey taken up.

III. Road Over Bridge/Road Under Bridge (ROB/RUB):

59 Road Over bridges and Road Under Bridges in Kerala have taken up and the same are in various stages of progress. Total cost of these works is Rs. 597.62 crore and an expenditure of Rs. 27.52 crore has been incurred on these works upto October, 2009. An outlay of Rs. 33.49 crore has been provided during 2009-10.

(c) As on 31-3-2009, there is 52,808 km Broad Gauge and 8,473 km Metre Gauge railway lines (Route Kilometers) respectively in the country.

Sale Price of Natural Gas Extracted from KG Basin

3523. SHRI RUDRAMADHAB RAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has the right to fix selling price for the gas extracted from the KG Basin;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the only price discovery on the selling

price of natural gas from D6 Block of KG Basin was NTPC's international order;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) the reasons for not implementing the gas agreement between NTPC and RIL;

(f) whether the Government had issued any notification for increasing the gas price from 2.34 to 4.20;

(g) if so, when; and

(h) if not, at whose behest the Government is trying to push the price of gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC), the formula or basis on which the prices are to be determined is required to be approved by the Government prior to the sale of natural gas to the consumers/buyers.

(c) to (e) The Contractor of the KG DWN-98/3 Block submitted the price formula for approval of the Government prior to sale of natural gas. After examining

the formula submitted by the Contractor, Government approved the formula on the basis of which prices of gas can vary from 2.5 to 4.2 \$/mmbtu depending on the price of crude in the international market from US \$ 25/barrel to US \$ 60 per barrel and above.

(f) No, Madam.

(g) to (h) Does not arise.

Oil Exploration in Siberia

3524. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation plans to expand and consolidate crude oil production in western Siberia through its newly acquired firm Imperial Energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which ONGC has been able to obtain overseas exploration orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), is engaged in overseas exploration and production of oil and gas to supplement the efforts of the parent company ONGC and to augment the national energy security. After the acquisition of Imperial Energy having assets in Tomsk region, OVL has initiated numerous activities towards enhancement/optimization of production on sustainable basis in line with the best industry practices for maintenance of reservoir health. Present emphasis is on evolving complete geological understanding of the fields, integrating all related data and appraisal program.

(c) OVL has not acquired any overseas exploration orders after the acquisition of Imperial Energy.

Increase in Capital Cost of RIL

3525. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased the capital cost of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) for exploration of Gas at the D6 Block of Krishna Godavari Basin (KG);

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

(c) the likely impact of this measure on the revenue sharing agreement of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The capital cost in KG-D6 Project has been revised from USD 2.47 billion in November, 2004 to USD 8.83 billion in 2007. This revised capital cost has been approved by Managing Committee. The Managing Committee was constituted in accordance with the provisions in the Production Sharing Contract (PSC). The revision was broadly on account of the following:—

- (i) Recoverable reserves increased from 3.81 Trillion Cubic Feet (TCF) gas to 10.02 TCF gas.
- (ii) Production facilities were increased from 40 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) to 120 MMSCMD.
- (iii) Peak gas production was increased from 40 MMSCMD to 80 MMSCMD.
- (iv) Number of development wells increased from 34 to 50.
- (v) Field life increased from 9 years to 13 years.
- (vi) Installation of shallow water compressor platform for pressure maintenance and control.
- (vii) Inflationary trends in the E and P equipment and services industry.

(c) The increase in capital expenditure has resulted in enhanced recoverable reserves and a higher level of peak production. The net impact is expected to be higher profit petroleum and royalty.

Setting Up of Aviation University

3526. SHRI PONNAM PRABHAKAR:

SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI ANANTHA VENKATARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up aviation universities in the Eleventh Five Year Plan in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is no proposal to set up aviation universities under the aegis of the Ministry of Civil Aviation during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Setting Up of Hangar at Thiruvananthapuram Airport

3527. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to setup an Air India hanger in Thiruvananthapuram International Airport;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started for operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Madam. Construction of two hangars for carrying out phase and 'C' check of the B737-800 fleet of Air India Express has already commenced at Thiruvananthapuram. The hangar is expected to be operationalised by March/April, 2010 subject to availability of the taxi track connecting the hangar to Runway by the Airports Authority of India.

Judicial Reforms

3528. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT:

SHRI MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN:

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to take various measures for judicial reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether road-map for judicial review has been discussed in the National Consultative Meeting of Legal Luminaries and judges held in October, 2009;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the time by which reforms are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Government is preparing a roadmap for judicial reforms in the country which aims, *inter alia*, at reducing pendency in the courts, providing, quick and effective justice, introducing accountability of the judges and bringing in transparency in judicial process for the litigants.

(c) and (d) A "National Consultation for Strengthening the Judiciary towards reducing pendency and delays" was held on 24th-25th October, 2009 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, which was, among others, attended by the Chief Justice of India, other Supreme Court Judges, Chief Justices of High Courts along with another Judge of every High Court, two District Court Judges from every High Court, State Law Secretaries, Advocate Generals of State Governments, representatives of academia, eminent jurists and the President and office bearers of the Bar Council of India. A Vision Statement was presented to the Chief Justice of India in the National Consultation, which was considered and deliberated. A Resolution was adopted at the end of the National Consultation. A copy of the Resolution is enclosed as Statement. Based on this, a Blue Print for Judicial Reforms has been drawn up which is available on the web-site of Department of Justice (www.lawmin.nic.in).

(e) No definite timeframe can be indicated.

Statement**Resolution dated 25th October, 2009**

The Participants,

Reiterating the Constitutional promise to deliver equal justice under law to all citizens and to provide access to justice to all, particularly the weaker sections of society

Noting that the President of India in her address to the Joint session of Parliament delivered on June 3rd, 2009 had emphasized the need for a roadmap for judicial reforms.

Noting that the Prime Minister of India in his address to the Conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices on August 16th, 2009 described the huge arrears and case backlogs as the prime source of concern in relation to the Indian legal system.

Recalling the consensus of all those present, including the Honourable Chief Justice of India, the Honourable Union Minister for Law and Justice, the Honourable Attorney General of India and the Learned Solicitor General of India and others that the pendency and delays in the courts calls for urgent and immediate action.

Reaffirming the commitment of those present including the Justices of the Supreme Court of India and other members of the Judiciary, Judicial officers, Law officers, Members of the Bar, representatives of the Union Ministry of Law and Justice and members of the public to dedicate themselves to reduce the pendency of cases from 15 years to 3 years and to work together to implement the various steps required to ensure expeditious, quality and inclusive justice.

Taking Note of the Vision Document presented by the Honourable Union Minister of Law and Justice to the Honourable Chief Justice of India.

Adopt the Vision Statement and Action Plan as a public commitment for redesigning the justice delivery system to reduce pendency and delays.

Urge all constituents to recognise their special role and responsibility to implement the Action Plan.

Decide that to implement the Action Plan the National Arrears Grid and the Special Purpose vehicle be incorporated no later than 26th November 2009, Law Day.

Recommend the High Court's make available all the data for the National Grid by 30th November 2009.

Also decide that the implementation of the Action Plan should focus on human resource development, infrastructure development and procedural reforms.

Commit to comprehensive human resource development in all sectors including judges lawyers, law officers, prosecutors and court staff in an inclusive manner.

Further commit to efficient and optimum utilization of existing infrastructure and improvements and additions to physical and technological infrastructure.

Also commit to specific implementation of procedural reforms at all levels in a time bound manner including curtailment of adjournments, introducing a system of continuous hearing in civil cases and criminal trials and expediting execution proceedings by removing unnecessary delays.

Acknowledge the initiative undertaken by the Government of India to frame a National Litigation Policy by 31st December 2009 with a view to ensure conduct of responsible litigation by the Central Government and urges every State Government to evolve similar policies.

Welcome and Applaud the idea of an Spy as an autonomous and flexible means to provide infrastructural, managerial, technological and manpower services to the Judiciary and the singular contribution of Dr. Sam Pitroda in the conceptualisation of the SPV and the implementation of its programs.

Bearing in mind that all such changes should focus on inclusive growth reaching all levels of society and acknowledging the need to create an Indian model.

Request the Central Government to make available adequate and committed resources to implement and support the Action Plan.

Recognize the need for mediation and other methods of dispute resolution as an organized mainstream justice delivery mechanism.

Further recognize the principle behind judicial appointments should be delivery of quality and expeditious justice and public service.

Commend for consideration the establishment of a All- India Judicial Service through an open competitive examination ensuring the best possible selection.

Welcome the suggestion of the Honourable Chief Justice of India for a notional increase in the sanctioned strength of judges by 25% in order to enable the judiciary to make advance selection for appointment as soon as the vacancy arises.

Also recognise the need for appointment of ad hoc judges at all levels of the judiciary on a temporary basis from amongst retired judges and members of the bar.

Recommend the creation of a National Pool of Judicial Officers from retired judges to enable persons from the pool to be appointed as HC judges in various states.

Recommend assigning special judges to deal with all pending criminal cases where the term is less than 3 years.

Welcome and Applaud the leadership given the by the Chief Justice of India, Judges of the Supreme Court and Chief Justices of the various High Courts and their colleagues, Bar Councils of India and Bar Associations for their positive role in initiating and furthering a meaningful dialogue to further the objectives of the vision document.

Revision of Article 311

3529. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to review Article 311 of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Gas Supply Agreement between RIL and RNRL

3530. SHRI P. LINGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a copy of the gas supply agreement made between Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and Reliance Natural Resources Ltd. (RNRL) was submitted to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this agreement was in compliance with the provisions of the production sharing contracts (PCS); and

(d) if not, the reasons for not terminating the PSC ab-initio?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The block KG-DWN-98/3 was awarded to the consortium of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and NIKO Resources Limited. As per records available in the Ministry, no such agreement was received in the Ministry. However as per the Production Sharing Contract (PSC), there is no such provision which warrants the Contractor to submit any Gas Supply Agreement to the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Extraction of Gas from KG Basin

3531. DR. SANJEEV GANESH NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispute between Reliance Industries and Reliance Natural Resources is creating problems in the extraction of gas in Krishna-Godavari basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role of government in this dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) No, Madam. The extraction of gas and supply to consumers of gas is being done in

accordance with the policies of the Government. However, the Petroleum Ministry has filed a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court against the Reliance Natural Resources Limited (RNRL) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to protect interest of the Government and public at large as the implication of Bombay High Court judgment has the potential of giving effect to the private MOU between the two companies and thereby ignoring the gas utilization policy and pricing policy of the Government which Government has approved in terms of its rights and obligations under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC).

Production of Gas from KG Basin

3532. SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of gas being produced from D6 block of KG basin by Reliance Industries Ltd. at present;

(b) whether the company propose to supply the full production to the Government or has made any commitment to some other parties;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the gas would be supplied to Power plants and industries in Kerala when the peak production start from the peak production start from the D6 Block of KG basin; and

(e) the time by which the peak production is likely to start from the D6 block of KG basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) The current gas production from DI and D3 Gas fields is about 48 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) and from MA Field is about 2.3 MMSCMD in KG-D6 block.

(b) and (c) The gas produced from KG-D6 block is being allocated and sold as per directives of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM).

(d) No, Madam.

(e) The peak gas production of about 80 MMSCMD

from KG-D6 block is likely to be achieved during mid 2010.

MoU between IOC and Indo Gulf Fertilizers

3533. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI:

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation and Indo Gulf Fertilizers had signed any MoU for jointly marketing products needed for farming;

(b) If so, the details of the retail outlets of fertilizers set up jointly in the country for marketing products, so far State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has expanded its retail network in rural areas through low-cost outlets in markets for catering to rural/agriculture customers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Indo Gulf Fertilizers (IGFL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to make IGFL products available to the farmers through rural retail outlets of IOC known as Kisan Seva Kendras (KSKs). This agreement between IGFL and IOC is restricted to the supply and servicing of agricultural inputs only in the states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) and (d) KSKs are low cost retail outlets developed by IOC since 2004-05 to cater to rural/agricultural market in order to reach diesel, other petroleum products and non-fuel products at Kisan's doorstep. As on 01-10-2009, 2672 KSKs have been set up by IOC in the country.

[Translation]

Straying Cattle on Railway Track

3534. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:

SHRI VISHWA MOHAN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the railway services are being disrupted due to stray cattle and pets on railway tracks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision exists for imposing penalty on cattle owners under Railway Act to check such incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial steps taken/being taken by the Railways thereon?

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

(b) Due to cattle run over the total number of trains that have lost punctuality on the zonal railways during the month of November, 2009 is approximately 298 trains.

(c) No, Madam.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Drivers of trains are instructed to keep a sharp lookout and whistle frequently in all such cases.

[English]

Reform Agenda

3535. SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertilizer department had been working on a reform agenda; and

(b) if so, the details of the reform agenda and salient features which are contained in the proposed reform agenda alongwith the status of formulation of the said agenda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Government intends to move towards a nutrient based subsidy regime in order to ensure balanced application of fertilizers and increase in agriculture productivity. The Nutrient Based Subsidy

regime is under consideration of Group of Ministers constituted to examine the nutrient based subsidy policy and measures for rationalization of fertilizer subsidy disbursement.

[Translation]

Powers of RPF

3536. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ:

SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Protection Force (RPF) has been vested with powers to apprehend and detain the accused within the railway premises for interrogation before handing over to the concerned local police authorities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of cases of misbehavior with passengers such as eve-teasing and atrocities registered against the Railway Protection Force and Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTE) during each of the last three years and the current year, zone-wise; and

(d) the details of action taken against the guilty employees, during the said period, zone-wise and case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Officers of the rank of Assistant Sub-Inspector and above, are empowered to arrest, conduct inquiry and produce the accused before the court of law under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act when found with stolen railway property. Further, Assistant Sub-Inspector and above rank Officers are also empowered under Section 179 (2) of the Railway Act to arrest, conduct enquiry and produce before court of law an offender who commits an offence mentioned in Sections 137 to 139, 141 to 147, 153 to 157, 159 to 167 and 172 to 176 of the Act. Sections 12 and 13 of the RPF Act also authorize a member of the force to arrest without warrant and search under circumstances specified in these sections.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[English]

Export of Cars and Two Wheelers

3537. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of cars and two wheelers from India to various countries has gone up in the recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the amount of foreign exchange earned during the

above period;

(c) whether the country is fast becoming car manufacturing hub; and

(d) if so, the details along with the export targets fixed for the next three years and to promote this trend continuously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARUN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. As per the information received from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the export of passenger cars and two wheelers from India has gone up. The details thereof for the last three years are as under:—

Category	Exports (In Numbers)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Passenger Cars	192,723	211,112	331,539
% Growth	13.37	9.54	57.04
Two Wheelers	619,644	819,713	1,004,174
% Growth	20.75	32.29	22.50

As per the information received from Department of Commerce, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) the details of foreign exchange earned as a

result of export of cars and two wheelers during the period are as under:—

(Rupees in crores)

ITCHS Code	Item Description	2006-07	2007-08	April, 2008 to February, 2009
8703	Motor Cars and other motor vehicles including RCNG cars, etc.	5134.10	5575.07	9999.19
8711	Motorcycles including mopeds and cycles fitted with auxlry motors, etc.	1383.15	1180.39	2101.63

(c) and (d) As per the information received from the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), India is producing more than 1 million cars in a year

with the last three years average growth rate being 10.69%. The production of passenger cars during the last three years is as under:—

Category	Production (In Numbers)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Passenger Cars	1,238,021	1,426,212	1,516,791
% Growth	18.34	15.20	6.35

However, there are no export targets for any specific category of vehicles but to encourage export of small cars and two wheelers, Department of Commerce, DGFT announced a Market linked Focus Product Scheme in addition to earlier schemes like Focus Market Scheme, DEPB, Drawback Scheme etc.

Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme

3538. SHRI PRADEEP MAJHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has made any recommendations in areas related to flight operations, air navigation services and aerodromes under their universal safety oversight audit programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has complied with all such recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether ICAO has detected deficiencies during their audit resulting in delay in implementation of their recommendations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) under its Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) conducted an audit of India in October 2006 and made 27 recommendations. 07 of these relate to flight operations, 11 to air navigation services and 09 to aerodromes.

(c) and (d) While action on all the findings in the

area of flight operations has been completed, action on 07 of the ICAO findings in the areas of air navigation services and 05 findings on aerodromes have been completed.

(e) and (f) No, Madam. ICAO provides States the opportunity to make available the progress of action taken on the findings and recommendations of the USOAP report to them which is then made available to all States on its public website. DGCA provides these updates to ICAO from time to time showing the actions taken/completed.

Supply of Gas to NTPC Plants

3539. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NTPC has raised objection regarding RIL charging marketing margin on sale of natural gas to its power plants; and

(b) if so, the action by the Government to stop RIL from charging marketing margin from customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) NTPC had raised the issue of marketing margin charged by RIL-NIKO JV for sale of KG D6 gas.

(b) The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government and the Contractor under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) does not provide for fixation of marketing margin on sale of gas by the Government. Government has not, till date, fixed or approved the quantum of marketing margin for sale of natural gas by any Contractor. The issue is discussed and decided between the Seller and the Buyer, as a part of the settlement of the terms and conditions of the GSPA.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now Papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following Reports of the Law Commission (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Report No. 226—Inclusion of Acid Attacks as Specific Offences in the Indian Penal Code and a law for Compensation for Victims of Crime—July, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1149/15/09]

(ii) Report No. 227—Preventing Bigamy via Conversion to Islam—A Proposal for giving Statutory Effect to Supreme Court Rulings—August, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1150/15/09]

(iii) Report No. 228—Need for Legislation to Regulate Assisted Reproductive Technology Clinics as well as Rights and Obligations of Parties to a Surrogacy—August, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1151/15/09]

(iv) Report No. 229—Need for division of the Supreme Court into a Constitution Bench at Delhi and Cassation Benches in four regions at Delhi, Chennai/Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai—August, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1152/15/09]

(v) Report No. 230—Reforms in the Judiciary—Some Suggestions—August, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1153/15/09]

(vi) Report No. 231—Amendments in Indian Stamp Act, 1899 and Court-Fees Act, 1870 permitting different modes of payment—August, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1154/15/09]

(vii) Report No. 232—Retirement age of Chairpersons and Members of Tribunals—Need for Uniformity—August, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1155/15/09]

(viii) Report No. 233—Amendment of Code of Criminal Procedure enabling restoration of complaints—August, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1156/15/09]

(ix) Report No. 234—Legal Reforms to Combat Road Accidents—August, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1157/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, Noida, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Co-operative Society Limited, Noida, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1158/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Aircraft (Carriage of Dangerous Goods) Amendment Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 823(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 2009 under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1159/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

[Shri Salman Khursheed]

- (i) The Companies (Electronic Filing and Authentication of Documents) Amendment Rules, 2009, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 642(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 2009.
- (ii) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2009, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 643(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 2009.
- (iii) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2009, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 649(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1160/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Scheme for Filing of Statutory Documents and other Transactions by Companies in Electronic Mode (Amendment) Scheme, 2009, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 2276(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 2009 under sub-section (2) of Section 610B of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1161/15/09]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 40 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959:—

- (i) Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India for the year ended 31st March, 2006, published in Notification No. G/18-CWA/9/2006 in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2006.
- (ii) Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India for the year ended 31st March, 2007, published in Notification No. G/18-CWA/9/2007 in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2007.

- (iii) Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India for the year ended 31st March, 2008, published in Notification No. G/18-CWA/9/2008 in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 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 1162/15/09]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 40 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980:—

- (i) Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India for the year ended 31st March, 2006, published in Notification No. F. No. 104/34/Accts.— Report of the Council—in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 2006.
- (ii) Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India for the year ended 31st March, 2007, published in Notification No. F. No. 104/27/Accts.— Report of the Council—in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2007.
- (iii) Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India for the year ended 31st March, 2008, published in Notification No. F. No. 104/28/Accts.— Report of the Council—in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2008.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1163/15/09]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949:—

- (i) Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India for the year ended 31st March, 2006, published in Notification No. 1-CA(5)/57/2006 in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2006.
- (ii) Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India for the year ended 31st March, 2007, published in Notification No. 1-CA(5)/58/2007 in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2007.
- (iii) Annual Report and Audited Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India for the year ended 31st March, 2008, published in Notification No. 1-CA(5)/59/2008 in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2008.
- (8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1164/15/09]
- (9) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 522(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 2009 declaring the companies, mentioned therein, as Nidhis under sub-section (3) of Section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1165/15/09]
- (10) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Minorities Development and Finance and Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Minorities Development and Finance and

Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1166/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1167/15/09]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Cochin, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Cochin, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1168/15/09]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Projects and Development India Limited, Noida, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Projects and Development India Limited, Noida, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1169/15/09]

[Shri Srikant Jena]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Madras Fertilizers Limited, Chennai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1170/15/09]

- (2) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Hindustan Antibiotics Limited for the year 2008-2009 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1171/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1172/15/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1173/15/09]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1174/15/09]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Railtel Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1175/15/09]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the RITES Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the RITES Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1176/15/09]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1177/15/09]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Container Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Container Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1178/15/09]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Sports Promotion Board, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Railway Sports Promotion Board, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1179/15/09]

- (3) A copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Services of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 828(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th November, 2009 under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1180/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1181/15/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1182/15/09]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1183/15/09]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 2007-2008.

- (ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 2007-2008, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1184/15/09]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1185/15/09]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2008-2009.

[Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi]

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1186/15/09]
- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Synthetic and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (d) of (1) above.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1187/15/09]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jute Manufactures Development Council, Kolkata, 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 Jute Manufactures Development Council, Kolkata, 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 1188/15/09]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1189/15/09]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Northern India Textile Research Association, Ghaziabad, for the year 2008-2009.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1190/15/09]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1191/15/09]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Synthetic and Art Silk Mills' Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1192/15/09]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bombay Textile Research Association, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1193/15/09]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1194/15/09]

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the South India Textile Research Association, Coimbatore, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1195/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Engineers India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon:

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1196/15/09]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1197/15/09]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1198/15/09]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1199/15/09]

(e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1200/15/09]

(f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Biecco Lawrie Limited Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments

[Shri Jitin Prasada]

of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1201/15/09]

(g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1202/15/09]

(h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1203/15/09]

(i) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1204/15/09]

(j) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1205/15/09]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(i) The Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Amendment Order, 2009, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 561(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2009.

(ii) The Solvent, Raffinate and Slop (Acquisition, Sale, Storage and Prevention of use in Automobiles) Amendment Order, 2009, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 835(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1206/15/09]

(3) A copy of the Appellate Tribunal for Petroleum and Natural Gas (Procedure, Form, Fee and Record of Proceedings) Rules, 2009 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 812(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2009 under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1207/15/09]

(4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 615(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2009 making certain amendments in the Schedule of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 issued under sub-section (4) of Section 6A of the said Act.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1208/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP): I beg to lay on the Table:—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government of the working

of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1209/15/09]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH):
On behalf of Shri Arun Yadav, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bridge and Roof Company (India) Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bridge and Roof Company (India) Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1210/15/09]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1211/15/09]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments

of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1212/15/09]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Tyre Corporation of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1213/15/09]

- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Scooters India Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1214/15/09]

- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Triveni Structural Limited, Allahabad, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Triveni Structural Limited, Allahabad, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1215/15/09]

- (g) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the NEPA Limited, Burhanpur, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the NEPA Limited, Burhanpur, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1216/15/09]

[Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh]

- (h) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Tungabhadra Dam, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Tungabhadra Dam, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1217/15/09]

- (i) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1218/15/09]

- (j) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited, Allahabad, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited, Allahabad, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1219/15/09]

- (k) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1220/15/09]

- (l) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1221/15/09]

- (m) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1222/15/09]

- (n) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Richardson and Cruddas (1972) Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1223/15/09]

- (o) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, New Delhi, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1224/15/09]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Automotive Testing and Research and Development Infrastructure Project, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and

English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Automotive Testing and Research and Development Infrastructure Project, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1225/15/09]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1226/15/09]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune, for the year 2008-2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1227/15/09]

12.02 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS**

1st Report

[English]

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry): Madam, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 'Demands for Grants (2009-10) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas'.

12.02½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER
RESOURCES**

1st Report

[English]

SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY (Nandyal): Madam, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources on 'Demands for Grants (2009-10)' of the Ministry of Water Resources.

12.03 hrs.

**DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANT (RAILWAYS) 2009-10**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): Madam, I beg to present a Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demand for Grant in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 2009-2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1228/15/09]

12.04 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

**Re: Initiative taken by the Central Government
to facilitate the creation of a separate
state of Telengana**

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to congratulate the House as you have set a precedent by intervening on the issue of Andhra Pradesh. It is due to the intervention of the Parliament that the Government has taken a very important decision. I would like to congratulate the Government and specially the Parliament. Both the issues on which the House had expressed its concern yesterday have

[Shri L.K. Advani]

been sorted out. We were in favour of creation of Telengana State as per the wishes of the people of Telengana. We were also wishing that the life of our colleague may not be in danger because he was on a fast for 10 days on this issue and his condition had become critical. I am happy that both the issues have been sorted out and I congratulate you for this.

Madam Speaker, I was expecting that the hon'ble Home Minister would come out with a decision of the Government in this regard. He had announced it outside. He should announce here also and explain the action to be taken on proposal of the Assembly. Constitutionally, it is not necessary but it will be good if it is done. I would like the Government to take the House into confidence about the procedure and the steps to be taken regarding the creation of the 29th state. I know that much is needed before introducing a bill to this effect. I would like the Government to complete the groundwork before introducing this bill. However, I would be happy if the Government takes the House into confidence regarding the further action to be taken in this regard, about their strategy, expectations and the time by which it is likely to be done.

Madam, once again I thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise this issue.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Madam, I would, first of all, like to thank the Leader of the Opposition and submit that as the decision was taken very late last night we are yet to get information from the State Government about the response to the announcement made by the Home Minister. Some rallies are being organized there. Therefore, we are yet to get the full information from the State Government. So far the collected information is that Shri Chandrasekhar Rao has withdrawn his fast. We are appreciative of it. He has responded to it. The hon. Leader of the Opposition is fully aware that other information also are required. In regard to the formation of the new State all the procedures will be followed. But if we have information from the State which we would like to share with the House, definitely during the day or tomorrow we will keep the House informed.

[English]

SHRI SUVENDU ADHIKARI (Tamluk): Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to a very serious matter. On the recommendation of the Left Front Government of West Bengal the Central Government has decided to set up a nuclear power plant at Haripur in West Bengal. Haripur is a thickly populated area. The density of population in that area is 500 per square kilometre. There is also a fishing harbour nearby in a place called Jaunput. The land is very fertile. The farmers cultivate crops two to three times a year.

I would like to request the Central Government to re-consider this decision on this day because today is the Human Rights Day and on humanitarian consideration this matter should be given a re-look by the Central Government. The CPI(M) led Left Front Government of West Bengal is misguiding the Central Government by feeding wrong information as they want a recurrence of a Nandigram like situation in Haripur as well. No representative either from the Central Government, or from the State Government or from the Atomic Energy Commission visited the place before taking such a decision which has serious repercussions. I would once again like to request the Central Government to do the needful in this regard and save Haripur which is not only very thickly populated but also the land is very fertile. I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to send a Central team to assess the ground reality.

DR. TARUN MONDAL (Joynagar): Madam, I would like to associate myself with him.

MADAM SPEAKER: All those who want to associate themselves with the views of Shri Suvendu Adhikari may do so.

The names of Dr. Tarun Mondal, Shri Sudip Bandopadhyay, Shri Gobinda Chandra Naskar, Shri Ambica Banerjee, Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Smt. Ratna De, Shri Nurul Islam, and Shri Kabir Suman may be associated with the views of Shri Suvendu Adhikari.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Madam

Speaker, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak during Zero-hour. During last year's Budget Session a debate was held on adulteration, wherein, several issues were raised. Today, we find adulteration in essential food items such as edible oil, ghee, milk, khova, spices, vegetables and fruits. It has rendered the people helpless. People are falling sick by consuming adulterated food items. Adulteration is even causing deaths. On 3 and 4 October 2009 a family of 12 members brought mustard oil from a pounding mill and they used that oil for cooking their meal. After eating the meal 8 people died. A Joint Food Commissioner rushed to the place and tested the said oil. They found contents of Bhatkataiya, commonly known as Bhadbhada, a forest plant in the oil. The patients were referred to Narayanswarop Hospital, Nazreth Hospital and PGI Allahabad. They were vomiting and suffered from loose motion. There were red spots on their bodies. I talked to the local CMO, District Magistrate and SDM in this regard and I asked them to conduct daily check up of other members of the family who are still in a serious condition.

Madam, I have come to know that an 18 year old girl Pammi died there on the 18th. 8-10 members of the said family are still sick. The people of the village, to which the said family belongs, blocked the traffic on Peshawar-Lahore national highway.

Madam, 7-8 member of the said family have died and some of the members are still sick. In view of it, I urge the government to send a central team there and conduct a lab test and pay compensation to the affected family. Simultaneously, people found responsible in this regard should be booked under NSA so that such incidents do not recur anywhere in the country.

With these words, I greatly thank hon. Madam for allowing me to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Kolkata Uttar): Madam, all of us associate ourselves with the proposal of Shri Suwendu Adhikari.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please send your names to the Table.

[English]

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (Ludhiana): Madam

Speaker Sir, over the past five years and specially since 26/11, the Union Government has made considerable efforts to augment security infrastructure. New organisations have been created. Aid to the State Governments for police modernisation has increased and new equipment are being procured but there is one area which requires serious attention which, unfortunately, has been neglected. That is the upkeep of our personnel, the constabulary, which is supposed to be manning these equipments and actually protecting the nation.

Last month, newspapers and television channels were full of reports of how the personnel of the constabulary guarding the Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai were actually staying in the Gateway of India. This is symptomatic of the condition of the constabulary in various parts of the country and some of us, who have grown up in turbulent parts have actually seen the abysmal field conditions first hand.

My request to the Union Government is, out of the funds which are sent by the Union Government to the States for modernisation of police forces, 25 per cent must be spent on upgrading the physical infrastructure in which the constabulary stays, like building houses for them, building schools for their children, creating recreational facilities so that they can remain stress free, remain focussed on their job and actually carry out the duties of safeguarding the borders and the internal security of the country more satisfactorily. This would also lead to the decrease of fratricidal incidents of killings which have been reported over the years from various States where paramilitary forces have been deployed.

[Translation]

* SHRI P. LINGAM (Tenkasi): Madam Speaker, in order to protect the traditional rights of the handloom weavers, the Government of India has enacted a law listing out certain items of handloom varieties to be manufactured exclusively in the handloom sector based on which the handloom weavers were getting the benefits of it for more than 150 years. The handloom weavers of Bhavani have had the rights vested with them to manufacture carpets and hard variety bed spreads based on geographical regions to which such exclusive rights are conferred.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri P. Lingam]

Bhavani carpets are well known world over and are exported widely. In Tamil Nadu, there are about 30,000 handloom carpet weavers in Bhavani Taluk of Erode District. In the neighbouring districts like Namakkal and Salem and areas adjoining them, these carpets are being manufactured as a traditional occupation by the handloom weavers there. All of them put together, there are about 50,000 handloom weavers in that area.

Unfortunately, for the past few years now, certain powerloom entrepreneurs have resorted to illegal manufacturing of carpets. In places like Sethunampalayam, Nallamooppanur, Anthiyur, Thavittuppalayam, Brahmadadam, Annamaduvu in Bhavani Taluk in Erode District of Tamil Nadu and also in Sholapur and Nagpur in Maharashtra, small size carpets that were exclusively set apart for the handloom sector are being manufactured by the powerloom units illegally and are sold in the market as if they are Bhavani carpets. These carpets manufactured in Sholapur are taken to Erode textile market affecting the interests of the local traditional handloom weavers of the region.

In the past one year, the impact of this unfair trade practices has seriously affected the traditional Bhavani handloom carpet weavers. They are left high and dry. They cannot carry on with their livelihood. They have to be hungry as they cannot earn and feed their family members too. There is also a threat to their cooperative societies that are facing closure because of fall in trade activities. Powerloom carpets are sold at a cheaper rate than the handloom-woven carpets. This has greatly affected the handloom sector and the stock manufactured by them remains unlifted and unsold.

Since the Government of India's rule has been violated by the illegal powerloom units, Centre must intervene to protect the traditional rights of the handloom weavers in Bhavani area. I urge upon the Union Government to act fast to save the poor handloom weavers there.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on a social issue. Realizing its responsibility the government should provide financial assistance to the mentally retarded children. Mentally retarded children take birth in almost each village in

the country. Our medical services have failed develop any technique to ascertain the mental health of a foetus. Whenever such a child is born into a poor family it brings a financial burden for them and in case of a middle class family, the family gets disturbed. This kind of serious ailment damages the concerned family economically. Madam, my submission is that the government should formulate a scheme or a policy, wherein, the government should bear the financial burden caused by the birth of a mentally retarded children. The government should provide financial assistance of Rs. 1000 per month to the parents of such children. In some cases, more than one such child take birth in some families. In such a scenario, unable to bring them up, their parents leave them just either on road or in some temple etc. Some voluntary organizations provided shelter to such children and bring them up.

Madam, I would like to make a mention of such an organization. One Shankra Papadkar Maharaj is running such an organization in Amravati in Maharashtra. He has given shelter to 150 such children. The organization teaches them and also takes care of them. The state government of Maharashtra also provides some grants to the said organization. The organisation permitted to keep such children there till they attain the age of 18 years. Madam, I would like that the Central Government also run such organizations and if such organizations desire to keep the children with them even after they attain the age of 18 years, because on attaining the age of 18 years such children do not cease to be mentally retarded, those children should be allowed to stay there.

I would also request that BPL card should be provided to those families which have such children. Those families have to face a lot of problems during the course of looking after those children. One member of the family has to stay at home to look after such children. It is a very serious problem. I have made an effort to draw the attention of the House, through you, on this problem. I would like to request the Government to take it seriously and help such families.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Madam, I want to associate myself with this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM SPEAKER: Do you want to associate yourself with this issue? It is all right. You please send your name to the Table.

SHRI KABIR SUMAN (Jadavpur): Madam, I also want to associate with this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: You also please send your name to the Table.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Shri B. Mahtab, Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey, Shri Kabir Suman, Shri Dhananjay Singh associate themselves with the speech of Shri Hansraj G. Ahir.

SHRI PURNMASI RAM (Gopalganj): Madam. there has been a rise in the number of centrally sponsored schemes during the last few years as a result of which the amount of annual plan funds being given by the Centre to the States has been decreasing and the States have to face problems in development works. In such case the States should have the rights to formulate and implement development scheme as per their requirements. Here one more thing is worth paying attention that separate functions have been entrusted to the centre and the states in the constitution. It has been quite evident that the Union Government also formulates schemes on those subjects which are in the state list. It causes problems for the States in formulating their plans for development as per their requirements. So, I would take to ask the government, through you, to provide separate funds to the States instead of providing annual plan funds to the States for centrally sponsored programmes. The funds to be provided to the States for these schemes should be provided directly to the States because the States are responsible for implementation of these schemes. The Central Government should formulate schemes on only those subjects which are listed in the Union List. Thanks.

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Rest of the 'Zero Hour' matters

will be taken up at the end of the day. There will be no Lunch Hour.

12.23 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[*English*]

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, Item No. 15—Matters under Rule 377. Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them, may personally hand over slips at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which slips have been received at the Table within the stipulated time and the rest will be treated as lapsed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani): Madam, what about rules 39, 40 and 41? Hindi version of the replies to the unstarred questions are not supplied with English version despite the rule being in place.

MADAM SPEAKER: You raised this issue yesterday. An inquiry will be conducted and the needful will be done.

(i) **Need to declare Suhel Dev pilgrim place in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh as a tourist place of national importance**

SHRI KAMAL KISHOR COMMANDO (Bahraich): Madam Speaker, Bahraich district of my parliamentary constituency is a historical city. Bahraich-Gonda road is the pilgrim place of brave Raja Suhel Dev. Raja Suhel Dev belonged to a dalit community and is a source of inspiration to and an idol for the dalit community of this region. There is an ancient and beautiful lake here where Mahamanishi Ashtavakra Muni underwent penance. Both the Hindus and Muslims bow their head at the 'Mazar of Syed Salargaji Baba', a famous pilgrim place after taking a dip in this lake.

*Treated as laid on the table.

[Shri Kamal Kishor Commando]

I request the Union Government to declare this place as a national tourist spot in view of the historical importance of Veer Raja Suhel Dev pilgrim place and this lake.

(ii) Need to save the ecology of Vembanad Lake in Kerala

[English]

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (Pathanamathitta): Vembanad Lake, which is the Asia's largest backwater lake, needs immediate attention. It is an internationally important ecosystem with aquatic importance and rich flora and fauna.

Vembanad Lake is presently polluted, the inhabitants around the lake are suffering from water-borne diseases and the density of water is considerably low.

The protection of Vembanad lake needs the conservation of four rivers—Pampa, Meenachil, Manimala and Achamkovil. Though a plan namely Pampa Action Plan has been drafted to save river Pampa, but there are no such schemes to save other rivers.

As the livelihood of one lakh fishermen and the drinking water availability of five lakhs inhabitants will be seriously affected, I request the Central Government to urgently intervene on this environmental issue.

(iii) Need to release water to Rajasthan from the excess water of Ravi and Beas rivers under 1981 Agreement

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN (Churu): Madam, Rajasthan has been demanding allocation of 0.17 MAF water from the excess water of the Ravi in Bhakhra Nangal dam for the last several years. Under the agreement signed by the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan on 31-12-1981. Rajasthan was allocated 8.60 MAF water from the excess water of Ravi. It has been mentioned in para (4) of this agreement that 'Secretary' M/o Water Resources, Government of India will decide on the claim of Rajasthan for 0.57 MAF water from the excess water

of Ravi within 15 days and which would be binding on all the parties." Secretary, M/o Water Resources, Government of India ruled on 15-01-1982 that the requirement of Rajasthan for Sidhmukh Canal was 0.47 MAF out of which 0.30 MAF water was already available to Rajasthan and the remaining 0.17 MAF water would be released to Rajasthan through Bhakhra main line from Nangal. Rajasthan has been submitting agenda notes again and again to Bhakra Beas Management Board for release of 0.17 MAF water for Sidhmukh Canal region through Bhakhra main line. Punjab has accepted in the course of various meetings that the full capacity of Bhakhra main line has been achieved but due to Haryana's disagreement BBMB referred this issue to the Government of India for deciding upon this issue on 3-8-2006. Rajasthan completed Sidhmukh Canal project in the year 2002 and developed its full capacity for irrigation of the area covered under this project. There is acute shortage of water in this region which has created tension and unrest in this area. Everyday dharnas and agitations are held for water. The administration has been facing a problem in maintaining law and order in this area. So I request the Government to provide for release of 0.17 MAF water out of the excess water of Ravi to Rajasthan urgently.

(iv) Need to review the Insurance (Amendment) Bill 2008 to safeguard the interests of LIC Agents

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Sir, the proposal to amend the Insurance Act was prepared by the Government in the year 2008 itself. A detailed report to delete some sections from the Life Insurance Agents' Federation of India Insurance Act 1938 (Amendment) Bill-2008 was sent to the hon. Finance Minister in October, 2009 by me. The gist of the said draft is that the amendments in the proposed bill will adversely affect about 12 lakh LIC agents and 13 lakh other insurance agents in the country.

In respect of the amendments in the said Act, an example has been shown in the report of Shri D. Swaroop, Chairman, PFRDA Committee regarding Insurance procedures of Britain which are different from those in India. The insurance agents of India go door to door to make the clients aware about their future needs and concerns, which is a very tiresome job.

I, therefore, request the Government to take necessary and effective steps to enable the insurance agents to survive.

(v) Need to supply natural gas through pipelines in Kolkata, Siliguri and Howrah cities of West Bengal

[English]

SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Government of India is supplying natural gas through pipelines in the major cities of the country. But it is not being supplied in Kolkata which is the capital of West Bengal and also one of the most populated metropolitan cities in India. Pipelines should be immediately laid to provide PNG in Kolkata along with Siliguri and Howrah. Moreover PNG is cheaper than LPG cylinder.

12.24 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) ORDINANCE, 2009 (NO. 09 of 2009)

AND

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT AND VALIDATION) BILL, 2009 –Contd.

[English]

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Item Nos. 16 and 17 are taken up together. Shri Raju Shetti to continue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (Hatkanangle): Madam, I said yesterday that the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices is making a mockery of the farmers. The minimum support price declared from time to time by the Commission and the Central Government has been much lower than even the cost of inputs. MSP was Rs. 79.50 in the year 2005-06. It was enhanced by just 75 paise in 2006-07 and it became Rs. 80.25. It was raised to Rs. 81.18 in 2007-08 and remained the same in 2008-09. It was Rs. 107 in 2009-10. When the MSP was Rs. 80.25 in 2006-07, the recovery base was raised

from 8.5% to 9%. When MSP was raised to Rs. 107 in 2009-10, then recovery base was raised from 9% to 9.5%. This caused huge losses to the farmers.

Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister had on first December given a reply in this very House during the Question-Hour saying that even if Rs. 14 is deducted from the All India Average Production and Freight Cost of Rs. 86.27, still the cost price comes to Rs. 72.27.

Madam Speaker, I say with assertion here that nowhere and in no state of the country can sugarcane be grown for Rs. 27.27. The hon. Minister of Agriculture should prove how one quintal of sugarcane can be produced in the farm of an institute, university or by the farmer for Rs. 72.27. The fact is that the cost of production of sugarcane is at least Rs. 170 for the farmers. Cost price has been shown as less than actual for years and this year, in 2009-10, it suddenly increased to Rs. 107 for the first time from Rs. 81.18 in 2008-09. When remunerative price was given for MSP, it increased to Rs. 129.84. How can the remunerative price be Rs. 129.84 if the cost price is Rs. 170? The Government has fixed Rs. 129.84 as the remunerative price. A case was going on in the Supreme Court in 1982.

[English]

The Supreme Court in its judgement in M/s. Sukhanandan Saran, Dinesh Kumar V/s. Union of India, reported in AIR 1982 S.C. 902, observed:

“The marginal farmers are unable to stand up against the organized industry. It does not require long argument in this predominantly agriculture society that the farmers having small holding need protection for selling at fair price their meagre agriculture produce.”

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, even the Supreme Court has admitted that the farmers cannot fight against the organized sector of sugar industry. The MSP is just a political ploy. The Government increases or decreases it any time at its own sweet will. The Central Government used to announce MSP to make everyone happy but the State Governments

[Shri Raju Shetti]

could not do so. The State Governments used to declare State Advisory Price in consultation with the sugar cane growers and the sugar mills in the state. State Advisory Price used to be higher than the MSP and therefore, when the sugar mills approached the courts against it, the court ruled:—

[English]

“The State action for protection of the weaker sections is not only justified but absolutely necessary unless the restriction imposed is excessive.”

[Translation]

Madam Speaker, the court felt that the small and marginal farmers would not get justice if the State Government did not protect them. Assurance was given to omit the clause 3(b) of the Essential Commodities Act in accordance with the amendment mentioned in the ordinance. If this is the remunerative price and if a State Government declares State Support Price then it will not stand in the court. Therefore, the Bill's name will have to be changed to Statutory Minimum Fair Remunerative Price and only then the State Governments can give protection to their farmers.

Madam, the farmers cannot come from Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka for agitation in Delhi. A very massive demonstration took place on the road outside the Parliament in Delhi two weeks ago. As Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab are located near Delhi, the farmers from there came to Delhi. They demonstrated against the lower prices they were getting for the sugarcane. If the right to State Governments is denied, State Governments would not be able to support the farmers and sugar mills will continue to exploit the sugarcane growers. Therefore, reforms are needed in the mechanism of statutory minimum fair price. Only then the State Governments would be able to protect the farmers.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAJU SHETTI: Madam, I have a lot to speak yet.

MADAM SPEAKER: You have already spoken a lot. Take a little more time and wind up your speech.

SHRI RAJU SHETTI: Madam, it is a very important issue, it is the question of life and death of sugarcane growers. Therefore, please let me speak.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please be brief.

SHRI RAJU SHETTI: Madam, sugarcane growers would be finished if they do not get support because they cannot come to Delhi again and again. If the production cost is more than Rs. 170/Quintal and to make it fair, the cost of production should be assessed properly and there is also a need to fix remunerative price above it.

Madam Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture has stated that in Maharashtra, sugarcane growers are getting Rs. 230 per quintal for their crop. He has also stated that the sugar mills in Maharashtra are in cooperative sector, that is why they are getting more price. I would like to submit that the situation is not like that. Sugarcane growers in Maharashtra are getting more price for their crop because there is shortage of sugarcane this year. It is not that the Chairmen of Maharashtra Cooperative Mills are very honest and concerned that they are giving more price to sugarcane growers. They are not saints. They are giving more price to them because they know that prolonging the sugarcane crushing season may lead to higher cost of production. If the cost of production remains low, then they would earn more profit by selling sugar at higher rates. Therefore, they are giving more price than their competitors.

Madam, while drawing your attention towards the year 2007, I would like to state that at that time, the country had produced a bumper crop of sugarcane and sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh were getting Rs. 110 per quintal for their crop whereas the growers in Maharashtra were selling their crop to cooperative sector at Rs. 90 per quintal only. The people of cooperative sector have not become saints within two years. As they are aware of longer crushing season ahead, they are offering more price. If the protection of Minimum Support Price is withdrawn from the farmers, after two years when there would be excess crop of sugarcane, the growers will be at loss.

I would like to draw your attention towards one more point, After passing this Ordinance, clause 5 (a) in sugarcane control order would be deleted. In Uttar Pradesh sugarcane growers get the entire payment in a lumpsum whereas the growers in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu receive it in installments because clause 5 (a) deals with the production of sugar from sugarcane its by-products and their sale. This clause would be deleted after passing this ordinance. Especially in South India where sugar mill recoveries are more, farmers are going to suffer heavy losses. Was it really needed?

The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has stated in this House that the sugar industry owners worldwide have to pay at least 70% of the money earned from products and by-products to the sugarcane growers. If we go by his statement, then the sugar industry is changing fast. By-products and various main products are being manufactured in sugar industry. Now distilleries are being set up with sugar industries in which spirit, ethanol, alcohol are being produced, electricity is generated and bagasse is being sold. Hence, by processing one quintal of sugarcane, the sugar mills are earning at least Rs. 400 by selling main products and by-products. It involves a conversion cost of Rs. 63 and even if Rs. 200 is given to a sugarcane grower, the sugar industry saves huge money. The Central Government and State Government are earning huge revenue as taxes from this industry. Despite that, we are not taking this industry seriously.

Due to the shortage of sugar meant for PDS, now we will charge 20% levy sugar from sugar industry instead of 10%. Increasing the percentage of levy would affect the farmers as the mills will not bear the escalated cost. The acute shortage of sugar has arisen due to the policies of the Government during the last two years. The support price for sugarcane was not raised when it was required, as a result, farmers did not sow adequate sugarcane resulting in lesser production of sugar. When there was a need to ban the export of sugar, the Government continued to export the sugar while giving subsidy and now they are importing it. Even the consumption, stock and requirement of the country was not taken into consideration.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI RAJU SHETTI: I will conclude in two minutes. On 28th August, I had written a letter to the hon'ble Prime Minister telling that everything in this regard was being done in a wrong manner. Situation worsened to the extent that the country had to import sugar during the month of July. Importing sugar from international market would not cost less than 30 thousand rupees per ton. It means ultimately the consumer has to bear the burden. Had the support price been increased at that time, the consumer would have got the sugar at the rate of Rs. 25 per kg. Due to the wrong policies, on one hand the farmers suffer loss while on the other, consumers also face the same fate.

Madam, I have to make one more point. The hon'ble Agriculture Minister has stated that there is a need to import 70 lakh tonnes of sugar this year. My question is that when levy sugar is being increased from 10% to 20% on the sugar produced from sugarcane of the growers, then why not change the levy sugar on the raw sugar being imported. No levy is being charged on the duty free raw sugar being imported from other countries. The hon'ble Agriculture Minister is also stating that a subsidy will be provided to the mills to refine the imported raw sugar. On the one hand, subsidy is being given to sugar mills, sugar is being imported on higher rates, but the honest sugarcane growers who work hard to produce the crop are dying of starvation. It is not good. Therefore, while opposing this ordinance, I conclude.

SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Barabanki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important issue. Ordinance dated 21st October, 2009 is related to the fixation of sugarcane price for sugarcane growers and also fixing the price of levy sugar for consumers. The Essential Commodities Act is being amended, Earlier clause 3 (l) of this Act was about statutory minimum price, now it is being amended and is being replaced with a new term Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP). Under it, while fixing the support price sugarcane, factors like sugarcane price cost of production, risk and profitability etc. will be taken care of. Clause 3 (b) was also added to it which included the provision that if any state fixes the prices

[Shri P.L. Punia]

of sugarcane more than the FRP, then that State would be responsible to pay the difference arisen due to enhanced price.

Yesterday the hon'ble Minister had mentioned that this amendment has been made in view of the orders of hon'ble Supreme Court which made Central Government liable to pay 14 thousand crore rupees. The issue was politicized. The impact of the agitation launched by the sugarcane growers of Western Uttar Pradesh was felt in Delhi also. Actually, every year, State Government issues a reservation order for the demarcation of land for sugarcane cultivation. Every sugar mill accept order and make an agreement after signing form 'C'. Therefore, the state agreed price decided by the state i.e. the price agreed between sugar mills and cooperative society is enforced, whether it is SMP or FRP. As per the orders of Supreme Court dated 5-5-2004, it has been decided that if a state decides and announces SAP, then the farmers would be paid on the basis of that only and not on the basis of SMP fixed by the Centre. This system is still in practice. As per clause 3 (a), the State Government can fix SAP (State Advice or Agreed Price). This clause has not been removed, it is still prevalent. I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture. There was a propaganda that the Central Government was anti-farmer. This amendment was not at all anti-farmers. It was stated that the State Governments were imposed with a condition that in case, the SAP fixed by them exceeded the SMP or FRP, they would be liable to pay the difference. Taking it into account and while showing seriousness, the clause 3 (b) added to the Sugar control order was withdrawn.

The members who have spoken before me were mentioning about the same clause 3 (b) which has been withdrawn. They were making some points which are irrelevant to the current amendment. It is right that FRP which was earlier known as SMP is declared considering the situation of every state in the country. Clause 3 (a) of sugarcane control order provides that State Governments should fix state agreed price keeping in view the situation of the state. In Uttar Pradesh,

Payments have not been made on the basis of MSP even for once during the last 35 years. Payments have been made on the basis of SAP which has been ever higher than SMP. The hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 5-5-2004 had clearly mentioned that payments would be made to the sugarcane growers on the basis of SAP wherever it is higher than the SMP. Who denies it? Considering the situation in the state and demands of the farmers, every state should fix higher prices. It has been in practice. Even today people have been misled, it was stated that Central Government had imposed a condition on the State Government. Actually clause 3 (a) was not deleted, only the SMP has been replaced with FRP. The State Government's right given under clause 3 (a) was not withdrawn. However, a misconception was created that UPA Government had taken an anti-farmer step. However, such an allegation cannot be levelled upon UPA Government. During the last five years and this time also, the UPA Government has taken historic steps like loan waiving schemes etc. There have been the Prime Ministers who have posed themselves as leader of the farmers but they did not take such a step. Under the leadership of Smt. Soniaji and Dr. Manmohan Singhji, UPA Government waived farmer's loan to the tune of rupees 72 thousand crore across the country. It benefited the 4.5 crore peasant families. It was a historical decision. Besides, Bharat Nirman Yojana involves the schemes for the development of rural areas. Bharat Nirman Yojana has been meant to provide all the facilities in rural areas similar to that of urban areas. Nobody has attempted earlier to do so. They talked about India Shining, urban areas and about major industrial houses but nobody took care of rural areas. Only the UPA Government paved the way for the development of rural areas and upliftment of farmers.

In exercise of their powers, the State Governments should provide maximum price to the farmers under clause 3 (a). Simultaneously, I would urge the hon. Minister of Agriculture to ask the State Governments to carry out their responsibilities towards the farmers. The Minister should also ensure that the consumers get sugar at fair price. Though the government has deleted clause 3 (b), but the hon. Minister, in his reply, should

clarify how the government proposes to fulfill the obligation of making payment, especially in pursuance of order of the hon. Supreme Court. It should be expected from the State Governments also as they direct the private sector sugar mills to procure sugarcane at the price fixed by them. There are 31 public sector sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, apart from it, some mills are owned by cooperative societies also and they do not make full payment of sugarcane they procure. Though the prices are fixed and the State Government order these mills to make payment, but, they are not in a capacity to do so. Ultimately, the State Governments have to make the said payment sometimes, the State Government provide grants in 2-3 years to these mills for making payments to the farmers, otherwise the arrears keep pending for years. The hon. Minister should ensure that those mills make payment to the farmers on time, as making of payment is also important after fixation of minimum price. Moreover, the government should ensure that the farmers are provided payment every week.

I am greatly thankful to the hon. Minister as adopting a long terms policy in the interest of farmers the hon. Minister desires that the farmers should get fair remunerative price and not just statutory minimum price SMP, in vogue earlier. And while fixing such prices, the input cost should be kept in mind and not that the price is fixed just. Apart from it, the risk factor, such as heavy downpour or scant, rainfall, which causes damage to the crops, should also be taken into account. Apart from everything, some element of profitability on farmer's capital employed, such as his land and costs, should also be taken into account and not that only input cost is taken into consideration. It will not do. I am greatly thankful to him for having made a provision with regard to taking profitability in account. It is a very good step and a nice amendment. By supporting the said amendment, I conclude my speech.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (Meerut): Hon. Chairman, I am highly thankful to you for giving me time to speak on such an important bill...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Not

hon. Chairman, Madam Speaker is in the chair...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Hon. Speaker, I beg your pardon for wrongly addressing you. I am greatly thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on such an important issue which made all the farmers of Western Uttar Pradesh to come to Delhi and protest. It appears from the speech of the hon. Member who has just concluded that whenever this issue comes up for discussion here, the sugarcane farmers are treated as a football between centre and the state governments. My direct question is—what is the basis of remunerative or fair price recently announced? He has said that every aspect has been taken into consideration. Cost and risk factor have been taken into consideration. I fail to understand if the said remunerative price was so fairly fixed than what made the farmers so agitated.

Hon. Madam Speaker, a farmer rears up his crops like his children. Announcement of the said price made the farmers so angry that they set their crops afire. A number of farmers attempted suicide. A farmer lost his life by jumping before running train in Muzaffarnagar. It would not be enough if the government amends the said price upwardly on records only. It will not become a fair price if supported only be data. I would like to make a point with regard to the reply of the Ministry in this regard. However, hon. Member Punia has also explained the manner in which the said price has been worked out by taking many aspects into consideration. The seven points taken into consideration are—input cost of sugarcane production, benefit to the farmers from alternative crops, general price structure of agro-commodities, availability of sugar to the consumers at fair price, the price at which sugar is sold by the mill-owners, recovery of sugar from sugarcane, the price of by-products, fair margin for sugarcane growers considering risk and profit factor. These seven points have been mentioned in the written answer to the said question. After taking those points into consideration the price works out to Rs. 86 and 27 paise, as if it has been worked out by taking every paisa incurred on its production into account. Further, favour has been done and the worked out price has been increased by 50.50

[Shri Rajendra Agarwal]

per cent and fixed at Rs. 129.84 paise. I would like to know the basis of cost considered for determination of the announced price. I had made this query earlier too. I asked a question on the 4th seeking break-up in this regard. The official reply I received is as follows:

[English]

"Nothing relevant could be traced from the sources available with the Parliament Library. The matter is being referred to the concerned Ministry, and we will supply it as soon as it is received by us."

[Translation]

I have received this reply from the library. They don't have any details of how this price has been fixed. This price has been calculated sitting in an air conditioned drawing room and the State Governments in the entire country are in a way coerced into paying low prices. I have visited the farmers to learn the cost of production, farmers have also come to me. I would like to make a brief mention of the actual cost borne by the farmers in the production of sugarcane. There are broadly about 24 odd headings in the list. I will not read out all of these. It will take a lot of time. If the hon. Agriculture Minister or any of his associates wish to read those I will definitely forward it to them because they may not get the time to visit the farmers and the farms. I am giving you the estimate for one hectare of land. Harrows have to be used twice for ploughing for which the expense amounts to Rs. 1920. Expense of Rs. 1600 has to be incurred for ploughing with tiller twice in the season. I am not reading out all the points due to lack of time. The total cost of around Rs. 68,160 is incurred on one hectare of land for growing sugarcane. Average sugarcane production on one hectare of land is 640 quintals. I will add 16 paise to the remunerative and fair support price being paid to the farmers by the Government. Now if the cost of sugarcane produced on one hectare of land is calculated on the basis of 130 rupees then it comes to a total of Rs. 83,200 which means the total profit to the farmer is Rs. 14040. This does not include the labour and cost of land which should be taken into account while

calculating the remunerative price. The hon. Agriculture Minister has been the Chairman of BCCI. He weighs fours and sixes in terms of crores of rupees. I would like to learn what value he places on the hard labour put in by the farmers?

"Hamare Annadata ka naseeb dekhiye,

Uske mahkame ab kunbe ki wafadari se bante hain.

Kisanon ka bhala we dard kya samajhen,

Jinke din kabhi cricket mein katate hain.

Kabhi Mumbai mein katate hain."

I would like to say that this price is not fair from any angle. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Madam, perhaps the hon. Member is not aware that the Minister himself is a farmer. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Madam, I am talking about priorities. I am not denying that he is a farmer. He is a very able Agriculture Minister but I have the right to express my agony.

When the sugarcane farmers had come to Delhi on 19th or 20th, he had assured that he would talk about the prices of sugarcane with the sugar mill owners. He wants to determine the price of sugarcane after holding discussions with the sugar mill owners. It seems that the sugar mill owners are being exploited by the sugarcane farmers. The members who spoke before me, have talked in detail about the sugar mill owners. Without taking much more time, I would like to say that three products are made from sugarcane at the first stage-sugar, bagasse (kholi) and molasses (sheera). If the value of these three products is added up, one quintal of sugarcane yields around Rs. 424. Many other by-products are produced from bagasse and molasses thereafter. Bagasse is used to generate electricity, cardboard, paper etc.

13.00 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHAKO *in the Chair*]

23 by-products including alcohol and spirit are manufactured from molasses. If everything is added up, then the sugar mill owners who have small distillery

units, chemical factories of their own, earn about 1100 rupees. They incur a cost of around 700 rupees in the entire, processing work. So, sugar mill owners earn a profit of 400 rupees from one quintal of sugarcane. Even so, it is made out as if sugar mill owners were being exploited mercilessly and the sugarcane farmers are in a very happy position.

Sir, I belong to a small town in Meerut. I have seen how the sugarcane farmers plan for the whole year and prepare a budget depending on their sugarcane crop. Anything from a daughter's wedding, education of son or thatching a roof may be part of that budget. But these kind of policies are destroying the sugarcane farmers. Today, the present policies have forced the sugarcane farmers to reduce the area of land for sugarcane farming. Area under sugarcane has been reduced by 17% in Meerut division, 22% in Saharanpur and 25% in Muradabad. Hence on an average the sugarcane production has been reduced by 21%. How will you meet the sugar supply in the absence of sugarcane, will you meet it through raw sugar, what kind of the arrangement is this? The Government is very much concerned about the sugar mill owners but they should be concerned about the sugarcane growers also.

Just now Puniaji has mentioned a point for which I thank him. As per sugar control order 1966, it is mandatory for the sugar mill owners to make payments to the sugarcane growers for their produce within 14 days. However, no sugar mill is complying with this order. Also, the sugar mill owner is liable to pay interest on delayed payments if he fails to make payments to growers within 14 days, but no sugar mill has ever paid this interest to growers. Hence actually it is the sugarcane growers who are distressed, not the sugar mill owners who are rather earning profits of crores of rupees. I am sorry to say this but I even have heard that they distribute crores of rupees for no purpose.

In the end, I would like to conclude by mentioning one point. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Agriculture Minister that before him, the personalities like Chaudhary Charan Singhji and Babu Jagjivan Ramji had also adorned the post of Agriculture Minister. Please

understand the agony or not only the sugarcane growers but also of all the farmers.

"Keemat to khub lagai gai Delhi may dhan ki,

Lekin vida na ho saki, beti kisan ki."

This is the reality. If our farmers remain in distress, the country could not be strengthened. The economy cannot grow till the farmers are prosperous. Today the reason for global slow down in the economy is that there are plenty of goods in the market but buyers are very few. The growth in the economy would take place only when there is a sufficient number of buyers. Therefore, pay remunerative prices to sugarcane growers for their produce.

The previous Government had formulated a loan waiver scheme for the farmers. Farmer has a self-respect. He neither wants to take loan nor wishes any loan waiver scheme. If he gets right and remunerative prices for his produce, I think neither he will require to take loan nor the Government will have to formulate loan waiver schemes. Sugarcane growers have not been paid remunerative prices, which has forced them to demonstrate on roads in Delhi and to approach the Parliament. Therefore, to avoid such a situation, it is essential to provide them remunerative prices of their produce.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SHAIKENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the statutory resolution moved by Shri Raju Shetti on the Essential Commodities Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problems of farmers have been discussed in the House time and again. Nearly 70% farmers in the country are dependent upon agriculture and most of them are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. Discussions have taken place on this several times, and the Government has made several announcements and implemented many programmes for farmers but they are still compelled to commit suicides. As Shri Agarwalji has mentioned, sugarcane growers have burnt their standing

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

crops. They have committed suicides. Most of these cases have been reported from South India but the problem is persisting in North India also, however, these could not be reported. There is a mention to revise the toll tax in their amendment bill by revising order dated 31 October, 2009. During the years 1996-1998 and 1999 action was taken to fix the toll tax. So far as tax on sugar is concerned, hon'ble Shri Shettiji and other members have elaborated their views on it. Under the bill we are discussing here. We will have to take into account the sugarcane growers from all over the country. We hail from Uttar Pradesh and the sugarcane is produced maximum in Western Uttar Pradesh though it is also produced in other areas of Uttar Pradesh including Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Under this statutory resolution, we are trying to provide remunerative prices to all growers. All hon'ble Members have expressed their views in this regard. Discussion has also taken place on levy sugar of sugar mills. We have gone through the statement made by him on statutory amendment bill. It has been said in the statement that the State Government plays a major role in fixing the support prices for sugarcane and fixing the levy sugar. It is right but the Uttar Pradesh Government should pay attention to it that when we face the shortage of foodgrains, we import them but besides importing we should pay attention to increase their production in the country, be it is sugarcane, rice, wheat or sugar. Whenever there was shortage of urea and DAP, it was discussed in this very House. We also discussed it under Calling Attention Motion. Today, the farmer is helpless. Be it any issue relating to production of any foodgrain, he does not get either electricity or fertilizer or seeds on time and we have been discussing this issue in this very House every year but, till now, we have not been able to decide a concrete programme so that the condition of the farmer could be improved and economic situation of the country strengthened. We will have to think about it seriously.

Price fixation of non-levy sugar was also discussed here. I also listened to the reply given by him. The sugar mills never met the payment targets set by them

from time to time. I remember that our Government had fixed the sugarcane dues of the sugarcane growers very seriously during the hon. Mulayam Singh's Government. We also got its result. Hon. Agriculture Minister himself had praised Uttar Pradesh and hon. Mulayam Singhji in this very House and had said that Uttar Pradesh is the leader in sugar production. What was the reason that not only the farmers from the Western Uttar Pradesh but from the whole of Uttar Pradesh and the country had gathered at the Jantar Mantar recently and staged a Dharna there? They had only one demand that remunerative prices should be paid to the sugarcane farmers. The government had fixed the price at Rs. 130 and Rs. 145 last time while the sugarcane farmers demanded a price of Rs. 250-300 per quintal. We could not do that. I want that, stressing on this resolution, we should provide remunerative prices to the sugarcane farmers and we also know what the per acre agricultural production not only in Uttar Pradesh but in the entire country is and what the requirements of the farmers are. The Government has complete details about the price determination of the agricultural implements, seeds, fertilizers and agricultural produce. As hon. Agrawalji has just said that it is true that we fix the prices of these things sitting in AC rooms here, we fix the prices sitting in the 5 Star hotels, which should not be so. He is related to the agriculture sector and also has sugar mills. He knows the pain of the farmers. He should think seriously as to what price we can give to the farmers for their per acre produce. We will have to provide facilities accordingly and only then can we strengthen the Indian farmer's situation.

I would say one more thing that he has talked about giving Rs. 14000 crore to the mills. If he is so concerned about the mills then he should also think for the farmers as to how to provide remunerative prices for anything produced by the farmers be it sugarcane or any kind of foodgrain. Hon. Agriculture Minister, the day we will strengthen our farmers, the economy of the country will also improve and India will progress.

With this, I thank you and conclude while supporting this constitutional resolution.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak

on the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill. We got a glimpse of the pitiable condition of the sugarcane farmers of the country recently in Delhi itself when they gathered there for demonstration. They staged demonstration and their pitiable condition was seen in Delhi. Agriculture is the basis of our economy. Farmers constitute eighty per cent of the population of the country who depend on Agriculture. Farmer is the food provider for the country who regulates the economy of the country. I would particularly like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the condition of the sugarcane farmers in Uttar Pradesh who have been forced to commit suicide. The farmer produces sugarcane but its price has been fixed lower than its cost price. Wood is used as fuel in the rural areas. Even that wood is costlier than sugarcane. The farmer whose family depends on agriculture, particularly the sugarcane farmer, is in a very pitiable condition. The minimum support price fixed presently is very low. The demand for MSP is between Rs. 250-Rs. 300, today, the prices of sugar have increased in the villages too. The price of sugar has risen to Rs. 40-45 per kg from Rs. 25 per kg within an interval of 6 months. Today, everyone is fed up with price rise whether the lives in a village or in a city. The poor man is unable to fulfil his needs from his hard-earned money.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards sugar. Molasses is produced from sugar from which alcohol is produced. Paper and other things are produced from bagasse. Many things are produced from sugarcane. On the one hand, the mill owner is earning Rs. 350-400 from a quintal of sugar while on the other hand, the sugarcane farmer, who toils hard till late night in the field, is not getting even the reasonable price. The Government takes a part of the sugar production as levy while the remaining part can be sold in the open market. The farmer, whose family, education of his children and all his needs depend on agriculture, should get remunerative prices. But, they are not getting it due to which they are committing suicides. Through you, our colleagues have drawn the attention of the hon. Minister and I would also like to draw your attention that I also belong to a village and depend on my fields, but the

farmers are playing a kind of gamble with their hard earned money.

Yesterday, a discussion on Monsoon took place. Indian agriculture is particularly based on monsoon. There are no irrigation facilities and electricity facilities for farming. The farmers do not get fertilizers and seeds at the time of sowing. Despite this, the farmer gambles every year and takes risk. He does farming day and night after taking risk and when the harvest time comes, the MSP is very low. Due to this, his interest is waning in production and the country's economy is going down. We are importing from abroad because we are not paying attention towards the facilities for the farmer of the country. How long will we keep on importing? How long will we depend on foreign countries? Till sometime ago, we used to export but, today, we are importing. These situations evolved because we did not pay attention to the facilities for the farmers. There will be no movement and neither will the farmer need to take loan if we pay attention to the MSP issue. The Union Government said in the last Budget Session that the debt of the farmers was waived. I would like to say that the situation of debt arises when the farmers do not get the proper prices or even the cost of production, forget remunerative prices and the farmer falls into the trap of debt. What is the percentage of debt being waived by the Government? Only a person living in a village understands as to how a farmer living in a village is earning his livelihood. The Government says that it has waived farmer's debt worth thousands of crores of rupees. The Government should provide fertilizers, seeds, electricity, water and proper price for his produce on time because the farmers want only this. If he gets all these facilities then why will he take a loan? And there will be no need for waiver of loan if he does not take loans. If the farmer is happy then the country will become happy and only then can we decrease imports? The sugarcane farmers are committing suicides because they have some difficulties. I, therefore, through you, would like to urge the hon. minister that the MSP for their produce be increased and attention should be paid to their facilities.

Sir, with these words I conclude.

[English]

Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE (Bardhaman-Durgapur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you for allowing me to speak something on this Bill. I oppose this Bill because this Bill goes against the interest of the sugarcane farmers. The Government has already promulgated the Ordinance, and the Government is bringing forward this Bill in order to replace the Ordinance and get Parliamentary backing for it. In fact, this Bill is nothing but a step towards eventually decontrolling the sugar sector, which will play havoc.

What does the Bill say? The Bill seeks to replace the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) with a new category called Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP). Why is the Government going to do so? It is because the Supreme Court has given a verdict. At present the Central Government compensates the mills for the sugar it appropriates as levy and that price for levy is linked to the SMP.

Now, mills in some States pay the State Advisory Price (SAP), and naturally, the SAP is more than the SMP. The mills have gone to the Apex court telling that the Centre should pay the levy price based on the SAP. Hence, the courts concurred slapping the Centre with Rs. 14,000 crore as past dues and an additional Rs. 2,500 crore for every year going forward. Instead of paying up the Government has now decided to scrap the SMP, and replace it with FRP. It is to be mentioned here that the sugar mills have not paid the dues of the cane growers for a long time, and some of these mills have already been closed. Hence, if anybody is entitled to get this price, then it is not the millers but the sugarcane producers.

One point that we should keep in the mind is the fact that since 2003 the Centre has fixed the SMP at Rs. 80 a quintal which was much lower than the production cost. Now, the Centre has proposed a fair and remunerative price (FRP) of Rs. 129.84 per quintal. It is nothing but a mockery. What does the Government say? The Government says the FRP will provide for a specific margin for risk and profit to the farmers over and above the cost incurred towards production of sugarcane and its transportation. It is not at all tenable.

In the South, mills are paying more than Rs. 200 per quintal already. This price is nothing but kind of a joke to the farmers. Now, how does the Central Government fix the price? The Government has unilaterally decided the price. It has not consulted the farmers' organizations and the State Governments.

What is the recommendation of the National Commission for Farmers? The National Commission for Farmers headed by Dr. Swaminathan says that the support price of any crop should be fixed at C2 plus 50 per cent margin, that is, double the production cost plus 50 per cent of the cost as margin/profit. Now, the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CACP) have calculated at Rs. 101.32 per quintal as the average all-India cost of production of sugarcane. If we take into account the recommendation of the National Commission for Farmers, the support price of sugarcane per quintal should be not less than Rs. 250. Besides, the sugar mills are earning profit by using molasses for breweries and other by-products. But the farmers are not getting any share of the profit of those by-products.

One thing is clear that the price of sugar is rising very high. It has no relation with the price of sugarcane paid to the farmers because last year, the price was Rs. 125 or Rs. 130 per quintal, but the sugar price rose to Rs. 40 per kilogram. The reasons behind it are hoarding and black-marketing. This is the main reason and the Government committed to neo-liberal policies is unable to control.

The step-motherly treatment meted out to cane growers for years has forced the farmers to withdraw from sugarcane cultivation in recent years. It has been estimated that the area of sugarcane cultivation declined from five million hectares in 2007-08, to 4.38 million hectares in 2008-09, and now it has declined further, to 4.26 million hectares in 2009-10. Consequently, sugar production in our country also has declined from approximately 30 million tonnes to 15 million tonnes in one year. Therefore, we have to import sugar and we have to pay more price for that sugar.

In such a situation, over the years, the quantum of levy sugar accessed from the millers was as high as 60-70 per cent. Now, it has come down to 10-20 per cent

of produce. Central Government's assurance that fair and remunerative price could serve as the benchmark price, is not at all tenable because the farmers would not be able to negotiate higher prices, what has been described by the hon. Minister, if there is no legal backing for fair and remunerative prices. After massive protests by the cane growers on 19th November, the Government has assured to retain the provision of SAP, but the demand for retaining 5(a) of the Sugar Control Order, 1966 is still pending. What does this provision say? This provision gives the power to the farmer to claim a share of the extra profits made by the mills. So, dropping this provision goes against the interests of sugarcane farmers. Apart from that, the by-products of sugar have to be taken into account, but neither co-generated power nor ethanol figure in the list. By-products depress net costs which have to be taken into account to fix levy sugar price and calculate the extra profits. The farmers must have a share of these extra profits. By not updating the sugar industry's by-products, the Centre is hurting the farmers in two ways—first, depressing the minimum price of sugarcane to keep the levy price low, and second, not recognizing income streams of the mills that farmers have a right to.

In view of this, I urge upon the Government to bring the following amendments to the Essential Commodities, and Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. Firstly, fair and remunerative price should be replaced by statutory minimum price. Secondly, the words "to the extent" should be deleted, and the words "from the purchase centre to the factory gate" should be replaced with the words "from the field to the factory gate". Thirdly, amendment to para 7, page 6, of "Statement of Objects and Reasons". This para should be replaced by the following, "The Old system of SMP and SAP will continue to remain, and support price must not be less than Rs. 250 per quintal".

Para 5A of Sugarcane (Control) Order 1966 be upheld as to share the profit between the sugar mills and sugarcane growers. Uphold Para 3A of Sugarcane (Control) Order 1966 according to which when a producer of sugar fails to make payment for the sugarcane purchased within 14 days of the date of delivery, he should pay interest on the amount due at the rate of

15 per cent per annum for the period of such delay beyond 14 days.

Apart from that the Government of India should take action by stringent application of Essential Commodities Act to ensure that hoarders and black marketeers do not make profit and the price of sugar does not go very high.

SHRI NITYANANDA PRADHAN (Aska): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as we all know, sugarcane production is a vital issue for everybody in the country. While replying to a debate the other day the hon. Minister stated categorically that the area under sugar cultivation is coming down every year and that the sugarcane farmers are not getting a remunerative price for their produce. In view of this fact, I feel that the hon. Minister and the Union Government must consider formulating a National Sugarcane Growers Policy in consultation with the cane growers and the different organizations which are looking after the interests of the farmers and also the millers. If such a long-term policy for sugarcane growers is adopted by the Government, it will not only help the sugarcane growers but will also safeguard the national interest. In view of this, the measure which we are discussing will not be of much help.

The sugarcane growers must be consulted on the issue of a remunerative price for them and then only the Government should come to a conclusion. What is being done here is, taking advantage of some Supreme Court judgments and other things the actual purpose is being defeated. The crux of the matter is how to get the sugarcane growers a remunerative price for their produce.

Sugarcane crop takes a minimum period of 13 months to grow while all other crops take four to six months. In these 13 months, the sugarcane grower faces a lot of difficulties with regard to escalation of price of pesticides, manure. He also has to face the nature's fury. There is a lot of difficulty everywhere in India due to natural calamities. The sugarcane grower has to face all that. Taking all these things into account, the Union Government should fix the price of sugarcane at a minimum of Rs. 2,200 per M.T.

Apart from that, the sugar mills which are making

[Shri Nityananda Pradhan]

a profit from the byproducts of sugarcane should share some of their profits with the sugarcane growers.

Hence, if all these things are taken into consideration, the Government can create confidence among the sugarcane growers to enlarge their area of cultivation. If that is not done simply because we are deciding in this House or the Union Government decides the price, it will not be of any help to the sugarcane growers and as a result, the sugarcane cultivation will definitely fall and that would incur import of sugarcane from other countries paying heavy price. So, through you, I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister, who is an expert in this matter, that he should consider the plight of the cane growers and fix the minimum price at Rs. 2,200 per M.T., apart from extending other benefits.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (Salem): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Many Bills introduced by our Government were welcomed by the All India Anna DMK but this time we are not able to appreciate the Bill because it would be detrimental to the interests of the cane growers. I do not understand as to what was the urgency to promulgate the Ordinance. What extraordinary circumstances arose for promulgating the Ordinance? When the Ordinance was promulgated, it created the doubt about the intention of the Ordinance. The great Dravidian leader, Arignar Anna, once said, pat the poor, tap the rich should be the policy of a Government. Through this Bill, Government is tapping the poor and patting the rich. Certainly, this Bill is in favour of the sugarcane mill owners.

Hon. Minister may say that this is because of the judgement of the Supreme Court. I sincerely ask our hon. Minister: has the Government sincerely executed all the orders of the Supreme Court? Again, the hon. Minister may cite the reasons that the increase of levy sugar from 10 per cent to 20 per cent by the mills towards the public distribution system. This is also not an acceptable reason. If the Government wants to help the factory owners, it can do it. We have no objection but not at the cost of the farmers. That is my request.

Deletion of clause 5(a) is detrimental to the

sugarcane growers. The views of the Opposition parties have not been taken into consideration before the introduction of the Bill. Deletion of clause 5(a) will only affect the southern States sugarcane farmers, namely, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. If mills ran for more than 300 days in a year, average recovery falls. If profit sharing alone is there, cane growers will get the enhanced price over FRP.

A 35-year right—which have been enjoyed by the cane growers—are thrown away by deletion of clause 5(a). Profit-sharing is the right of the farmers. Mill owners are making profits and review through the by-products. The raw materials of the by-products are the assets of the farmers. So, they are rightly claiming the share. Because of the deletion of clause 5(a), there is no statutory protection to the farmers. It is not too late. We are having high regard for the hon. Agriculture Minister if he thinks, he can bring amendment or suitable modification in the provisions of the Bill.

Furthermore, my revered leader, the General Secretary of ADMK, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, again and again has been insisting that the cane growers should be given Rs. 2,000 per tonne. It is because the price fixed under FRP and SAP is not sufficient for farmers. So, the Government may please consider the long-pending demand of the farmers for enhancing the price, and fix it at Rs. 2000 per tonne. This is what we expect from the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (Domariyaganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to take part in the debate on a Bill of great public importance. I have been listening to the hon. Members for quite some time. Everyone is concerned about farmers, be it the treasury benches or the opposition. Everyone has sympathy for them and realizes their pain and anguish. Each one of us want that they get fair and remunerative price for their produce. Even more important than this one is another aspect. In every corner of the country, there is a talk of shortfall in sugar production. If it is so then there must be some reason behind it. The fact is that sugarcane crop has a three years cycle. The very first year, i.e. the year in which the crop is sown

production has got to be more. But the next year, and then the following year the farmers get disenchanted from the crop when they do not get fair price of the produce or face marketing problem, the yield declines. That year they get a good price. But the third year, sugarcane production goes much down resulting in declined sugar production. Surely the farmers are again deprived of the profit. He automatically stands deprived of any benefit. The Agriculture Minister, is, himself a farmer. And therefore, he should see that the State Governments make arrangements for proper marketing of agro-produce on the lines of industrial products. But in case of farmers, he can supply his sugarcane to the mills only in case he gets demand for it from the mills and that too, turn wise. Otherwise, he will have to sell his sugarcane to the local crushers or for khandsari. The condition in Uttar Pradesh has become such that farmers have to depend on touts and cane-mafia manipulate and purchase their cane at very cheap rates.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, basically this Bill has been brought in context of the order of the three Judge's bench of the Supreme Court involving a burden of differential price of Rs. 14,000 as mentioned by Puniaji. It incorporates an amendment to clause 3 (b). No doubt, clause 3 (b) is being amended, but clause 3 (a) still exists in the Bill, as earlier. It bestows the responsibility upon the State Governments for fixing state advisory price. Some of our hon. Members have just said that the fair and remunerative price fixed by the Central Government appears to be the price fixed by the State Governments for the farmers. If it is fair and remunerative price, then prior to it, it used to be MSP. MSP was a benchmark price fixed by the Central Government and the State Governments were bound to purchase sugarcane at the price not less than the said MSP. On the basis of that the State governments used to fix state advisory price. Today, in light of the Supreme Court's order, if MSP is replaced by FRP, then what stops the State Governments from paying the said remunerative price to the farmers?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue of Maharashtra came up. There, farmers are getting Rs. 230 per quintal. In Uttaranchal and Punjab also, the farmers are getting same price. As on date, in all the states, except Uttar Pradesh, sugarcane is fetching above Rs. 200 a quintal. Since the State Governments have been empowered

to fix state advisory price, therefore, in some of the states, it has been fixed as Rs. 165 or 170 a quintal. I do agree with the perception of Shri Panna Lal Punia that cane reservation is the right of the State Government. The State Government is empowered to decide about the quantity of sugarcane to be supplied to the sugar mills on the basis of the needs of the sugar mills, their crushing capacity etc. And since the State decides about cane reservation in consultation with the mill-owners, farmer's representatives, therefore, the mill owners cannot disassociate themselves from the decision of the State Governments in this regard. The price of sugarcane is fixed at the time of deciding about cane reservation and form 'c' is signed to the effect that the mill owners shall pay the fixed price. Despite that and today's amendment, Uttar Pradesh government stated that the State Government will ask the Divisional Commissioners to ensure that the farmers are paid FRP. Still, the farmers are not getting even Rs. 200 per quintal. There was a talk of Rs. 15 as bonus, then it was settled at Rs. 10. So, I feel no hesitation in saying that if State Governments are empowered to fix state advisory price, they will not give that one. That's why the farmers were forced to come here and start agitation.

Sir, I would like to thank the Central Government and the Minister of Agriculture because the day farmers came to Delhi in respect of Supreme Court's decision, the Government not only decided to reconsider this decision but also stated that the Ordinance brought in this regard would be amended soon. And hence this amendment bill today. The Central Government was not adamant. That was only a bench mark price and the State Governments were accountable for that. The Central Government decided to revise that price. History reveals that sugarcane growers put hard work day and night facing biting cold or scorching heat to produce sugarcane and after loading in bullock carts and tractors waited round the clock outside the sugar mills for selling it, but instead of getting the payments immediately, they had to visit the cane unions and mills for years. Our hon'ble Member Shri Rajuji was stating that the farmers had to launch an agitation and now they are compelled to commit suicide. I think the decision has changed overnight. After Independence, innocent unarmed farmers

[Shri Jagdambika Pal]

have faced bullets several times be it is Padrauna or Ramtola in Uttar Pradesh during the regime of BJP. Harshvardhanji and Shri Beniprasadji have rightly mentioned that bullets were fired on farmers in Mundrava also. At that time, coalition Government of BSP and BJP was in power in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am speaking on the bill only. It is not that I am deviating from the Bill. So far as suicides by the farmers are concerned, I would say that after introduction of this Bill no such incident has been reported. I would say that no farmer has committed suicide due to this order but history says that in Uttar Pradesh sugarcane growers have faced bullets for demanding the price for their produce. Today shortage of sugar is not due to hoarding and black-marketing but is due to the shortage in sugarcane production in recent years. It may increase the coming years but at present it is definitely below the demand. The hon'ble Minister has also stated that 70 lakh tonnes of additional sugar will have to be imported. When the Central Government realized that there is shortage of sugarcane, it immediately granted permission to import sugar on zero duty under O.G.L. ...*(Interruptions)* It is a process. Now they can import sugar on zero duty. You may not be aware but raw sugar has been imported. A few days back, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh stated that they decided to return the raw sugar imported in the mills. She is doing so ignoring the requirement of the people of the country.

You must have read that the 12.5% import duty being levied in Delhi has also been abolished to meet shortage of sugar. We talk about per hectare reduction in sugarcane production but what are the reasons for it? Besides, we should have the new and high yielding varieties of sugarcane but no such new varieties are being introduced by the State agriculture universities. Today when the land holdings are shrinking, there is a need to increase the production. The State Governments should be more concerned about how to increase the per hectare production of sugarcane.

Today we are discussing to revise the support

price of sugarcane. I think after this amendment, if the support price is to be fixed at Rs. 225.00 or Rs. 250, as the BSP and Samajwadi Members have stated, it would be the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to fix the support price/State advisory price and cane reservation and to ensure that the payments be made to sugarcane growers by the sugar mills. Now how can be demand for Rs. 250.00? Had we not brought this amendment, there could have been a possibility.

It has been said about the sugarcane control Act that payments should be made within 14 days. We have been demanding it in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for 28 years. ...*(Interruptions)* He is right that the production of sugarcane is falling down constantly. We should be concerned about that also, but the payments for sugarcane should be made within 14 days. Under the mandatory sugarcane Control Act State Government would be responsible to ensure the payments to sugarcane growers. On one hand we talk about Federal structure and on the other we want State Governments to protect the interests of farmers, but if we want to protect the interests of farmers in real terms, the State Governments should be made responsible to ensure the payment of interest to sugarcane growers on delayed payments made by the mill owners. I think, as the previous speakers have also stated, any decision taken in this regard should be in the interest of farmers. Today this amendment bill has been brought to safeguard the interests of farmers which has been welcomed by everyone. I hope farmers will definitely get the remunerative prices and State Governments will have to make more efforts to increase the production. State Governments will protect the interests of farmers either through Sugarcane Control Act or through reservation.

Today several sugar mills have closed down. However, the Government is not concerned about the cooperative sugar mills and the mills under sugar federation in Uttar Pradesh. When our Government was in power, we acquired even the private sugar mills on their closure. We were not doing business. We were working as a welfare state and to protect the interests of farmers. We acquired those mills and made efforts to revive under Uttar Pradesh Sahkari Sangh or Uttar

Pradesh State sugar corporation. As Puniaji has mentioned, 22 sugar mills are still closed. Sugarcane growers will definitely face the problem. One and a half month has elapsed since the start of crushing season and this is an ideal time for a good sugar recovery. With the rise in temperature after March-April, the sugar recovery shows a downward trend i.e. if it is 10, 11 or 12% at present, it would be 8-9% after April. It leads to increase in the cost of production which turns into losses. I would demand from the hon'ble Agriculture Minister to direct or suggest the State Governments to at least revive the closed sugar mills. The Statutory advisory price should be paid to sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh as is being given in Maharashtra, Haryana and other States and it should be done to safeguard the interests of sugarcane growers. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI HUKMADEO NARAYAN YADAV (Madhubani):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, this subject has been discussed at length and the hon. Members have expressed their opinion. I would like to bring a new point to the government's notice. Hon. Sharad Pawarji should give it serious consideration. Although he is Minister of Agriculture, he pays more attention to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs. If he pays closer attention to his own Ministry, it would benefit the farmers of the country.

I would like to say that seven cases in this regard have been filed in the courts. The sugar mill owners filed seven cases in this regard but no farmer or a representative of the farmers, or any person from our side went to the courts nor was any affidavit in the interests of the farmers filed by the government. Ex-parte decision would be taken in the court. No one called the farmers for a hearing so who looked after their interests? Was Mahendra Singh Tikait, Chaudhary Ajit Singh or Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav summoned or was any farmer leader made party to the case? When none of the sugar mill owners made any farmer leader party to this case then we are not bound to comply with the decision of the Supreme Court. This is a one-sided decision on the basis of the replies submitted by sugar mill owners and the government. It has been amended three times so far. I also belong to that area. 11 to 12 sugar mills in Bihar are lying closed. The

Maharaja of Darbhanga had established three sugar mills in Raiyayam, Sankari and Lohat within a radius of ten kilometers which were later taken over by the government. All the three mills are closed now. There was a time when farmers had oxen as large as elephants and now they do not have the means to keep a donkey. They are in dire straits. The people who had great riches are not able to buy new clothes for their children during Chhatth and Deppawali as no sugarcane production is taking place. The farmers are facing this situation because of the closure of the three sugar mills.

Jagdambika Pal was speaking on the subject. Sir, there are three types of farmers. One is the real farmer, the other the political and the third is the one who discusses academics of agriculture. The real farmer toils in his farm come winter or come summer, in the sun and during the winter chill. He burns and shivers, pushes himself hard and whose entire family is engaged in the farm. Then there is the political farmer, like us. Jagdambika Palji was speaking about the problems and difficulties faced by the farmers but still supported the policies of the government. There are people who praise those who feed them even if the dal is sour, the sweets are stale and the milk is spoiled. Similarly, the political farmers can never work for the benefit of farmers. Hence, I would like to request you humbly to formulate a sugarcane and sugar policy. The price of sugarcane is decided by an Agriculture Commission, which has no representative of the farmers. It decides prices on a one-sided basis. The commission never takes into account the labour, the labour of children, the round the clock vigilance and hard work put in by the farmers.

When Yashwant Sinhaji was Finance Minister he had called the representatives of the farmers before formulating the budget. I had also gone there. The representatives of industrialists and farmers both were present there. He gave a hearing to them. It is the duty of the government to act in this manner because who will listen to the farmers if the commission does not have a farmer representative. Who will talk of the interests of the farmers? One-sided decisions are taken. The Commission consists of high-level bureaucrats, people who wear western suits, speak English, eat with fork and spoon and stay in five star hotels. How can

[Shri Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav]

they think about the benefits of farmers? Only the weaver knows, where the shoe pinches. How can these people know of the problems faced by farmers? That is why a farmer representative should be included in the commission.

Sir, I would like to raise an issue before you. He has raised three points. He has talked of risk and gain. Who takes more risk than a farmer? What risk do mill owners take? They take loan for the mills from banks. They use these loans to build big houses, rest houses, guesthouses in metropolises such as Mumbai and Kolkata. When the mills close down they would declare them to be sick mills and the government would take over those mills. We would run the mill and then the government would finally shut them down completely. The mill owners stand to lose nothing but what would we, the farmers get? If their mill closes down, they get money from BIFR. You give money from the sugar development fund. But if a sugarcane farm becomes barren and yields no crop, will the farmer have recourse to BIRF. Is there any sugar development fund for the farmers? Where is the Sugarcane Farmers Development Fund on lines of the Sugar Development Fund? Why is such a fund not set up for the farmers? If this issue is given consideration then we would be reassured about the government's intentions; A policy in this regard should be formulated. Risk and Profit—The risk and profit of the farmers should be given equal weightage. About fair and remunerative prices, we are fighting for remunerative prices till date. We do not want minimum support price. You have a practice of giving minimum support price. If the minimum support price is announced for paddy and wheat, then we can sell them anywhere but in case of sugarcane where can we sell it except sugar mills? Will we wander on the streets of Delhi with sugarcane laden carts shouting—'buy sugarcane, buy sugarcane'? Will we get a price higher than MSP for sugarcane in the market? Therefore, the Government should fix a remunerative price for sugarcane and not MSP. This should be fixed by the Government in consultation with the experts, representatives of farmers and economic advisers. I want to say that the topmost

economists of India or the economists and scholars of Planning Commission or Agriculture Ministry or Finance Ministry receiving Government aid should come together and I, Hukmadeo Narayan Yadav, a simple farmer, will speak with them and confront them as to whether they are aware of our problems or not. Then the truth will come out and that is why it should be considered.

What will be the minimum price? Will the Government decide the minimum price for sugar? If the Government decides the minimum price for sugarcane, then the Agriculture Price Commission should decide the minimum price for sugarcane too. The Commission should sit before us. No minimum price is fixed for anything produced by the industries. What kind of justice is this that we should buy sugar at Rs. 35 per kg? We should sell our sugarcane at the minimum price but should purchase sugar at higher prices for celebration such as daughter's marriage, father's shradh, Ganesh Puja, chhath puja etc. If the Government takes our sugarcane then it should give 20% sugar to farmers at the levy price. We will sell our sugar and recover our costs. What is to be decided is the basis on which it should be done.

Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Committee was constituted during Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehruji's time. That Committee had said that there is a certain relation between the price of sugarcane and the price of sugar. That time sugar was priced at Rs. 32 for 40 kgs. While sugarcane was Rs. 2 for 40 kg. If we fix price on this basis then the sugarcane price should be atleast Rs. 245 per quintal as sugar is Rs. 35 per kg. A policy should be formulated on the basis of recovery that the price of sugarcane will be decided in proportion to its average recovery percentage. If the recovery is 10% on average and price is Rs. 35 per kg then the price of sugarcane should be fixed on the basis of 10 per cent. Then, we will not need to go to the court. The Government takes the levy sugar. Levy sugar has the same colour. It does not have two colours. The Government takes the levy sugar and the same sugar is sold in the black market. at higher prices and not at fair prices. Can the Government differentiate between the colour of the levy sugar and free sugar? Dr. Lohia used to say that levy sugar should be coloured so that

the truth may come out if it is sold in the black market. But, both the sugars are white in colour. The same sugar is levy sugar and free sugar. You can mix levy sugar into free sugar or vice-versa and sell it in the black market and make the farmer suffer losses. I, therefore, humbly request you to remove levy. The Government says that we will provide levy sugar to the poor through BPL card. I request that the difference in the prices of sugar and levy sugar provided by the Government should be decided.

14.00 hrs.

The Government should open a bank account in the name of each BPL family and deposit Rs. 1500-2000 or Rs. 3000 in their account. The Government should make the market free. We will purchase at the market rate. This way, there will be no black marketing and nobody will take other's share. It is my humble request that injustice should not be done with us.

Finally, I would say that the Government should make a policy and then fix the prices. Chaudhary Charan Singh was a prominent farmer leader of the country. Earlier, these used to be excise duty on tobacco. When he became the Finance Minister, he ordered removal of the excise duty on tobacco. Many high officials told that removal of the excise duty would result in losses. Chaudhary Charan Singh said that an industrialist sets up an industry and he has the freedom to produce cloth, medicines, shoes or utensils. Similarly, a farmer has his farms and it is his choice whether to grow sugarcane, tobacco or Chillies. Why should the Government impose tax on tobacco? Tobacco producing farmers are free from excise duty till today. Such a leader he was and with such vision. And the Government wants to control our sugarcane.

During the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government, it was not allowed to produce gud in the expeller in the Reserve Area. But, he made it free. Now, it is the choice of the farmer whether he wants to prepare gud or not. Similarly, the restriction of 20 km for setting up a sugar mill has been decreased to 15 kms. The mini sugar mills were not allowed to shift. On this, he said it was their choice wherever they would like to shift their sugar mill. It is the view point of a farmer. There

is an industrialist's view for the benefit of the sugar mills under the pressure of the sugar lobby for safeguarding the interests of the sugar mill owners and industrialists. Why is it so? It is so because the union of the sugar mill owners can give a huge amount as election fund in one go. But, if we are provided any benefit then where and to which party we will give funds after taking Rs. 5-10 from the farmers? The farmers used to pay Rs. 5-10 or Rs. 20 in the bag for Chaudhary Charan Singh. That is why, we suffer losses, the sugarcane growers suffer losses. Sugar producers lobby is at work here. The SDF is for them besides many other funds. The Government provides them assistance of all kind.

In the end, I will urge that during the Jai Prakash movement, we used to say to the farmers and youth of the country:—

"Lakh lakh Jhonpadiyon mein chhai hui udasi hai,
Satta sampad ke bangle mein Hansti Purnamasi hai,
Yeh sab Ab na chalne denge, hamne kasam khai hai,
Tilak lagane tumhe jawano, Kranti dwar par Aayi hai."

Today, I would like to say to the House that—

"Aao shramik, krishak, mazdooron, inqab ka naara do,
Shikshak, Gurujan, Budhijiviyon, Anubhav Bhara Sahara Do,
Phir Dekhen yeh satta kitni Barbar aur baurai hai,
Tilak lagane tumhe kisanon, Kranti dwar par aayi hai."

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Sriperumbudur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of DMK, I rise to support the Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009. With great difficulty and after a lot of persuasion by the DMK and other parties, the Government has agreed to restore the SAP. For that, on behalf of other parties in general and on behalf of the DMK in particular, I thank the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who is a veteran politician in Indian politics.

14.04 hrs.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

When we are discussing this Bill, 299 districts of

[Shri T.R. Baalu]

twelve States are reeling under severe drought. They have already been declared as drought-prone areas. Out of 526 met districts, 311 districts have received only scanty and deficient rain-fall. At the same time, northern India, north-west India and central India have received insufficient rainfall. The experts have also come forward to say that 6.7 per cent of sugarcane production will be less when compared to the previous year. What does it mean? When the sugarcane production is falling, there will be pressure on the price. The hon. Minister of Agriculture will have to play a dual role. He has to play a role to see that the consumers get sugar at an affordable price and the cane growers also should get fair and remunerative price. So, in between, he has to balance and see that both the communities are not affected.

Sir, every year, the Government of India used to announce the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP). Over and above, the State Government used to announce State Advisory Price (SAP). Now, the third pricing has come in place of SMP and it is FRP. So, in place of Statutory Minimum Price, Fair and Remunerative Price is going to be adopted after passing of this Bill. Many States like Tamil Nadu used to announce SAP over and above SMP.

What was the SMP in 2005-06 as announced by the Government of India? It was Rs. 795 per tonne and now in 2009-10, it is Rs. 1,077 per tonne. The SAP, as announced by the Government of Tamil Nadu, in 2005-06 was Rs. 1,014; the SAP as announced by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 2009-10 is Rs. 1,550 per tonne. Please see the difference! The Government of India within four years have increased their SMP and the increase was Rs. 282.60 per tonne only, but the Government of Tamil Nadu has increased the price to the level of Rs. 536 per tonne within four years. The State Government has discussed the matter with the stakeholders and properly decided over and above the Government of India's rate. So, because of the pressure, the Government of India could not have a line in between the growers and the consumers. I am taking the Government of Tamil Nadu as an example only.

So, what has happened because of the increased price by the Government of Tamil Nadu is that the growers have grown more sugar cane. When compared to 2005-06, the sugar cane production was 351 lakh tonnes in Tamil Nadu; in 2006-07, it went up to 411 lakh tonnes. So, there is an increase from 351 lakh tonnes in 2005-06 to 411 lakh tonnes in 2006-07 and 382 lakh tonnes in 2007-08. It is an increase of more than 30 lakh tonnes, as compared to the figure in 2005-06. So, because of the encouragement and incentives given by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, this has happened. I am not finding fault with my friend. I do not deny that he may be having so many problems. At the same time, we welcome about the announcing of FRP. It is because of the court verdict and he has to pay Rs. 14,000 crore to the mill owners, he has come forward to see that this Bill is amended and go before the court saying that we have amended the Bill and the fair and remunerative price will be given hereafter. That is what he is going to say before the court. My only apprehension is this. With the persuasion of so many friends like me, my friend has taken a proper decision. He was going on arguing with all his legal luminaries to convince the leaders. His argument is that whatever ingredients that have been taken care of by clause 5A of the Sugarcane Control Order, 1996, these ingredients have been taken care of by the FRP. I still believe that is not a problem. The poor farmers are apprehensive about the sugar mill owners. What they say is that even with clause 5A, the mill owners used to deceive them; they have not come to a correct conclusion to have a fair and remunerative price. Now, without clause 5A, where is the chance for the agriculturists to have the bargaining power? They will be losing the bargaining power. If clause 5A is there, the bargaining power will be there so that the State Government, the cane growers can definitely put pressure on the mill owners to see that a proper and remunerative price is given. But things will not happen like this. So, what I suggest is this. My suggestion to my hon. Friend is this. Mr. Minister, you may get the Bill passed. There is no problem. Almost the entire House will be with you. But, at the same time, you should not forget to provide a rule so that the mill owners provide remunerative price to the sugar

cane growers. They should pay the amount within 15 days. I repeat that they should pay the proceeds to the cane growers for their produce within 15 days. That is very important.

At the same time, I fail to understand why my friend is not considering the recommendations of the National Farmers Commission Report. What I feel is that the National Farmers Commission is the direct representative of the cane growers. Mr. Minister, why do you not consider the rate advised by the National Farmers Commission? Sir, I think while answering, he will have to give a correct, proper and categorical answer to this issue.

Before I conclude, my demand is that he should refrain from deleting clause 5A from the Sugarcane Control order, 1966. ...(*Interruptions*) I repeat that he has to refrain from deleting clause 5A from the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966 or he has to provide a proper rule or mechanism so as to have a correct, fair and remunerative price to the cane growers which provide the right of profit-sharing in the realize of their cane co-produce also.

The second demand is that he should fix a remunerative price as per the National Farmers Commission's recommendations and not as per the present dispensation.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to oppose the Bill.

We are discussing the Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill in the backdrop of a huge *kisan* mobilization, sugarcane growers mobilization in the Capital recently. Not only thousands but also more than a lakh of *kisans* mobilized in the Capital recently. They met the hon. Prime Minister. They met our hon. Minister also. ...(*Interruptions*) Hon. Minister, please hear me. It is expected that in the course of his reply, not only should he respond to the questions raised in the House itself but also respond to the farmers who mobilized in huge numbers in the Capital recently.

What is the convention? The convention is, each

sugar mill is allocated a command area in its vicinity and the mill is bound to purchase sugarcane grown in that area. The sugarcane farmers are also expected to sell only to the designated mills and the mills used to purchase sugarcane even at a higher price than the State Advisory Price or the Statutory Minimum Price. This is the convention.

Now, the Statutory Minimum Price has been replaced by Fair and Remunerative Price. I do not understand how it is fair and remunerative. When farmers feel that the SAP is not remunerative, how can the FRP fixed by the Central Government be considered as fair and remunerative? I do not want to go into the details of figures and the difference between the SMP and SAP. Whatever name the Government may give to this price, but they should not name it fair and remunerative. This is nothing but a mockery.

We are talking about the Supreme Court's order. What does it say? The Supreme Court ruled that the price of levy sugar should exclude the additional prices as indicated in Section 5(A) of the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966, which is known as the Bhargava formula, and the SAP set by the State Governments. It was expected that the Central Government would comply with the judgement of the Supreme Court? But what has been done? They just deleted Section 5(A) and the Second Schedule. Then, they added Section 3(B) which requires that the State Governments should bear the incremental cost if they fix SAP higher than the FRP. Not only that, this will be implemented with retrospective effect. So, the deletion of Section 5(A) and insertion of Section 3 (B) are against the interest of farmers.

Many things have been said about sugar mill owners. Now the levy is increased from 10 per cent to 20 per cent and the remaining 80 per cent will go to the market. So there is no control over it. On the other hand, they have been exempted to pay a price higher than the SAP. So, my point is, all the States are acting against the interest of farmers and they are not responding to the demands of agitating farmers who have mobilised here in the Capital two weeks ago.

We are talking about remunerative price. Several

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

hon. Members have already referred about the Report of the National Commission on Farmers headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. What is the recommendation of Swaminathan Commission? Their recommendation is that the Statutory Minimum Price would be fixed based on the cost of cultivation plus 50 per cent profit. It is not being honoured till today. Swaminathan Commission's another recommendation is that the procurement price and the Minimum Support Price would not be the same. Minimum Support Price is the minimum; but procurement price should not be similar to the Minimum Support Price.

Hon. Shri Baalu has raised the point as to why this Government has not come out complying with the recommendations made by the Swaminathan Commission. I am raising the same question here. I have the highest regards for the hon. Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar. I think, he will respond to all these things. He will satisfy us and at least, he would respond to the huge rally which was organised at Delhi. It was expected that the Government would think something for their interest, it was expected that the Prime Minister would himself think for their interests.

With these words, I strongly oppose this Bill and I think, the Government will think over, ponder over it in the interest of the farmers.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (Rampur): Mr. Chairman, I am very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on this important Bill in the House. I greatly respect the Minister and hope that the sugarcane, farmers, about whom the present discussion is going on in the House, would be benefited under his leadership. 70 per cent of the population of our country is dependent on agriculture. Whenever the farmers are confronted by any problem, we raise the issue in House. As hukam Yadavji has said that there are three types of farmers. One type belongs to the poorest of the poor category. The second type is involved in politics. The third type belongs to the affluent section. I don't know which category the farmers I represent belongs to but

ever since I have joined politics and become a member of the Lok Sabha. I have experienced the pain of the farmers at close quarters. We have always raised issues pertaining to farmers in the House every time—be it farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu or Uttar Pradesh. The farmers have to face natural disasters every year. The farmers are the most affected by scarce rains, heavy rains or storms. The gaze of the farmer is always directed towards the sky to get indication of rains on which their produce is dependent. After the harvest when the farmer goes to the market to sell his produce he finds that he is not able to cover even his cost of production. I can empathize with his and his family's state of mind at that time. The farmer find all his hopes on his crops and when he is not able to provide a good upbringing to his children or spend on their marriage he feels betrayed and I can empathize with him. Today we are holding a comprehensive discussion on the issue and I understand that politics of policy and intimations is being played out. The farmers of the country were forced to gather at Jantar-Mantar in Delhi to draw attention towards their problems. If the UPA Government had given thought to the issue of recovery of production cost of the farmers earlier, this situation would not have arisen.

I would like to draw your attention towards Uttar Pradesh. I would like to tell you that Mulayam Singhji's government had waived the debts of farmers when a similar situation had arisen in the state. I want to say that a compromise can be reached between the State Governments, farmers and mill owners. Minister Sahib, I would like to ask you if you have ever invited the sugarcane farmers for talks? Have you ever resolved their problems? Have you included the farmers in the decision regarding the price fixation of the farm produce? Is this decision to be taken by the States? How can they do so because there is a huge difference in the prices fixed by the State Governments and those fixed by the mill owners. Who is suffering as a result? The problems are being faced only by the farmers. Production of sugar is going down and you are aware of the loss the country will face as a result thereof. On the one hand, you are importing sugar and on the other you are not willing to pay the price of sugarcane. Who will take care of the sugarcane farmers? I would like to

tell you that there is still time. I am hopeful because many attempts have been made to provide justice to the farmers under your leadership. I hope today also that you will not hesitate in ensuring justice for the farmers. You have fixed prices but you should compare these prices with the prices in other states. The farmers in Uttar Pradesh are suffering losses. I am talking of those farmers from Uttar Pradesh. No other region or state has such low minimum support prices. I would like to appeal to you that there is only one way to safeguard farmers from middlemen and that is to raise prices. You should give immediate consideration to the support price being asked by them.

The issue of levy sugar is being discussed. I would like to ask the kind of support being provided. There is no support. Only one thing can be done that prices are discussed with mill owners and fixed with the permission of the State Governments. How will this be done? Call the officials, farmers association, get them to reach an agreement and then decide upon a price. Raise your price upto their price and ensure that it is paid? I hope that the house will understand the problem of the sugarcane farmers and give support to enable them to get justice.

Sir, with these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (Khammam): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Essential Commodities Bill. The prices of essential commodities are going up day by day. Today, the inflation in the case of sugar is 43 per cent.

The inflation in respect of vegetables is 45 per cent; the inflation in respect of potato is 75 per cent; the inflation in respect of rice is 32 per cent; and the inflation in respect of pulses is 55 per cent. Why are these happening? They are happening due to the wrong policies of the Government. They are unable to control the prices.

If you see the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, you will notice that the powers to control production, supply and distribution are totally the responsibility of

the Government but the Government is unable to control the prices of these commodities.

[Translation]

This is placing a great burden upon the common man. The common man is suffering because there is no control over the prices of commodities. The government has not been able to do anything. In the meanwhile, the Prime Minister says that:

[English]

"The price rises because of the market forces". The Agriculture Minister says: "The situation will change once the Rabi crops are harvested". Is this the way to control the prices?

Already in India, 301 districts in 12 States, drought is prevailing. The Agriculture Minister is giving the same figure. The Government is telling that 61,15,000 hectares of land were affected due to drought; and further the food grain losses were 2,10,68,000 tonnes. How can you control the prices once the Rabi crop harvesting has started?

[Translation]

They are keeping the Indians in the dark. Is this the way to tell the people? This has to be given great care. When the sugar issue came,

[English]

for the last three years the sugar production has come down like anything. The production of sugar was 282 lakh tonnes in 2007 and 146 lakh tonne last year. The Government is telling that the production of sugar will be 160 lakh tonnes this year. It will be very difficult, and it will not cross even 130 lakh tonnes.

The buffer stock position in respect of sugar has come down like anything for the last three years. In 2001, the buffer stock of sugar was 110 lakh tonnes and in the last year, it was only 24 lakh tonnes. Now, during this year we have to import almost 100 lakh tonnes of sugar.

Last time, the Agriculture Minister had mentioned in this House that they were planning to import 50 lakh

[Shri Nama Nageswara Rao]

tonnes of sugarcane. At what rate? Why is the Government not giving the same price to our farmers? They are importing sugarcane at the price of 500 to 600 dollars per tonne, which is almost Rs. 30 per kilo but they are not giving the same sugarcane price to our farmers. This is very unfortunate.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the Agriculture Minister that clause 5 (a) which you have removed from this Amendment Bill should be incorporated. This clause 5 (a) should be reincorporated because this clause 5 (a) enables the farmers to get additional price out of the share of 50 per cent additional profit. It is not harmful to the Government. Why is the Government want to remove it?

On the one side you are telling that the advantage has already been included in the fair and remunerative price. At what price are you fixing? It is Rs. 129.89 per quintal. It is very unfortunate. The actual rate today is minimum Rs. 150 per quintal.

On the one side, they are saying that they are including 50 per cent for the farmers' profit. So, they have to give a minimum of Rs. 150 plus 50 per cent, that is, Rs. 225. Otherwise, it would be very difficult for the sugarcane farmers. That is why, we are requesting the hon. Minister to include clause 5A.

Recently, they had said about measures taken by the Government to control the prices of the essential commodities. But how are they controlling? They have written 'reduction of the import duty with zero import duty on sugar.' They have said about reduction in the import duty on refined and vegetable oils; allowing the import of white and refined sugar and removing the obligation in respect of import of raw sugar and white sugar. They have said about permitting the sugar factories to sell processed and raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfil the export obligation on the tonne to tonne basis. Along with this, they have also said a lot of other things. This is very unfortunate. Is it the way to control the price of sugar and other commodities?

Sir, for rice, sugar and other commodities, they

are depending on the imports! This has never happened before in the country. But it is happening now just because of the wrong policies of the Government. They should realise it.

Therefore, I would request that the Government should immediately think about the pathetic condition of the farmers. We had the Dr. Swaminathan Committee Report. What had Dr. Swaminathan Committee Report recommended? It had recommended that we have to take into account the actual cost of the farmers. But how are they arriving at Rs. 129.84? They are taking even the actual cost of the farmers with the price indices. Due to this reason alone, the farmer is not getting his actual cost. That is why I would urge the hon. Minister that the actual cost of the farmers should be taken into consideration and the recommendation of 50 per cent should also be considered.

The Government should remove all the taxes. On other imports, they are giving 100 per cent tax benefit to the importers. Why should they not give the same benefit to the Indian farmers also? There is a need to give direct subsidy to the farmers. This is all the more necessary. All the subsidies should be given to the farmers.

Sir, I would also request that there should be a direct market access. We should have 'Ryot Bazar'. In Andhra Pradesh, during his time, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu introduced 'Ryot Bazar'—which is known as the farmers' market—so that farmers could go to the market directly and sell their produce. There is no need of any middlemen.

Therefore, I would request that the Government should think all these things very seriously. At the same time, I would once again request that the Clause 5A should be included in the Sugar Amendment Bill as it is very much necessary for the farmers.

With these few words, I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a worldwide hue and cry over the fact that sugar prices are on fire in India. Sugar

is being sold at Rs. 40, 50 a kilo. Leaving the proposed bill for others to ponder over, roughly. I would like to say that it is the government of India which fixes SMP. Whenever a meeting is held to deliberate upon State Advised Price or for negotiating price, the representatives of the state governments, farmer's representatives, mill owners take part in the meeting. A provision was made that SMP would prevail over SAP and if the states want to pay higher price, they can do so on their own. But the state governments acted arbitrarily on the issue and it led to the exploitation of farmers. There was hue and cry. Several people were removed. Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidavai gave a formula about fixation of sugarcane price and sugar price. The government has fixed SMP of sugarcane as Rs. 130 per quintal. We produce at least eight-and-a-half kg sugar from one quintal of sugarcane. In certain cases, sugar recovery is 9, 10, 11, 12 or even 13 kg per quintal. But, roughly we take it as 8½ kg sugar out of sugarcane worth Rs. 130, but the consumer gets it at the rate of Rs. 40 a kg and thus the value of 8½ kg sugar works out to Rs. 340. The price of one quintal sugarcane is Rs. 130 but the price of 8½ kg sugar made from that sugarcane sold to a customer is Rs. 340. No doubt, the crushing and other activities incidental thereto involve expenditure, but how much? Sugarcane bought at Rs. 130 fetches the mill owners Rs. 340, more than three times. What is this? This is nothing but arbitrariness. I am taking sugar calculations which a layman or a rural folk can easily understand. If price of sugarcane is Rs. 130 a quintal, then sugar should be priced at Rs. 16, 17 or 18 a kg.

Sir, there are three parties involved in it. First one is the customers, we have crores of customers in our country and they are unorganized. Second party is the farmers. Though they are also in lakhs, crores in numbers, but, they are also unorganized. The third party is the sugar mills and they are organized. One party is organized, whereas, two parties are unorganized. The government has to equally take care of all the three parties. It is important that the mills survive but the government should take care of the other two parties as well. The Minister, on behalf of the government, says that the country expects to have bumper sugarcane crop during the ensuing three years, and therefore, the sugar will also be plentiful. But the estimate fails and thus

declines the sugar production during the next two years. It is cyclic. If the government appreciates the said cycle then what corrective measures it takes? I would seek an answer to it from the government. If demand and supply decides it then what is the role of the government? The Government should see to it that the two unorganized parties do not have to suffer. Out of them, the farmer works very hard, they face shortage of seeds, unavailability of loan, shortage of foodgrains. He neither gets gur nor is able to sell his sugarcane and ultimately he has to burn his crop. The farmer is unorganized, he does maximum labour and takes maximum risks. The government should protect their interests. Then comes, helpless consumers, they get 200 grams sugar for Rs. 10 as the sugar costs Rs. 50 a kilo. In villages, one hardly buys one or two quintal sugar. Levy, too, has been reduced from 60-65% to 40-45% and even 10-15%. The PDS content was Rs. 100, per person half a kilo sugar is given in PDS. What for a poor person will buy sugar? A few poor people buy sugar. The sugar price is on fire in the country. The government should pay attention to it. On the contrary, a statement comes from the government, that price cannot be controlled right now, it will increase further. For what is the government then? It is not controlled by the nature, nor is it a national calamity. It is created by man, the powerful ones. It is created by them. It is a man created calamity on farmers and the consumers. And both of these are unorganized. They should get protection. I observed that when SMP was fixed at Rs. 130 people started selling their sugarcane in Nepal, then the mill owners came to the cane farmers requesting them to sell their sugarcane to them and offered them Rs. 200 a quintal. Then the government cries foul saying it is smuggling of sugarcane and it should be stopped. He says sugarcane and sugar both come under essential commodities. The government fixes lower SMP for sugarcane so that the farmers get less and when the sugar is available at higher prices, the pat comes reply that it is because of demand-supply gap. Mill owners are permitted to loot as much as they can. Who has allowed futures trading in sugar? It is not appropriate on the part of the government. The government has allowed open loot of farmers and the consumers by the mill owners. It is unfair. It cannot be

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

tolerated. The Members belonging to opposition parties are busy elsewhere and therefore, this message has not been able to reach the rural folk so far. It will take some time. Opposition will not agree at the current SMP and the government will have to provide higher SMP—otherwise there would be agitation. If everything depends upon demand and supply then what is the role of the government. The public will demand and in that scenario who would supply? Big traders have hoarded the entire stock. There were no buyers of potato when it was sold at Rs. 2 a kg and when entire stock was put in cold storage the prices spurt to Rs. 20, 25 even 30 a kg. The farmers are being looted. The sufferer is the farmer as well as the common man. Mill owners are united, they are organized and they can make the government to decide in their favour. There has been a mention of Supreme Court also. High stakes are involved there. Three pages comprises of deliberation in Supreme Court in this regard. Which are the parties involved there? Why the government did plead the case in favour of farmers? Who pleaded in favour of consumers in the court—the government did so. But the government loses the case. In case there is more to plead. We got fed of it as the matter came before Supreme Court. The court asked for whom the government is enacting the law. It is enacting a law against the interests of consumers. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if you give me enough time, I can analyze everything even the history and geography of price fixation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Bahrapur): It includes mathematics also.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Yes, mathematics. I have explained sugarcane at Rs. 130 a quintal and sugar at Rs. 40 a kg. Eight-and-a-half-kilo sugar can be produced out of one quintal of sugarcane, calculate the value of 8½ kg sugar @ Rs. 40 kg. It works out to Rs. 340. Apart from it, we have bagasse and molasses. It is used for manufacturing spirit and several other costly items? ...*(Interruptions)* It is roughly I am talking. I am not an expert in this regard. A layman can calculate on his finger tips as to how much the mill owner are making hay. The government should see

to it that a common consumer is not exploited. Mill owners are organized and they create an atmosphere in their favour claiming through media that they are reeling under loses and the government should help them out. The sugar is cheap the world over why is it dearer in India. People say restrictions have been removed after WTO agreement, but, so is not the case in the matter of wheat. How can we import if it is costly abroad? Will we import it at the rate of Rs. 16. The government procures locally at Rs. 10 a kg but imports same wheat at Rs. 16 a kg. What a thing it is? Wheat has become costly the world over. Sugar is costly in our country. Neither the government will give higher SMP to farmers nor it will import sugar. Sugar is cheap abroad. By hearing all this one can conclude that there is something wrong somewhere. Therefore, if the interests of farmers and common consumers are not taken care of there will be agitation. It is me, who is saying so and we cannot suppress when rural people and farmers rise and speak. It is our duty and dharma. I would like to convey this before the apex panchayat that—yachna nahi ab jang hoga, jeewan-maran ya jai hoga. With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurgaht): Hon. Chairman, Sir, sugarcane and sugar are essential commodities. Out of the total production of sugar in the country, 20% is levy sugar and 80% is non-levy sugar. Price of that 20% is determined by the government and is distributed among the poor people through PDS. But the ground reality is something different. From the sugar mill gate itself, bulk of the production is diverted to the non-target groups, i.e. the wealthy people and the black marketeers. Common people do not get their share. On the other hand 80% of the sugar produced is controlled by the mill owners and they increase the price according to their whims and fancies. The price has been raised by as high as 45% as a result of which sugar price per kg is now Rs. 42 instead of Rs. 16. Thus there is huge profit margin.

It is true that Indian market is associated with the world market. Every change there affects the indigenous market. We have very high population rate and there

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

should be a balance between the global and local prices. If the sugar price is more outside than in India also, prices rise steadily but the cane growers here do not get just remunerative price. Again if the price is higher in world market, sugar is siphoned off from this country and cane growers are once again deprived from their due. Who determines the price of cane? The government does it. So it is the responsibility of the government to protect the interest of the growers but unfortunately the government is in favour of the dealers. I think that today, sugar industry is the most profitable industry in our country. Yet there is much discontent among the people of particularly Eastern Indian regarding sugar. Therefore fair remunerative price is being talked about now. Then who is going to determine that fair price? Earlier, the government used to fix the prices. The Agriculture Costs and Prices Commission used to perform this duty. Now who will bear the onus—the Commission, the government or the ministry? Nothing has been clearly mentioned about this.

I am very surprised to find that there is support price for paddy, support price for wheat and those are announced before hand. But though sugarcane is very important, no support price is declared for this crop. In West Bengal, only two mills used to produce sugar—one in Ahmedpur and the other at Palashi. We grow sugarcane at small scale, for local requirements. But even then I feel that the support price of cane should be declared before hand. There are a number of by-products of sugar—liquor is produced from sugar, molasses are also produced. Paper is a by-product of sugar cane along with vinegar. Even fuel can be manufactured from sugar. Just as we produce fuel from jute extracts, similarly fuel can be had from sugarcane extracts. It is very costly but the farmers do not get any kind of return from these products. This industry is rich-centric and this is my firm belief.

Secondly, Sir, if jute can be purchased by the government through JCI then why can't the government procure sugar also? From the field itself, sugarcane can be procured by the government. This would help the poor growers. This practice is prevalent in paddy and jute—then why not sugarcane? If this is done then the

growers would get their due and that would improve their lot. We have to remember always that if poor people do not survive, then the country can never prosper. We all are here to air the grievances and concerns of the ordinary people. It should be our constant endeavour to improve the social-economic condition of our citizens, to be with them in times of crisis. I know that hon. Minister of Agriculture Shri Sharad Pawar is very competent, helpful and experienced. I would request him that since we deal with common people, we have to give great importance to this problem of sugar and sugarcane and bail them out. We should never forget their plight and should work for their uplift.

With these words and thank you and conclude my speech.

*SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (Erode): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are now seeking to legislate through this Bill the Ordinance that was promulgated by the Government of India on 21-10-2009 taking away the rights of the sugarcane growers.

That Ordinance of 21-10-2009 took away the rights of State Governments to announce SAP. Now, while seeking to introduce this Bill as the Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009 in this House, the rights of the States have been restored by way of giving them an opportunity to announce SAP. On behalf of sugarcane growers, I would like to thank the Government for this gesture.

Schedule II and Clause 5 (A) in the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966 has been deleted both in the Ordinance and the Bill. I would like to point out that the deletion of this clause has taken away the rights of the sugarcane growers to get their share of the profits made by the sugar mills through their sale proceeds.

This legislation and the ordinance takes away the legal rights vested with sugarcane growers to become entitled to 50 per cent of the profit made by the sugar mills after deducting SMP and cost of production from the total sale proceeds of sugar, molasses and bagasse from the month of October to September every year. This causes a huge loss to sugarcane growers.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri A. Ganeshamurthi]

Even when the State Governments are not announcing the SAP, the farmers had ways and means and the legitimate right to have a share of profit from the sugar mills which was made possible by Schedule II and Clause 5 (A) of the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966.

The Government of Tamil Nadu did not announce SAP from 1998-99 to 2004-05, but still the sugarcane growers of Tamil Nadu were able to get a higher price as per the provision of Clause 5 (A). In 1998-99, they could get Rs. 128.10, in 1999-2000, they got Rs. 159.05, in 2000-01, they were paid Rs. 196.84, in 2001-02, they were distributed with Rs. 25.90 and in 2003-04, the share was Rs. 286.65.

A particular sugar mill in Tamil Nadu declined to pay the additional price for the sugarcane procured in the October season of 2003. Hence, a PIL was initiated seeking justice from the High Court of Madras (W.P. No. 5665/2007). They got a judgement in their favour and the sugarcane growers got the additional price along with 15 per cent interest as per the directions of the court. So, I would like to point out here that the deletion of Schedule II and Clause 5 (A) would render the sugarcane growers lose their rights and are left at the mercy of sugar mill owners and the Government.

It is stated that a loss of about Rs. 14,000 crore would accrue to the Government if this Bill is not legislated as per the direction of the Supreme Court of India. But at the same time, the Government must not forget that a danger of the sugarcane growers not getting about Rs. 74,000 crore to be paid as additional price which is pending for the past five years and still lying with the sugar mills.

It is also stated that farmers would become eligible to get a Fair and Remunerative Price which is expected to be more than the additional price the farmers were getting as per the provisions of Schedule II and Clause 5 (A) of the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966. We can understand what is the remunerative price. But we cannot understand what can be the fair price because we are not sure as to who will be fair to fix the fair price in a fair manner. We are apprehensive about this FRP as we

do not have the protection under Schedule II and Clause 5 (A) of the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966.

Normally, the Government does not accept even the price recommended by the Agricultural Price Commission which is now known as the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices along with the National Commission on Farmers and also the Agriculture Cell of the Planning Commission.

We are all aware of the losses the farmers have to face due to the wrong policies of the Government like this. This august House is also seized of thousands of farmers' suicides. This Government came forward to compensate the same by way of announcing a loan waiver to the tune of Rs. 65,000 crore. On the one hand, you have waived Rs. 65,000 crore and on the other hand, you are depriving the farmers of getting about Rs. 74,000 crore which is pending from the sugar mills. This is a great injustice.

In due course, if when the sugarcane growers fail to get a fair, remunerative price, the sugarcane production will come down disturbing the Public Distribution System while giving rise to price rise in the open market. In my opinion, this Bill is a boon to the sugar mill owners and a bane to the farming community.

Sugarcane growers have highlighted their problems drawing the attention of leaders of all the political parties. Though the Members of Parliament belonging to various political parties have understood the adverse effects of this Bill, constrained by political compulsions as alliance partners they are not expressing their views in an independent fashion. I would like to point out here that this would cause a great loss to the sugarcane growers especially the South Indian farmers, more particularly the sugarcane cultivators of Tamil Nadu. Hence, I urge upon the Government to consider withdrawing this Bill. Otherwise, you may include in this Bill the Second Schedule and Clause 5 (A) of the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966.

This Bill which takes away the available rights vested with the farmers must not be passed in its present form. On behalf of the sugarcane growers of Tamil Nadu and on behalf of our party Marumalarchi

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I strongly condemn and record my opposition to this Bill.

We all know on the sidelines of this Bill that the price announced by the Government of India this year is non-remunerative and the offer of the Government of Tamil Nadu is the lowest in the country. Hence, I urge upon the Government to pay Rs. 2,500 for sugarcane with a recovery rate of 8.5 per cent. The wording 'net cost of transportation of sugarcane from the *purchase centre*' should be replaced with 'net cost of transportation of sugarcane from the *sugarcane field (ex-field)*' in this Bill. Urging upon the Government to consider this modification in the form of an amendment, let me conclude after having highlighted the problems faced by sugarcane growers.

[*Translation*]

15.00 hrs.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I rise to support the Amendment Bill brought by the hon. Agriculture Minister.

The UPA Government has brought this Bill in the House today to provide for remunerative prices to the farmers. This Amendment Bill has been brought in the wake of the large scale dharna staged by the farmers from Uttar Pradesh at the Jantar Mantar to provide remunerative prices to the farmers.

But, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the prices of sugar are skyrocketing today. Why is it so? The sugar prices will decrease when its production increases. The production will increase when the farmer gets the remunerative prices and when he gets fertilizers, seeds and his payment on time. Crushing work has been discontinued till now in the 22 co-operative and other sugar mills under the State Government in Uttar Pradesh today, which is the largest state of the country. Three sugar mills are under the Raebareli constituency of the UPA Chairperson hon. Sonia Gandhiji. Ghatampur sugar mill and Chhata sugar mill, both the mills in my constituency have been shut down. The State government wants to sell these sugar mills through auction to do favours to private persons. The farmers will give sugarcane to the private sugar

mills due to the crushing work not taking place in the Government sugar mills which form the largest part in this sector in Uttar Pradesh.

The Uttar Pradesh Government is busy collecting money from private sugar mills. It has closed its eyes from the farmers. Why is the State Government so apathetic to the farmers? It is because the Uttar Pradesh Government has no concern for the farmers. The hon. Minister says that we are committed to providing remunerative prices, the Central Government is also committed. If the Government of Maharashtra and Haryana are giving Rs. 225-230 as sugarcane price and if Uttar Pradesh Government should not give Rs. 225-230 per quintal to the farmers then a provision should be made so that the State Government could be forced to provide remunerative prices to the farmers. I, therefore, through you, demand from the hon. Minister that there should also be a provision in this Bill for the private sugar mills to make payment to the farmers within 15 days and bank interest rate be paid to them if the payment is made after 15 days. If such a provision is made in this Bill, then the farmers will benefit actually and they will be saved from committing suicides. The country will be happy if the farmer is happy. UPA Government is surely sensitive towards the farmers. With these words, I support the Bill and conclude here by giving many thanks to the hon. Chairman.

SHRI GHANSHYAM ANURAGI (Jalaun): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I belong to Jalaun constituency in Bundelkhand. The whole of Bundelkhand region and particularly rural Kanpur, Fatehpur, Etawah, Auraiya are agriculture based. Drought has been striking there for the last 4-5 years. The farmers has come on the verse of starvation. Most of the farmers have migrated to big cities. The farmer has turned into a labourer and has migrated as a labourer. The current situation is that there are no means of irrigation. I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister and the government through you, that there is no other option in Bundelkhand. The education of children is getting affected there. People are faced with the problem of livelihood. I have been discussing Bundelkhand regularly and people have raised demand for it. I, through you, urge the Government to provide proper means of irrigation in my area so that

[Shri Ghanshyam Anuragi]

each village could have deep Government tube wells, alongwith the facility of drinking water and electricity.

Sir, as far as sugarcane is concerned, it is an irony that the dry firewood costs Rs. 350 quintal and sugarcane Rs. 140 quintal. This is cheating with the farmers. The farmers are in trouble today. The farmers will not be happy and the country will not be happy unless an action plan is made for safeguarding the interests of the farmers. I repeatedly request the Government that such a step should be taken for the Bundelkhand region so that there is irrigation facility for its farmers. Electricity is not supplied for more than 3 hours there. What to say of Uttar Pradesh Government, it is not at all concerned about price rise. I am asking you, but you are not paying attention and Uttar Pradesh Government too is not paying attention, then where will the farmer go?

I feel that both the Uttar Pradesh Government and the Central Government are two sisters. They do not have sympathy for the farmers. They have sympathy for the capitalists and industrialists. Price rise is assuming alarming proportion. Like the mouth of the female Vampire Sursa had increased in the Treta age, similarly, the price rise has also increased its mouth even bigger. It is now devouring the poor, farmers. Now the situation is such that the farmers cannot eat the fruits. They are suffering in the hospital but can't eat fruits or vegetables. Now, fruits and vegetables are for the rich only. Do the farmers have no rights in this country? Do the poor have no place in the country? The poor and the farmers cannot eat fruit and vegetables. Even they hardly manage dry roti and chutney.

Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Government that it should control the price rise. If the price rise is not controlled then there will be chaos in the country and the farmer will take to the streets with sticks and fight with the capitalists and corrupt persons and take away their money. I request that the Government should take some important step in the interests of the farmers and labourers in the whole Bundelkhand region including Kanpur Dehat and Etawah. Drinking water should be provided there and deep

borewells and tubewells should also be provided. ...*(Interruptions)* My area should also have deep tubewells. ...*(Interruptions)* With these words, I conclude.

DR. VINAY KUMAR PANDEY (Shrawasti): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member has said so many things, he has the welfare of farmers in his mind. I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the fact that the SAP rate of 165 rupees has been enforced in Uttar Pradesh from 24 October. It has not been withdrawn so far. Here they are putting pressure upon the Government. I would like to inform the House, very politely, that 3 (a) is in force under which the State Government has been accorded the power to issue state advisory price form 24 October. The hon. Members of RLD have spoken, hon. Members of Samajwadi Party have spoken and hon. Members of Bharatiya Janata Party have also spoken. I welcome them.

Sir, I would like to bring to the cognizance of this august House, through you, that the High Court Lucknow Bench has given its ruling regarding VM Singhji's petition, 2086/1997, which was upheld by the Supreme Court. Reservation orders and SAP are two sides of the same coin. The State Government decides the SAP. The Union Government does not interfere in this matter. A very good discussion is taking place here. The hon. Members who is a lawyer by profession is also the advocate for the mill owners. I do not want to take names but the opposition party which has attached the Government and poses as well-wishers of farmers, its member in the upper house has practiced as lawyer in the Supreme Court and High Court. They have harmed the interests of the sugarcane farmers. 2086 was BM Singh's petition filed in High Court. Its ruling was upheld by the Supreme Court too. I would like to thank hon. Rahul Gandhiji who intervened to enable sugarcane farmers to get the deferred payment of 517 crore rupees which was not given in 2003. This has provided relief to the farmers. Swami Agniveshji, was the erstwhile sugarcane Minister of the Rashtriya Lok Dal in Uttar Pradesh. Hon. Ajit Singhji has fought for the farmers. I would like to bring to your cognizance that if everyone is really a well-wisher of sugarcane farmers then the hon. Members from Uttar Pradesh should put pressure on the State Government to stand by the sugarcane

farmers instead of the mill owners and to withdraw the 165 rupees SAP order implemented by the State Government on 24th October so that sugarcane farmers are able to get fair prices which is being done vide this amendment. I support this Bill in totality. I would like to associate myself with what Shri Puniaji, Shri Jagdambika Pal and my other colleagues have said in the support of this Bill and urge you to take steps to improve the pitiable condition of the sugarcane farmers. The people who are acting as middlemen and create discord should drop their double game and become true well-wishers of sugarcane farmers by helping them to get fair prices.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful that many hon. Members from different parts of the country participated in this important discussion. Generally, whenever there is a subject related to agriculture, we always see that everybody tries to get an opportunity to express the problems of his own area.

The Bill is the Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009. But we have discussed the Bundelkhand issue; we have discussed the issue of the remunerative prices of other items; we have discussed about one of the major problems that this country is facing today of the rising price. And I am glad that some of the hon. Members have also, in-depth, discussed the problem of the sugar and the sugarcane farmers. In fact, this Bill has been discussed in-depth in the House and outside the House. There were series of meetings with the various political parties after the introduction of the Bill.

Ultimately, an overwhelming majority of the parties in this House have reached some understanding and appropriate amendments were made and the fresh Bill was brought before the House. UPA has discussed this within the organisation and the UPA partners have practically agreed to this Essential Commodities Bill. I am also grateful that the major Opposition party Bharatiya Janata Party, other major political parties like Samajvadi Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, CPI(M), CPI, and DMK also

became parties to the detailed discussions and they also agreed. and the suggestions that were made from their side were incorporated. That is why practically we have reached somewhat near to unanimity on this Bill.

15.16 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI *in the Chair*]

What is this Bill about? This Bill is restricted to a particular item of the sugar policy, and that is the price issue of levy sugar. The Bill does not say anything about 5A which has been discussed here in depth. 5A is not a part of the Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2009. 5A is a part of the Sugarcane Control Order which is a separate order, an administrative order, and is not a part of this Bill. This is regarding levy sugar price issue.

What is levy sugar? In this country sugar mills which produce sugar buy sugarcane from the farmers, process it and convert it into sugar, and dispose it of in the open market. The Government has the responsibility to protect the interests of vulnerable sections of the society. That is why we are trying to implement the Public Distribution System in the country. So, levy sugar had been introduced to protect the interests of the weaker sections and to make sugar available in PDS, might be in limited quantities, at a particular price.

About 20 years back, the practice in the country was that 70 per cent of the sugar that is produced by the mills was taken by the Government of India for public distribution system and only 30 per cent of sugar was available for open market. That ratio was brought down from 70:30 to 60:40; then 50:50; then 40:60; and in NDA régime it was decided that only 10 per cent will be taken from the mills and 90 per cent sugar will be allowed to be sold by the sugar mills in the open market. The same policy was continued till last year. Only this year we have made a small amendment in there saying that instead of 10 per cent, this year we have taken a decision to take 20 per cent from sugar mills for public distribution system and the rest 80 per cent sugar produced by the sugar mills has been allowed to be sold by them in the open market.

I was really surprised that some of the hon.

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Members stated that this is a vulnerable farmer. In fact, sugar is acquired from the sugar mills. So, there is no question of touching the farmer. We expect that when we are expecting 20 per cent sugar from sugar mills for public distribution system at a particular price, suppose if there is a loss because of that particular price is not remunerative, this is the complaint of the sugar mills, but they have got every freedom to sell rest of the 80 per cent of the sugar in the open market. They got every right to compensate whatever the losses are there. There is no question of any farmer or sugarcane grower is losing in this.

In the House, the entire issue was raised. In our country, one system has been introduced and which has been implemented for many years throughout India when the question comes up of fixing price of sugarcane, that is, Statutory Minimum Price (SMP). There is a difference between SMP and MSP. The Government of India also announce a minimum support price for certain agricultural products like wheat, rice and some other items. But what is the difference? When the Government of India takes a decision to announce the minimum support price for wheat and rice, if the price in open market goes below, the price which has been announced or declared by the Government of India, it is the responsibility of the Government of India to enter the open market and purchase that procurement. Right today, we are procuring wheat and rice through Food Corporation of India and giving protection to the farmer so that he would definitely get that minimum support price. In the Statutory Minimum Price, that is not possible. It is not possible for the Government to support when the prices of sugarcane goes down below SMP. It is not possible for the Government to enter the open market and purchase sugarcane.

What will we do with the sugarcane? We have no mills. Mills are run by a number of other people. So, it is not possible but we fix the price, gives the guidelines, and expect the price will not be below that; price should be somewhat near or more than what has been announced by the Government of India. This is the benchmark. There is a basis. On that basis, and criteria,

the price was fixed. Throughout India, this practice is there for the last number of years but there are four or five States who have introduced their own system for their own State farmers—particularly Uttar Pradesh, Utharakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Tamil Nadu.

The Uttar Pradesh Assembly has passed a separate legislature and have taken powers to introduce and fix a State Advisory Price. There are two types of prices—one which has been fixed by the Government of India and one price has been fixed by some of the States according to the decision of the State Government. On many occasions, we have seen the price which has been announced or declared by the Government of India was 'x' and the State Government has taken a decision in a different way, their price was 'x' plus something. Because of that, those sugar mills, those who have to pay more than the price which has been fixed by the Government of India to their farmers, they were agitating.

When we make a calculation to fix a price of levy sugar, we always calculated the price which the Government of India has announced. So, there was a complaint particularly from millers of Uttar Pradesh that we are paying more and we are not getting the proper price from the Government of India. They went to the court. The matter went to the Supreme Court and ultimately the Supreme Court gave a decision that it is the responsibility of the Government of India to re-fix price and whatever the difference because of this re-fixation has to be paid to the sugar-miller and that is in since 1982. The figure of Rs. 14,000 crore came up because of this re-fixation and this calculation.

Some hon. Members said that the Government of India wants to give this money to the millers. No. We are not interested. Where from we will give? They say that we want to pay the millers, Rs. 14,000 crore and not a single pie to the farmers or the sugarcane growers—that is not the intention of the Government of India. That is why, we ultimately took a legal advice and took a final decision; this is happening because of a number of decisions which we had taken previously; on the basis of this decision, the Supreme Court had reached a particular decision, and that is why, we thought it better to take a decision about the validity. That is the

reason why this particular Bill has come up before Parliament.

We are confident that, after getting clearance from both the House of Parliament and converting this into a law, we will be able to protect the interest of the farmers and we will be able to protect the interest of the consumers. There are certain issues which have been raised here—what is FRP, the new clause that is incorporated, etc. Previously, as I said, there was the Statutory Minimum Price. Now, Statutory Minimum Price concept has been proposed to be abolished by this Bill. We have introduced a Fair and Remunerative Price. What is the difference between the two?

Originally, the prices were fixed by the CACP on the basis of certain things. Basically it has the C2 cost. C2 cost of production includes all actual expenses in cash and kind incurred in the production by the owner, interest on the value of own capital assets excluding land, rental value of the own land and rent paid for the lease in land, the value of the family labour. So, all these things are calculated in C2 cost.

There are some other criteria that have been fixed for fixation of levy sugar. These decisions are taken by the CACP, on the recommendation of the CACP. There are certain issues that were raised regarding CACP also. It was told that there is no representative of the farming community on the CACP. That is not factually correct. CACP has experts; along with, it has the representatives of the agriculturists; they also have got accommodation in the CACP. So, they are also a part of that.

The system of CACP is that it collects information from the State Government's Agricultural Department; CACP collects information from the Agricultural Universities; CACP also gives opportunities to the representatives of the farmers' organizations. Ultimately, they come to some understanding and then, make their recommendation to the Government of India. It is up to the Government of India to accept it or not. But by and large, the Government of India, and at least 95 per cent of the cases are such that the Government of India accepted *in toto*, the CACP's recommendations.

An issue was raised here that in a particular year,

2007-08, the price which was fixed by or recommended by the CACP was not accepted by the Government of India. It is partly correct and partly incorrect.

In the year 2008-09, the CACP had given a Report and in that Report it had recommended a particular price for sugarcane. That price was practically the same as was suggested in the previous year. What exactly the CACP had said in its recommendation? That particular year was an exceptional year. There was tremendous production of sugar. Ample stocks were there. Low market was there. In the international market also the prices had totally collapsed. Mills were not in a position to pay the prices to the farmers. The situation was exceptionally bad because of too much sugarcane and sugar production. After studying all these, the CACP had said:

"In view of the prolonged deflation in the prices of sugar in both domestic and international market, excessive supply of sugar *vis-à-vis* demand in the country and deteriorating health of not only the sugar industry but also the sugarcane economy, there is no case for any increase in the SMP of sugarcane for the year 2008-09."

The CACP also said:

"In fact, based on the prevailing price realized from the sale of sugar there will be justification for some reduction in the SMP from the present level which may not, however, be appropriate in view of the marginal increase in the input prices as well as the poor economic condition of the farmers."

The same CACP had said that there is a case to reduce the price but the Government of India had not accepted it. We got this Report in August 2007. On 20th of March 2008 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had accepted this recommendation and announced the price as recommended by the CACP *in toto*. It is the responsibility of the CACP to study the costing factor every year and give recommendation about the prices on yearly basis.

On 20th of March, 2008 the Government of India took a decision on the recommendation of the CACP for that year but on 27th of March the CACP had sent

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another Report which was not asked by the Government. They had sent this Report *suo motu*. The CACP which was saying that there was no case for enhancement of any price and in fact there is a case for reduction of the price—that was their recommendation—but within practically a few days, after the approval given by the Cabinet Committee, the CACP sent a new recommendation, not only a new recommendation but also an interesting recommendation, saying that:

“The Commission recommends its Statutory Minimum Price of the sugarcane for 2008-09 be revised to Rs. 125 (Previously, they had suggested Rs. 72 and from Rs. 72 they had gone to Rs. 125) to be paid by the sugar mill at a 9 per cent recovery plus bonus of Rs. 30 per quintal to be paid by the Central Government.”

It is very interesting. The cane will be purchased by the sugar mills. Sugar mills will process that cane, send sugar in the open market and will earn or lose money but where from the question of the Government of India paying bonus arises? The Government of India is not getting that sugar or sugarcane into their own kitty. It will go to those millers. In fact, they are supposed to pay. Here the recommendation of the CACP was that the Government of India should pay the price of the basic raw material which will be ultimately consumed by some private sector. So, we have not accepted this second recommendation. Except that, practically for the last number of years, the recommendations of the CACP has been accepted *in toto* by the Government of India. We always try to protect the interest of the farming community.

A question was raised as to what is the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP). In Fair and Remunerative Price, one new provision has been proposed to protect the interest of the sugarcane growers. Previously, there was 5(a) and now we have brought FRP. Basically, we have deleted the 5(a). This 5(a) is also not from the Essential Commodities Act. As I said, it is from the Sugarcane Control Order. The provision 5(a) which has been deleted provided sharing of the profit of the mills

with the farmers at the 50:50 per cent ratio after the season is over and financial results are declared. If the mill has shown profit in their balance sheet then only the farmers were eligible to get this benefit. But at least for the last five years I have seen not a single mill in this country has given benefit under 5(a) to any sugarcane grower. Our hon. Member from southern India has said that this was beneficial for farmers. But in southern India also not a single sugar mill has given any advantage of 5(a) to the farmers. It is because the practice is that the farmer gives his sugarcane to sugar mill. He takes whatever the final price is decided and he goes back to home. After completion of one year, after completion of their accounts, balance sheet and auditors statement, suppose they show some profit, then the farmer has got every right according to 5(a) to ask for additional price. But the farmer never thought about it and he never goes to that mill. He will go to the mill next year only when his sugarcane will be ready and matured for crushing purpose. That is why, neither the farmer was taking any interest nor the mills were paying any money. That is why, there was a Committee called Mahajan Committee appointed by the Government of India which recommended that the provision of 5(a) is not beneficial to the farmers and therefore it is better to discontinue it. So, we have discontinued that and we have introduced new Fair and Remunerative Price which gives specific margin to the farmer. What is the difference between the previous system and this system? In the previous system, if the mill earns profit, then after completion of one year, the farmer got the eligibility to ask for the part of profit. But in FRP, whether the mill gets profit or no profit, the first day when he is going to hand over his sugarcane to the mill, it is the responsibility of the mill to give him part of profit irrespective of whether the mill earns profit or does not earn profit. With regard to risk part also, practically somewhere near about 50 per cent amount has to be paid to the farmer and this is in advance. So, there is no question of waiting for the end of season. That is why, the FRP is definitely beneficial for the farmers. When on the recommendation of the CACP, the decision was taken last year the price of sugarcane was Rs. 107 per quintal. But when we introduced FRP, immediately the price of sugar went from Rs. 107 to Rs. 129.50. Practically, there

was a rise of 50 per cent in the prices of sugarcane. That is why the FRP would definitely be beneficent to the farmers.

Another issue was raised that this price of Rs. 129.50 was not enough because the prices of sugar has gone up to sky level. I entirely agree with this. I made the position of the Government clear. The price which has been given is not the final price. People who are purchasing it have every right to pay more. What exactly had happened this year? The price announced by Government might have been Rs. 129 but actually in the State of Uttar Pradesh, the State Government had announced a price of Rs. 165 as against Rs. 129. This was not accepted by farmers in Uttar Pradesh. There was a negotiation between mills and cane growers associations and the sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh are getting a price of nearly Rs. 200 per quintal. Therefore, though the price announced by the Government of India is Rs. 129, yet the farmers in some places in Uttar Pradesh are getting a price of nearly Rs. 200 per quintal and in some areas they are getting a price of Rs. 230. In States like Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, though the announced price by Government of India is Rs. 129, the farmers are getting a price ranging from Rs. 210 to Rs. 230. There is a difference in the prices that the farmers in the States of Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are getting with that of the prices that the farmers in the State of Uttar Pradesh are getting. This difference is because in Northern India harvesting and transporting of sugarcane is the responsibility of the farmers and in the Southern States the harvesting and transporting is the responsibility of the millers. For every tonne or every quintal Rs. 30 is the cost for harvesting and transporting. When the farmers in States like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Karnataka are getting a price of say, Rs. 220 per quintal of sugarcane, essentially one would have to add a sum of Rs. 30 to that and when a farmer from the State of Uttar Pradesh is getting a price of Rs. 200 per quintal, one has to deduct a sum of Rs. 30 from that because in the State of Uttar Pradesh harvesting and transporting is the responsibility of the farmers. This difference is very much there. We have suggested here that when the prices would be fixed,

the CACP has to give consideration for the transport and harvest cost also. This will also benefit the farmers.

So, whatever decisions have been taken, each and every decision is meant to benefit the farmers. The interest of the farmers has been safeguarded. Many hon. Members have raised the issue of prices of sugar. It is true that the prices are abnormal. Each and every citizen of the country is facing hardship because of this rise in prices of sugar. As I said, the normal requirement of the country is Rs. 230 million tonnes but unfortunately last year the production was less than 150 million tonnes and there was a gap between demand and supply. In such a situation the prices have gone up. When that type of situation happens, the Government have no alternative but to encourage import also.

A criticism was made as to why the Government is importing sugar. The decision to import sugar is not taken today. Even previously also, sugar was imported. I recollect that, during the NDA Government, in one particular year, there was shortage of sugar and it was imported from neighbouring countries. There was criticism in those days also against the then Prime Minister, Shri Vajpayee but he explained the reason for it because ultimately, it is the responsibility of any elected Government to keep a balance between the interests of the consumers and the producers. One should not forget this. The percentage of consumers is more than 80 to 85 per cent and we cannot just by-pass the consumers' interests. We are not eager to import sugar when ample sugar is available every year. But when there is a shortage, when there is a gap between demand and supply, to protect the interests of various cross sections of the society, we have no choice but to import. I am sure that the situation might be like this in this year, and might be maximum next year.

As hon. Member, Shri Jagdambika Pal has said, it is a cyclic picture. Every five years, sugar and sugarcane cultivation is such that in two years, there will be serious problem and the next three years, there will be a problem of surpluses. So, the situation will definitely change in another year. This is my own assessment. I am myself a sugarcane grower and that is why, I know this particular subject quite in depth. I am sure

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the overall efforts which the Government of India has taken is to protect the interests of the farmers and also keep a balance between the interests of the farmers and those of the consumers.

I do not want to take more time. I have tried to explain the entire position before the august House. My request to the House is that the Bill should be passed.

Shri Raju Shetti has moved the Statutory Resolution. My appeal to him is that he need not worry about the problems of sugar cane farmers. We will definitely protect the interests of the farmers. Whatever action has been mentioned here is to protect the interests of the sugarcane growers and one should not by-pass the interests of the consumers also. From that angle, we have tried to keep a balance. Hence, my appeal to the hon. Member is that he should withdraw his Statutory Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raju Shetti, in view of the clear and categorical assurance given by the hon. Minister, are you withdrawing your Resolution?

SHRI RAJU SHETTI: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has already answered all your queries. He has given clear and categorical answer to your points.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTI: I want to ask the hon. Minister something.

I want to put some questions to him. The questions pertain to the sugarcane farmers. The sugar mills are giving higher rates due to the competitive atmosphere created due to the rise in sugar prices? I know, since I am a sugarcane farmer myself. Sugarcane is going to become surplus in two years time. At that time farmers are only going to FRP and they won't be able to plant crops with such a low FRP. That is why, I had asked the actual cost of production for the sugarcane farmers. The hon. Minister had given a statement on 1st December that the production cost, including harvesting and transportation, came to

83 rupees per quintal. I would like to know as to whose farm this production cost pertains to? Which institution has made this calculation? The production cost cannot be less than 170 rupees. Besides, the institutions and CACP make all sorts of recommendations for the uneducated farmers who cannot keep accounts. You accept them when they favour you and reject them when they don't. How can the Government fix cost of sugarcane at 129 rupees when it cannot be lower than 170 rupees? What are the terms and conditions for calculation of MRP? The Minister has said that farmers do not get the benefit of clause 5A, why has this clause been deleted? If sugar mill owners are suffering then let it remain. The sugar mill owners do not give more than the SMRP whenever they have surplus sugarcane to raise the price of sugar in the market. The farmers can go to court under 5A. They can ask for justice for themselves under 5A. Deletion of 5A is treachery towards the farmers. Hence, I am not withdrawing my statutory resolution.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I want to have a clarification. Now, the SMP is being replaced by the FRP. I would like to know whether any new criteria has been adopted for determining the Fair and Remunerative Price or it is going to be identical or same as it was for the Statutory Minimum Price. If new criteria or new factors are not added, then how can you ensure that the sugarcane growers will get more price and that the FRP is better than what is provided in section 5(a) of the Bill? If we are retaining 5(a) in the Bill, will the Fair and Remunerative Price also be there?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (Meerut): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with what Shri Raju Shettiji has stated. The ground reality is different from what has been decided. There is no details about the manner in which it would be decided. It is not in the interest of farmers. The issue does not pertain to any particular party. The Government should think about the farmers and provide them remunerative price. We cannot meet the demand through imports only. We will have to fulfil it indigenously also.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): I want to know two things from the Minister. The cost of production or cultivation varies from State to State. In case of jute, the price fixed by the CACP varies from State to State, if not from district to district. So, how can the Central Government adopt a uniform policy in the name of Fair and Remunerative Price? That is number one.

Number two is, whether in the present situation the Government is going to have a re-look or recast the control order in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I agree that the Government is not in favour of importing sugar. However, when prices shoot up due to difference in demand and production in the country, then to protect the interests of consumers, availability is increased in the market and Government decides to import.

[English]

In fact, till last year there was a heavy duty on import of sugar. But we have removed it and changed the duty structure just to increase the availability of sugar in the open market. There is a new addition. When the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) will be fixed, there are certain guidelines.

1. Adjusted all-India weighted average of C2 cost of the production of that particular year to the nine per cent recovery rate.
2. Cost of transportation of cane to factory gate.
3. Total adjusted all-India weighted average C2 cost of production of last year, including cost of transportation at nine per cent recovery rate.
4. Above adjusted to 9.5 per cent recovery rate.
5. Profit margin to the farmers @ 15 per cent.
6. Plus margin on account of risk to the farmers @ 25 per cent.

In fact, previously there was no provision of risk. So, now the provision of risk @ 25 per cent is there. So, whether mill is going to earn or mill is going to lose is not the issue. Every year mill has to pay 25 per cent over and above all these costing to the sugarcane grower as a risk factor. So, this is the addition. In fact, this will protect the interest of the farmers and definitely it will be better than the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP).

There was another question raised here,

[Translation]

The average cost of producing sugarcane is Rs. 172. It is on C2 cost. C2 cost can vary from State to State. It can vary from farmer to farmer also. There are many farmers who can produce 60-70 tonnes of sugarcane but the national average is below 20 tonnes. In Northern India, it is 10 tonnes per acre.

[English]

In Southern India, it is Rs. 20 tonne per acre. There are many farmers who produce more than 80 to 100 tonne per acre. So, the C2 cost is depending on the total yield from that acre. In Andhra Pradesh, the C2 cost is Rs. 91.95 per quintal; in Haryana it is Rs. 82; in Karnataka it is Rs. 62; in Maharashtra it is Rs. 72; in Tamil Nadu it is Rs. 83; in Uttar Pradesh, it is Rs. 69 and in Uttarakhand, it is Rs. 60. So, C2 cost is dependent from State to State. It depends on the availability of water, quality of the land and the overall approach of the farmers.

There was another question which was raised here was about the FRP. There are seven criteria required to be considered by us when we fix the FRP.

1. the cost of production of sugarcane;
2. the return to the grower from alternative crops and the general trend of prices of agricultural commodities;
3. the availability of sugar to the consumer at a fair price;
4. the price at which sugar produced from sugarcane is sold by producers of sugar;

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5. the realization made from sale of by-products, viz., molasses, bagasse and press mud, or their imputed value;
6. reasonable margins for the growers of sugarcane on account of risk and profits. and
7. the recovery of sugar from sugarcane.

So, these are the seven criteria which have been fixed and on the basis of these criteria, CACP is going to finalise henceforth and recommend the price for sugarcane grower.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, Shri Raju Shetti are you withdrawing your Statutory Resolution?

SHRI RAJU SHETTI: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the Essential Commodities (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2009 (No. 9 of 2009) promulgated by the President on 21 October, 2009".

The motion was negatived.

16.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTI: I walk out against this Bill.
...(Interruptions)

16.01 hrs.

(Shri Raju Shetti then left the House)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and to make provisions for validation of certain orders issued by the Central Government determining the price of levy sugar and actions taken under those orders and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. Sk. Saidul Haque, are you moving your amendments?

Clause 2 Amendment
of Section 3

Sk. SAIDUL HAQUE (Bardhaman-Durgapur): I would like to move my amendments. I beg to move:

Page 3, line 14,—

*for "fair and remunerative price"
substitute "Statutory Minimum Price".* (1)

Page 3, line 29,—

*for "fair and remunerative price"
substitute "Statutory Minimum Price".* (2)

Page 3, line 33,—

*for "from the purchase centre"
substitute "from the field".* (3)

Page 3, line 33,—

*omit "to the extent it is borne
by the producer"* (4)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will now put the amendment numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 moved by Sk. Saidul Haque to the vote of the House.

All the amendments were put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.04 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS (GENERAL), 2009-2010

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Item No.18—
Discussion and Voting on the Supplementary Demands
for Grants (General) for 2009-10.

Motion moved:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, 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, 4 to 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 17 to 21, 28 to 33, 35, 38, 39, 41, 44, 46, 49, 51, 53 to 55, 57 to 62, 64, 65, 67, 71, 74, 79, 80, 84, 86 to 88, 90 to 93, 100, 101 and 103 to 105."

*Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2009-2010
submitted to Vote of Lok Sabha*

No. and Title of the Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3
1. Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	14,23,00,000	—
2. Department of Agricultural Research and Education	19,96,00,000	—
4. Atomic Energy	422,48,00,000	199,83,00,000
5. Nuclear Power Schemes	55,67,00,000	302,28,00,000
6. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals	166,07,00,000	
7. Department of Fertilisers	3000,00,00,000	—
9. Ministry of Civil Aviation	281,00,00,000	800,00,00,000
11. Department of Commerce	160,58,00,000	—
12. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	1,00,000	—
14. Department of Telecommunications	249,24,00,000	171,75,00,000
17. Department of Food and Public Distribution	3660,82,00,000	150,00,00,000
18. Ministry of Corporate Affairs	9,43,00,000	1,00,00,000
19. Ministry of Culture	2,00,000	9,00,00,000

	1	2	3
20. Ministry of Defence		29,81,00,000	1,00,000
21. Defence Pensions		2210,00,00,000	—
28. Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region		1,00,000	—
29. Ministry of Earth Sciences		4,00,000	1,00,000
30. Ministry of Environment and Forests		5,00,000	1,00,000
31. Ministry of External Affairs			297,50,00,000
32. Department of Economic Affairs		1,00,000	—
33. Department of Financial Services		400,02,00,000	1266,00,00,000
35. Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments		1200,02,00,000	
38. Department of Expenditure		3,94,00,000	
39. Pensions		4533,33,00,000	
41. Department of Revenue		1,00,000	
44. Department of Disinvestment			3139,90,00,000
46. Department of Health and Family Welfare		3,00,000	—
49. Department of Heavy Industry		1,00,000	1,00,000
51. Ministry of Home Affairs		195,83,00,000	—
53. Police		2,00,000	2,00,000
54. Other Expenditure of the Ministry of Home Affairs		7,92,00,000	48,00,00,000
55. Transfers to Union Territory Governments		105,68,00,000	—
57. Department of School Education and Literacy		1,00,000	—
58. Department of Higher Education		87,12,00,000	100,00,00,000
59. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting		1,00,000	—
60. Ministry of Labour and Employment		1,00,000	—
61. Election Commission		5,59,00,000	—
62. Law and Justice		1,00,000	—
64. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises		2,00,000	—
65. Ministry of Mines		21,13,00,000	—

	1	2	3
67. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy		1,00,000	—
71. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions		39,13,00,000	15,21,00,000
74. Ministry of Power		75,93,00,000	—
79. Secretariat of the Vice-President		41,00,000	—
80. Department of Rural Development		154,45,00,000	—
84. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research		6,77,00,000	—
86. Ministry of Shipping		2,00,000	3,00,000
87. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways		1,00,000	311,00,00,000
88. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment		2,00,000	—
90. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation		3,00,000	—
91. Ministry of Steel		728,69,00,000	1,00,000
92. Ministry of Textiles		514,45,00,000	—
93. Ministry of Tourism		2,00,000	—
100. Department of Urban Development		414,76,00,000	2025,10,00,000
101. Public Works		25,52,00,000	—
103. Ministry of Water Resources		1,00,000	—
104. Ministry of Women and Child Development		1200,00,00,000	
105. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports		312,42,00,000	350,58,00,000
Total		20312,79,00,000	9187,25,00,000

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member Shri Yashwant Sinha.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants that the hon. Finance Minister has presented before this House.

I would like to congratulate him that the net cash outgo in the Supplementary Demands is limited to only Rs. 25,000 and odd crores of rupees.

Compared to the absolutely horrendous Supple-

mentary Demands which were presented by his predecessor last year, this has come as a big relief. But I would still like to mention that when one goes through the Supplementary Demands which amount to a net cash outgo for the Government, there are many items of expenditure which should have been and could have been easily anticipated at the time of preparation of the Budget. The case in point is Rs. 800 crore which has been provided as fresh equity to Air India. We are all aware that Air India has been in a mess for quite a while. When the Finance Minister was preparing his Budget earlier this year, he was aware of the very

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

distressing conditions which were prevailing in Air India and a decision to shore up the equity base of Air India could have been easily taken at that point of time. Air India has incurred losses of something like Rs. 7,000 crore. I do not know as to what extent this fresh equity of Rs. 800 crore is going to help Air India recover from the distress and the sickness it is in. But, if I may take a moment of your time, I would like to say that Air India represents a massive failure and mismanagement of a public sector enterprise by the Government. Who is responsible and who is guilty is something which should be discussed by this House and there should be clear conclusions drawn about the future course of action. To me, it appears that mere infusion of Rs. 800 crore as equity in Air India is not going to sort out the problem and the Finance Minister may have to come back to this House again to help Air India.

Then, there are issues like subsidy for fertilisers, subsidy to the Food Corporation of India, additional expenditure on pension both defence and civil and all these items of expenditure could have been anticipated. I am aware of the fact that every Finance Minister does indulge in some sleight of hand. I am also aware of the fact that whether it should be 29.4 or 29.6 is also a figure with which the Finance Ministers often play around with and if they can reduce the overall deficit in the Budget by even a fraction of a percentage, they often take recourse to that. But the House will agree that this is not the best budgetary practice and, therefore, it is best avoided.

But the Supplementary Demands that the Finance Minister has presented to this House with a net cash outgo of over Rs. 25,000 crore is a small part of the overall problem that the economy is facing. I agree that the present Finance Minister inherited a mess from his predecessor. The failure, I could point it out, of the previous Government, the UPA-I was that they just did not know how to manage a fast growing economy. They did not know how to manage an economy of surpluses. Therefore, they made some very crucial mistakes in the management of the economy.

The predecessor of the present Finance Minister,

Mr. Chidambaram, was a very lucky Finance Minister. I think, he has been one of the luckiest Finance Ministers in the history of Independent India, but he failed to take any of those steps which were necessary when we were passing through those halcyon years, the bright years in our economy and I would like to make this point which has been made by many commentators that the crisis that we have witnessed in the Indian economy is a crisis of our own creation. We were responsible for bringing the growth rate down, we were responsible for running a huge fiscal deficit, and we were responsible for the price rise.

16.12 hrs.

[DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

It is now a matter of record that the global financial crisis came much later, after we had already inflicted some wounds on ourselves. The global financial crisis, Mr. Chairman, only added to our problems. The net result has been that while 75 per cent of the problems that we face today, we encounter, were created by us and 25 per cent only by the global financial crisis. This has resulted in a great deal of suffering for the people of this country because the great effort which was made during the NDA regime to transform an economy of shortages into an economy of surpluses has again been turned into an economy of shortages.

We were discussing just a little while ago in this House the problem of the sugar industry. Now, the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs might get his Bill passed in this House, but what is the message which has gone across. The message which has gone across is that while the Government is permitting sugar to be sold at Rs. 35-Rs. 40 a kilo in retail in the market, the growers of sugarcane, the farmers are not getting their price, in fact, their price is being reduced. This is the general message which has gone around in the country.

It is not merely here in sugar whether you import sugar or not, whether you import rice or not, that is another issue. But the fact is that there is a shortage, the fact is that there is not only a shortage of sugar but there is shortage of everything. I mean, I cannot imagine why there should be a shortage of LPG in this

country. There was a time when we were in office when the dealers of LPG cylinders used to go from house to house to say whether the consumer was interested in buying a cylinder of LPG. Today, the waiting period is more than a month. People have to queue up to get LPG cylinders for domestic cooking purposes. Why has an economy of surpluses suddenly become an economy of shortages once again? This is something which the Government will have to explain.

Every period of time creates or throws up its own problems as far as the management of the economy is concerned. Today's problems are different from the problems that we faced in the last five years. The Finance Minister will have to deal with these problems, will have to overcome them if the Indian economy has to grow and the people of India have to lead a life of dignity and comfort. Today, it appears to me that the most important problem before the Finance Minister is the problem of rising, uncontrolled food prices. I was sitting in this House, so I do not know what the figures of inflation, especially of our food grains, are, which should have come today.

But, I would like to refer to the Report of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council which was brought out only in the month of October. They have themselves said that on the domestic front the sharp increase in the prices of food grains, especially rice and pulses, other primary food products and of sugar is a major policy concern. They have gone on to add that even in the winter of 2008-09, as world prices of manufactured goods and internationally traded basic foods were declining, the domestic prices were increasing one year ago, and this has continued. International food prices were coming down; our domestic food prices were going up. This is the finding of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister. So we cannot even take comfort from the fact that global prices are rising.

Then it points out the dangers which are lurking; the danger that there could be with a world economy growing; how commodity prices will start picking up again specially petroleum prices. Any other setback in the management of global finance will trigger a crisis of unparalleled proportions and will lead to destabilization. This is the finding of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

When prices had started rising last year, we had advised the Government in Parliament and outside that the kind of monetary policy that the RBI was initiating would create more problems. I remember, I had pointed out even then that the nature of inflation was different. The nature of inflation was confined to price rise of essential commodities including food grains. Therefore, however harsh a monetary policy you might introduce, it is not going to help control the prices of food grains and essential commodities. This was a simple logic. I am not an Economist; neither are you, I hope, Mr. Finance Minister. One advice which I would like to give you is, get rid of those Economists. A strong common sense is a far greater aid to policy making than all the technical advice that you might seek. So, get rid of all, specially the monetary ones. The Monetarists are the biggest threat to the stability of this country's economy.

So, they went for harsh monetary measures. The harsh monetary measures led to shortage of funds; they led to high interest costs; money became unaffordable; and money became expensive. That has created the problem. The global crisis only added to it.

Why is your economy growing at around eight per cent now? Your exports are declining. Your agricultural growth in the second quarter is less than one per cent of GDP. You are still growing at 7.9 per cent in the second quarter. How is this happening? This is where the secret of Indian economy lies. It is the domestic savings and domestic demand which will propel the Indian economy forward. This is where we must concentrate, and that is, domestic demand and domestic savings.

Now, inflation is something on which, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has failed not only miserably but it has sent out messages which are most perplexing. Can the Prime Minister of India stand up and say: "We are unable to control prices and that we should be prepared to face more increase in prices"? The Food Minister of India gets up and says: "We will not be able to control prices". Yesterday, the hon. Finance Minister was in Ranchi, which is the Capital of my State, where he gave explanations which the people of India will not be prepared to buy. It is not.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

Let me quote to you again what the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council has said. It says: "The economy, however, continues to be supply constrained primarily in physical and social infrastructure, electricity, irrigation and drinking water, road and other transportation, and rural and urban economic infrastructure where the Government plays a major role". In these areas, we have been found deficient. When one refers to supply side constraints, it is not merely physical supply but all these aspects which constitute supply side economics. On all these, we have, unfortunately, not been able to keep pace with demand.

I would like to remind the hon. Finance Minister, through you, Sir, that in 2002 this country faced a very serious drought. I was going through the figures and I am told that the estimated loss of food grains production in kharif is likely to be a little over 10 million tonnes. Correct me if I am wrong, 10 million tonnes is the loss in kharif production. In 2002, the total decline in food grain production as a result of drought—the worst ever in recorded history—was 40 million tonnes; 40 million tonnes less production of food grains. I will advise the Finance Minister to look up his own Government's *Economic Survey* of 2003-04 which was presented before the Budget of 2004-05, where they had commended the manner in which the then Government controlled prices, and how the people of this country did not even get to know except the poor *kisans* that there was a drought, that there was a loss of food grains production. Why? It was because we had in our godowns over 65 million tonnes of food grains—rice and wheat. We pushed them into the market. We told the State Governments: "Please start Food for Work Programmes. We will give you food grains free of cost". We gave the grains to the millers so that they could convert it and sell it in the market. We made large quantities of food grains available to the State Governments for distribution through the Public Distribution System, through the *Antyodaya Anna Yojana*, through the *Annapoorna Anna Yojana* even free of cost.

There was a Mid-Day scheme also. So, a whole lot of steps were taken to flood the market with the stocks that we were holding in Government godowns.

If the Finance Minister bothers to look up the records, which are kept in Government—which I am sure, they are available—he will find the magic key to control the situation today. That is the way to go. They should not be niggardly, they should not be conservative as far as releases from the Government godowns are concerned. They should release it liberally. I would even suggest that—as far as NREGA is concerned, I would have more to say on it later—the Government could consider releasing part of the wages as food grains so that the food grains find their way into the belly of the people, into the market, and the pressure on the market is reduced.

This is something, which is unacceptable—a price rise week after week of this magnitude. Sir, you were talking, when we were speaking from there, about how the sugar market is on fire. I would say, the entire market is on fire. The entire market of this country of essential commodities is on fire today. When I am saying, it is on fire, prices are rising on a daily basis. It is not merely that you wait for one week to know what the prices will be...(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I cannot understand the kind of helplessness that the Government is displaying in controlling the price rise of food grains and other essential commodities. They have all the tools—policy and otherwise—at their disposal. They have administrative tools, policy tools, etc. at their disposal. Is there a reluctance to use them? I cannot believe that such bright people, who are sitting in the Government, like the Finance Minister, like the Prime Minister would be unaware of what should be done in a situation of this kind. So, why is it not happening?

I am coming, Sir, straight from my State of Jharkhand, where we are in the election mode. Perhaps, you know, this is the first day that I am attending Parliament in this Session. And, I know how it is hurting the people. I would like to tell the Finance Minister that when we go and talk to the people, when we address meetings and we forget to mention price rise, they remind us and tell us: "Why have you forgotten price rise? Why are you not mentioning price rise? How are we going to live? How are we going to make our children

live? How are we going to feed the family?" This is absolutely an unacceptable situation. When the Finance Minister gets up to reply to this debate in the House, I would expect him to say something consoling, to say something comforting, to say something positive on what are the plans with the Government to control prices, especially as I said, of essential commodities. So, this is the most important problem that the economy is facing today.

I would warn you later that if you fall into the trap of the monetarists, then you are going to face much more difficult situation.

Then, what is the second most important problem that the Finance Minister and the country face a today? Again, I would go back to the Economic Advisory Council's Report.

It is the Report on the Fiscal Deficit Situation. It is this Report which says. It is not Yashwant Sinha, it is not a Member of the Opposition but they are saying 'if you take the off-Budget liabilities of the Government....' This is the sleight of hand which his predecessor created. This is something on which the Comptroller and Auditor-General has commented adversely. The easiest way out for Mr. Chidambaram was what? It was to push the deficit, the liabilities under the line, and then not include it in the fiscal deficit, not include it in the overall deficit. He might consider it as a sleight of hand. I have described it as a fraud on Budget making in this country.

How can you have bonds of every kind—oil bonds, fertilizer bonds, food bonds, this bond and that bond? What does it mean in simple terms, Mr. Chairman? In simple terms, it means that the Government only adds to its deficit the interest burden and the principal is pushed to some date in the future, to the succeeding generation. It is a 10 year bond. Somebody else will pay 15 years bond. Somebody else will pay. They will have to redeem the liability. Then, you say, no, everything is hunky dory. There is no problem, and I have my deficit.

Even then the Finance Minister was constrained to put his deficit at over six per cent of the Budget. What does the Council say? The Council says that you

add the Government of India's deficit, the State Governments' deficit and these off-Budget liabilities, which are real liabilities, then the total fiscal deficit is 10.4 per cent of the GDP this year. We are back to the bad old days of the late '80s and early '90s. The Finance Minister knows this much better than anyone else that the reason why India faced that balance of payments crisis in 1990-91 and so much distress and hardship was because of unsustainable fiscal deficit that we had.

Then, very fortunately for the Government of India came the global financial crisis because on the one hand it completely concealed all their failures because they could tell the people of India that all these problems are because of the global financial crisis, they are not because of our creation and second that they could describe all this as a stimulus package.

I thought the word...was an unparliamentary word but I heard the Home Minister on television utter it repeatedly in this House when he was replying to the Liberman debate. So, I am not going to break the rules and norms of this House by using that pejorative word. But I am saying this that nothing could have been farther from truth than to mask, to conceal your failures, your inabilities, your shortcomings under the garb of the global crisis and to describe the huge fiscal deficit that you ran as a stimulus package.

I am charging the Government today in this House that all this was nothing but an effort, an attempt to win the elections. This is what happened...(*Interruptions*) If I could put a figure on it, for the 206 seats that the Congress Party secured in the last Lok Sabha elections, the cost to the country is Rs. 4,00,000 crore. This is the deficit in this Budget.

Mr. Finance Minister, Sir, you had said in your Budget speech that to bring the fiscal deficit under control, we have to initiate institutional reform measures during the current year itself. These measures have to encompass all aspects of the Budget, such as subsidy, taxes, expenditure and disinvestment. This is what you have said in your Budget speech. Now, we are in the month of December and we are discussing in this House the first batch of Supplementary Demands. Where is

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

the evidence that such measures to control the deficit have been thought of or the House is taken into confidence about them? I have here the article of a very distinguished economist who wrote a piece and he said, "It would be the height of irresponsibility if they cannot bring the fiscal deficit back to 3.5 to 4 per cent of the GDP." There have been so many write-ups in the newspapers about this. Does the Government have the option or the satisfaction that they can roll back these expenditures whenever they want? Perhaps the US can do it, perhaps the European Union can do it, perhaps Japan can do it, perhaps somebody else including China, who thought of a bail out, could do it. But are we in a position to do it?

Mr. Chairman Sir, the Finance Minister had proudly informed the House when he presented the Budget that for the first time in our history we had crossed the figure of Rs. 10 lakh crore as far as expenditure budget was concerned. Now I will first quote the Economic Advisory Council report because this is a document of the Government. What does it say? It says:

"The above fiscal developments underscore four important points:

- (1) Increase in deficit was not due to the stimulus package, but on account of additional outlay on subsidies, pay revision, loan waiver and increased coverage of NREGA.
- (2) The structural component of the deficit is substantial, though some part of it is cyclical.
- (3) The substantially higher revised expenditure over the budgeted figure brings the poor expenditure management in sharp focus.
- (4) There was limited fiscal space for the stimulus package and it could not be directed to the desired sectors, particularly infrastructure."

This is the finding, these are the comments of the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister.

Now, coming to Rs. 10 lakh crore, I would like the Finance Minister to take the House into confidence and

tell us that if you were to give up the stimulus package, which are the items of expenditure which you will be able to give up. I had analysed it. Rs. 6,18,834 crore is accounted for by Non-Plan Revenue expenditure, which is the most unproductive part of Government of India expenditure. Why? Because it consists of interest payment, defence, subsidies, pensions, establishment expenditure, postal deficit and items like this. Where can you compress? Is there anything here which you can roll back next year and say this is what I am doing in order to peg fiscal deficit at this level? Plan expenditure is only Rs. 3,25,149 crore—less than half of the total Non-Plan expenditure. Government of India's interest payment alone this year is of the order of Rs. 2,25,511 crore. This is what we are paying as interest. We are going to borrow Rs. 4 lakh crore this year. Just imagine how much interest burden this is going to add.

Everyone is commenting today on the debt GDP ratio. The debt GDP ratio is increasing beyond all reasonable limits. It is going to touch, according to some estimates, 80 per cent of the GDP by the end of this fiscal year. 80 per cent of the GDP will constitute the debt of this country. This cannot be described as a comfortable situation at all. Therefore, it is the rigid nature of the expenditure of the Government of India, which they were able to sustain because taxes were buoyant, because the economy was growing, especially the industrial economy, the service economy of this country and taxes were buoyant. But this year taxes are not so buoyant. This year we are going to end up receiving far less by way of taxes at the end of the year than what the Finance Minister projected as tax receipts in his Budget. Direct Taxes, which was the most buoyant part of the taxation structure of this country, have also been registering very slow growth.

So, you have a situation where your expenditure will continue to rise and your taxes will continue to give you less money and the fiscal deficit which has been presented at over 10 per cent of the GDP is likely to expand further. So, where is the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act which was passed when we were in office to bring some discipline in Government finances? We have made a travesty of that. It is a sacred Act passed by this Parliament. The manner in

which it has been turned into a joke is something which is beyond any comprehension.

What happens to the FRBM Act? I would like the Finance Minister to tell us in very clear terms—are they going to continue with the Act, are they going to come with a long term fiscal policy? What are they thinking and how are they trying to bring Government finances back on the rails, back on track again? Nobody can stand up here and say a large fiscal deficit of Rs. four lakh crore, which might be Rs. five lakh crore next year, Rs. six lakh crore after that, is a very good thing. I see an advertisement in some television channels where they say—

[Translation]

'Dag acchey hain.' The child soiled his dress and they say stains are good.

[English]

It is because they are promoting a particular brand of detergent. So, they are saying 'Dag Acchey hain'. Now, I would not like the Government to stand up here and say—

[Translation]

Fiscal deficit is good, so let it increase because Narayan Samiji, you do not have any remedy to control it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble member, please conclude. The time allotted to your party is going to be over whereas two more members from your party are yet to speak.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I am concluding.

[English]

This is the latest expenditure figure which are monthly figures which are released by the Controller General of Accounts and these are up to October. Up to October the Government of India has already incurred the revenue deficit in seven months of 73.1 per cent.

[Translation]

Only God knows what will happen in future and I

can say with conviction that even the Finance Minister does not know. At the end of the year, this ever increasing deficit would cross all limits. I have two very small points. The issue of infrastructure was raised... Copenhagen has been referred.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): I will go in the night at the moment, I have come here to listen to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I have no doubt, I can say it without fear of contradiction in this House that infrastructure has suffered heavily during the last five-six years, whether it is the Highways or the others. The only thing which is growing is telecom; but telecom is growing because of the momentum which has become automatic. So, it is growing automatically; the Government does not have the power to stop that growth. But, look at roads. The Lok Sabha was elected on the 16th of May this year. The new Minister of Road Transport and Highways has been in office for some time. I do not know what he is doing, where he has vanished. Like Mr. Jairam Ramesh, he was all over the media when he was Commerce Minister. Now, he has suddenly vanished from the scene. Occasionally one hears some. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): He managed the media. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: That is not my charge, that is Mr. Narayanasamy's charge. ...*(Interruptions)* So, on infrastructure take what the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council was saying.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am making this point very seriously. If the Government had gone on to raise the fiscal deficit to 15 per cent of the GDP and the money had been going for the creation of infrastructure in this country, I would have been the first to stand up in this House to congratulate them and say that this is what I wanted. But they are wasting that money.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

I mentioned about NREGS, the great flagship scheme of the Government. Mr. Chairman, Sir, do you know how much of it is being wasted?

[Translation]

I do not know how the Government has formulated this scheme. As a member of Lok Sabha now I am going through this scheme of constructing roads with clay and Morom.

[English]

There is a complete prohibition on use of equipment and machinery.

[Translation]

They lay clay on the road but computing is not done. Thereafter Moram is spread over it. The road constructed in such a manner gets washed away during rains. I know several such cases where even clay was not laid and only moram was scantily spread on the long road, and for this they raised a bill of Rs. 10-20 lakhs. In my view NREGA...* never constructed in the country...in the name of employment...(Interruptions) labourers do not get payments for months. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is making an allegation against the Government. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will clarify everything when I will go back to my seat and get a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Nothing is being done for rural infrastructure. Only money is being* ...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Shri Sinha, you were also part of the system and you also inherited committees. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you and we all have experienced that whenever we visit rural areas, the major issue, which confronts us, is about BPL cards. Everybody wants that BPL card. This is the biggest demand in rural areas. Everywhere people demand that they should be included under BPL list and red card be given to them. When I enquired from the Government in this regard, I came to know that the Government has put a ban on including any new name under this list. Earlier, Saxena committee report was formulated and now Suresh Tendulkar committee report has been formulated but I would like to state that no parameters are required to identify the poor people. Poor people can be identified easily. I would like to suggest to the Government that instead of identifying the poor people, they should identify the rich people and the rest be considered as poor and red or green cards be provided to them. ...(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am giving the example of Jharkhand. Shri N.C. Saxenaji was heading the Poverty commission in the State. I have read his statement in the newspaper that out of the 80% poor people in Jharkhand, only 30% have got BPL card. It means the actual targeted people who are living below the poverty line are not getting the benefit of this card. They are neither getting the benefit of Indira Awaas Yojana, Vridha Pension nor Samajik Suraksha Pension Yojana. They are not getting the benefit of NREGA, they do not have adequate food and the Government is talking of inclusive development. People are in trouble, they are living in such a pathetic condition that I cannot elaborate in the House and we talk about economic growth. Will the poor people feed themselves with economic growth? Will they satiate their hunger with 8% or 9% economic growth?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: In the end, I would like

to appeal to the Government that they should manage the budget appropriately. They should make efforts to balance this budget, which has become completely imbalanced and is being wasted. They should pay attention to the issues related to the rural poor and the urban poor and to the issues, which would help in curbing corruption. Until it is done, roads will not reach the villages, drinking water would not be available there and houses and schools will not be constructed there. Today, only the building meant for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which was launched by us, is seen there ...*(Interruptions)*. They have not done anything except that but wasted four lakh rupees of the country to win elections. They are not concerned about the country, they are concerned about themselves only. Such a system is a failure in this country.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Baharampur): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I rise to support the first batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2009-2010. The approval of the Parliament is sought in the Supplementary Demands for Grants to authorize gross additional expenditure of Rs. 30,942.62 crore involving net cash outgo aggregating to Rs. 25,725.22 crore.

Our former Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, was delivering his speech which I heard with rapt attention. He was trying to be little and negate the successes that the UPA-I and UPA-II Governments have achieved over the years by dint of their pro-people policies and pro-people welfare programmes. This is the first time that I came to know from our former Finance Minister that during the NDA regime there was an economy of surpluses. I do not know as to what that economy of surpluses is meant for. What does it denote? Shri Yashwant Sinha was very deliberately trying to drive a fissure between the UPA-I and the UPA-II Governments. He wanted to substantiate a cleavage between the present incumbent of Finance and his predecessors. But I think it would not work because our Government has been working in a concerted way with a single objective of inclusive growth in our country.

[Translation]

These people were building castles in the air. Their

era ended without their dreams being realized and then they made up the slogan of 'Shining India'. It was meant for the common man at the time, but this slogan brought disaster upon these people instead of success. In this connection, I challenge those who have opposed the NREGS in the House to oppose it openly. Then I would believe that they have any guts. When they go to the villages, they get work done under NREGS. But when they come to the Parliament they raise the issue of NREGS as a point against the Government. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have served as a Minister in this Ministry at one time. I request you to discuss this issue in detail when your turn comes because NREGS is the issue, the instrument which helped us defeat the NDA roundly and form the UPA-II Government. So they would not like this scheme.

[English]

Sir, the UPA-II Government has initiated its second journey with a special emphasis on inclusive growth. In spite of growth over the years, it is perceived that there have been inequalities in opportunities, gender inequality is pervasive, and the regional imbalances are evident. Therefore, the Government gave special emphasis for inclusive growth in our country.

The Eleventh Plan envisages a nine per cent growth of our GDP as a whole, which includes *per capita* GDP of 7.8 per cent per year. The truth is that we are to achieve this growth in the environment of global competitiveness, in an environment of a global economic scenario where we are destined to deal both with opportunities and challenges. In the wake of global economic downturn, which had its snowballing effect throughout the length and breadth of the world, we also got inflicted.

17.00 hrs.

But unlike the United States, the European Union and many other developed countries we succeeded in insulating Indian economy from the morass of the global economic downturn. This is a singular achievement of the UPA Government. Therein lies the success of the UPA-II Government. Not only that during this period India has been emerged as a resilient economy in the

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

world also. The resilience of our economy has been amply proved by the bouncing back of most of the sectors including industrial, manufacturing and export. Most prominently it was pointed by World Bank President Mr. Zoellick who said, "India's growth rate could, over the next one or two years, see a return to the 8-9 per cent envisaged in the country's 11th Five-Year Plan." This is the comment of the World Bank President. Strong fiscal and monetary policies had helped counter the decline in exports and withstand some of the external shocks brought on by the multiple food, fuel and financial crises. Who does not know that international crude oil price had gone out of our control? Who does not know about the hardening of food prices in the international market? Now for the sake of debate if some of our esteemed colleagues try to question the veracity of the global economic scenario, then I can only say that I feel sorry for them.

The bounty of nature should not be construed as an achievement of any Government. Agricultural growth that took place during NDA regime was an endowment of the nature. It is not an achievement of any government. But it was a failure of the NDA Government that then food grains were rotting in the Government godowns people were deprived of having requisite food, which even led to starvation deaths in the country. Later on, this very NDA Government proposed to sell those precious food grains for a song to those exporters from whom the NDA Government was subscribed profusely. This is the truth.

The hon. Finance Minister has already commented, "The economy was able to weather the crisis and return to 7.9 per cent growth in the second quarter. This shows the strength of the stimulus packages introduced by the Government and the inherent sound economic fundamentals."

It is really a matter of pride that despite being hit by the global slowdown, India's GDP growth rate can bounce back to nine per cent in the next three years. What is the reason? The reason is that we do have robust savings and we do have substantial investment capacities of our economy.

I would like to ruminate the past incidents. The history of Indian economy, the evolutionary path of Indian economy will give you an account that in the earlier days also, even after the Independence, our country faced very adverse situations. May I recall that during 1966, the then Finance Minister, Shri Sachin Choudhury, through a radio broadcast announced India's decision to devalue the rupee at 36.5 per cent, including significant reduction in import tariff, tax credit, direct subsidies and important entitlement schemes.

In the wake of crumbling of Berlin Wall, when the entire equilibrium of the world got a radical shift, at that time also, despite our close trade business and to a large extent financial rupee-rouble alliance, the country did not succumb to the pressure created by the fall of Soviet Union. In 1991, everybody knows that the total public debt accumulated to 76 per cent of our GDP, interest payment reached four per cent of GDP and 20 per cent of the expenditure of GDP. Under such circumstances, the only recourse was the International Monetary Fund under compensatory and contingency finance facility, along with loan from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, we got over the crisis and the financial reforms started with a new momentum. We have descended in the era of liberation, in the era of institutional restructuring and so on.

In 1997-98, this Indian economy withstood the pressure of South-East Asian crisis; and in 2008 Lehman Brothers scandal led global recession. The IMF predicted it as the mother of all economic meltdown. I reiterated that this is the meltdown which has been recognised by the International Monetary Fund as a mother of all economic meltdowns in emerging markets. In spite of all, this it is our continuous endeavour to get rid of this economic meltdown and I am sure that the UPA Government will be coming out with flying colours in spite of all the nemesises being poured by the Opposition, we will be able to succeed. Nobody can stop us from winning the people of our country.

What is the situation of global economy? If we could not understand the present status of global economy, then, it would also be hard for us to assert and to assess the cascading effect of the global

economy on our country. The positive side of the global economy right at this moment as per the IMF is world output has expanded by three per cent in the second quarter; manufacturing activity picked up; trade is recovering; financial market conditions are improving; appetite, risk appetite is increasing.

These are the positive sides of world economy. However, it is matched with negative side also. The negative side is that the recovery is fragile. The second quarter improvement essentially is the outcome of policy induced stimulus. Stimulus has not been introduced only by our country. Throughout the world, even the developed countries introduced stimulus packages to get rid of the economic melt down.

Indian economy posted a growth of 6.1 per cent for the first quarter of 2009, lower than 7.8 per cent in the corresponding period of 2008-09—everything is transparent. Our hon. Finance Minister pleads for 7.9 per cent growth in the second quarter. Even the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development has applauded Indian economy's resilience and has projected a growth rate of seven per cent in 2010 and 7.5 per cent in 2011.

The industrial sector is a great parameter of macro economic fundamental. If we take the case of the industrial sector, it has shown clear signs of revival in recent months. The index of industrial production increased at a higher rate of 5.8 per cent during April-August 2009, as compared with a growth of 4.8 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year. The latest number indicates that the industrial sector is growing by 9-10 per cent.

The core infrastructure sector, with the rate of 26.7 per cent in the index of industrial production posted a growth of 4.8 per cent during April-August 2009, up from 3.3 per cent in the corresponding period of the previous year. What does it indicate? It indicates that we are moving forward. This is the clear indication.

With the economy back on the roll and disposable incomes rising, just news came out yesterday saying that the car sales are posting highest growth in nearly the past six years. In nearly six years, the car sales

are up a massive 61 per cent. What does it mean? The demand has been helped by the surge in the stock market.

In the case of services, India is such a country which has been proving its potentiality in the service sector, since 1991. The performance of the service sector during April-July 2009 continues to follow the pattern witnessed in the 4th quarter of 2008-09. Trade-related services such as cargo handled at major sea and airports decelerated, reflecting a contraction of trade. Trade has been declined and everybody knows it. But our Commerce Minister, Shri Anand Sharma said this and I quote:

"India's exports have been falling since October 2008, though the pace of decline has been arrested in recent months. The country's merchandise export which had declined by 38.9 per cent in May 2009, started showing signs of improvement and the downturn has been arrested to a single digit level of 6.6 per cent in October this year."

It is hoped that the Government exports would grow by 15 per cent in the next fiscal year. Other domestic activity related services such as communication and construction have begun to show signs of up turn. The railway revenue earning freight traffic recorded good growth. In the first five months of 2009-10, we are admitting that the fiscal deficit of the Central Government was 54.9 per cent. We never say that we are going to violate the FRBM Act but the situation has come to such a pass that the FRBM could not be sustained right at this economic scenario. Therefore, when the situation will start improving the Government will be reverting back to FRBM discipline. There need not be any worry for anybody.

What is the position of our foreign exchange market? Foreign exchange market remained orderly during 2009-10 with the rupee exhibiting a two-way movement against major currencies. In terms of the real exchange rate, the six currency trade base, real effective exchange rate moved up from 96.3 per cent to 104.2 per cent by October 2009.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

What is the situation of stock market? It is also promising, Sir. Stock market staged a smart recovery reflecting large foreign institutional investment inflows due to the optimistic outlook for the Indian economy. When the Indian economy has been reverted back to normalcy then the appetite of foreign investor also has been growing in commensurate with the progress of our economy. This has been reflected in the stock market. It is a very simple matter. It is as easy as day light.

I am now going to brief you the situation in the external sector. India's external account remains comfortable during the current financial year. Merchandise State contracted due to depressed external demand and slow-down of the domestic economy with imports declining more than export. Trade deficit in the first quarter of 2009-10 is higher than 14.6 billion in fourth quarter of 2008-09 due to rise in crude oil price.

Sir, the capital account showed a turn around from negative balance in the last second quarter of 2008-09 to the positive balance of 6.7 billion during first quarter of 2009-10.

Our foreign exchange reserve is robust and is now hovering around 284.4 billion dollar by the last month. However, we cannot wish away the seamy side of our economy. Yes, there is Achilles' heel that we cannot ignore. Total employment in the economy has improved in recent years but the labour force has grown even faster leading to an increase in the unemployment rate. Permanent employment in organised sector has decreased although organised sector firms may be increasing their informal employment. Economic growth across the region has not been balanced. Much higher level of human development can be achieved with the given system of economy if only the delivery system is improved. Shri Yashwant Sinha was accusing the Government that programmes like NREGA and preparation of BPL list are not being implemented in the States. May I ask our former Finance Minister whether it is incumbent upon the Central Government to implement the NREGA scheme in Jharkhand around his residence or in his village? Is it incumbent upon the

Central Government to prepare the BPL list in the village where Shri Yashwant Sinha resides?

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (Paschim Champaran): It is President's rule there. So, it is your responsibility.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: The President Rule has been imposed for the last few months only. What I am telling is that he was also the Finance Minister of our country. So, he must know being in the federal structure, all the responsibilities cannot be borne out by the Central Government. There is the Union List, the Concurrent List and the State List. We have already admitted that due to the poor delivery mechanism, a number of welfare schemes which are available in our country could not reach to the common people.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Panchayati Raj elections have not taken place in Jharkhand for the last thirty years. All these schemes are implemented under the Panchayat Raj.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: So far as agriculture is concerned, India is not sufficient for producing all agricultural commodities that are required by us. Especially, there is a chronic shortfall of edible oil and pulses in our country. Every year, India imports about 40 per cent of edible oil and 12 to 15 per cent of pulses that are required by us. This year, we know that the entire country has been inflicted by the fury of nature named after drought, flood, etc. We have to face the onslaught of drought and the onslaught of environmental extreme events whether we like it or not. The area under food crop declined due to natural calamities. It has declined from 69.22 million hectares to 63.78 million hectares. The total target was fixed at 239 million tonnes for food grains but it is expected to be 233 million tonnes. It demonstrates a shortfall of food grains. The Department of Agriculture has declared this year 299 districts in 12 States as drought affected. Is it that the drought has been brought by our Government? Will the Central Government be liable for the prevalence of drought and flood? I got surprised by the queen

argument made by the Opposition and even by the former Finance Minister. I would recall for the former Finance Minister what was the Minimum Support Price of paddy during his tenure. During NDA regime, the Minimum Support Price of paddy was Rs. 530 plus Rs. 20 but during the UPA regime, in this year, 2009-10, the Minimum Support Price of paddy has been increased to Rs. 950. ...*(Interruptions)* I know that it will incur your anger and frustration. Only five essential commodities with high inflation rate is a matter of concern. Our Prime Minister has expressed concern; the Finance Minister has expressed concern; and the UPA Government has expressed concern for the inflation. But sometime things are controllable and manageable by us and something is beyond our capacity. That has to be admitted. Out of 17 essential commodities, a high inflation rate was witnessed in respect of wheat, rice, pulses, potatoes and onions. We need to understand the factors that affected the price of every commodity. The area under cultivation was reduced and production dwindled because these are dependent on weather and technology. This has to be admitted. Increase in the Minimum Support Price had resulted in the purchasing power of farmers which resulted in their enhanced consumption pattern and when the purchasing power increased and consequently consumption capacity enhanced. But there was a constraint in the supply side. This is the logic of economics. There is a demand and consumption mismatch which has been reflected due to increase in the purchasing power and consequent consumption power of people. Last but not least, there is an effect of the international prices. Though there was an increase in the total food grain production in the year 2008-09, the production of some of the food articles such as pulses, sugar have been lower. The demand for commodity was growing because of the rise in income of the people and consequently there was hardening of international prices because of hike in fuel prices, then there was the delayed monsoon and the affect of drought. All these factors pushed up the prices of the food articles. The progressive policies of the UPA Government led to the increase in the disposable income of the poor people and this led to the propensity to consume and thus resulting in the increase in the demand for every commodity. This happened because

of the increased purchasing power of the poor people by way of NREGA. 619 districts in the country have been covered by the programme and the outlays to this programme are proposed to be increased by a hopping 144 per cent. As a former Minister you would know that this is a demand driven programme. The more you want, the more you will be paid. This is one programme which has been appreciated throughout the world except my friends from the NDA. Sugar prices increased, but why? The price of sugar increased on account of declining area of cultivation of sugarcane and consequently there was lesser production of sugarcane. Production declined by 4 per cent and prices increased by 10 per cent. In June, 2008 while production declined by 20 per cent, prices increased by 45 per cent in June, 2009 and still that is prevailing. Shift in acreage from sugarcane to other crops like wheat was another reason and this was because of higher MSP and this got reflected in the drop of sugarcane acreage and that resulted in the declining of sugar recovery. The prices of pulses rose on account of demand and supply mismatch and hardening of international prices. The area under cultivation and production of potato in the year 2008-09 was estimated to be 18.10 lakh hectares and 311.27 lakh metric tonnes respectively as compared to the previous year which was 17.19 lakh hectares and 304.42 lakh metric tonnes. The production in 2008-09 was lower than that of in 2007-08 and this contributed to price rise. Presently, cold storage potatoes are mostly meant for consumption. We are optimistic that potatoes from early harvesting in Punjab and Haryana and other places will be coming in the market and it will help to stabilise the prices of potatoes.

So far as onions are concerned, we know that onions are highly perishable bulk crop. Slight increase in rainfall affects their quality and productivity. Floods in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and heavy rains in Maharashtra affected khariff crop of onions and supply to markets across the country. These are accounts of truth.

As far as wheat and rice are concerned, average wholesale price can be attributed to minimum support price. Our Prime Minister also admitted that inflation of food articles was attributable to the increase of MSP.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

The Government launched a scheme on 28-7-08 to distribute one million tonnes of edible oil to the States at a subsidy of Rs. 15 per kilogram and that subsidy further increased to Rs. 25 per kilogram in June, 2009. We need not worry about our principle foodgrain.

In the Central pool, as on 1-11-09, total availability of foodgrain was 268.88 lakh tonnes and total offtake was 127 lakh tonnes. The balance as on 1-4-2010 will be 141.88 lakh tonnes. Bufferstock norm is 40 lakh tonnes and strategic reserve is 30 lakh tonnes and as on 1st April, the stock will be 70 lakh tonnes.

As regards the stock of rice, actual stock is 153.49 lakh tonnes, bufferstock norm is 52 lakh tonnes and strategic reserve is 20 lakh tonnes.

Therefore, we should not be unnecessarily concerned over our foodgrain capacity in our country. Inflation is a matter of concern for all of us. The Government has been burning the midnight oil to get rid of the pressure of inflation.

Sir, I am hailing from Murshidabad of West Bengal. Murshidabad has not only been recognised as the most backward district in our country but it is also recognised as the district with the highest concentration of minorities in our country. Every year, flood used to inundate large areas of Murshidabad. Over the years, people of my district have been demanding the implementation of a master plan named as Kandi Master Plan. I would request the hon. Finance Minister to release funds for the Kandi Master Plan of Murshidabad in West Bengal.

We are discussing the economy of our country and we are all responsible Members of Parliament. In this situation, we should not make any lopsided comments while discussing the economic scenario because if we do not make a healthy discussion, then a message may go throughout the country that we are unnecessarily clamouring on the price situation of the country because the middlemen, the hoarders and the black marketeers of our country who may take advantage of these kinds of discussions. Sometimes the criticisms of this Government come to the help of those black marketeers

and hoarders. The Government has issued a number of directions, a number of orders to put a check on hoarders and black marketers. I think under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh and Chairperson of the UPA, Madam Sonia Gandhi, the UPA-II Government will be marching ahead. There is concern about it.

With these words, I am supporting the Demands for Supplementary Grants (General).

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Hon. Chairman, Sir, please listen to me for a minute. Please give him two more minutes so that he is able to speak a few words about Supplementary Demands for Grants and we are able to learn that...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Shri Shailendra Kumarji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Kaushambi): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on supplementary demands for grants for 2009-10. The hon. Minister has presented it and supplementary budget demands are made every year. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister, through you, whether any provisions have been made to ensure the participation of the common people in the budget and whether the Ministry of Finance has given any reply to any petition under consideration in the House regarding participation of the common people in the developmental fora. Whether other measures for ensuring participation of the common man besides the *voter ship* proposed in the petition are under consideration or not? He should reply to this.

It was being said that Air India is running into loss to the tune of 800 crore rupees, hence 800 crore rupees have been demanded. Even now, it is in loss of 60 thousand crore rupees. The employees and especially the pilots are extremely opposed to the merger of Air India and Indian Airlines. There was a big strike over the issue. Yashwant Sinhaji has spoken in detail about the Rural Development Ministry.

Sir, you have served as Minister in this department. We are sitting here to hear you in the expectation that you will speak in detail. When we go to a village, we see that there are a whole lot of problems relating to rural development—be it the *Indira Awaas Yojana*, *BPL List*, old age pension or scholarships for children. *Yashwant Sinhaji* talked in detail about the *PMGSY* and also said that there are seven to eight teachers for 40 children in one place and merely two teachers for five hundred students in another under *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. This imbalance has to be addressed. There are a number of schemes meant to benefit the poor, particularly the *BPI card* holders. He must be having in depth knowledge of the condition of hospitals. The condition of *CSC*, *PSC* is deplorable.

As far as power generation is concerned, villages are barely able to get four to five hours of power. At times no power is available for a week. The demand for power projects and augmentation of power generation capacity would have to be given serious consideration. The drinking water situation is even worse. We have to face demands in this regard wherever we go. We have not been able to provide clean water in rural areas till date. Demand for grants are made under supplementary budget every year. They should be conceded. Our aim and the government's aim should be to ensure that the schemes benefit the poor.

with these words I conclude since other hon. Members would also like to speak on this issue.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadoni): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the *Supplementary Demands for Grants Bill 2009-10*. I was listening to the Finance Minister with rapt attention and thereafter *Shri Adhir Choudhuryji* also make a detailed speech. The Finance Minister is not present in the House at this time. I would like to draw the attention of the Finance Minister, through you, to the fact that out of the supplementary demands for grants of Rs. 25,000 crore and as stated by our former Finance Minister a demand for securities worth Rs. 800 crore has been made for *Air India* whereas the loss has been estimated to the tune of

Rs. 60,000 crore. Apart from this, he has spoken about many other things. It has been said that the global recession has also affected our budget. I would like to say that global recession is one thing but our government is responsible for our economic policies. We make policies and prepare budget on the basis of those policies. If our policies are faulty our country, state and the poor people have to face the consequences.

I would like to draw the attention of the government, through you, towards rural areas. The poor people live in *jhuggis* and huts in villages. They are facing problems in meeting their essential needs. There has been unprecedented price-rise. It is for anyone to see that the prices of rice, sugar, pulses, potato, edible oils etc. have sky-rocketed. The government says that when there is more demand and the supply is less then it will have to make imports. Prior to it, the Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister had said a few things at the time of budget presentation. He had said that there was enough stock of foodgrains in the country. But after few days we had to import and the price-rise also could not be checked. Hon. Minister of Agriculture said that it was the season of festivals and the prices of sugar might rise. The next day the price of sugar was increased in the market. The head of a family keeps the details of income and expenditure in order to run his family affairs during the whole year. If he is a farmer he makes arrangements for feeding his family for the whole year. But I regret to say that here an illusion is being created with the help of figures.

Shri Adhir Choudhury has said earlier that there has been a rise in the sale of cars. As the income of the people has increased, they are buying cars. The persons, who use cars, have source of income. But those persons can only dream about a car who do not get even two square meals a day. India is a country of villages. 80 per cent of the population lives in the villages. The people, who live in the villages, are the face of this country and are living in poverty. Several provisions have been made in our budget. Here infrastructure is being referred to. There has been improvement in infrastructure facilities. There is a need to pay attention to some existing things. Other honourable members have referred to *PMGSY*. We are

[Shri Gorakhnath Pandey]

villagers and we live in villages and meet the people living in villages daily. We are farmers also. I would like to draw your attention to PMGSY. The norms laid down for the roads under this scheme are not upto the mark. The potholes appear on the roads within a year. The roads get damaged easily and there are cave-ins. The standard of the roads being constructed is not worth the cost involved therein. An inquiry should be made in this regard and a committee should be constituted.

I would like to draw your attention towards Uttar Pradesh, especially to my Parliamentary Constituency Bhadohi. I have seen and inspected the roads in my constituency. The roads are of sub-standard, which need to be repaired.

Drinking water is a big problem. When I visit my constituency, most of the visitors coming to me have to face the problem of drinking water. The government should pay attention to this problem. Funds are insufficient. Even if I try to provide water to the people of my constituency, it becomes impossible to do with that much fund, what to talk about development?

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the government also towards Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan. The children of the poor people do not get quality education in the villages. There are many irregularities in this scheme. So an inquiry should be conducted in this regard and the government should take notice of it.

Sir, I would like to say something about NREGA. One of the hon. Members has said just now that this government has come into power for the second time. I agree with him but you need to look at the real picture of the villages. I do not want to criticize anybody. It is a very good scheme. The government has provided a good system for the poor living in jhuggis and jhopdis in the villages. The government has formulated good schemes for providing employment to them. But these schemes fail when these schemes reach the villages. The workers engaged under NREGA do not get their wages in the villages. The State government may be diverting the funds. ...*(Interruptions)* there is a need to keep an eye on the State government. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to say, through you, that MNREGA is certainly a good scheme. But one can see its oblique form at the last point in any village. An inquiry should be conducted in this regard and the corruption-taking place therein should be checked. We would like to thank the hon. Minister for appointing hon. Members of Parliament as chairman of this committee. But there is a need for inquiry and improvement in this scheme.

Sir, the poor live in villages. The people living in villages need food, clothes and houses. Today those farmers, poor and labourers do not get enough food due to price-rise. The price of pulses has increased a lot. It is missing from their daily meals, rather it is taken as a medicine.

Sir, people used to use potato for food but the price of potato has also increased a lot. People are reeling under high price-rise. Our Finance Minister and Agriculture Minister should pay attention towards it. I would like to submit, through you, that there should be a provision for the poor, labourers and farmers living in villages. You should take care of them in this budget. There should be a provision for providing food, clothes and shelter to them in this budget and it should be given top priority.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Yashwant Babu has presented a very factual analysis of the ill effects of Government's economic and monetary policy on social and economic sector in a very emphatic manner. There is a constitutional provision regarding Supplementary budget which is often presented in the House. Supplementary budget is presented to seek approval with regard to additional expenditure in exigencies arising after the original budget is presented in a financial year. TA-DA etc. are also included in it which may not be estimated in advance. There are 105 demands under supplementary budget for which a sum of Rs. 30,942.62 crore has been demanded. A proposal of net expenditure of Rs. 25,725.22 crore has been made. The fiscal deficit about which Yashwant Babu was mentioning is going to increase. Nowadays, Reserve Bank of India, Finance Ministry, Economic Advisor to Prime Minister and the

Planning Commission—all are engaged in marathon discussion about projecting the growth rate in the country. They all are projecting it between 5.5 to 6.5%. They are discussing about the growth rate but the Government is not paying attention towards the revenue receipt which is going to fall by Rs. 4.14 lakh crore. On the basis of the budget estimates presented by the Government in the original budget, economists have estimated that Rs. 6.14 lakh crore can be collected as revenue through taxes. With the burden of four lakh crores, GDP would reduce by 6.8%. But even then the Government is engaged in this marathon exercise.

Hon'ble Members have discussed about poverty. I would like to mention one thing that Right to Work should be included under fundamental rights. The struggle for this has been going for a long time. Those who believe in socialist movement know that for long we have been demanding to either provide employment or unemployment allowance. We have been struggling for it and imprisoned also. The Government has tried to include Right to Work under NREGA. A provision has been made under it that if work is not provided for 15 days, it will be compensated by giving amount from Government exchequer. It is a revolutionary programme but the shortcomings in it need to be removed because people think that there is no need to pay attention to the usefulness and quality of asset/work created under NREGA. Irregularities are being done in providing employment to poor people on large scale. The Government has taken a revolutionary step by executing this programme and has fulfilled the demand of youngsters, students and socialists either to provide employment or to give unemployment allowance for which they have struggled for years. Flaws in this programme should be removed because it is the matter of creation of assets or the quality of work.

The Government talk about alleviating poverty but it has not made any assessment in this regard. I know Narayansamiji is a great supporter of Congress, he is not a socialist. Whether the budget is presented or we talk about alleviating poverty, we do not talk about Nehru's Principle of Socialistic Pattern of Society, Cooperative Commonwealth or the trusteeship Principle of Mahatma Gandhi. We have not been able to remove

poverty rather it is on the rise. On the other hand, rich people are becoming more rich. Therefore, he has rightly stated that a demand of Rs. 1,06,803.28 crore which includes original and supplementary both, has been made under demand no. 80 in this budget. It is being stated that the demand is being made to meet the administrative expenses for carrying out BPL Survey in the country. In the end, they have mentioned that cash expenditure on BPL Survey would be met through it. It is being stated that the funds taken through Supplementary budget would be used for BPL survey. The Government has stated that the parameters in this regard are yet to be decided. Sometimes, the Government produces the figures of National Sample Survey Organization and sometimes it says that the figures of Planning Commission are reliable. All the departments including rural development have demanded these figures which are not reliable. Yashwant Babu has rightly stated in his speech and I associate myself with him. He has stated that if BPL Survey cannot be undertaken, at least the Government should take two steps. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiaji had stated that poverty cannot be alleviated till a ban/tax is imposed on luxurious living, wasteful expenditure and misuse of money. Today tax is imposed on property or on income but not on expenditure. In this country, a rich man spends Rs. 8000 crore on constructing a house with a helipad and gifts it to his wife. This is the height of wastage of money. The Government has no control over it. The funds which should be spent on increasing production alleviating poverty and development of infrastructure is being wasted. Either it should be banned or tax be imposed on it. However, the Government is not doing this. That is why, Yashwant Babu has stated that the Government raises the slogans like "Garibi Mitao" but the number of poor people in the country are on the rise.

He said, thirty per cent of the population of Jharkhand lives below the poverty line and also quoted the figures in Bihar to be 30 per cent. As per the Planning Commission the national figure is 22 per cent and that of Bihar is 42 per cent. But the per capita income is higher in Jharkhand compared to Bihar. There is more poverty in Jharkhand. But Jharkhand has a higher per capita income because it has got Tata's

[Shri Mangani Lal Mandal]

money. Besides, the money earned from coal is deposited in banks and it is transferred to the headquarters after 5 o' clock. The money does not remain in Jharkhand. The amount of money deposited in the banks by the coal sector, TISCO, TELCO is transferred to the headquarters in Mumbai, Kolkata after five o' clock. So this causes a double loss. The Government does not have the power to earmark a percentage of funds to be utilized in the regions where the banks are situated. If you have failed to survey the poor, then you should get a survey of the rich done. There would be no problem in establishing its parameters because wealth is easily visible. Although, poverty is also visible but the Government has not been able to assess the exact percentage of people living, below poverty line. The Planning Commission figure of 22 per cent is incorrect, not based on facts, misleading and it amounts to cheating the country. So the money that is being taken through this supplementary budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, kindly address the Chair.

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Sir, I am putting across my point but these people are interrupting me. I want to tell them only to question the Government and not us. Dr. Manmohan Singhji is greatly respected even by us, he is a great economist, but there should be a resolve to eradicate poverty from the country. Poverty should be removed, poverty is rising, the number of the poor is rising...*(Interruptions)* When my party was running the Government the prices had not rocketed sky high. Just now your hon. MP was saying*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt and take your seat. Hon. Member, please conclude now.

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Sir, I want to say another thing. The Government has said that it will bring about the second green revolution. Many districts have been surveyed in the country for this. China is ahead or us in many fields. The Government says that the economic condition of the country is going to improve.

Money is coming in through portfolio investment, FDI and the stock exchange. The Government is saying that there will be plenty of money in the country. Still the life of the poor will not improve. China gets more money than us because it has got better infrastructure.

Sir, it is very surprising that the total area of agricultural land in our country is more than that in China. Although China has a much bigger land area.

18.00 hrs.

Despite having more agricultural land area our production is half that of China. In fact, it is lower than Egypt. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have a list of eight hon. Members for speaking. If the House agrees the proceedings of the House could be extended upto zero hour after they have spoken.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Machhlishahr): Zero hour may be taken up first. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the ruling of Madam Speaker. Please sit down. Zero hour will be taken up at the end of the day. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Already, the hon. Speaker has told in the morning that after this discussion, at the end of the day, the 'Zero Hour' will be taken up. Already, it is the ruling of the Chair that the 'Zero Hour' will be taken up after this discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Sir, this is the reason agricultural production is going to be low even this time. Inflation is going to rise further. Prices are rising day-by-day. Hence, Sir, we should promote high production varieties in the agricultural research sector and spend more on agriculture science. The need of the hour is to raise the per-hectare production in the country. It is an open secret that foodgrain is being smuggled to Bangladesh by black marketeers. First of all, the Government should control that and send the

hoarders to jail. Only then inflators can be brought under control. With these words I express my opposition to the supplementary budget.

[English]

SHRI BANSA GOPAL CHOWDHURY (Asansol):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has placed the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) before the House. When the Union Budget was placed, at that time, the economy was in the midst of serious recession owing to global meltdown.

India's GDP growth rate slowed down considerably from 9 per cent in 2007-08 to 6.7 per cent in 2008-09. The growth of the agriculture sector and the manufacturing sector is also being slowed down. Actually the massive job loss and pay cuts across the sectors were witnessed since October, 2008. What I would like to mention—and I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister—is that after passing the Budget when the hon. Finance Minister is placing the Supplementary Budget, what is the economic scenario of the country at present. The assessment of six lakh job losses made in the *Economic Survey* is a gross under-estimation. Presently, actually, the job loss is much more around 50 lakh across the sectors and the export sector in particular. The economy is badly suffering due to the wage cut, due to the job loss in the export oriented industries. In this context, we would like to discuss regarding the stimulus packages already released, which have failed to arrest the ongoing spree of job losses and wage cuts. That is still continuing. The stimulus packages released from national exchequer to arrest the problem only helped the entrepreneurs and our common people, which are called in the Budget as '*Aam Aadmi*', are not actually being helped and they are not getting the assistance. There is the corporate sector, the big corporate houses. I would like to concentrate here on the discussion regarding agricultural scenario which is most important due to the present scenario of inflation. The reviving of agriculture from present crisis must be central to all exercises for competing economic slowdown.

The essence of the new liberal policies is to gradually weaken the role of the State and facilitate the interest of big corporates in the economy.

Sir, as you know, the public procurement continues to remain limited to a few major crops, and procurement operations are carried out in limited parts of the country. I would like to mention that this year, with a 24 per cent rainfall deficit, 278 districts across 11 States of the country have been declared drought-hit.

Sir, our agricultural growth fell to 1.6 per cent in 2008-09. When we are facing serious inflation in our economy, there is no policy. I would like to pose certain questions to the hon. Finance Minister during this discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General). What is the main policy of the Government to check inflation and price rise? What is the current scenario regarding the Public Distribution System that the Government is placing before the House? The Public Distribution System is now in a mess. As you know, Sir, high inflation rate has not been checked because of four reasons. The first one is new liberal policies of the Government; the second one is the weakening of the Public Distribution System; the third one is the failure to check hoarding; and the fourth one is increase in the fuel prices.

We are always being told that there is some global recession; there is some global impact in price rise. All other things are being told. We have been told in the series of documents published by the Government that it is due to the global scenario, we are facing this situation. But actually in India, nearly 50 per cent of rise in price of petrol per litre and 25 per cent of rise in price of diesel per litre are on account of taxes and duties. I would know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he is prepared to release these types of taxes and duties for the benefit of the general public. The general public was described in the Budget as *Aam admi*. This year's Budget was called as *Aam admi* Budget.

Sir, I am going to another point, which is very important. The Government is saying, on the one side, that they are trying to mobilise resource through disinvestment proposals. Which are these disinvestment proposals? The hon. Finance Minister will say: "We have no such proposal to sell the public properties. We have no such policy to sell the public interest and the public sector properties". But what is the actual scenario?

[Shri Bansa Gopal Chowdhury]

I would just like to give you a brief picture. The non-Government shareholding profile of the PSUs already disinvested gives altogether a different picture. In BHEL, 32.28 per cent shares are in the hands of the private people. Out of that, the general public hold only 1.92 per cent. In SAIL, out of 14.18 per cent shares disinvested the general public hold only 1.92 per cent. In ONGC, out of 25.86 per cent shares disinvested the general public hold only 1.69 per cent. In GAIL, out of 42.66 per cent shares disinvested the general public hold only 2.27 per cent.

Sir, I would like to know for whom the Government is placing this Demands for Supplementary Grants (General). For whom are we trying to collect the resources? The resources should be collected to check inflation. The resources should be utilized for the Public Distribution System. The Public Distribution System should be strengthened. On the other hand, the Government is trying to disinvest these public properties only to accumulate this wealth for the privatisation of the industries of our country, which is very shameful. That is why I believe that the Government would change this policy; it would take the path for universal Public Distribution System; and it would only open the doors of the public sectors for the general public.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand here to participate on the deliberations that are being made on the Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) for 2009-10.

The first batch of the Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) for 2009-10 includes 61 grants and two Appropriations. An approval of Parliament is sought to authorize gross additional expenditure of Rs. 30,942.62 crore. The main heads of expenditure for which there would be a net cash outgo, include fertilizer subsidy of Rs. 3,000 crore; food subsidy of Rs. 3,458.98 crore; Defence pension of Rs. 2,210 crore. Pension to Central Government employees on implementation of 6th Pay Commission and other pensions run up to Rs. 4,533.33 crore; and transfer of disinvestment receipts to National Investment Fund is of Rs. 3,139.90 crore.

18.12 hrs.

[SHRI FRANCISCO COSME SARDINHA *in the Chair*]

The Government also seeks Parliament's nod for equity transfer, equity infusion of Rs. 800 crore for Air India. An amount of Rs. 1,200 crore is also proposed to be transferred to the National Calamity Contingency Fund, which is a welcome move.

The Government is also seeking two per cent interest subvention to the Schedule Commercial Banks in respect of Rupee Export Credit and for this, Rs. 200 crore is sought. For Delhi Metro Phase-II, Rs. 350 crore; for loans to DMRC, Rs 1,500 crore, for Bangalore Metro, Rs.135 crore; and for Chennai Metro, Rs. 40 crore are proposed.

I would also like to draw the attention of this august House regarding the reimbursement of losses in the Ministry of Textiles. The reimbursement of losses to the Cotton Corporation of India on account of MSP operation on cotton runs up to Rs. 500 crore. I do not understand and I would like to hear from the Government what necessitated the loss relating to the Cotton Corporation of India and why Rs. 500 crore is being given there.

But I welcome the Grants-in-Aid to the State Governments for meeting additional requirement under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme.

As has also been stated, additional Central assistance for Externally-Aided Projects runs up to Rs. 1,400 crore.

So, these are the major components of the Bill and that is why there is the Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) before us for consideration.

Sir, it has been already stated by Shri Yashwant Sinhaji that the net cash outgo would be Rs. 25,725.22 crore, out of which Rs. 7,935 crore would be Plan and Rs. 23,006.96 crore would be Non-Plan. It is said that there would be equivalent overall savings in other grants.

This argument is witty, no doubt but one fails to understand why we should spend as much as Rs. 1,500 crore on imported decontrolled fertilizers and provide Rs. 2,300 crore on indigenous urea as subsidy. Earlier on

another occasion I had mentioned the amount of money that is being spent on import of fertilizers. Cannot the Government bring down the rate of imported fertilizers when you very well know that there is a nexus involved in it?

India's spectacular 7.9 per cent GDP growth in the second quarter, that is, July-September of this fiscal year, should not have been entirely unexpected as the country's industrial production figures were showing a steady upward movement? Most of this is due to the growth in manufacturing and this is heartening, particularly for what it means on the employment front. It might be a little too early to be happy about it. Let us wait for the third quarter figures. Why I say this? It is because the growth could be attributed to the stimulus packages as well as effect of the Sixth Pay Commission's largesse. Agriculture might not have been taken into account in its entirety. But I think everybody would agree that one factor that did contribute to higher GDP growth was drastically reduced inflation and negative inflation in this period. But inflation has been picking up since.

What is intriguing in the recent IIP figures is that they have been robust despite the slow growth in credit off-take. According to one Report, credit outstanding fell by Rs. 21,000 crore in the second half of October in contrast to the first half. The conventional wisdom is that if bank credit growth slows, so does industrial growth. RBI has lowered interest rates so that the industry gets access to bank credit in bad times such as the economic slow down. But the spurt in IIP figures in recent weeks defies this theory. What would the Finance Minister say about it?

Some say India has been saved from financial crisis only because the policy was conservative and did not act to improve the efficiency of the system. But this view is not right. There were policy interventions in both monetary and financial sectors. We should certainly give credit to them. But still there are challenges. Managing economic recovery and exiting the expansionary credit policy may be the immediate challenges facing the Indian economy today. Therefore, sustaining the post-reform growth momentum requires growth to be broad-based and inclusive. We should focus on policies that increase

access and improve quality of basic education, health care and other social services, ease bottlenecks for participation of the poor in economic activities. Will the Government emulate Brazil's achievement in directly addressing widening inequality and poverty through more effective social policies such as its hugely successful conditional cash transfer programmes?

Since 1991 the Foreign Direct Investment has been touted as the magic wand that will transform "under-developed" India into an advanced nation with "modern" infrastructure. Every Government that has followed has dutifully talked of taking steps to encourage and expand FDI. India is receiving a lot of FDI as well as FII investment. So far, India has received a record 16 billion US dollars of FDI investment in 2006-07. But I would say there is definite danger of the uncontrolled FDI and FII in our economy. Majority of FDI has come in the form of speculative investment in India's stock market.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: FDI flows have simply enabled transnational brands to set up monopoly in highly profitable sector. Moreover, the benefits of FDI foreign exchange inflows are one time while the potential foreign obligations are perpetual and long term.

I had earlier mentioned in this House about the possibility of dirty money coming through FIIs. I would be obliged if the Finance Minister responds to these matters when he replies to the discussion.

I would also like to take a little time to ventilate the feelings of Orissa about the injustice that has been perpetuated by the Union Government. Mineral rich States like Orissa have not been able to reap full benefits of our endowments because of distortions in delayed implementation of mineral royalty policies. Royalty structures are such that mineral rich States, including Orissa are losing out substantially in resource generation potential for public investment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly wind up, you have made your points.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: We do not get commensurate royalty for exploitation of several minerals as the rates

[Shri B. Mahtab]

of royalty are not revised in time though the central statute on Mineral Development and Regulation provides for revision in royalty rates at an interval of three years. This was supported by 11th Finance Commission and the 12th Finance Commission has said that it should be revised on *ad valorem* basis. However, these are not being followed.

You have introduced recently on 1st August 2007 a hybrid system on coal and other major minerals. But this does not compensate the mineral rich States in a fair manner. Goa is also affected by it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would demand that the rate of royalty should be fixed at the rate of 20 per cent *ad valorem*. You are adjusting against royalty the taxes that are being levied by the States on mineral bearing lands. This is unfair and infringes on the constitutional powers of the State.

Another area of concern is levy of export duty on ore and chrome ores. The proceeds of this should be distributed among all States on the basis of tax regulation formula fixed by the Finance Commission. States like Orissa having iron ore and chrome ore deposits should be fully compensated out of the proceeds of such export duty of these minerals.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. I am calling the next Member.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: While speaking on Sixth Pay Commission, I must say the recommendations have cast a huge financial burden on the State Governments requiring revision of pay and pensions of Government employees. I do not know if Government of India can come in help of most of the States.

I would also like to draw the attention of this House regarding direct tax transfer of central funds to implementing agencies. It should be stopped. All funds should be transferred through the State Budget. This would enhance accountability, it would capture aggregate flow of funds to a particular sector for appropriate policy intervention and design, and it would also avoid duplication of schemes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now please conclude. Your Party time was five minutes; you have taken ten minutes.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Just give me two more minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving you only one more minute.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I would like to raise a matter with utmost seriousness at my command. Thermal power is generated in Orissa and is exported to other States by various undertakings. As electricity duty is charged on consumption only, Orissa gets nothing other than environmental degradation.

If 1,000 MW of power is generated in Orissa and evacuated to another State, the importing State gets electricity duty to the extent of Rs. 100 crore. This situation needs to be altered. Either you allow the State to levy duty on generation or a percentage of power generated be given free to the State by the concerned public sector undertaking.

Before I conclude, Sir, I am reminded of one article which I read in the newspaper written by a former colleague of ours who was a Minister also, belonging to the majority Party. He has posed some questions and these questions are relevant and need to be answered.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You pass it to your colleague, he will ask those questions.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I do not know whether he believes in that view or not. The first is—our relative position in the Human Development Index has deteriorated in conjunction with our rise in GDP growth. Why? Why are higher outlays impacting relatively little on all that makes life more bearable for the poor? What is required for exhilarated growth to translate into inclusive growth? These are the three questions which he has posed.

Coming back to the basic, I would say the total anticipated collection in current fiscal may not be more than Rs. 6.14 lakh crore which thereby leads to a position. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, not like this. Others also will ask same thing. I have given you enough time. Others are waiting. We must complete this discussion today. Please conclude.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I am concluding. The resource gap is Rs. 4.14 lakh crore or uncovered deficit of 6.8 per cent of GDP in 2009-2010. If we take into account the resource gap of the Centre and the State, the quantum comes to around Rs. 5.5 lakh crore or 11 per cent of GDP.

Sir, my last line is—this is highly perturbing; when would the Government return to the findings of FRBM Act?

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (Amravati): Thank you, Sir. Mr. Chairperson, I am in support of the Supplementary Demands for Grants brought by the hon. Finance Minister. I will take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister one thing. We provide crores of rupees for various Departments by way of Budget and by way of these Supplementary Demands too. But we have never seen whether they are properly utilised or not. My experience, particularly in Melghat area, which is the tribal area of Amravati, Maharashtra is this. Crores of rupees are being spent. But no development has taken place of the tribal people. Wherever they were earlier, they are there even now.

Whenever we are implementing some schemes for the entire country we are allocating huge funds to the States. Take for example, sports complex to every *tehsil* is the scheme of this Union Government. I come from this backward region of Vidarbha. Even though the Government of India has provided the funds for the development of the backward region, unfortunately, all moneys are diverted to the districts of Ministers or Chief Minister. For example, two sports complexes meant for Vidarbha were transferred to Nanded which is the district of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and nine of the schools meant for the tribals were also diverted to Nanded, the district of the Chief Minister.

The implementation is being done this way. That is why, the backward region is where it was. That thing is also there. Then, the Central Government has

allocated money for Adivasi Slum Schools. It is also being diverted to Nanded. I think, there is no mechanism to see whether the money, which we had provided, is spent for that very purpose or not. That is the main thing. That is why, corruption is taking place. There are so many NGOs, particularly in the tribal areas. So, the NGOs and officers are indulging in corruption over there. There is no mechanism seen over there which may prevent or stop this corruption.

I come from the cooperative banking industry field. From the year of enactment of the Income Tax Act, 1961, there was exemption given under Section 80P from income tax to the cooperative banking industry because it was the creation of a movement of the common people. It has been 48 years since this law was enacted. But for the last three years, since the Budget of 2006, this exemption has been withdrawn. Quite often we met the Finance Minister, but we could not succeed. This year also, I myself and my colleague, a former Member of Rajya Sabha, Shri Eknath Thakur, met the Finance Minister. He was convinced, but unfortunately Section 80P is not restored.

Let me tell you why the cooperative banking industry is to be exempted. It is because the formation and functioning of the cooperative banking industry is different from that of the public sector banks and other banks. It is purely a democratic movement of the common people.

Now-a-days, fortunately or unfortunately, whatever it is, the cooperative banking industry is facing competition from the cooperative banking industry itself, from the public sector banks and also the private sector banks. That is why, Development Fund is to be created for the new technologies to be accepted. Secondly, as I told earlier, the formation of a cooperative bank is different. That is why, members of this bank are also the borrowers from the bank. It is also the reason for which the members are the rightful persons to get dividend. If the dividend and the Development Fund go, then how can the bank pay income tax? That is the problem with the cooperative banking industry. That is why, it is very much essential that Section 80P in the Income Tax Act is restored and exemption is given to the cooperative banking industry. That is my request.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to dwell upon Andaman and Nicobar Islands in particular.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): You may tell only about the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Following Shri Narayansamyji, I would like to make my points only regarding Andaman and Nicobar Islands only.

Sir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are directly ruled by the Central Government. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands made a supplementary demand for grants for Rs. 163 crore. I would put forth my argument in this regard in one-two points. Approximately 10610 hectare land got submerged after Tsunami in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. There is an urgent need of dikes and sloop gates in this regard. The department started work in this direction. The department sought only Rs. 2 crore and 21 lakh for completing the said work. The Lt. Governor himself said that since land erosion has taken place, he demanded Rs. 60 lakh for sloop gates in 2008 which have not been provided so far. Our Islands comprise of 90 per cent forest land and only 10 per cent revenue land. Land has been submerged because of Tsunami. Total submerged land is 10610 hectare. A sloop gate is required to be constructed for it. We have a number of rivers and distributaries which cause land erosion. Therefore, there is a need for separate funds to check it. An amount of Rs. 1 crore 79 lakh was sought for disbursement of salaries under NREGS and Rs. 30 lakh under panchayats. There are 106 national parks and sanctuaries under forest department. There is a need for Rs. five-and-a-half crore for payment of arrears of Sixth Pay Commission to the employees. Minimum wages should also be increased every six months on the basis of variable DA on the lines of Delhi Government.

Sir, we have sought Rs. 29 crore 58 lakh for education as a number of schools in Andaman and Nicobar are roof-less. Walls have been constructed of mats. The buildings are in dilapidated condition. Rs. 10 crore are required for construction of class rooms, toilets and kitchen in some of the schools. The Government of India sanctioned an engineering college. But there is a need for Rs. 4 crore 11 lakh for college infrastructure. Andaman Nicobar Police performs the roles of BSF, Army and Navy. There is an acute shortage of quarters for the said police personnel. Several police stations have kucha building. Police personnel stay in barracks. Several areas have no fire stations. Rs. 20 crore have been demanded for this purpose. There is only one Municipal Council stationed in Port Blair. There are 1812 labourer on its roll. Implementation of recommendations of Sixth Central Pay Commission has put an extra annual burden of Rs. 12 crore 80 lakh because of increased salaries. We have three tier panchayat in these islands, i.e. Pradhan, Samiti, Zila Parishad. The Government of India provides their salaries through the grants excluding the salary of municipal employees. The Government of India had assured 80% grants but it has not done so. Rs. 12 crore 80 lakh should be provided to the municipal council to bear the burden of increased salaries consequent upon implementation of recommendations of the 6th Central Pay Commission. Our these islands have highest rainfall after Cherapunji and Shillong. But, ironically drinking water is given in ration 2-3 times a week. I urge the government to provide Rs. 13 crore for implementing drinking water scheme. There is a need for Rs. 21 crore for disbursement of medical bills and for purchasing CT scan machine as there is no super specialty hospital in these islands.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a requirement of Rs. 4 crore 15 lakh for increasing old age pension, widow pension and honorarium for aanganwadi workers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, he is taking the time allotted to me to speak in this House on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please do not disturb him as he is mentioning very important points.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: These are serious issues being raised by the hon. Member. Please do not disturb him.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Sir, fishermens dingy was destroyed in Tsunami. Under Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package they got loan alongwith dingy. When fishermen lost everything in Nicobar Islands in Tsunami they were provided dingy free of cost. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please conclude your speech. You have asked too many things.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Sir, please give me a couple of minutes more to speak. ...(Interruptions) I have only taken three minutes to speak on this issue.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Andaman and Campbell Bay Districts 686 fishermen were given boats (dengies) on loan. I urge the Government to write off their loan totaling Rs. 3 crore 53 lakh alongwith the interest thereon. In Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry such boats were provided to Tsunami affected fishermen.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would conclude with one more demand. When our island was destroyed by Tsunami, the Government had given loan to the farmers. I have related figures in this regard. A person who took a loan of Rs. 1.25 in 1968 has become Rs. 454 now with the interest thereon. My submission is that 20-21 types of loan granted to the farmers should be written off. Apart from it, a package for revival of our forest corporation is pending for consideration with the Government. I urge the Government to provide a financial package of at least Rs. 110 crore alongwith rubber-boat. A new district should be carved out in middle and north Andaman and Rs. 10 crore should be provided for creation of required infrastructure for the said new district. I hope the government will meet my demands.

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2009-10. This being a constitutional obligation, the recommendation of all authorities concerned has been obtained. These Supplementary Demands for Grants, as we all know very well, include 61 grants, and two Appropriation Bills. As has been rightly mentioned by the former Finance Minister, the net cash outgo was restricted to a larger extent. I would analyze that again. Out of the net cash outgo of Rs. 25,725 crore, the non-Plan expenditure was Rs. 20,000 crore, and the Plan expenditure was restricted to Rs. 5,000 crore only. This is a very good sign.

Under the present UPA Government, which we call the UPA-II, under the leadership of the Finance Minister, under the guidance of our Chairperson, and the Prime Minister, we have gradually come out from the undesirable effects of global economic slowdown and recession. What is very encouraging is that the GDP growth is above six per cent, and it is expected that the growth rate will further increase. We cannot even remain complacent. We have to do it better in order to make our economy more strong and vibrant.

Sir, I strongly feel and believe that if the UPA rule continues, India will become what we want—a superpower within two to three decades. This is not my projection. This projection has been found in various media of other countries.

The growth rate is steadily increasing; inflation is being checked effectively. India's foreign exchange reserves are in a very comfortable position. Recently, we could purchase more gold/bullions, more than what we had sold during the then Janata regime.

Sir, India's emergence as a global economic power is being acknowledged by all the superpowers of the world and each one of us should be very proud of it. Yes, there are certain areas of concern like increasing price of essential commodities, farmers' plight, etc. The UPA Government is not running away from its responsibilities. Our loan waiver policy, National Rural

[Dr. Thokchom Meinya]

Employment Guarantee Programme, etc., to mention a few, have gradually reduced the number of farmers' suicides. We have full faith in the leadership of hon. Finance Minister. He is a seasoned economist and strategist, and he can handle any situation and eventualities. In the last few months, hon. Friends, you know, the prices of essential commodities have got reasonably stabilized. For this, the State Governments are also equally responsible. Both the Central and the State Governments should share the responsibilities. The blame-game will not help the common man. Something more needs to be done, we agree, to check the price rise of essential commodities and also the farmers' suicides.

I would like to urge upon the hon. Finance Minister that there should not be any shortage of funds for UPA Flagship Programmes like National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, National Rural Health Mission, etc. At the same time, there should be enough funds for the coming Commonwealth Games because this is the pride and prestige of the nation. We expect some financial leniency for the Commonwealth Games.

All the States in the country are to implement the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations. It will be extremely difficult for the poor States to implement it. Therefore, I would like to request the Finance Ministry to give financial assistance to the poor States to help them implement the Sixth Pay Commission's recommendations. Without the Centre's financial assistance and backing, it will be out of question for these States to implement it.

My State particularly Manipur is still unable to implement it because of the financial constraints. I strongly urge upon the Union Finance Ministry, if it can and if the rule permits, to come out to help my State by providing financial assistance to enable it to implement the Commission's recommendations.

We have to go for an equitable development of all States and regions. We need to do away with regional imbalances. For this, a new approach, a new policy is necessary on the part of the Government, on

the part of the Finance Ministry and on the part of the Planning Commission. If a State or a region is lagging behind vis-a-vis development, there will be discontentment and revolt. Therefore, I am afraid, we need a new thinking and a new approach to our economic planning and financial management. More attention must be given to the backward regions or States. More attention should be given to the poorer sections and disadvantaged sections of the society.

Finally, the UPA Government is fully committed to inclusive growth for all. The UPA Government is fully committed to the cause of common people. The UPA Government is committed to equitable development of all the States. Under the able leadership of our Madam Sonia Gandhi, Shri Manmohan Singh and Shri Pranab Mukherjee and others we are confident that we will be able to overcome all financial problems and become an economic power. Once again, I fully and wholeheartedly support the Supplementary Demands for Grants 2009-10.

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, everywhere there is hue and cry over inflation, the farmers are in trouble. It prompts, me to come down heavily on the Government. But I find that people in the government are my old colleagues with whom I have worked for five years. All of us, including Dr. Manmohan Singh, Pranab Babu, Namonarayan Meenaji, Narayan Swamiji have worked together and Shrimati Sonia Gandhiji gave us whole hearted support and the sense of belongingness, then, naturally there has to be an attachment. Despite the attachment, I wanted to raise issues concerning public interests. But they are my old friends and I am not Lord Krishna that I can attack them leaving the attachment aside. Dr. Lohia's birth centenary celebration's are going to be held in 2010 on his 100th birth anniversary. Therefore, I remembered Dr. Lohia. I, alongwith 11 other hon. Members had requested the Prime Minister that Lohia's birth centenary should be celebrated in a grand way. But, so far no reply has been received in this regard. He was born on 23 March, 1910. He had said that wherever you live talk about the masses, the poor and

fight for their rights and work for them. Whenever I remember him I leave that attachment aside. I want that I should raise the issue concerning the public, especially the poor in the House.

Price rise has affected common people very badly and we are not happy with the action taken by the Government in this regard. The Central Government passes the buck to the state governments blaming them for inaction in controlling black-marketing, hoarding and profiteering. The poor common man is suffering because of lackadaisical attitude of both central and state governments. Therefore, there is a need to check inflation. Why people do not rise against it, why there are no agitations against it in the country. As and when the central government gets ready to crack down against profiteers their coterie defuses the governments activeness and that is why there is no hullabaloo. But it needs to be there. If not more, at least price rise is our main issue. And no action has been taken so far in this regard. Official sources claim inflation is coming down but in fact prices are increasing. What kind of economics is it? What is the mechanism to check it? If the factor of demand supply or the market forces prevail then what is the function of the Government? Then, let it be free? There is a need to protect the interests of poor and to control inflation. Dr. Lohia was of this view. Not going into more details, I leave it to the intellectuals to decide.

I am fed up of listening about fiscal deficit. When the issue of poor comes up, fiscal deficit comes in between. Yashwant Babu presented budget continuously for five years. A total amount of Rs. 72,000 was spent on rural development during those five years, whereas, equal amount, i.e. Rs. 72,000 was spent on rural development in the year 2008-09 alone. If amount equal to that spent in five years is spent only in one year it will lead to fiscal deficit. The budget is meant for MNCs or the corporate houses and not for the rural folk. Anti-poor, anti-rural lobby is active in the country. When the issue of funds for rural areas or poor comes up, they stand against it.

I would like to make a point on National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. What are its achievements till date? Yashwant Babu is not aware of it? Election of

Panchayat has not been held in Jharkhand. Panchayats are tool and implementation agency of MNREGS and in absence of panchayats how this scheme can be implemented properly in any state? Work on 18 lakh schemes has been undertaken under the said scheme in just one year. Looking at just one scheme, he promptly said that entire funds are being looted. It is absolutely wrong. Overlooking what has been done is just unfair. Four-and-a-half crore families have been provided employment under the said scheme. Still, he says it is just loot of funds. Even payments are made through bank accounts. A large number of accounts have been opened in banks and post offices. 8 crore poor families have opened their accounts in post offices or banks. Earlier, was any poor man in a position to peep through even windows of a banks? Were they allowed even to go to banks or post offices? Today, he is an account holder. That poor man has an account there. The Financial Expert wrote, "Longest financial inclusion of the world". Nowhere in the world, such a revolutionary step has been taken. What were they giving to the poor? There was no work for them. As a job for one hundred days has been guaranteed for them, people are saying that the funds are going down the drain. In the beginning, when it was being implemented, various economists were of the view that the funds will go waste. Hon. Drager, an economist, has conducted a social audit in Jharkhand. In Jharkhand, MNREGS is a blessing for the poor men. There might be some lapses during implementation as it hardly matters if some leaves of plants get broken when a gardener waters the garden. It does not mean we will scrap it. There may be different types of people in 6 lakh villages, 2½ lakh panchayats in 614 districts. There may be some problems, but he asked how it has been evolved? It has zero tolerance towards corruption. How there can be misappropriation of funds in it? Sixty per cent amount is spent on payment of wages and 40 per cent on purchase of material. How can a payment made by cheque be illegal? Five points are of importance—awareness generation, people's participation, accountability, strict vigilance monitoring and transparency. It is upto the State Government to put these into practice. If we talk of Jharkhand—they were in power in Jharkhand. They enforced G-Five. Everyone is in jail there.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

What could have happened under their rule? The Cambridge University, Oxford University and other impartial agencies had examined the revolutionary employment guarantee scheme and found it to be a blessing for the poor and a scheme which would change the face of the country. But now that they are being forced to spend money, they are alleging that there is an anti-poor, anti-rural lobby in the country. Is there any sector where fraud is not perpetrated? Banking is a huge sector but is not safe from fraud. Money is taken out from ATMs illegally. Fraud and crime can take place anywhere. This Parliament holds session every six months. There are a number of Committees and CAG and other investigating agencies are also there to keep a check on things—in spite of this bungling takes place. This bungling is overlooked. States have legislative assemblies. Questions are asked there also, proceedings take place. There are Gram Sabhas in villages. A provision has been made under article 243 of the Constitution that being a constitutional body constitution of a Gram Sabha is compulsory. But there is no provision for making meetings of the Gram Sabha mandatory. Meetings are held in some places, but not in others. Sometimes the State Government monitors the situation and sometimes it does not. No body pays attention. Irregularities can take place. Sometimes meetings take place only on paper. There should be a provision regarding meetings on lines of the provisions made in the constitution for the sittings of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. The meetings of Gram Sabha should be made compulsory. There should be self-disclosure. There should be clear accounts of the funds received, the works proposed to be done, the number of labourers employed, the work done, profits earned etc. How can someone monitor the works being carried out in 6 lakh villages from Delhi? How can anyone blame the scheme or the government? This is the responsibility of the State Government. If action is taken from here, it would be termed interference. The Union list and the State list would be cited. Someone should go to Andhra Pradesh and see how work has been carried out.

Yashwant Babu has spoken against the

employment guarantee scheme. I am not surprised about this. It has been widely publicized that Congress has made great progress due to the employment guarantee scheme and was able to form UPA-II. How can any opposition party member praise it? They know that Congress has come back to power due to this reason so they criticize this scheme...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Hazaribagh): You brought them to power and they kept you outside. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: NDA was in power in Bihar. As it was a recently sponsored scheme, they did not implement the scheme properly and bungled it. The people there did not understand this but the people of the country understood their intentions...that is why they lost power. ...*(Interruptions)* All rural development schemes should be implemented by the Gram Sabha.

Shri Gorakhnath Pandey was speaking about the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Neither we nor the UPA had started it, it was the NDA Government who did it. Expenditure to the tune of 2.5 thousand crore rupees per annum was involved in it. Out of the said amount, estimated expenditure comes to 50-60 lakh crore rupees for two km in a block. 48 thousand crore rupees have been spent on PMGSY during four years. Twelve thousand crore rupees have been spent merely on roads and you spent 12000 crore rupees in the entire budget. 72000 crore rupees were spent during five years but here 72000 crore rupees were spent in one year. 16000 crore rupees were spent in the first year, then this amount went up by 24000 crore rupees, there was an increase of 53 per cent, in the third year, the expenditure was 31000 crore rupees, in the fourth 42000 crore rupees and in the fifth 49.5 thousand crore rupees. Questions were raised about this package. The budget for rural development became 72000 crore rupees with the provision of this package. 100 per cent of the amount was utilized. Villages and the poor would be able to avail the benefits of development. The results of rural development schemes are evident everywhere.

19.00 hrs.

The villages are getting transformed as a result of schemes such as old age pension, Swarn Jayanti Swarozgar Yojana, participation of women, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana etc. No one who visits the villages will be able to deny the effects of these schemes. There may be some bungling because all types of people are involved in the implementation of these schemes. But there are laws in this regard also. The Superintendent Engineer should inform the hon. Member of Parliament concerned and thereafter conduct a joint inspection of the road. Now, who knows, whether the MP Saheb gets to know about this or not? If the MP has to go somewhere, he refuses to give time ...*(Interruptions)* Thereafter, the Executive Engineer may inform the MLA. The Junior Engineer would report to the Headman. In this way, the elected representatives and the implementing officers, engineers are supposed to inspect the roads jointly. The length of roads in the country is 3,78,000 kms. The length of highways is 66000 kms and of major district roads is 1.25 lakh kms and of state highways is 3.50 lakh kms. The length of major district roads is 26 lakh kms. Under rural roads, 3.70 lakh kms of roads have been sanctioned ...*(Interruptions)*. Several hon. Members have raised questions. Many things have been said about NREGA without having thorough understanding of it. Panchayati Raj has been empowered. Mahatma Gandhi dreamt of Gram Swaraj. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is the realization of the dreams of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Choukhamba Raj and Babu Jaiprakash Narayan. It will, therefore, be injustice to poor to make remarks in a sensational and sarcastic manner. I ask you to tell me any one scheme where bogus work has been done. Cash payment is avoided and 100% account payment is made. Then, how it is said that only 15 paise out of Re. 1 is received? Hundred per cent payment reaches the account. There can be complaints like someone cheats the poor by getting him drunk or get his land transferred in his name when the money is transferred to the account. But, there is no possibility of staling of money. There is zero tolerance towards corruption. But, there can be some irregularities in implementation of these schemes where people have been caught and

keep on being caught. There is a district vigilance monitoring committee which has to call a meeting within 3 months. I want to ask everyone if they have checked in districts whether these meetings were held or not? Why they did not inspect these meetings? Why they did not complain to the Collector about it? They were talking about moram roads. There is a provision to make it pucca also. The roads can be made pucca through other scheme also. Roads can be made pucca through the Backward Region Grant Fund. Basic preparatory work can be done through Employment Guarantee Scheme. There is provision of dovetail and amalgamation. But, how can you control the villages by sitting in Parliament? These are some of the issues. When I will get opportunity again then I will give word by word account of rural development to the House so that the poor benefit. The poor in the rural areas should be provided jobs as they too have a say in parliamentary democracy.

Mangani Lal Mandalji had said that we, the socialists used to fight and say make work a fundamental right, otherwise pay unemployment allowance. Now, when it is begun implemented, it is being said that it is not good, that it is wrong. Be it any scheme of the world, can there be no fault in that? There can be fault in that. ...*(Interruptions)* Dr. Lohia had said that interests of crores of people should be kept in mind. There are 12 doctors serving one man while there are no doctors for crores of people. These are the words of Dr. Lohia. I want that the problems of the masses should be raised in the Lok Sabha which is the highest office of democracy having elected representatives from all over the country. Corporate system will not work here. CII and ASSOCHAM cannot raise the matters related to the poor. Now, it does not mean that the opposition should speak everything against it. It is widely believed all over the country that the Congress has been voted back to the power due to the Employment Guarantee Act. Since, it has benefited the Congress, the others think that it should be opposed. But, if is opposed then it will be against the poor. If that happens then the other parties which are already on the decline, will decline further. With these words, I conclude.

19.05 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Ninth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (Vidisha): Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

19.06 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL), 2009-10—Contd.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is Shri Prabodh Panda. Please restrict to the time.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): I am aware of the time constraint but even then please allow me to make all the points.

Sir, the first batch of Demands for Supplementary grants seeks approval of gross additional expenditure of Rs. 3942.62 crore. We are discussing the Demands for Supplementary Grants. This is not a discussion on the General Budget. So, we have a very limited scope for discussion on this subject. To my mind it seems that this proposal has been brought forward in a casual manner. It is missing the priority. We are discussing this matter in the backdrop of sky-rocketing price rise. We are discussing this matter in a backdrop when the plight of the farmers is increasing like anything and the committing of suicides by them is unabated. We are discussing this matter in a situation when around 50 lakh workers are in a perch of job loss. What would be the priority? I would say that this proposal is missing the priority.

It has talked about the *aam aadmi*, the inclusive growth. We are talking about the '*Bharat Nirman*'. We have heard almost the same slogans from the NDA Government. They gave a slogan, 'India shining' and now we are talking about the '*Bharat Nirman*'. They said,

'feel good' and now we are talking about *aam aadmi*, inclusive growth. It is all the same. I can just recollect that during the NDA regime the former Finance Minister, hon. Yashwant Sinha Ji in the course of his Budget speech told that we are going to give independence to the farmers, '*Kisano ki azadi*'. It has resulted in suicides by the farmers. Now, it is unabated.

It was accepted from the Government of the day that it will decide the priority but it is missing. The main priority should be given to check the price rise. I do support Shri Yashwant Sinha when he narrated the figure of the international situation. The price in the international situation is getting down but it is just reverse in our country. The prices of almost all the essential commodities are getting higher and higher. What is the attitude of this Government in this respect? Nothing is reflected in this proposal.

We have listened many times about the demand and supply. How the supply will be enhanced? Can it be enhanced only by imports, only by withdrawing the restrictions on imports? Without enhancing the investment, how will our supply in the domestic market increase? You have the proposal here for more than Rs. 30,000 crore. But what about the planned estimate and planned sector which is even less than two-thirds? What about plan estimates with regard to agriculture? It is almost nil. The hon. Finance Minister told while presenting the General Budget that it is something new and historic that we have made proposals for more than Rs. 10 lakh crore. But what about agriculture which is almost one per cent? So agriculture is neglected. The same thing is reflected in this proposal and agriculture has almost been neglected. Several times we have raised the matter regarding National Commission on Farmers. It is being dishonoured. The Government is not in a position to comply with the proposals made by the National Commission on Farmers.

So far as price is concerned, several times we have suggested to just enhance the Public Distribution System, strengthen the Public Distribution System, and for going to the universal Public Distribution System. How are you going to differentiate who is BPL and who is APL in a village? Do you recognise the Saxena Committee Report? Do you recognise the report given

by Dr. Arjun Sen Gupta Committee? Do you recognise the Tendulkar Committee Report? What have they said? How has the Planning Commission put the cap on the States that this should be the target and that this is the procedure for recognising the BPL families? So, for addressing the problem of poverty, strengthen the Public Distribution System. This should be the priority. I think the Government will respond to that. That kind of forward marketing should go insofar as agricultural products are concerned. So far as food products are concerned, this kind of forward marketing should go. Please try to minimise the prices of petrol and diesel. You try to understand the situation. So, my point is that priority should be given to the productive sector. This proposal is unproductive. It will not help in addressing the genuine problems in the prevailing situation of our country.

Not only that, what about collecting the sources? What is your attitude to unearth the black money? What is your attitude to unearth huge money deposited in the foreign banks? Just I recollect the speech delivered by the President in the Joint Sitting of Parliament and also the Budget Speech. It was said that the Government is willing to unearth huge money which has been deposited in the foreign banks. We are talking about Rs. 10 lakh crore in our budget. But it appeared in Delhi Press that more than Rs. 75 lakh crore has already been deposited in the Swiss Bank. So, what is your attitude? So, it is loss of philosophy. It is loss of priority. It is unproductive and it has been put in a casual manner. I am not against this proposal as we have nothing to do but to support it. But I think the Minister will think and ponder over it. We may talk here and we may pass this Bill here without any opposition. This is correct. But the situation is something different outside Parliament. The toiling masses of our country are suffering today. What has been the condition of the agricultural workers? What has been the condition of the poor and marginal farmers? What is the condition of the share croppers of our country? What is the condition of the working class people in our country? What is the condition of the people belonging to the lower middle class of our country? I would only like to request the Government to address the problems being faced by these sections of people in our country. I would

request the Government to make priority considerations for these people. This is not the responsibility of the Government alone but this is the responsibility of the Parliament.

With these words, I would like to conclude my speech.

SHRI MOHAMMED E.T. BASHEER (Ponnani): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General).

Sir, I have been attentively listening to all the former speakers, especially the former Finance Minister. He was trying to blame this Government and was trying to establish a case in vain saying that the economic policy of the Government is not appropriate and that the Indian economy is in a bad shape. With due respect I would like to say that I beg to differ with him.

As far as this country is concerned, the entire world is looking to India to learn the preliminary lesson on how to tide over an economic crisis. This Government would have to be congratulated for this. Our country is becoming a centre of attraction for Foreign Direct Investment. There was a time when our country was considered to be a dumping ground for the developed nations. But things have totally changed now and today the situation is that our country is considered to be a favourite destination for Foreign Direct Investment. As all of us are aware, the World Economic Summit was held in Delhi. Economists from all over the world came here and they considered our Prime Minister as their 'guru'. His words were treated as most significant and were preliminary lessons for other countries about how to meet challenges at times of economic melt down. Similarly, this country can be proud of their financial stability. Of course, there may be some drawbacks. We cannot keep ourselves aloof from the new world order and so we will have some problems with the economic melt down. At the same time we can very well understand that we are capable of overcoming that situation. This Government is working with a mission. We are fortunate to have a Finance Minister who has declared to the world that India is nowhere near any recession. Our economy has that much of stability.

[Shri Mohammed E.T. Basheer]

At the time when economic reforms were sought to be introduced, there were some forces which acted as a stumbling block to that process of economic reforms, but fortunately today such forces have been sidelined from the national political scenario. The position is convenient today. As far as the developmental activities are concerned, we cannot have the same set of reasons, different countries have different situations, when we analyse our situation we must understand that reforms would have to be human centric and not profit centric. Gandhiji had a wish that whenever certain things are done or implemented one has to remember the face of the most down-trodden poor Indian before him. Therefore, whenever we are making a plan we must approach the plan with such an outlook.

One of the hon. Members who preceded was speaking about NREGA. One very senior Member mentioned about how nicely it has been implemented. There is surely an undisputed thing. Like NREGA, there has been no other programme in our country after Independence. This is the best poverty alleviation programme which this country has ever seen. One thing is sure. As correctly mentioned by the hon. Member, there may be some drawbacks. There may be some teething problems. It is quite natural. As far as giving employment is concerned, it is all right. Payment part is also all right. But as far as the second part is concerned, we must have a critical analysis. Money is disbursed and employment also is given by that way. What about a mechanism to make the scheme completely corruption free?

Similarly, quality and durability of the assets generated through NREGA may be examined properly. As far as items of work included under NREGA are concerned, it is now unskilled. There also we have to make progress. So, semiskilled work and skilled work should also be brought under the purview of this scheme. We have to examine whether all these schemes are really attaining the goal which we have cherished.

About price rise and other things, other speakers have mentioned. I do not want to enter into the details of it. Some schemes are still in deadlock because of

lack of funds. As far as Prime Minister's Relief Fund for cancer and heart patients is concerned, thousands of applications are pending. Adequate allocation is not there for that fund. We are all forwarding letters to the Prime Minister. But unfortunately, funds have not been sanctioned. I humbly request the Government to give more allocation for this fund and make it really good for the people.

About social justice sector, there is a demand for this Ministry. There are some drawbacks in social justice area. We are having a lot of schemes like the Prime Minister's 15 point programme but we have been saying that there has not been adequate allocation for that. Applications for scholarships are pending since long. I request the Government to make maximum possible allotment to this area.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister has declared that Justice Mishra Commission Report is going to be tabled in the House. I express my heartfelt congratulations to the Government for the Prime Minister's declaration.

Sir, regarding proper manpower, hon. Members were talking about China. Of course, there are many things to be learnt from different countries. This country's asset is skilled trained manpower. How to use the manpower properly? That itself is a skill and India should give top priority to this point because that is the only area where this country can develop. If we can make proper manpower supply, this country can have better development than any other country in the world.

My next point is about the transmission loss of the schemes. The Government of India sanctions the schemes but when they are reaching the common man, there is a lot of transmission loss especially in the implementation side at the State Government and the panchayat levels. This transmission loss should be arrested. Any scheme we are implementing should reach the common man without any kind of loss.

Regarding the role of NGOs, they are playing a vital role in development activities. But I suggest that proper evaluation and monitoring should be done on the performance of the scheme entrusted to the NGOs.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (Balurghat): Hon. Chairman Sir, today we are discussing the Supplementary Demands for Grants and there is nothing much to say on this. But it is true that in the entire country, in the villages as well as in the cities, prices of essential commodities are shooting through the roof. Prices of foodgrains have gone up by 25% and that of sugar by 45%; Prices of potato and pulses have also risen by 104% and 35%. The way in which prices are soaring makes it extremely difficult for the common people to survive. Arjun Sengupta Report shows that 77% of the population of the country manages only one meal a day. Then you can well imagine their plight. Where do we actually stand? There are numerous mistakes in the BPL lists and even today we have not been able to prepare a correct comprehensive list. The Public Distribution System is also very weak. In the afternoon, we have just completed the discussion on sugar and sugarcane. I had told you at that time also that 20% levy sugar is siphoned off from the mill itself and PDS does not operate in this case. The rest 80% is non-levy sugar whose price has already risen to Rs. 40 or Rs. 42. Thus the prices of such commodities are sky rocketing.

The Government says that it is for the 'aam aadmi', the common people. But in practice, something different is visible. Last time, we had supported the UPA Government unconditionally with the hope that there would be more economic development. I will not say that nothing has happened. PMGSY and Rozgar Guarantee Scheme have helped the rural population a lot. There has been advancement. We have to accept the fact that the Government did a good job last time and we were a party to it.

There is worldwide economic recession which is being felt in India also. Fifteen to twenty lakh people have lost their jobs in the industrial sector. How will they survive? What will they eat? They are suffering like anything. The Government has to come forward with stimulus packages to save them.

On one hand there is agriculture and on the other there is industry and both should work together for economic advancement of the nation. Secondly, you all know that through PMGSY, road connectivity has been spread in all parts of the country and infrastructure has also been developed. But due to lack of proper monitoring, the condition of road deteriorate. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh has mentioned this. We also find that in the tribal areas, roads are not being constructed. The tribal people live in small hamlets and not more than 200 or 250 people live together. But the first criteria of PMGSY is the number of people; the place where more people reside will get connectivity first. Therefore the tribal communities are deprived. They are few in number, living under unhygienic condition in forests or backward villages. They did not get metalled roads or other basic infrastructure. Development is a far-cry in these areas. So these hapless people are very disappointed, very unhappy. No Government ever think of these tribal people and SC/ST communities.

From this august House, through you sir, I would request the Government to take care of the tribal population who are away from the mainstream. They are in large numbers. Their deprivation is being exploited by the Maoist insurgents who are playing havoc in the areas like in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh. We should keep on eye on this. We will definitely pass this Demands for Grants but should not forget this aspect.

Thirdly, the support prices of paddy, wheat, jute, sugarcane are not available in practice. There is JCI, FCI and even the Government can procure these crops. But nothing happens. In West Bengal only Rs. 700 was given to each farmer whereas the amount fixed was Rs. 900. Therefore, I am requesting the Government to look into it.

Another issue is about the tea gardens of North Bengal. Most of the tea estate workers have lost their jobs. They are suffering a lot due to closure of many gardens. The Government should take care of them too.

With these words, I thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Macchlishahr): Mr.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[Shri Tufani Saroj]

Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on the Supplementary Budget. When the hon. Finance Minister had presented the budget in the House then he had accorded the highest priority to the rural development. He has increased the budgetary provision for the schemes falling under the rural development lavishly. An increase of 144 per cent has been made in NREGA. Several of our Members have expressed concern regarding NREGA that it is being misused. Shri Raghuvansh Babu had said that a monitoring committee has been formed. Everyone knows how many suggestions are made by the monitoring committee and how many people become aware of that. I have been elected from Uttar Pradesh. It was published in the newspapers recently that the NREGA funds have been diverted to other heads. Whenever a question is raised here about making inquiry if the funds granted for the said purpose are being used properly or not, then the Government says that it is also the responsibility of the State Government, so the State Government must deal with it. This reflects your intention behind making development. Whether the funds released by the Central Government are being used properly or not?

You have told in the budget that 44000 villages in the country have more than 50% of their population belonging to the scheduled castes. You have prepared a pilot project scheme for 1000 villages out of the 44000 villages. Now, this pilot project scheme, which was prepared with Rs. 100 crores, is not seen anywhere. It seems that a pilot has flown in the sky with this scheme and is hovering there itself. No information is being received about him and he is not landing.

People have expressed their concern over BPL cards. There was drought in the entire country. ...*(Interruptions)* A lot of irregularities were committed in making BPL cards due to the drought. But, I would like to tell that drought was there in the fields of rich and in the fields of middle class too. I would like that provision should be made for providing foodgrain to the middle class too by making changes in the rules regarding BPL cards.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was a lot of discussion

on GDP. Eighty per cent of the people in the country do not know what it is. What does it mean for the villages? We read in papers that sometimes GDP becomes 8% and sometimes 4 per cent. What is its significance for the poor, labourer and farmer in the villages? The GDP growth may become 9 per cent but there is drought in our villages and in our Poorvanchal. Farmers, labourers and poor people in the villages are not getting a square meal. The increase in GDP growth is not providing them food. Growth would take place only when the poor people will get sufficient food. Then only they would understanding the meaning of GDP. The Government always boasts about GDP and claims that the country has progressed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly wind up now.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: I remember that when we were in schools, a slogan was very popular—"Congress Aayi Hai, Mahangai Layi Hai". Even today it is the matter of discussion in villages that whenever the congress comes to power, inflation goes up. If such a situation prevails, no doubt, the members sitting on the treasury benches will have to sit in opposition. GDP growth. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Theni): The Congress Government announced the loan waiver to agriculturists. ...*(Interruptions)* A sum of Rs. 60,000 crore agricultural loan waiver has been announced by the Congress Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record except the speech of the hon. Member Shri Tufani Saroj. Hon. Member, you please continue.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Regarding VAT, the State Government has been advised in writing to impose

*Not recorded.

Value Added Tax. Their tax revenue has been increased by 19% during the period of nine months ending December, 2008 in comparison to previous year. I have read in today's newspaper that the imported sugar would be exempted from VAT. Why is it being done? NDA Government has also imposed VAT, they were also in favour of VAT but our leader Shri Mulayam Singhji has stated that they would not burden the poor people by imposing VAT. Today sugar is being exempted from VAT. But I demand that all the food items should be exempted from VAT. Price rise is a major problem the country is facing. Everyone is distressed due to it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am putting off the mike. Please make the last point.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end, I would like to state that it is an important issue which has been the cause of defeat of our 300 MPs. Whenever we gather in the Central Hall, it is being stated that the cause of our defeat is MPLADS fund. Yesterday in the meeting of MPLADS committee while reading the papers, I came to know that on 12th March, 2009 the Government gave the report. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb him. He is making a very important point.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: It has been written there that on 12th March, the Government gave the reply that it is unable to arrange the funds. The Government has expressed its inability. They have mentioned about Supreme Court also. Some NGO has approached the Supreme Court but Supreme Court has not stated that the amount under MPLADS fund should not be increased. It was same in 1998-99 as today in 2009 also. At that time also we were getting 2 crore as MPLADS funds and today also we are getting the same amount. There is increase in everything. At that time

the cost of one thousand bricks was Rs. 700, which has now increased to Rs. 3500. Similarly a sack of cement cost Rs. 50 whereas today it costs Rs. 250. Rate of rod was Rs. 1200 at that time now it has increased to Rs. 3000. 5-7 assembly segments come under one parliamentary constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): I have got 17.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: A Member of Parliament gets Rs. 40 lakh to construct a 2 km long road in an assembly segment in a year. People are aware that members get funds to undertake development works in their areas, however, they do not know how much funds we receive, they are concerned about the work only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken enough time. I have given you enough time. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Every morning a large number of people gather at my residence to make their demands. Some of them do not take tea with sugar and thus we save a few cups of tea. It is good otherwise serving tea to everybody is a costly affair for us due to high prices of sugar. The Government has increased the funds under mid-day-meal. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will say "Nothing will go on record." I have given you more time. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Sometimes even snakes or lizards are found in the food served under mid-day-meal scheme. Sometimes the menu is not followed. Such type of irregularities are there. ...*(Interruptions)* I demand from the Government that in view of the rising inflation, the

[Shri Tufani Saroj]

fund under MPLAD scheme should be increased to Rs. 10 crore so that the problems could be solved.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Mr. Chairman, while we discuss the Supplementary Demands for Grants, I think, the Government has to reply as to why they are not able to control price rise. The Government claims that there is better growth rate. The Government also claims that there is a negative inflationary trend. It means that there should not be any price rise. It is true that these two economic parameters are better as far as a growing economy is concerned. Even then, the Government is not able to translate this message to the people. Why? The Government has to go for a thorough introspection with regard to its procurement policy, storage policy and also its policy on the Public Distribution System.

Sir, while I participate in this discussion, I would like to place before this House some of the important issues facing the nation as well as the States. For the last few years there have been droughts and floods in various parts of the country. This resulted in a decline in the production of foodgrains and also a weakened economy. When we consider the additional expenditure in the form of Supplementary Demands for Grants, we should consider whether justice has been done by the Central Government in the last few years.

During 2007, 2008 and 2009, there was a big loss suffered by farmers of Kerala who grow general agricultural produce and those who produce cash crops. A Central Team has visited the State and estimated that the loss incurred by the State was about Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 crore. But only a nominal amount was sanctioned either under CRF or under NCCF. So, the Central Government should give a fair treatment at least to compensate the huge loss suffered by farmers.

Sir, infrastructure facilities are the pre-requisites for any type of development. Electricity is essential for all projects. The Government of Kerala has already submitted a detailed plan estimates for undertaking Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana for 14 districts of Kerala.

But I am sorry to say that sanction has not been given to any of the projects.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is a noble scheme initiated by the NDA Government and continued by this Government. It is a good scheme. It provides better rural connectivity to the people in the villages. While implementing this scheme, Kerala has some practical problems which the Government of Kerala has already placed before the Central Government. The norm prescribed under this scheme should be made flexible taking into consideration the special nature of each State. The norms like 8-metre width, 1:12 gradial and also the package scheme make it difficult for implementation in Kerala. So, the Central Government should consider giving some flexibility for implementing the scheme so that more works can be undertaken by the Government of Kerala.

Housing facility has become the most important requirement now-a-days for the poor people. The Government of Kerala has decided to sanction 4 lakh houses for the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other eligible persons who have no shelter or land. This scheme is known as EMS Housing Scheme. The cooperative sector has come forward to finance this sector. But at the same time, the State Government has to bear a huge financial burden. The Government of Kerala has already made a request to the Government of India for financial assistance in this regard. I would request that this may be considered by the Central Government.

Sir, the ASEAN Agreement will adversely affect the farmers both in agriculture and cash crops sector. Though some items are included in the Negative List, it would not give a permanent solution to all the farmers. So the Government should take steps to impose a better tariff structure while importing items.

Functioning of the Public Distribution System in Kerala is known to all. It is a model to other States of the country. But at the same time, the foodgrains that we are getting is really very less. There was a reduction of 82 per cent in respect of APL rice supplied to Kerala. With this it is not possible to give ration to all the sections of the people, especially to those people

belonging to the APL category. So, in the time of price rise, we are starting new Fair Price Shops, needy stores, in almost all the areas. To some extent we can get rice at Rs. 14 in the Maveli store, though in the open market is Rs. 28 to Rs. 30 a kilo and in the open market in Kerala it is Rs. 22 because of the intervention of the State Government. So, I would request the Government to provide the actual allocation that the Government has given.

The Central Government has decided to start 6000 model schools in the country, but Kerala is not included in the list, maybe because the State has achieved better educational position. But at the same time there are places and regions which are backward, so some of the wards have to be included.

Since the State has shown progress in the social sector, really it has become a punishment to Kerala with regard to education and health as we are not getting more funds. At the same time we have to face the higher education issues and issues of new diseases, so the Central Government should make new parameters and provide more funds.

Kerala has a coastal line of about 600 kilometres in which lakhs of fishermen are dependent on fishing as their main livelihood. The mechanised boats and country boats use kerosene, but the Government has not made any special quota of kerosene for the poor fishermen. The Government is really diverting this PD System itself.

Sir, the Finance Ministry has issued a circular to all the banks, nationalised and commercial banks, to give the list of depositors who have deposited up to Rs. 10 lakh. But I am sorry to say that as far as cooperative banks are concerned, they have to give the list of depositors who have deposited up to Rs. 1 lakh only. As far as Kerala is concerned, cooperative sector is very strong. As we see the nationalised and commercial banks, the cooperative banks play a very important role. Of course, it is true that the Finance Ministry can ask for the list, but at the same time there should be uniformity in the nationalised, commercial and cooperative banks as far as submission of this list is concerned.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (West Champaran): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am highly grateful to you for having allowed me to express my views on supplementary demands.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the first time I have become member of Lok Sabha. I was listening to the debate for quite some time. During the debate, none, except these Members dwelt upon the nature and need for excess amount in supplementary demands. Following the convention of my colleagues, I associate myself with the views of hon. Tufani Sajoji that either reasonable funds be allocated under MPLADS so that we could undertake development work in our areas or the scheme be withdrawn. Otherwise, it would be like one post for many candidates. We get demand from all of the panchayats but we are unable to meet their demands. ...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Don't say about withdrawing, they are ready to take action. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Kindly provide us adequate funds under MPLADS so that we can undertake reasonable works in each block. ...*(Interruptions)*

I was expecting that hon. Adhir Ranjan Choudhary would surely speak on supplementary demands for grants. He spoke on inflation, NAREGA, PMGSY, world over recession, he spoke on everything. But as none from treasury benches enquired as to why there is a need for excess funds and how they would initiate it, Hon. Adhir Ranjan Choudharyji also made no statement in this regard. However, I would confine myself to it. Whenever, Congress MPs speak on budget they surely remember late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and say that out of a rupee allocated for development hardly some paise reaches the targeted beneficiaries. But, why it happens so? I would like to apprise the House as to how budgetary allocation is misused. Most painful is the fact that the government departments which are misusing the funds, have only, sought supplementary demands for grants.

[Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal]

First of all I would take up the Ministry of Sports. Before entering politics, hon. M.S. Gill was of the view that anyone who spends more than Rs. 25 lakh for contesting election, should be deprived of his right to become an M.P. After becoming a Minister, the same Gill Sahib has enhanced the budgetary allocation of Rs. 797 crore sought by the Commonwealth Games organizing committee to Rs. 1620 crore. Still he is saying that Rs. 232 crore more should be provided to the committee. As an incentive, Rs. 232 crores are being provided to the said committee, which hiked original estimate of Rs. 797 crore to Rs. 1620 crore. I am thankful to the hon. chairman, who has earmarked Rs. 50 crore for players winning medals in these games. No doubt, it is a very good step. I know that the hon. Chairman has also played a major role in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Urban Development also needs Rs. 1675 crores for the said games. The state government of Delhi has also demanded billions of rupees for these games. Money is being demanded for several purposes, such as beautification of city, electrification, laying of sewer lines, water treatment and also for making security arrangements in Delhi. Billions of rupees are being demanded in this way. Sometimes, I feel commonwealth games are not being held in country's capital but in some flood affected villages, where, there is no infrastructure at all. For the first time, infrastructure is being built there. The demands of government of Delhi are such. Commonwealth Games was hon. Atal Bihari's dream. I wish the games to be held in a grand way, but we should investigate the people who are making money on this pretext.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now I would like to take up the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution System. The Ministry wants additional funds of Rs. 300 crore for Sugar Development Fund and for development of sugar mills. The government is paying Rs. 16 a kg to sugarcane to the farmers and the mills are selling sugar at the rate of Rs. 40 a kg. All the sugar mills in India have earned huge profits on this

account. I fail to understand why they still need funds for Sugar Development Fund and for development of sugar mills. Take the case of FCI. They need Rs. 1600 crore. So far as my district is concerned, only middlemen have a say in FCI, I am not aware what is going on elsewhere. When a poor farmer comes with his tractor to the godowns, no one cares for him and when he pays something to the middlemen, his tractor is immediately allowed entry into the godown. When I raised this issue, the officers of FCI were transferred elsewhere in a radius of 40 kilometer and that is all. Ten lakh tonne foodgrains have rotted in FCI godowns during the last five years and not a single person was awarded any kind of punishment for such a great loss. My submission is that responsibility should be fixed in this regard.

Sir, recently 40 thousand tonne of pulses got damaged at Kolkata port and no action was taken, whereas, there is a great shortage of pulses in the country. It is an open secret. ...*(Interruptions)* Now I would like to take up Home Ministry. This year, budget has been presented twice; now, the intelligence Bureau has sought supplementary grants to the tune of Rs. 185 crore for establishment related expenditure. I am not able to understand how active and vigilant our Intelligence Bureau is when it fails to estimate its own demands for a year and it becomes debatable whether it would be able to safeguard us effectively. Though the expenditure being incurred by IB and RAW are beyond the purview of parliamentary debate. Alright, but, I would like to request the hon. Minister at least to ensure that there is no irregularity in the utilization of funds by these bodies. Similarly, a supplementary demands of Rs. 1080 crore being made under ICDS, whereas, aanganwadi workers are paid only Rs. 50 per diem. If I employ any one as a labour and pay him only Rs. 50 per diem, I will surely be sent to jail. But the Government of India pays only Rs. 50 per diem to aanganwadi workers who is responsible for it, they don't get even minimum wages. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am laying my remaining speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) is over, and the reply of the hon. Minister will be tomorrow.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up 'Zero Hour'.

Shri B. Mahtab. Just take two minutes.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): I think, it is three minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not talk about these things here.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Anyway, I respect the decision of the Speaker and also of the Chair.

I would like to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance. Recently the United Nation Study has stated that though global measles deaths have fallen by 78 per cent in the past decade, the disease could come back if funds and political will are not sustained.

India alone accounts for three out of every four measles death in 2008 even after achieving the United Nation goal to reduce measles mortality by 90 per cent, and this we have achieved two years ahead of target. The annual number of deaths worldwide has fallen from 7,33,000 in 2000 to 1,14,000 last year. Vaccination has saved some 43 million lives during the past decade. Yet Somalia and Burkina Faso faired better than us.

So much has been achieved in the past several years and we should thank the people who have put in hard work and committed themselves for this programme but we should not forget that this is a highly contagious disease and can quickly take advantage of any lapse in effort. Attitudes fly in the face of facts. A single dose is administered at the age of nine months. It immunizes

85 per cent of children. The second dose, which is the booster shot, can protect 99 per cent almost life saving prescribed since 2004.

The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Health is also present here. I would like to get his indulgence here. Already six years have passed, and the second dose does not feature in immunization programme. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point very well.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, what is alarming today is that WHO has recently cited a funding gap of 59 million US dollars for 2010. The combined effort of decreased political and financial commitment could result in a catastrophe. Let us not forget that even today, 450 deaths occur everyday because of measles in this world, which can be prevented.

I would urge upon the Government to create an atmosphere worldwide for better political and financial commitment so that measles can be eradicated. I am sure that India would gain the most as our mortality rate is the highest in the world. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI BAL KUMAR PATEL (Mirzapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, NREGA scheme is being implemented for the development of the villages. It is a good scheme but large scale irregularities are taking place in the scheme in Uttar Pradesh. I have been elected from the Mirzapur Parliamentary Constituency. Several Speakers have just said that there are no irregularities in it. But Rs. 19 lakh of wages for the work done nine months ago in Halia development block were embezzled. When the labourers started agitation, the administration put them behind the bars under the Gangster Act. Similarly, the forest department had thrown the tribals out after destroying their houses on demanding the wages for the work done by them in NREGA scheme under the Social Forestry Programme and fake cases were registered against them under the Forest Act in Mirzapur.

Sir, there is one block in Rajgarh too under my parliamentary constituency. No work was done in the

[Shri Bal Kumar Patel]

Chaukhra village in Rajgarh and no pond was dug out but still Rs. 3,61,000 were withdrawn. These irregularities are taking place in my district Mirzapur. I, through you, urge the Government that the payment of the outstanding wages of the people of this district under NREGA scheme should be made urgently and the fake cases registered against them should be cleared and effective action should be taken against the persons fraudulently usurping the NREGA funds so that the agitators get justice. I am thankful to you for giving me time.

20.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI JAYWANT GANGARAM AWALE (Latur): Mr Chairman, Sir, there is Gurta Gaddi of Sikh Guru Gobind Singh in Nanded in Maharashtra which is a very religious and tourist place and people from the country as well as abroad visit it. The Government had in 2008 started a flight on the Nanded-Latur-Mumbai sector for the benefit of the passengers but it has been discontinued two months ago which is causing a lot of difficulties to the pilgrims and businessmen. The Civil Aviation Department was earning a lot of revenue from this flight. There is a lot of resentment among the people of Maharashtra due to discontinuation of this flight.

I, therefore, demand from the Government to re-introduce the Nanded-Latur-Mumbai flight.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (Amravati): Sir, I stand here to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance regarding contaminated, adulterated and substandard food being sold at Bhusawal station in Maharashtra.

Bhusawal station is the biggest junction station in the country where trains going to Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai are also passing. Accidentally, I happened to be there during last week to attend one function being the President of the Rail Kamgar Sena. There, I heard a large number of complaints from various passengers that adulterated food was being sold there, affecting the health of the passengers. Immediately, I contacted the

DRM, who was out of station, over phone. As per his advice, I contacted ADRM and took him to the platform. I found that there were 23 stalls owned by one person or a group of persons. I also found that for the last so many years, same contractors and stall owners have been working at that station and various other stations.

Then, I noticed that the foodstuffs were all duplicate ones being sold there. The cakes, breads, milk bottles and water bottles were all duplicate ones. This is in violation of the norms of the Railways.

Secondly, I found that it was not allowed to sell Potato *Bada* and *Kachauri* there whereas the same could be prepared there in the godown itself. It would give lakhs of rupees of profit to the Railways. But the same space is being used by the contractors. It shows that there is some connivance with the officers as also with the Railway police.

When I visited that place, I called the Drug and Food Officers over there and asked them to take the samples. I made the *panchnama*. Meanwhile, some of the gundas, who are being kept by those stall owners, came there and threatened me. But the police was doing nothing over there. Afterwards, we took the sample and sent it for testing

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point. There is no need of telling the story.

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Right, Sir.

But it is a very serious matter. I would, therefore, request the Government that the Railway authority should take cognizance of it. Some action is required to be taken.

SHRI R. THAMARASELVAN (Dharmapur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India regarding implementation of certain Railway projects and imposition of condition from the State Government for implementation of these projects.

First of all, I would like to thank the Government of India for sanctioning eight new railway projects in the State of Tamil Nadu including much expected Morapattu-Dharmapuri rail link pending about 36 kilometre at a total cost of Rs. 108 crore. It comes under my

Parliamentary Constituency. All these projects have been sanctioned with the condition imposed on the State Government to share 50 per cent cost of the new Railway projects.

In this connection, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government of India that if these projects are implemented, it would generate a lot of revenues for the Railways as these routes are highly economically viable because of the geographical structure connecting places of importance with regard to religion, commerce and tourism.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar had made a request to the Government of India urging to bear the entire cost by the Railways themselves. Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to consider the request of the Government of Tamil Nadu favourably and bear the entire cost of all these eight new railway projects by the Railways themselves.

[Translation]

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the drought affected farmers. I have been elected from the parliamentary constituency Machlishahar in district Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh. District Jaunpur was declared drought affected district but no relief has been provided to the drought affected farmers from the Drought Relief Funds so far. No farmer is likely to benefit from the policy of Uttar Pradesh Government for drought relief.

As per the State Government's policy order was issued to make a survey of the area under crops only, while the fact is that the paddy seeds sown in the field had dried in the field itself due to the drought. How could paddy have been planted in such a situation? A huge sum of money was given to the Uttar Pradesh Government by the Central Government. An amount of Rs. 17 crore was allocated for drought relief for district Jaunpur. Not even a single rupee was distributed to the farmers rather this fund was taken back by the State Government. While there is distress among the farmers due to the drought and they are waiting for the drought relief fund. The Government is planning to spend money

on other heads after taking back the money. Uttar Pradesh Government works against the interests of the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

I, therefore, through you, would like to urge the Central Government to issue directions to the Uttar Pradesh Government to provide relief to the drought affected farmers so that they may get some relief.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the concerned Ministry to the serious issues prevailing, especially in the Marathi community in some parts of the State of Kerala.

The Marathi community was included in the ST List in 1952 onwards, and in Kerala and Karnataka, these communities were in the ST List in both the States. In 2002, without any proper verification, they were excluded and all the benefits that were enjoyed by them were denied to the students and also to others. Both the UDF and the LDF Governments subsequently requested the Central Government and also the ST Commission to include them in the ST List. The Minorities Commission has visited the place and they have also requested and submitted the report that this community should be included in the ST List.

The prime nature of the Tribe, that is, the educational backwardness, geographical backwardness and financial backwardness, is still prevailing. So, there is no justification for their exclusion. From Kasargod to Mangalore, it comes about only 10-15 kilometres but if it is in Karnataka, that is, in Mangalore, they are included in the ST List but when it comes to Kasargod, they are not. In the same family, someone may be in the ST List and some may not be. So, there is no justification. The Central Government has taken such a decision. This is applicable to both the States. So, I would request the Government to take urgent steps to include them in the ST List.

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH (Nawada): Hon. Mr. Chairman, through you, I would like to urge something to the Railway Ministry of the Central Government. Ten years

[Dr. Bholu Singh]

ago, a number of trains used to halt at Hajipur under East Central railway zone which has Barauni Junction, the biggest platform in Asia.

But, unfortunately, the place which should have been a zonal headquarters, it is not even an ordinary station now. Hundreds of quarters have become haunted place. The farmers of Beehat, which was Bardoli for the Freedom struggle, had provided 3000 acres of land for Garhara yard in Barauni Junction. That land is lying fallow. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it's really painful that several Railway Ministers laid foundation stone for construction of coach factory and Central Depot but all of it proved to be a farce. With great pain, I want to raise this issue today. Madam Kumari Mamata Banerjee is the Railway Minister and she has made many announcements in this House. I would like to request the Railway Ministry that a Medical College, Engineering College or a big hospital should be set up on the 3000 acres of land given by the farmers for the Garhara Yard since 50-60 years so that the dreams of the martyrs can be realized. I, through you and through this House, would like to request the Central Government to raise the Garhara Yard to the national horizon and a medical or engineering college or hospital should be set up there. I, through you, would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this.

SHRI GORAKHNATH PANDEY (Bhadohi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you that you have allowed me to speak on a very important matter. Varanasi, Allahabad, Kashi and Prayag are religious and historic cities not only of the country but of the world. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Bhadohi, which is situated between these cities and which is my parliamentary constituency also. It is called the carpet city and earns thousands of crores of foreign exchange. I urge for doubling of the railway line passing through the Kashi-Prayag. A demand for

providing a stoppage for the Shiv Ganga Express at the Gyanpur Road station, which is the headquarters, because Sita Samahit Sthal of international fame is also related to it.

I would like to tell that in Bhadohi district, where foreign buyers come, there is a railway track and a very long highway in the middle of the city for which a demand for an overbridge is being made for years. It has been sanctioned by the State Government too and proposals have been received for it. It also meets the norms for construction of an overbridge. This sacred city, situated between Kashi and Prayag and famous as the carpet city, has a railway track and a long highway called LD Road and there is an urgent need for construction of an overbridge there. This will facilitate development of carpet industry. Foreign buyers do not return to the city due to the fear of getting stuck in the traffic jam for hours. They prefer to stay in Prayag, Kashi, Varanasi or Allahabad. This overbridge will help in the development of the city, carpet industry and also earn foreign exchange. This proposal has been pending for long time. The State Government's proposal has also been received. I, through you, would like to urge the hon. Minister that an overbridge be constructed in Bhadohi for the development of the city and the carpet industry.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Today's business is over.

The House stands adjourned to meet again on 11th December 2009 at 11 a.m.

20.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, December 11, 2009/Agrahayana 20, 1931 (Saka)

Annexure-I*Member-wise Index to Starred Questions*

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